

# Lohkanlihkk

Enhancing Sámi Literacy Through Digital Learning

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# Collaborators

Interreg



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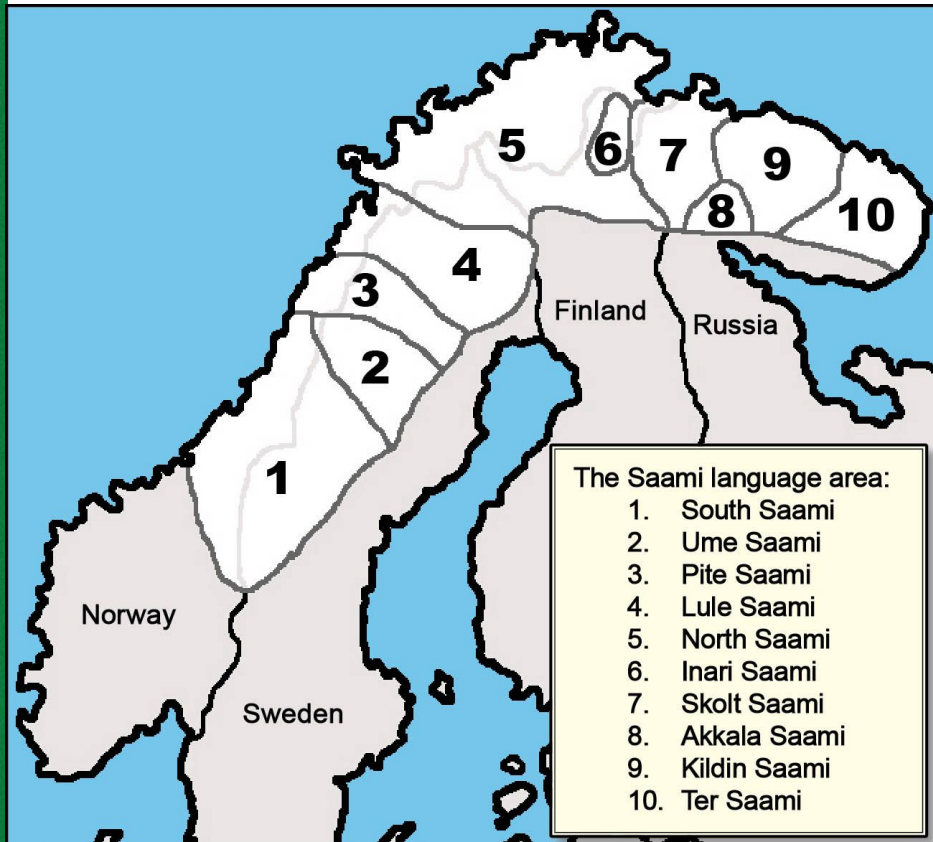
# Key Facts

- Interreg Aurora -project
- 3/2025–2/2028
- Our main goals are:
  - to develop literacy skills of children
  - to support educators' tools and expertise
  - To develop a digital learning game in five Sámi languages
- We work across borders in Finland, Norway and Sweden



# Sámi languages

- Indigenous Finno-Ugric languages
- 10 (9) languages spoken within 4 countries
- North Sámi - 20 000–25 000
- South Sámi - 500
- Lule Sámi - 1000–2000
- Inari Sámi - 400
- Skolt Sámi - 350



The Saami language area:

1. South Saami
2. Ume Saami
3. Pite Saami
4. Lule Saami
5. North Saami
6. Inari Saami
7. Skolt Saami
8. Akkala Saami
9. Kildin Saami
10. Ter Saami

Source: Dobes, Documentation of Endangered Languages, [Language - DOBES](#)



# Premises

All Sámi languages are endangered

Teaching materials are scarce or outdated

Wish from teachers for digital tools

Varying language skills of children

Worry about weakened literacy skills



# Project Group

University of Lapland  
Project Leader Professor Jigga Keskitalo  
Project Manager Kristiina Jomppanen

University of Jyväskylä  
Professor Ulla Richardson

Sámi University of Applied Sciences/Sámi allaskuvla  
Associate Professor Berit-Ellen Juuso  
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# Lukukuupla (Learning Bubble) GraphoLearn

- Developed by University of Jyväskylä in collaboration with Niilo Mäki Institute
- 34 language versions
- Evidence-based learning game
- Has been shown to be efficient in teaching literacy skills in several orthographies
- Starts from letters and sounds and progresses to reading comprehension
- Game adapts the difficulty level to player's unique individual progress
- Feedback for both pupils and educators/guardians



# Lohkanlihkk

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- Based on Lukukupla/GraphoLearn
- in 5 Sámi languages: Inari Sámi, North Sámi, Lule Sámi, South Sámi and Skolt Sámi
- Culturally tailored graphical elements, music and storytelling
- Free to download and to use at schools or home
- Lohkanlihkku = Joy of reading



# Screenshots from the Early Versions of Lohkanlihkkku



# Goals and Workpackage

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## → WP1: Mapping and Data Gathering (SA)

- Gathering and synthesizing existing data on teaching and learning writing and reading.
- Teacher interviews
- What do we know and how can we use these knowledge?

## → WP2: Practical Tools for Educators (JYU & UMU)

- Webinars and workshops
- Game guidebook in 5 Sámi languages
- Game development that is culturally bound and linguistically sound
- Testing the game

## → WP3: Lohkanlihkku-game & Dissemination (ULAP)

- Release of the game
- Publications related to the project

# Filling the Knowledge Gap in Sámi Literacy

- Very little research exists on Sámi-speaking children's reading skills.
- Current work focuses on mapping Sámi literacy through teacher interviews in Finland, Norway & Sweden.

Findings will inform a learning game tailored to Sámi language and learners' needs.

# Designing for Sámi Language Challenges

As a minority language, Sámi has low visibility in society, affecting children's literacy development.

Sámi language-specific features are often difficult to learn.

The game is designed to support these specific learning challenges.



## Strengthening Sámi Languages Through Play

Despite challenges, the game can greatly benefit Sámi languages.

GraphoLearn has internationally shown positive learning impacts.

Supports Sámi children's literacy and assists teachers in tracking progress.

A lasting tool for Sámi education — combining research, technology, and Indigenous education.



# Thank you! Giitu!

## Do you have any questions?



### Contact information:

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We work across borders in the project  
Lohkanlihku

## EVIDENCE-BASED DIGITAL LEARNING GAME FOR SUPPORTING READING AND WRITING SKILLS IN SÁMI LANGUAGES

Want to know more?  
[www.interregaurora.eu](http://www.interregaurora.eu)



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# References

[Publications | GraphoLearn](#)

Juuso, Berit-Ellen 2024: [Jietnadagas bustávvi – bustávas jietnadahkii : Sámegeilat álgoohpahusa ohppiid teknihkalaš lohkanáidu](#)

[Lohkanlihkku - Interreg Aurora](#)

[LOHKANLIHKKU lukuonni - University of Lapland Research Portal](#)

