



MainPotRe “Maintenance and scaling up potato growing and consumption heritage in Northern Baltic region to build up resilient communities”

Public seminar with target groups

June 13, 2025

City of Turku, Finland

Organized by MainPotRe project partner Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

Programme of the MainPotRe potato seminar

June 13, 2025. 9–16

Panimoravintola Koulu, Street address: Eerikinkatu 18, Turku, Finland

Time (EET)	Topic	Speakers
	In the cabinet at Panimoravintola Koulu	
8:30	Registration. Coffee and tea available during the morning session, small potato exhibition	
9:00	Welcome. Importance of natural resources research	Sirpa Thessler, Vice President, Natural Resources, Luke, FI
9:15	MainPotRe project's goals and achievements	Ilze Dimante, AREI, LV
9:30	Improving food security in Africa - case study from Tanzanian potato program	Jussi Tuomisto, Tanzanice Agrofoods Ltd
10:00	Potato seed production in the High-Grade Area of Finland	Heidi Istolahti, FinPom FI (via Teams)
10:20	Gene Bank activities for the communities	Liisa Kübarsepp, METK, EE
10:50	Heritage potato grower groups in Finland, Latvia and Estonia	Annika Michelson HAMK, FI, Elvijas Gusārs, Permaculture society, Seed savers, LV, Ülle Jukk, Jõgeva, KTK, EE
11:20	Diversity analysis of potato genetic resources	Lidija Bitz, Luke, FI
11:50	Implementation of Organic 2.0	Marjo Hokka, FORI/HU, FI
12:10	Latest news from research of potato late blight	Riina Lukkala, PETLA, FI
12:30	Early potato production in Finland	Stina Tammelin, Tamsaaren tila, FI
12:45	Discussion	Ilze Dimante & Veli-Matti Rokka
13:00	Lunch at the Virgin Potato Festival (www.neitsytperunafestivaali.fi) at the inner yard of Panimoravintola Koulu. Refreshments available during afternoon session	
	On the stage of the Virgin Potato Festival. Organized by Kaffeli Ry, FI	
14:00	Potato growers on stage (in Finnish)	Representatives of 'Lemin punanen', 'Vaaniin Herkku', 'Hiliman peruna', 'Ruusunperuna', 'Röt Prökis', 'Jaakko', and 'Rymättylän punainen'.
15:00	Influence of project on local communities, continuation of Baltic-Nordic collaboration in potato sector	Ilze Skrabule, Liisa Kübarsepp, Terje Tähtjärv, Sigita Klētniece, Evita Širante, Rūta Beirote, Veli-Matti Rokka, Maarit Heinonen (Panel discussion, Chaired by Ilze Dimante)
15:30	Closing remarks: Oulu 2026 European Capital of Culture & Perunagalleria 2026 (EAPR section meeting)	Veli-Matti Rokka, Luke, FI
16-21	Enjoying Finnish early potato dishes with potato enthusiasts of Finland, Estonia and Latvia at the Virgin Potato Festival	