

Policy Area Education

Steering Group Meeting, Warsaw, 9 September 2024

TIME	11.00 to 17.00
DRAFT AGENDA	<p>1. Opening</p> <p>Chair of the Steering Group <i>Ms Anna Wrona</i> <i>Chief specialist, Coordinator of the Strategy Unit, Labour Market Department, Ministry of Family Labour and Social Protection, Poland</i></p> <p><i>Ms Josefin Carlring</i> <i>Secretary General, Norden Association Sweden</i></p> <p>2. Adopt the agenda The agenda was adopted with a minor addition under 4. Updates (update on the Baltic Science Network).</p> <p>3. Tour de Table</p> <p>4. Updates</p> <p>a. School to work Gunnar Anderzon, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, informed members about S2W's activities in 2024. One strategic focus lies on basic skills. The presentation is enclosed.</p> <p>b. BSR Social Innovation Anders Bergström reported on the project "RESIST" (Interreg BSR). Furthermore, he informed Steering Group members about the ongoing preparations of an application for an Interreg BSR Project Platform on Social Innovation, which is supported by PA EDU.</p> <p>c. Economy of Wellbeing of People Asli Tepecik Dis informed about this joint PA EDU/PA Health flagship. A feasibility study financed by the Swedish Institute will be finalized in the end of September. The Norden Association continue the preparation of the flagship with support of ESF+ funding.</p> <p>d. Baltic Science Network Merle Andraschko reported on behalf of the flagship leader which provided an update in written beforehand.</p> <p>e. BSR Integrate Now Merle Andraschko reported on the challenges faced in the set-up of the emerging flagship. The seconded application for Erasmus+ Cooperation partnership among Welcome Houses in the BSR has been declined. Policy Area Coordinators are exploring further ways forward, e.g., a closer exchange with ESF+ Managing Authorities and seeking synergies with other networks (EUROCITIES working group on migration and integration). Ms Vilén encouraged the Policy Area Coordinators to also look into upcoming EaSI transnational calls. A joint workshop on the topic of culture</p>

and integration will be held at the Annual Forum in cooperation with PA CULTURE.

f. Civil protection faculty

Anders Bergström reported on this joint PA Secure/PA EDU initiative where non-formal education centres (folk high schools) in Ukraine are used for training trainers in emergency medicine, de-mining, trauma care and local democracy. A feasibility project funded by the Swedish Institute will be finalized in the end of the year. A Erasmus+ application will be drafted and submitted in spring 2025.

g. European Social Fund+

Tereza Vilén reported on the activities of the ESF+ Baltic Sea Region Network. While the chair will soon pass on to Poland, Sweden and Hamburg will represent the network in future PA EDU Steering Group meetings. The network will hold its next meeting in November in Gdansk, where they will focus on establishing a shortlist with thematic focus.

5. Update Rules of Procedure

The Steering Group adopted the proposed amendment to Article 7 of the present Rules of Procedure. However, with regards to Article 8, the Steering Group proposes to keep the current time limit of 10 working days in order to be able to review extensive material.

6. Work Plan 2025/2026

The draft work plan was endorsed by the Steering Group, as Latvia had confirmed their endorsement in written beforehand.

7. Inputs to the new Action Plan from Member States

Finland underlined the importance of high-quality education for resilient societies and sustainable economic growth. Investments were required to ensure the availability of skilled workforce, which is needed for the digital and green transition and in the provision and operation of critical infrastructure. Mobility of students in the Baltic Sea region was mentioned as a further topic.

Germany joined Finland in highlighting the importance of skilled workforce, where the BSR countries shared a lot of challenges with regards to a general lack of workforce and further needs for the integration of migrants into the labour market. The focus of the incoming EU Commission would lie on competitiveness, placing research and innovation in the centre.

Lithuania stressed the importance of student mobility and supporting youth. Furthermore, social innovation and research were crucial topics in their view, with particular challenges with regards to widening participation and human resources. More funding opportunities for researchers and post-Docs were needed.

Poland, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Protection briefly presented two ESF+ funded initiatives which present opportunities for synergies for future PA EDU activities: the first one are 76 one-stop-shop centres for youth now being introduced with the support of national funds. These are designed as a permanent solution and part of the measures implemented under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Furthermore, Poland is currently establishing service points for integration of migrants in local labour offices throughout the country. The interest in learning from other countries in

	<p>particular in the field of migrant integration was highlighted. The representative of the Ministry of National Education furthermore stressed the continuing importance of School2Work, which could help keeping the dropout rate in Polish schools low. Furthermore, people should be equipped with competences for the future (IT, green economy) and with the skills to assess risks arising from critical political situations (e.g., cybersecurity, disinformation, media literacy). Youth empowerment and civic education with regards to democratic values was also named as an important topic, which will also be a focus of the Polish Council presidency.</p> <p>Sweden and Latvia provided their input in written (attached).</p> <p>8. Preparing the first draft Action Plan Please see documentation from the workshop attached.</p> <p>9. Needs and potentials for future transnational cooperation Interreg BSR MA/JS consulted Steering Group members of PA EDU on needs and potentials for the future programme.</p> <p>10. Next meeting The Chair will come back to the Steering Group members regarding the next meeting once the input for the new Action Plan has been discussed to continue with the process.</p>
PARTICIPANTS	
MEMBERS	<p>POLICY AREA FOCAL POINTS / MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP</p> <p>Finland <i>Ms Johanna Koponen, Ministry of Education and Culture</i></p> <p>Germany <i>Ms Stefanie Wodrig, Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg</i></p> <p>Lithuania <i>Mr Raimondas Paškevičius, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports</i></p> <p>Poland <i>Mr Marcin Wiatrów, Ministry of Family Labour and Social Protection</i> <i>Ms Anna Wrona, Ministry of Family Labour and Social Protection</i> <i>Ms Anna Pamerska, Ministry of Family Labour and Social Protection</i> <i>Mr Grzegorz Chorazy, Ministry of National Education, Poland</i></p> <p>POLICY AREA COORDINATORS</p> <p><u>Core Group</u> Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Senate Chancellery <i>Ms Merle Andraschko, Policy Area Coordinator</i></p> <p>Norden Association Sweden <i>Ms Josefin Carling, Secretary General, Norden Association Sweden</i> <i>Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator</i></p>
GUESTS	<p><u>EU Commission</u> DG REGIO <i>Ms Blagovetska Riiser</i></p> <p><u>Flagship leaders</u> School to Work <i>Mr Gunnar Anderzon, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</i></p>

<p>Economy of Wellbeing of People <i>Ms Asli Tepecik Dis, Norden Association Sweden</i></p> <p><u>Other guests</u> Baltic Sea Network – European Social Fund <i>Ms Tereza Vilén, Swedish ESF Council</i> <i>Ms Justyna Chrapkowska, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy in Poland</i></p> <p>Baltic Sea Strategy Point <i>Ms Viktoriia Hladdi</i></p>
