

## **PA Education, Science and Social Affairs**

Steering Group meeting, **Stockholm, 15 June 2022**

**TIME** 11.00 – 16.00 (CEST)

**VENUE** 7A Strandvägen, Strandvägen 7, Stockholm or ZOOM

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Welcome**

*Ms. Josefin Carling*  
*Secretary General, Norden Association in Sweden*

In the welcoming address Ms. Carling underlined the importance of collaboration in times of war and after the pandemic. It's important to meet again "face-to-face", to develop cooperation built on trust.

#### **Chairman of the Steering Group**

*Mr. Raimondas Paškevičius*  
*Ministry of Education, Science and Sports in the Republic of Lithuania*

Mr Paškevičius opened the meeting expressing a feeling of a new start after the pandemic and with new Operational Programmes.

#### **2. Adopt the agenda**

**To** confirm the agenda for today's meeting.

#### **3. Tour the table**

Participants introduced themselves. Additionally, members of the Steering Group gave short reports from their countries. Some of them you find below:

*Ms Nienstedt* started with introducing the delegation from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. Ms. Nienstedt gave an example of an initiative feeding into the European Green Deal with petrol stations offering hydrogen to cars travelling between Hamburg and Oslo.

*Mr Heilig* mentioned the support Hamburg provide to Kyiv and underline the importance of plan for cooperation after the war.

*Ms Pikker* reported on the situation for Ukrainian refugees in Estonia. Ukrainian preschools are already open and in September schools will open. In Tallinn University researchers from Ukraine are welcome and offered scholarships.

*Mr Paškevičius* informed about Ukrainian teachers offered jobs in schools. Students from Ukraine are welcome to universities to continue their studies in Ukrainian. Raimondas

also reported on the strong support for Ukraine in the society.

Ms *Wijkström* informed us about the ministries work with addressing challenges on the labour market including inclusion, lifelong learning, and competence supply. She also mentioned inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. However, until today few of them are in job.

#### **4. Ukraine – exchange on support and possible initiatives**

Sharing experiences from the support so far made by the member states.

Introduction to the topic by colleagues from the Ministry of Family and Social Policy in Poland

*Ms Dominika Michalska (online)*

*Ms Agnieszka Majcher-Teleon (online)*

Please find one presentation and one document with information attached.

INTEGRATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS ON THE LABOUR MARKET

Presentation made by the Migration Division on experiences and challenges

RECOGNITION AND ACQUISITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Presentation made by the Continuing Education Division of the works on recognition and acquisition of qualifications by immigrants necessary for employment – experiences and challenges

EXCHANGE

Discussions on possible forms of cooperation on integration of migrants in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

LUNCH

#### **5. Reports and reflections**

a. *School to Work – an update*

*Mr Gunnar Anderzon, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions*

Mr Anderzon updated us on the status of the flagship highlighting the new advisory board with experts from line ministries in our member states. He thanked the members of the Steering Group for their help with reaching and inviting them.

b. *Youth Guidance Centres for young adults not in education, employment, or training – experiences from the just finalized training programme for coordinators of those centres.*

*Mr Anders Bergström, Norden Association*

Mr Bergström gave a brief introduction to Youth Guidance Centres and welcomed participants to the

conference in Stockholm on 13 September. His presentation is attached.

- c. *Baltic Sea Labour Forum* – a report in brief from the Round Table held in Turku together with the final conference on the project “BSLF – Sustainable Working Life”

*Mr Anders Bergström, Norden Association*

Please find the presentation attached.

- d. Introducing the platform on “*Economy of Well-being of People with Health, Education and Social Sustainability*” planned in cooperation between PA Health and PA Education.

*Mr Imants Gross, Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being, Mr Anders Bergström, Norden Association*

Please find the presentation attached.

- e. *Baltic Science Network* – an update.

*Ms Franziska Jerosch, BWFGB Hamburg (online)*

## **6. National implementation and the role of members of the Steering Group**

In the Action Plan endorsed in February 2021 the role of both Steering Group and members role in own country have been strengthened. With focus on the national implementation of the Strategy we discuss how to organize the communication, from Strategy to stakeholders in member states and vice versa. Relevant questions are how to engage stakeholders, how to secure a well-functioning communication and what structures are needed. We exchanged good practice and develop new initiatives. Important to consider is the interdependencies between implementing stakeholders being National Coordinators, Policy Area Coordinators, Flagship leaders and members of the Steering Group. The concept with stakeholder seminars was introduced. More information will follow this autumn.

## **7. Next meeting**

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Steering Group in January in Brussels inviting colleagues from the EU Commission. Policy Area Coordinators will return in autumn with a date for the meeting.

## **MEMBERS**

### **POLICY AREA FOCAL POINTS / MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP**

Denmark

*Ms Charlotte Romlund Hansen, Ministry of Children and Education (online)*

Estonia

*Ms Pille Pikker, Ministry of Education and Research (online)*

Finland

*Ms Johanna Hulkko, Ministry of Education and Culture (online)*

Germany

*Mr Markus Heilig, Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg (online)*

Latvia

*Ms Aļona Babiča, Ministry of Education and Science (online)*

Lithuania

*Mr Raimondas Paškevičius, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports*

Poland

*Ms Anna Pamerska, Ministry of Family and Social Policy (online)*

Sweden

*Ms Inger Wijkström, Ministry of Employment*

*Ms Åsa Karlsson, Ministry of Education and Research (online)*

## **POLICY AREA COORDINATORS**

### Core Group

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Senate Chancellery

*Ms. Corinna Nienstedt, Director General - Europe – International Affairs – Protocol (online)*

*Mr Markus Heilig, Head of Department for International Affairs (online)*

*Dr Stefanie Wodrig, Head of Baltic affairs desk*

*Ms Merle Andraschko, Policy Area Coordinator*

Norden Association in Sweden

*Ms Josefin Carling, Secretary General*

*Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator*

*Ms Ida Berg, Communication Officer*

## **GUESTS**

### Ministry of Family and Social Policy in Poland

*Ms Dominika Michalska (online)*

*Ms Agnieszka Majcher-Teleon (online)*

### Ministry of Social affairs in Hamburg

*Ms Birte Steller, Head of division: labour market integration for refugees and newcomers (online)*

### Policy Area Health

*Mr Imants Gross, NDPHS Secretariat*

### Baltic Sea Network – European Social Fund

*Ms Tereza Vilén, Swedish ESF-Council*

*Mr Ulrich Wolff, Ministry of Social affairs in Hamburg (online)*

*Ms Laura Laivina, Ministry of Finance in Latvia (online)*

*Mr Patrik Danielsen, Danish Business Authority (online)*

### Flagship leader

Baltic Science Network

*Ms Franziska Jerosch, BWFGB Hamburg (online)*

School to Work

*Mr Gunnar Anderzon, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions*