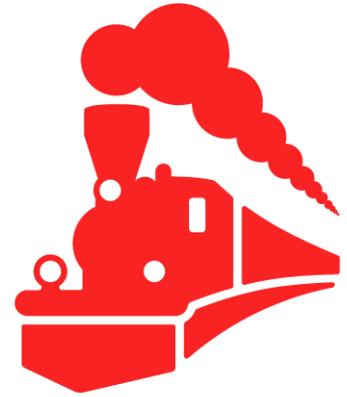


CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT 2021 OF FINNISH RAILWAY MUSEUM

Inclusive museums –meeting 1.6.2021 11.30 a.m.

Sonja Leppänen



**SUOMEN
RAUTATIE
MUSEO**

About the project



- Finnish Railway Museum started this spring the project, where volunteers and the museum co-operate and volunteers participate in museum's research and collection processes.
- Concise railway data collection and research projects are carried out with volunteers, utilizing the methods of crowdsourcing and digital platforms.
- The project is open to everyone to participate, but the target group is especially people interested in railways, museum work, heritage preservation and local history.

The museum's aim is to...



- Implement a new kind of participatory approach and explore the potential of digital channels to reach audiences.
- Strengthen the museum's digital public relations.
- Diversify the museum's use of social media and other digital channels.
- Deepen the interaction between the museum and the public.
- To promote the participation for all those interested in researching and recording the railway field.





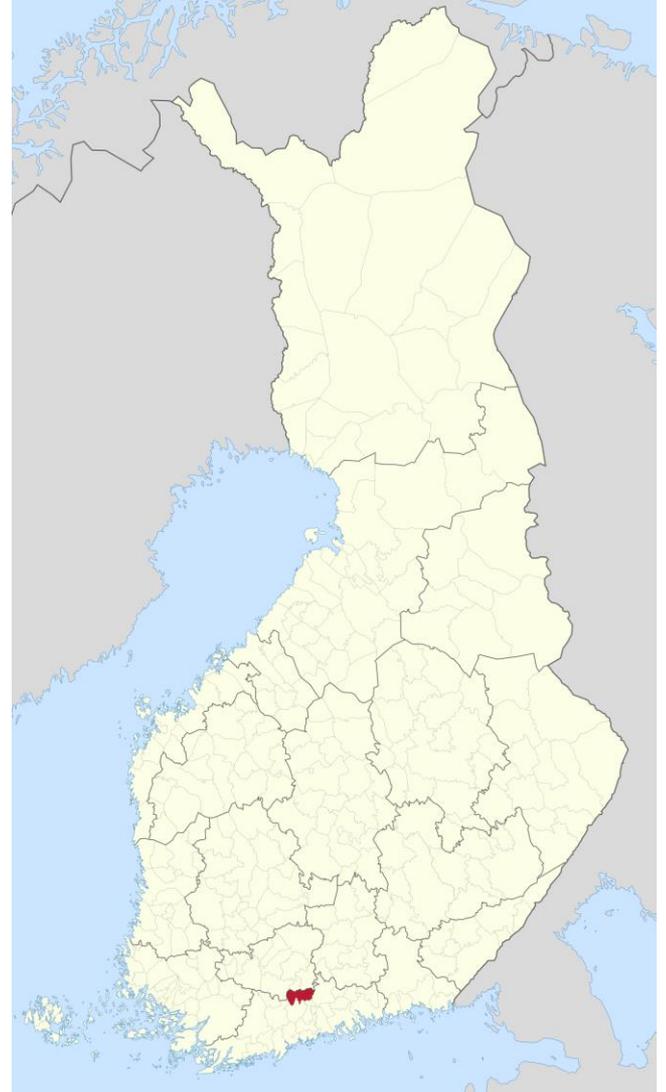
- The project consists of small sub-projects that will be launched gradually.
- The information will be shared widely: on the Railway Museum's website, various social media channels (such as Facebook groups) and discussion forums.
- People can registrate to sub-projects either by e-mail or on a separate form.



Why citizen science as a tool for museum work?

- As a national responsibility museum in rail transport the Railway Museum's geographical recording area is nationwide.
- Comprehensive recording and reaching audiences Finland-wide is sometimes challenging with museum resources.

