PÉCS · HUNGARY · 2026

20th PASCAL LEARNING CITIES CONFERENCE

Flourishing Learning City Ecosystems
for Creative Circular Economies

24–26 September 2026

House of Civic Communities
17 Szent Istvan Square · Pécs, Hungary

PROGRAMME

10th Pécs
LEARNING CITY
FESTIVAL

Pre-conference gathering · 23 September
Historical sightseeing tour · 26 September
Official programme booklet

02

WELCOME

A conference built around learning cities

CONFERENCE THEME

Flourishing Learning City Ecosystems for Creative Circular Economies

The 20th PASCAL Learning Cities Conference brings together learning-city practitioners, researchers, universities, municipalities and community partners from around the world. The programme connects local action with international experience across sustainability, governance, health, participation, creativity and lifelong learning.

DATES AT A GLANCE

23 SEP	19:00	Pre-conference gathering
24 SEP	09:00	Conference Day 1
25 SEP	09:00	Conference Day 2
26 SEP	10:00	Historical sightseeing tour

HOSTED BY

PASCAL International bservatory

Pécs TANULÓ VÁROS

University of Pécs 1367

MellearN

NEVELŐK HÁZA EGYESÜLET

Partners: Municipality of the City of Pécs, PIMA, ASEM LLL Network 6, IACEHOF WG6, EPALE Hungary and PEACE.

03

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Venue and programme overview

HOUSE OF CIVIC COMMUNITIES

17 Szent Istvan Square · Pécs

Registration, plenary programme, parallel sessions and the pre-conference gathering are held at the main venue unless otherwise stated.

DAILY RHYTHM

09:00	**Registration and coffee**	Welcome desk opens
10:00	**Keynote**	Opening plenary session
11:00	**Parallel sessions**	Three simultaneous thematic rooms
12:30	**Lunch**	Networking break
14:00	**Parallel sessions**	Three simultaneous thematic rooms
15:30	**Collaborative session**	Followed by roundtable and closing
19:00	**Conference dinner**	Separate venue each evening

Tip: Parallel sessions run at the same time. Mark your preferred room before each block and allow a few minutes to move between sessions.

04

DAY 1

Thursday · 24 September 2026

09:00	**Registration and coffee** House of Civic Communities
09:45	**Organisers Welcome** Balázs Németh & Catherine Lido
10:00	**Opening Keynote — Day 1 · Heribert Hinzen** Community-based adult learning and education policies and practices. An exploratory perspective through the lens of a lifelong learning systems approach
11:00	**Parallel sessions** Three simultaneous programme streams
12:30	**Lunch** Networking and refreshments
14:00	**Parallel sessions** Three simultaneous programme streams
15:30	**Creative Circular Economies — Collin Pillay & Durban City Delegation** Collaborative session
16:15	**Michael Osborne — PASCAL Global Executive Committee** Roundtable
16:45	**Closing remarks** End of daytime programme
19:00	**LITTKE Champagne House · 12 Szent Istvan Square** Conference dinner

05

DAY 1 · MORNING

Parallel sessions · 11:00–12:30

City Region Showcase 1

PARALLEL SESSION 1

- Sharyn Wheatcroft — Flourishing Through Community-Led & Intergenerational LL (Wyndham City)
- Laura Power — Everything is Awesome? Building, Belonging, & Flourishing in a new LC (Waterford City)
- Dina Cartagena Magnaye — Urban Learning Initiatives (Quezon City, Metro Manila)

Symposium: LEAP2-PEACE

PARALLEL SESSION 2

- Balazs Nemeth — The Progress of Learning City Pécs
- Carmel Berendi — LCs as Spaces of Democratic Participation & Community Resilience
- Marta Jendekova — Sustainable Citizenship in LCs: Integrating Green Competence into Civic Competence through Lifelong Learning
- Riccardo di Marco — Learning as a Collective Capacity: Quadruple Helix Perspective on Flourishing LC Ecosystems
- Novotný Petr — Developing Professionals in the Learning City Ecosystem

Chair: Balázs Németh · Discussant: Petr Novotny

Place-making, museums and art in Learning Cities

PARALLEL SESSION 3

- Koltai Zsuzsa — The Role of museums in LC
- Kittirat Pluemjit — Placemaking & Heritage
- Peter Baur — Inclusive Learning Communities Through Social & Emotional Learning

