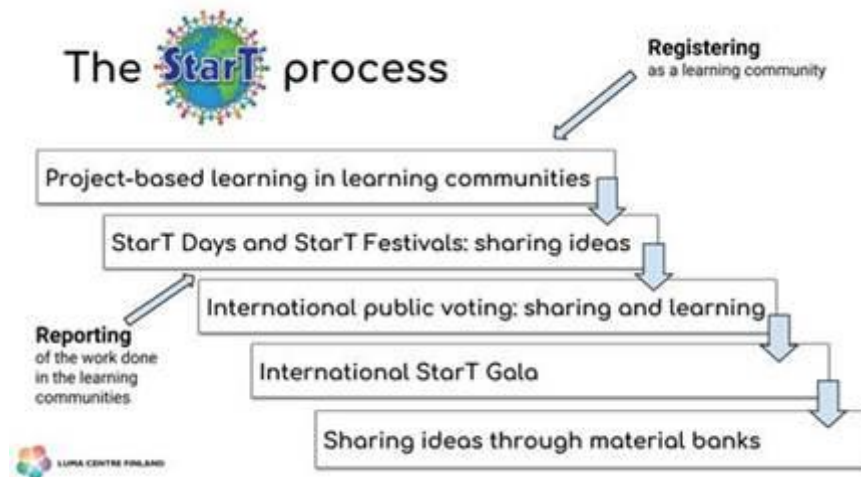


## About StarT:

StarT is a programme by the LUMA Centre Finland. We aim to inspire children and youngsters to science, technology and mathematics and to support teachers (and other educators) in the work that they are already doing. In StarT students carry out exciting interdisciplinary projects with a link to science, technology or mathematics, and to one of [the StarT themes](#). Along the way the joy of learning is shared on many levels through collaborative StarT events organized by us and the participating learning communities (=schools, kindergartens, extracurricular activity groups, families).

In the picture below you can see how StarT proceeds annually:



[StarT Days](#) are local smaller-scale events that learning communities (=schools, kindergartens, extracurricular activity groups, families) organize to present the children's and youngster's work. [StarT Festivals](#) are larger-scale events that are organized nationally. To put it shortly, there teachers get to share their best educational practices and students their project work, and both teachers and students get peer-support and encouragement, and a lot of fun science related activities take place.

The work that has been done in the learning communities is reported to us through an online form. The reporting happens as 3-minute-long videos and learning diaries. From here on StarT resembles a competition, as the work is reported in two categories: a) [students' projects](#) b) [best educational practices](#). However, StarT is a lot more than a competition: it is a medium for bringing people from across the world together to share the joy of learning.

The videos of the learning communities will be shared internationally in the [international public voting](#) – giving both the students and teachers a reason to share their work, and allowing everyone to get inspiration and ideas for their future projects. The international StarT jury chooses the internationally most distinguished students' projects and educators' best practices, and they will be given as their main prize the International LUMA StarT Award (projects) and Education Award (best practices) at [the StarT Gala](#). Last year the Director General of the Finnish National Agency for Education, Mr Olli-Pekka Heinonen handed the awards. Also this year the main prize includes a trip to Finland to receive the awards and a programme of science education related activities. Finally, the work of the learning communities will be shared through our [material bank](#).

When the teachers and students are doing their project work, we offer support for the teachers e.g. through [online courses](#), materials (including [a virtual science club](#) and countless ideas), answering questions, and by offering the motivating StarT process as a platform that they can integrate into their teaching with ease.