The location of Finnish Railway Museum in Hyvinkää municipality



- Civic research, virtual platforms and remote connections provide an opportunity to record and participate in the activities of the specialty throughout Finland.
- The information and material collected by civic researchers can be used to enrich and supplement the museum's existing material and to produce completely new information in the field.
- Supports the principal goals of the Railway Museum: to promote research and hobbies in railway history and to enable the participation of various audiences and to open the museum's collections to the public in new ways.

The railway network of Finland





Why to participate?

For a citizen researcher, participation is an opportunity...

- Learn new things about museum work, cultural history and about the national responsibility museum in general.
- Share information, ideas and create new types of networks with the museum and other civic researchers interested in the field.
- Bring out personal skills and information to a wider audience.
- To bring new insights into museum work and thereby influence the way the museum operates in the future.
- Get new perspectives on railway hobby.
- To do socially valuable work on the preservation of cultural heritage and thus leave own mark on history for future generations.



The following principles are followed in the voluntary activities of the Finnish Railway Museum's citizen science project:

- 1. Volunteering.** The civic researcher participates in the activities of his or her own free will, nor shall she/he be paid any salary or commission thereon.
- 2. Transparency.** Civic project is open to everyone.
- 3. Commitment.** The civic researcher and the community coordinator agree on project-specific tasks, their goals and schedule, and the civic researcher undertakes to act as agreed.
- 4. Tasks.** The Finnish Railway Museum ensures that the civic researcher is offered the opportunity for the necessary guidance for the tasks. The civic researcher performs the tasks independently on his/her own time, within a jointly agreed schedule.



5. Use of material generated by volunteering. The material produced by the civic researcher is stored in the museum's collections. The material selected for the collections is ultimately decided by the museum, after which a donation agreement is drawn up for the selected material. The museum has the right, without separate compensation, to use in its communications, store in its collections and distribute to a third party the works created during the voluntary activity, mentioning the original author.

6. Security. When working in the railway area, the civic researcher must follow general precautions and the safety instructions of the Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency and always keep a safe distance from the train track.

7. Insurance. When doing voluntary work, a civic researcher is mainly covered by his or her own home or leisure insurance. In the fieldwork, for example when photographing outside the home according to the museum's instructions, a civic researcher is covered by the Finnish Railway Museum's work insurance when the civic researcher has notified the community coordinator in advance of the dates, times and locations of his or her fieldwork. The insurance company of the Railway Museum is Lähi-Tapiola.

Ongoing sub-projects at the moment



1. Instagram photo challenge

- A campaign started at the beginning of this citizen science project.
- The aim is to encourage and inspire people to share their best railway memories, places or moments by using a certain hashtags.
- Photo challenge is used to promote and inform about this citizen science project and to create low-threshold interaction with the audience.
- Railway museum has been reposting these photos once a week in their own Instagram-account.





2. Citizen science at Finna

- Volunteers with an interest in railways and local history will supplement the information on old railway images. The Finnish Railway Museum has huge image collections, of which about 40% have been organized and the materials are continuously digitized and cataloged in an electronic system. Most of the cataloged images are published in the search service called Finna (rautatiemuseo.finna.fi).
- Due to the huge size of the Finna-collection, there is not always enough time available to catalog a single image, and sometimes the labels in the images may contain incomplete or incorrect information.



Location? Year?



- The aim of the project is to involve persons who know and are interested in the research and review of Finna materials to supplement the missing information and to produce valuable new information about old photographs and railway history.
- This project presents museum's digital collections to old and new audiences and encourages to independently research on materials.
- 15 registered volunteers working in the project at the moment.



📄 LATAA KUVA (640 x 444 px)

▼ NÄYTÄ KUVAN TIEDOT

Vähähaaran? rautatiesilta rakenteilla

Vähähaaran? rautatiesilta rakenteilla. Valmiina silta on viisikaarinen, 270 m pitkä, Kemijoen yllä. Silta on rakennettu v. 1902 - 1903. Saksalaiset tuhosivat sillan Lapin sodassa v. 1944, vaaka, mustavalkoinen

Tallennettuna:

Kt_Sillat - tuntemattomat

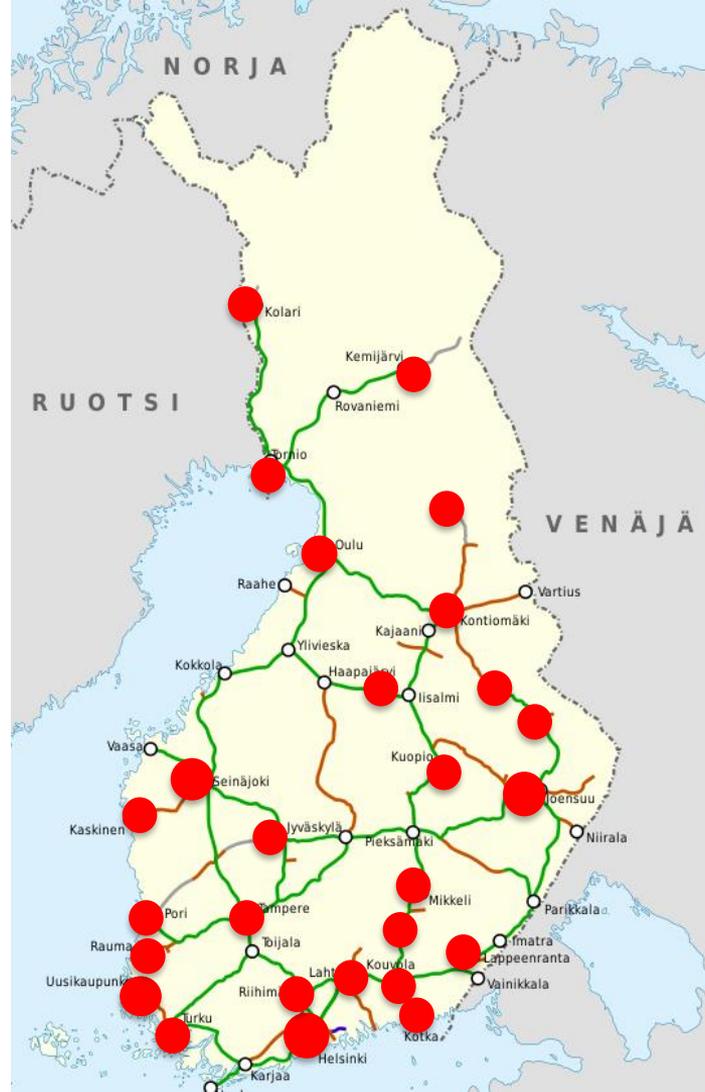
Aineistotyyppi	 Kuva
Aiheen paikka	Kemijoki, Kemi
Aiheen aika	1902 - 1903
Organisaatio	Suomen Rautatiemuseo
Kokoelma	Suomen Rautatiemuseon kuvakokoelma Suomen Rautatiemuseon valokuvakokoelma
Inventaarionro	SRMV1.9791
Mitat	78 x 108 mm
Kuvaustiedot	paperi (Pohjamateriaali)
Aiheet	radanrakennus rakentaminen rautatiesillat rautatiet sillanrakennus
	LISÄÄ ▼

3. Voluntary photography project

- The photography project will test how volunteer photographers can assist with documenting changing environments for the museum's photo collections as a part of museum's contemporary documentation.
- Photographers choose a theme which they photograph at their free time.
- Planned documentation themes:
 1. Railway stations and environments before and now. Recording the changing railway areas and infrastructures.
 2. Working day on the railways 2021. Recording the activities and everyday life of professionals working in the field of railways from their own point of view. (Theme is directed to those who themselves work in a railway organisations)
 3. People and activities. Recording passengers and other people in their the everyday activities in the railway environments. The focus is to store images of this time, such as people's clothing, environmental structures, signs, up-to-date technology, etc.



- 17 registered volunteers from all over the Finland who are willing to photograph subjects locally and during their travels.





Conclusion: what's next?

- After creating a connection and gaining good experiences with volunteers and citizen science, new participatory projects with the museum can be launched easier in the future.
- Successful experiences of this project can be applied to the museum's future working methods.
- After the pilot photography project museum's aim is to make this kind of volunteer work permanent. The pilot project's material can be displayed e.g. in a photography exhibition.
- New materials can be researched, commented, enriched and catalogued by people who are interested to do independent research and who want to co-operate with the museum.
- Rewarding volunteers: meetings, events or trips together can be arranged with the volunteers, depending on the coronavirus situation in Autumn.



Thank you!