06

DAY 1 · AFTERNOON

Parallel sessions · 14:00–15:30

Workshop: Aesthetic & Creative approaches

PARALLEL SESSION 4

- Aidai Salmorbekova — Social Aesthetics in the Learning City
- Stacey Silkey Schultze — Give, Get, Grateful
- Annie Tubadji — Aesthetic Education

Duhok Delegation

PARALLEL SESSION 5

- Nasreen Mohammed Abdullah & Mahr Nadr Mustafa — AI, Youth in Duhok: Opportunities & Challenges for Skills Development
- Sherwan Taha Ameen — Duhok: Community, Digital Innovation & Sustainable Flourishing
- Sizar Abid Mohammed & Sadeq Taha Abdulazeez — Safeguarding Circular Economy: Lifelong Financial Ed. & Hidden Economy · video

Empowering Citizens for Happier, Healthier Places

PARALLEL SESSION 6

- Ronald Quincy — Global Health Disparity for Communities
- Pi Chi Han — LC & Integration: Female Marriage Migrants in Taiwan
- Marius Ventner — Gender-Based Violence micro-credentials · video

07

DAY 1 · PLENARY

Collaboration, roundtable and dinner

15:30

Creative Circular Economies

Collaborative session led by Collin Pillay and the Durban City Delegation.

16:15

PASCAL Global Roundtable

Roundtable with Michael Osborne, Chair of the PASCAL Global Executive Committee.

19:00

Conference Dinner

LITTKE Champagne House · 12 Szent Istvan Square · Pécs

08

DAY 2

Friday · 25 September 2026

09:00	**Registration and coffee** House of Civic Communities
09:45	**PASCAL Welcome** Mike Osborne & Chris Shepherd
10:00	**Opening Keynote — Day 2 · Arne Carlsen** Governance in Learning Cities
11:00	**Parallel sessions** Three simultaneous programme streams
12:30	**Lunch** Networking and refreshments
14:00	**Parallel sessions** Three simultaneous programme streams
15:30	**Dream Fest — Rhiannon Jones & Derby City Delegation** Collaborative session
16:15	**Vera Lucke — ASEM Secretariat** Roundtable
16:45	**Closing remarks** End of daytime programme
19:00	**NANA Bistro & Bar · 2 Király Street** Conference dinner

09

DAY 2 · MORNING

Parallel sessions · 11:00–12:30

City Region Showcase 2

PARALLEL SESSION 7

- Choi Un Shil — Sustainable Learning Cities and Green Utopia: Building Lifelong Learning Ecosystems in the Republic of Korea
- Mario Delos Reyes — SDGs in the City of Manila's Neighbourhoods · video
- Orna Manger, Rob Mark & Ana Vernia Carrasco — Schools, Municipalities & Cultural Action
- Verdush Gyozalan & Serob Khachatryan — Armenia Case for Intergenerational LCs · video

Education for Sustainable Futures: Asia and Europe

PARALLEL SESSION 8

- Shalini Singh — Sustainable Futures Policy comparison among EU countries
- Søren Ehlers & Shalini Singh — Sustainable Futures: Case Studies Denmark & India
- Nitish Anand, Jan Schiller & Rosanna Barros — Quality in HE: Case Studies from India, Germany and Portugal
- R. Vasanthan & Seng Tong Chong — Multilingualism & Indigenous Practices: Comparative Study of Northeast India & Malaysia

Chair: Shalini Singh · Discussant: Søren Ehlers

Learning City Partnerships in Action

PARALLEL SESSION 9

- Aitzhan Kulumzhanova — Universities as Anchors of LCs
- Rhiannon Jones & Callum Bate — LCs in Action: From Local Partnership to Global Frameworks
- Roberta Piazza & Elena Failla — Cross-sector Partnerships as Community Learning: San Cristoforo, Catania

DAY 2 · AFTERNOON

Parallel sessions · 14:00–15:30

Sustainable Futures: Literacy, Community, Vocation & Gender

PARALLEL SESSION 10

- Jyoti Tiwari — Global Standards, Local Realities: Is it too late for adult literacy?
- Saru Joshi — 'Participatory' Pedagogical Approach in T&L for Sustainable Futures
- Ranjan Kumar Tripathi, Kumar Ashutosh, Reinhard Nöbauer & Emran Khan — Sustainability in Vocational Ed: Comparative Study India, Bangladesh & Austria
- Dibyanshu Pandey — Closing the Tap: Integrating POSH sensitisation in learning to ensure sustainable futures

