



## APPLICATION FORM FOR RESEARCH GRANT

**NAME OF THE LEAD MEMBER ORGANISATION:** *Estonian Reading Association (EstRA)*

**Official organisation number:** *80111084*

**Address:** *Narva rd 25 Tallinn, Estonia 10120*

**Chairperson:** *Kadi Lukanenok*

**Bank account number:** *[may be submitted at a later stage]*

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### APPLICANTS (PARTNERS)

**NAME OF THE MEMBER ORGANISATION:** *Latvian Reading Association*

**Official organisation number:** *40008131902*

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**Chairperson:** *Sandra Kalnina*

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**NAME OF THE MEMBER ORGANISATION:** *FinRA*

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Title of the Project: **Creative Literacy - Integrative Methods for Lifelong Vitality from Literacy**

Duration period: 18 months (February 2025 - July 2026)

Total grant sought: 10 000€

The project investigates creativity, creative practices and teachers' perceptions of creativity in literacy education to stimulate students' interest in literacy, enhance meaningful engagement and increase the pleasure of reading. Additionally, good practices for creative literacy are collected and evaluated from the perspective of developing reading skills and engagement in reading. The research will be implemented by FinRA, EstRA and LatRA. Partner universities (Jyväskylä, Tallinn, Tartu, Turku, University of Latvia) will actively take part in methodology development, data collection, and data analysis. Teachers and other professionals will also be involved.

The pedagogy of creative literacy consists of techniques that enhance active engagement and interpretation of texts allowing personal reflection and imaginative expansion (Smith, 1965; Lähdesmäki et al., 2022). It often involves creative and innovative approaches to express ideas and thoughts aroused while being involved with text. These approaches are child-centred and take advantage of different forms of communication, such as creative writing, drama, visual arts, or digital media (Davies et al., 2013). According to Holden (2004), creative reading enables young people to explore the world and enrich their lives mentally and emotionally via reading experiences. Currently, the reading pedagogy seems to concentrate on receptive and critical reading, leaving creative reading aside. Additionally, creativity is differently emphasized and socially constructed in various places and situations (Carter, 2015).

In the background of the study, there are the concerns of students' declining comprehension of texts and lack of motivation to read (PISA 2022; PIRLS, 2021). The study further explores whether creative literacy and creative practices in literacy education could offer innovative solutions to reverse the decline in literacy.

The research questions are as follows:

- 1) How do teachers describe creative literacy?
- 2) What practices of creative literacy are implemented in classrooms?
- 3) What is the significance of these methods from the point of view of literacy?

The research will consist of three sub-studies:

- 1) A sample of teachers will be surveyed in all participating countries to obtain quantitative data on their attitudes toward and benefits from using creative literacy methods,
- 2) Qualitative data will be obtained through in-depth interviews with participating teachers to get deeper understanding of their experiences and perspectives on creative literacy teaching and
- 3) The good practices of creative literacy methods will be collected and analysed. There will be cross-country comparison as well as comparisons between the different data sets.

The results of the study will be shared via presentations and both professional and scientific articles in participating countries and internationally. During the funding period, there will be a symposium at the 6th Baltic Sea Conference on Literacy and a FELA webinar. Furthermore, one peer-reviewed article representing the main results from all the countries will be submitted and articles aimed at teachers and other professionals will be published in Kielikukka and ILA journal Literacy Today. Good practises will be published widely on the participating organisations' webpages. The collected data will be rich, and the research will continue after the project, and more funding will be applied for.

**APPLICATION FORM FOR RESEARCH GRANT 2**