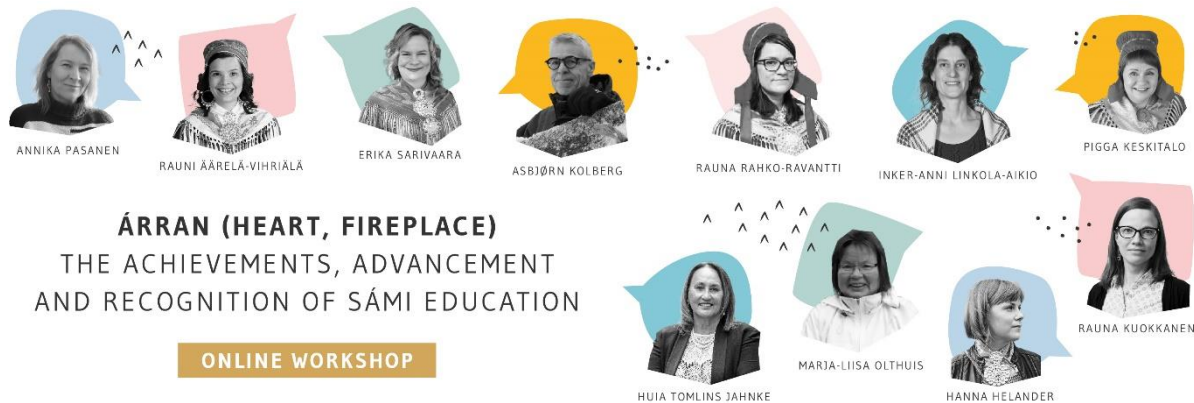


Workshop: *Árran (heart, fireplace)* - The achievements, advancement and recognition of Sámi education  
15-16 April 2021



Day 1: 16 April 2021 at 9.35 (UTC +3)

## **Advancing and Fostering Children's Inclusion and Agency through Socially Innovative Interventions**

*Hanna Helander*, Project Manager, municipality of Utsjoki / Researcher, University of Lapland

### **Abstract**

The Finland Basic Education Act ensures that pupils living in the Sámi homeland are taught in Sámi languages. However, 75 percent of Sámi children and youth in basic education already live outside of the Sámi homeland in 230 municipalities, none of which are obligated to provide Sámi language education but have the option of providing two hours per week of supplementary Sámi education with separate funding provided by the Ministry of Education. Only five percent of the approximately 2,000 Sámi children and youth living outside of the Sámi Homeland are involved in Sámi language teaching.

This situation places specific demands on Sámi language education in Finland. One answer to these educational challenges is a pilot project for distance education in the Sámi languages outside of the Sámi Homeland, which offers two hours of supplementary Sámi online language teaching with its own local curriculum. The long-term goal is to establish a permanent distance education system for the Sámi language outside of the Sámi Homeland.

This presentation sheds light on Sámi language distance education and the pedagogical innovation study of the ADVOST research project, funded by Academy of Finland. Teachers' professional innovations tested how land-based pedagogy, playful learning and traditional storytelling can be utilized in distance education for children aged six to seven years. The results indicate that as reflective practitioners, Indigenous teachers can create culturally and linguistically responsible pedagogies to solve challenges that are so complicated that they initially seem nearly impossible to solve. Through pedagogical innovation, teachers can find ways to overcome the colonial past and provide language and cultural survival tools for subsequent generations.