Chair: R. Vasanthan

Sustainability in Learning Cities

PARALLEL SESSION 11

- Catherine Lido & Stacey Silkey Schultze — Bridging Policy to Practice in ESD
- Esra Aydogdu — Value Capture in Water-Based Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Adrián Bene — Lifelong Learning, Sustainability, and Social Connection

Current trends: Health, Resilience & Future-Proofing

PARALLEL SESSION 12

- Franz De Los Reyes — Digital Systems and AI-assisted instructional design
- Szederkényi Éva Kata — Societal Benefits of LL
- Dr. Boglárka Bitáné Biró — Attention Under Pressure

DAY 2 · PLENARY

Creativity, governance and celebration

15:30

Dream Fest

Where Creativity Becomes Civic Learning Infrastructure · collaborative session with Rhiannon Jones and the Derby City Delegation.

16:15

ASEM Roundtable

Roundtable with Vera Lucke, Executive Director of ASEM Secretariat.

19:00

Conference Dinner

NANA Bistro & Bar · 2 Király Street · Pécs

Opening keynotes

DAY 1 · 24 SEPTEMBER · 10:00

Heribert Hinzen, Prof. [Hon.]

Community-based adult learning and education policies and practices. An exploratory perspective through the lens of a lifelong learning systems approach

Opening keynote

DAY 2 · 25 SEPTEMBER · 10:00

Arne Carlsen, Prof. (Hon.) Dr. h. c. mult.

Governance in Learning Cities

Opening keynote

Full abstracts and presenter biographies are available on the official conference website.

Organising Committee

- **Balázs Németh**
  Conference Organiser, Event Lead · University of Pécs
- **Catherine Lido**
  Conference Organiser, Scientific Committee Lead · University of Glasgow
- **Esra Aydogdu**
  Scientific Committee Member / LCN Coordinator · Stirling University
- **Shalini Singh**
  Scientific Committee Member / Publications Editor · Adi Shankara Institute of Engineering and Technology
- **Roberta Piazza**
  Scientific Committee Member · University of Catania
- **Peter Baur**
  Scientific Committee Member · University of Johannesburg
- **Alana Pinsler**
  Programme Liaison · University of Glasgow
- **Csilla Vincze**
  Event Coordinator · House of Civic Communities
- **Carmel Berendi**
  Event organiser contact · University of Pécs
- **Aidai Salmorbekova**
  Event organiser contact · University of Pécs

26 SEPTEMBER
DISCOVER PÉCS

Historical sightseeing tour

10:00 · Széchenyi Square

Meeting point: Statue of János Hunyadi
(the man on the horse)

Explore the historic centre of Pécs and continue the conference conversation through place, heritage and shared experience.

FULL ONLINE PROGRAMME

Scan for the latest programme, full abstracts and presenter biographies.

pascalconf.ckh.hu

10th Pécs
LEARNING CITY
FESTIVAL

Programme information based on the official conference website.

Hosts, partners and sponsor

HOSTED BY

PASCAL International Observatory

Pécs TANULÓ VÁROS

University of Pécs 1367

MellearN

NEVELŐK HÁZA EGYESÜLET

PARTNERS

EPALE MAGYARORSZÁG

Funded by the European Union

Learning Cities Networks

ASEM ASIA-EUROPE MEETING LIFELONG LEARNING

unesco Global Network of

PIMA · ASEM LLL Network 6 · IACEHOF WG6 · EPALE Hungary · PEACE

SUPPORTED BY

PÉCS

A PASCAL – CKH – MELLearN International Learning City konferenciáját, mint a 10. Pécsi Tanuló Város Fesztivál nemzetköziesítését célzó fejlesztő fórumot Pécs Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata támogatta a Pécs Városi Civil Keret Pályázat terhére.

The PASCAL – CKH – MELLearN International Learning City Conference, serving as a development forum aimed at the internationalisation of the 10th Pécs Learning City Festival, was supported by the Municipality of the City of Pécs through the Pécs City Civil Fund grant scheme.