

Policy Area Education

Steering Group Meeting, online

23 October 2025, 10:00-11:30 CET / 11:00-12:30 EET

Via [TEAMS](#)

I. Opening and adoption of agenda

Ms Liisa Ojaveer, Chair of the Steering Group

The Chair greeted the members and opened the meeting, stressing the necessity of cooperation in the context of the current security situation.

The agenda was adopted.

II. Updates from PACs

Ms Asli Tepecik Dis, Policy Area Coordinator

Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator

Ms Merle Andraschko, Policy Area Coordinator

PACs gave a short update on activities in the different Actions of the Policy Area in the past months:

- **Action 1:** Ongoing discussions about forming a network of practitioners working with Youth Guidance Centres in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). Potential activities are an online workshop later in 2025 as well as a study visit to Kraków in spring 2026. BSR Education Conference “Resilience through Education” organised in Stockholm by the flagship School2Work on 8 and 9 October 2025 jointly with the Learning Cities Commission of the Union of the Baltic Cities (84 participants).
- **Action 2:** continued focus on life sciences and cooperation in the field of peace and conflict research.
- **Action 3:** Further development of the flagship “Economy of Wellbeing of People”. Series of online workshops organised in November, Steering Group members have received invitations.
- **Action 4:** in 2025, cooperation with PA Culture on the role of culture in integration. Possibilities for an Interreg Europe peer review to be hosted by Region Gävleborg in Sweden are currently being explored.

- Preparation of a “Project Platform” application to Interreg BSR for transnational learning and policy dialogue in the field of **social innovation** (lead: Hamburg Ministry of Economy, Labour and Innovation).
- Continuous implementation of the **Civil Protection Faculty** jointly with PA Secure and Ukrainian partners; new founding sources (Swedish and Norwegian Development Agencies) are being explored.
- Cross-MRS meeting with European Commission (DG EMPL) in Brussels on 20 November 2025 with a focus on **embedding**.

III. Adoption of the finale Action Plan update template

PACs presented the main changes in the final version of the template compared to the draft adopted by the Steering Group in January. Members gave input on the outcome and impact indicators in particular. The remarks will be worked into the draft, which will be shared on 24 October for final approval by 30 October 2025 (shortened written procedure to meet the deadline for submission to the Baltic Sea Strategy Point on 31 October).

IV. A.O.B.

Merle Andraschko informed members that she will leave the PAC team by the end of the year to take on a new position in the Joint Representation of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Brussels (Hanse-Office) in January 2026. Stefanie Wodrig informed colleagues that the recruiting process for her successor has already been initiated to ensure a smooth transition.

Anders informed about stakeholder seminars being organised next year starting with Estonia. Anders will contact each member to schedule these meetings.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Tallinn on 8 June 2026, back-to-back with the Annual Forum on 9 and 10 June 2026.

Participants

MEMBERS	<p>POLICY AREA FOCAL POINTS / MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP</p> <p>Estonia <i>Ms Liisa Ojaveer, Ministry of Education and Research</i></p> <p>Finland <i>Mr Henrik Ruso, Ministry of Education and Culture</i></p> <p>Germany <i>Dr Stefanie Wodrig, Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg</i></p> <p>Latvia <i>Ms Aļona Babiča, Ministry of Education and Science</i></p> <p>Lithuania <i>Mr Raimondas Paškevičius, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports</i></p> <p>Poland <i>Ms Anna Pamerska, Ministry of Family, Labor, and Social Policy</i> <i>Mr Piotr Turzański, Ministry of Education</i> <i>Mr Pawel Nowak, Regional Labour Office in Szczecin</i></p> <p>Sweden <i>Ms Cecilia Ragnarsson, Ministry of Education and Research</i></p> <p>POLICY AREA COORDINATORS</p> <p><u>Core Group</u></p> <p>Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Senate Chancellery <i>Dr Stefanie Wodrig</i> <i>Ms Merle Andraschko, Policy Area Coordinator</i></p> <p>Norden Association Sweden <i>Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator</i> <i>Ms Asli Tepecik Dis, Policy Area Coordinator</i></p>
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