LETTER OF COLLABORATION

Date: 5th November 2026

Project title: **Planetary Flourishing as the Aim of Education (Planet A)**

Applicant/PI: Hannu Heikkinen, Finnish Institute for Educational Research, Finland

Collaborator: Tero Luukkonen

Position: Head of Youth Services

Organisation: City of Espoo Youth Services

Country: Finland

To Research Council of Finland

I am pleased to confirm the collaboration of my organization in the project ***Planetary Flourishing as the Aim of Education (Planet A),*** led by Hannu Heikkinen at Finnish Institute for Educational Research, Finland.

1. Purpose and Objectives of the Cooperation

The Planet A project examines flourishing as an aim of education. It seeks to extend the concept towards a more planetary understanding while also critically exploring alternative conceptualizations and perspectives. The project includes both theoretical work and practical development of environmental pedagogy.

The youth services of the city of Espoo are strongly committed to sustainability and environmental education. In collaboration with the Planetary Garden Field Station, sustainable youth work can be carried out beyond the walls of the youth centers. Co-operation between the Planetary Garden Field Station, a part of Planet A application, began in 2025. The garden is situated at the heart of Espoo, which makes collaboration natural. The realization of project Planet A would bring important further opportunities for joint development of green pedagogy.

2. Added Value of the Collaboration

The youth services of the city of Espoo reach a wide range of young people from various social and economic backgrounds. Co-operation in Planet A provides an opportunity to develop pedagogies of planetary flourishing in an impactful and socially sensitive way, taking into account the variety among youth. The earlier co-operation with the Planetary Garden Field Station helps in establishing field studies and experiential practices easily during the project.

3. Practical Implementation of the Co-operation

The youth services would co-operate in recruiting youth for workshops and other means of planetary garden pedagogy. We would also have feedback discussions with the researchers of the project, with the mutual aim of developing best practices and sharing insights, which then can be applied further. This is done in close collaboration with Kirsi Haapamäki and the participation of Otaniemi High School, another long-standing partner in sustainability education in the area and the Planetary Garden.

This work especially supports WP2, but contributes also to WP1, where researcher Panu Pihkala works also in connection to the Planetary Garden.

4. Commitment

With this signature, we commit to participating in the activities described above during the project period, subject to normal institutional procedures and available resources.

We look forward to contributing to the success of this project and to the scientific outcomes arising from this collaboration.

Sincerely,

Tero Luukkonen

Head of Youth Services

City of Espoo Youth Services

tero.luukkonen@espoo.fi