

6th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy – Participant Feedback Summary



From **October 4–7, 2025**, Tallinn hosted the international conference “**6th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy – Literacy Environments: Environmental Literacy,**”

which brought together teachers, researchers, and educational innovators from **30 countries across nearly all continents**. The conference was organized by the **Estonian Reading Association** in cooperation with **Tallinn University, the University of Tartu,** and the **Federation of European Literacy Associations (FELA)**.



The conference focused on the question of **how to create reading and learning environments that foster both literacy development and environmental awareness**. The four-day program offered **inspiring keynote lectures, practical workshops, and discussions** on topics such as **early literacy development, multilingualism, digital competencies, and the role of artificial intelligence in learning**, as well as the **interconnections between environmental literacy and education**.

Participants had the opportunity to meet **internationally recognized experts**, including Polish publisher and social entrepreneur **Maria Deskur**, Finnish neuropsychology professor **Paavo H. T. Leppänen**, and anthropologist and linguist **Indrek Park**. New perspectives on reading, writing, and creativity were shared by **storyteller and teacher educator Piret Päär**, **outdoor education practitioners from Scotland Ally Sangster and Irene Bews**, and **composer-performer Aleksandr Žedeljov**.

A special highlight of the conference was the **closing panel discussion**, which invited participants to reflect on the **future of literacy environments, the sustainability of education, and teachers’ professional development**. The panel brought together experts from different countries and sparked a lively exchange of ideas on the intersections between **reading culture and environmental consciousness**.

The conference was marked by **meaningful discussions, international collaboration initiatives, and the joy of learning together**. In addition to a rich academic program, participants enjoyed **social activities, educational and cultural visits**, and the chance to explore the city of Tallinn.

More information is available on the conference website:

👉 www.6bscl.com

The conference was **co-funded by the City of Tallinn and the European Union**.

SUMMARY

This summary brings together the voices and reflections of participants from the 6th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy. The feedback demonstrates the inspiring atmosphere, thoughtful content, and strong sense of community that characterized the event. All numeric ratings are kept as calculated, and selected open comments capture the most heartfelt and representative impressions.

Did the event meet your expectations?

Most participants felt that the conference met or exceeded their expectations. Many highlighted the excellent organization and inspiring content, while a few suggested improvements in venue size and session balance.

Participant voices:

- “It was a wonderful and inspiring conference, exceeding my expectations.”
- “Partly – some bigger venues would have been better.”
- “Great atmosphere and professional organization.”
- “I found it both intellectually and emotionally rewarding.”
- “It was a great mix of research and practice.”

Which sessions were most valuable, and why? (Average: 6.3 for content relevance, 6.1 for speaker quality)

Keynote and plenary sessions stood out as the highlights, providing high-quality insights into literacy and environmental topics. Participants also valued workshops and sessions that bridged theory and practice.

Participant voices:

- “The keynote speakers set the tone and offered challenging perspectives.”
- “I especially liked the sessions with both theoretical and practical presentations—it felt well balanced.”
- “Workshops were engaging and encouraged discussion.”
- “Environmental literacy sessions were fascinating.”
- “Loved hearing about outdoor education and literacy initiatives.”

What was the highlight of the conference for you?

The most memorable moments included networking, lively discussions, and shared inspiration across diverse literacy topics. Participants appreciated both academic depth and the warmth of personal encounters.

Participant voices:

- “The closing panel discussion and conversations with so many intelligent people.”
- “Networking and exposure to new scholars.”

- “The dinner party with live music was unforgettable.”
- “Meeting colleagues from my field from abroad.”
- “A perfect blend of research and practical sessions.”
- “The visit to the Estonian Children’s Literature Centre was truly special.”

What should we change for next time?

Feedback focused on improving logistics, poster session conditions, and scheduling. Many wished for fewer parallel sessions to allow attending more presentations, while others requested more topics on children’s literature.

Participant voices:

- “Please ensure poster presentations are in a quieter area.”
- “More topics on children’s literature.”
- “Less parallel sessions so participants can attend more.”
- “A bit shorter days and clearer information for volunteers.”
- “Everything else worked perfectly!”

Any other comments?

The overall tone of feedback was warm and appreciative. Participants praised the smooth organization, friendliness of volunteers, and positive spirit throughout the event.

Participant voices:

- “What a wonderful conference!”
- “Thank you for such a great experience.”
- “Tallinn is so beautiful—it was a pleasure to be there.”
- “Everyone was helpful and welcoming; it all ran so smoothly.”
- “It was inspiring and motivating—I hope to attend again!”
- “The conference dinner with live music was simply amazing.”

General atmosphere and organization

Participants highlighted the conference’s balance of professionalism and friendliness. The collaboration between organizers, presenters, and volunteers created an environment that encouraged learning, sharing, and genuine human connection.

Participant voices:

- “Smooth organization and kind volunteers!”
- “Well done! Everything worked perfectly.”
- “I’m glad I took part—it gave me confidence and inspiration for my work.”
- “Everyone from the organizing team was incredibly supportive.”

The collective feedback reflects a highly successful conference that combined academic depth, practical relevance, and emotional warmth. Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate literacy in all its diverse forms.