

## 21th April 2026: the challenge

The conference is hosted by Pasi Riikonen, Product Manager Surfaces at LAPPSET Group Ltd and Kimmo Isotalo, Senior Planning Officer, Sports Department at City of Helsinki.

**08.00 – 08.30 Arrival and registration**

**08.30 – 09.00 Welcome to the city of Helsinki and the Olympic Park**  
Paavo Arhinmäki, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki

**09.00 – 10.00 Why are our physical activity levels failing in the Nordics? Experts panel from four Nordic countries**  
Tommi Vasankari, Professor MD at UKK-institute, Finland  
Peter Ahlström, Head of Sports Strategy in the Sports Department at City of Stockholm, Sweden  
André Flatner, Manager of BIAA, Norway, and President of IAKS Nordic  
Jens Høyer Kruse, Professor at University of Southern Denmark

The session will be chaired by Minna Paajanen, Head of the Unit in the Sports Department at City of Helsinki

**10.00 – 10.30 Tea and coffee and time for conversations**

**10.30 – 11.30 Creating a framework for movement**  
Oliver Vanges, Development Specialist at The Danish Foundation for Culture and Sports facilities

**11.40 – 12.10 Designing for needs, not opinions**  
Mike Lawless, Director at LA Architects Ltd UK and Dave Cove, MBA of FMG Consulting UK

**12.15 – 12.45 Inclusive movement for all people**  
Lisa Mari Watson, Managing Director of Tverga, Norway

**12:45 – 13.30 Lunch at Bistro Stadion, Helsinki Olympic stadium**

**13.40 – 14.10 The process of designing differently**  
Stephen Dietz-Hodgson, Architect at JAJA Architects Copenhagen, Denmark

**14.30 – 15.15 Come and Play**  
Jonas Berglund, Creative Director at Kragh Berglund Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, Sweden

**16.00 – 17.00 Tour of the Olympic stadium**

**17.10 Happy hour at Tahto – Sports museum of Finland**

**19.30 Conference dinner**  
Restaurant Sipuli

### [Helsinki Olympic Stadium](#)

Paavo Nurmen tie 1  
00250 Helsinki

### [Room for all seminars](#)

Auditorium  
Floor -2

### [Conference dinner](#)

Restaurant Sipuli  
Kanavaranta 7  
00160 Helsinki

After dinner we have booked a nearby bar

Wallis Skatta Karaoke bar  
Kanavanranta 7 E 22  
00160 Helsinki

### [Contact for enquiries](#)

nordic@iaks.sport

## 22th April 2026: creating new models

The conference is hosted by Pasi Riikonen, Product Manager Surfaces at LAPPSET Group Ltd and Kimmo Isotalo, Senior Planning Officer, Sports Department at City of Helsinki.

**08.30 - 10.00 Tea and coffee**

**10.10 - 10.50 Uppsala, the politics of change**

Karolin Lundström, Chair of the Sports and Leisure Committee at City of Uppsala, Sweden

**11.00 - 11.50 Programming Activity and Delivering Activity**

Barry Dempsey, Sports Development Officer and Shane McArdle Sports Coordinator at Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Council, Ireland

**12.00 - 12.45 Lunch at Bistro Stadion, Helsinki Olympic stadium**

**13.00 - 13.30 User led scheduling – learnings from self-organized facilities**

Mari Pietilä, Youth Worker at City of Helsinki, Finland

**13.30 - 14.00 Operational structure and outreach**

Lucy Donovan, Positive Futures Development Manager at Newport Live, Wales

**14.00 - 14.30 Tapanila Sports Center: 1.5 million active people per year. How?**

Teemu Heino, CEO at Tapanilan Urheilutalosaatiö, Finland

**14.30-15.00 How can nature enable movement**

Casper Lindemann, Landscape Architect and Consultant at National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF)

**15.00 - 16.00 Think differently in Finland (tea and coffee will be served during the session)**

Petri Kontukoski CEO, Kontukoski Architects Ltd Finland  
Hertta Ahvenainen, Nomaji Ltd and Pihla Jokinen, Nomaji Ltd

**16.00 End of conference**

**16.30 Post Conference discussions and relaxation**

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[Room for all seminars](#)

Auditorium  
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