

PA Education, Science and Social affairs

Steering group meeting, **Brussels, 28 April 2023**

- TIME** 10.00 – 12.00 (CET)
- VENUE** Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Square de Meeûs 1 / De Meeûssquare 1, Brussels
- MINUTES**
- 1. Welcome**
Ms Josefin Carlring (online)
Secretary General, Norden Association Sweden

Chair of the Steering Group
Ms Cecilia Ragnarsson, Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden
 - 2. Adopt the agenda**
The draft agenda was presented. **The Steering Group decided to adopt the draft agenda without changes.**
 - 3. Tour the table**
Participants in the room and online introduced themselves. Please find the list of participants below.
 - 4. Report 2022**
Anders Bergström presented the report produced by PACs in short. The Chair gave an overview of the achievements in comparison to the target indicators for 2022 and presented the proposed feedback note, including remarks by Steering Group members.

In the following, Steering Group gave their support to the proposed feedback note. The Steering Group members underlined the importance of discussing the feedback process. The representative of the ESF Baltic Sea Network noted that targets between PA Education and the ESF Network ideally would be synchronized, e.g. regarding frequency of BSN ESF meetings. Josefin Carlring informed members about the ongoing work on the communications plan, the basis for further communication activities.

The feedback note was adopted by the Steering Group as proposed by the Chair. The feedback note is enclosed.
 - 5. Reports**
Please find below short summaries. More details in the attached presentations.
 - a. School to Work (S2W)**
 - Gunnar Anderzon reported on the flagship. He considered that the activities within S2W relate well to the Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success.
 - Lovisa Fransson informed on one of the most recent activities, the hybrid conference in Stockholm on 25 April 2023, with participation from four members of S2W and stakeholders. Strategies to prevent early school leaving and reintegration of NEETs were discussed.

b. Economy of Wellbeing of People

- Anders Bergström reported on the status of the preparation of a new joint flagship between PA Health and PA Education, "Economy of Wellbeing of People".

c. BSR Social Innovation

- Hauke Siemen, REM Consult, introduced the project "RESIST" (Regional Ecosystems for Social Innovation and Social Transformation). An application for "RESIST" was submitted to Interreg BSR in the 2nd call, results are expected in June. Lead partner is Hamburg's Ministry of Economy and Innovation.

d. BSR Integrate NOW

- The project application for a transnational Coordinator Training programme among Welcome Houses in the Baltic Sea region was submitted to Erasmus+ in March, results are expected by end of August.
- Further activities with partners planned (e.g., joint online workshop; workshop at the UBC General Conference in autumn).

e. BSN ESF+

- Tereza Vilén stressed the importance of mainstream funding, as Interreg BSR is not enough to fund all EUSBSR activities. This was also stressed in the Commission's report on the status of implementation of the macro-regional strategies.
- The Chairs in the BSN-ESF+ will be synchronized with the Chairs in the Steering Group. Latvia will establish contacts to Latvian MAs accordingly, as they have no member in the BSN-ESF+ yet.

f. EUSBSR Support to Ukraine

- Distance education: two areas important in particular: Trauma-Aware Care; broader approach to digitalisation.
- Civil Protection Faculty: training for paramedics; application for seed money from Swedish Institute to develop non-formal education in Ukraine.

6. Updates from member states

a. Latvia

- In 2021, Latvia adapted a new national education strategy, followed by an implementation plan in 2022, which emphasizes the importance of digitalisation.
- Furthermore, one priority in Latvia is the integration of Ukrainian refugees at all levels of education.

b. Germany

- Approximately 1 000 000 Ukrainians have come to Germany; thereof about 50 000 to Hamburg since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression. Structures such as Hamburg Welcome Centre can be further improved, PA EDU can support here. Integration of migrants and refugees is a high political priority not only in Hamburg and Germany, but also within multilateral frameworks such as the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

- Strong need for qualified workforce in Germany: Hamburg has a strategy for attracting skilled workforce.

7. A.O.B.

No other topics to be discussed were proposed.

8. Next meeting

This was the last meeting under the Swedish Presidency. Latvia takes over from 1 July 2023. The next meeting in the Steering Group will be in Riga in connection with the EUSBSR Annual Forum on 4 and 5 October. The title of the Forum is "Safe and Sustainable Baltic Sea Region for future generations".

MEMBERS

POLICY AREA FOCAL POINTS / MEMBERS OF THE STEERING GROUP

Estonia

Ms Ursula Tubli, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU

Finland

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

Germany

Dr Stefanie Wodrig, Head of Baltic affairs desk

Latvia

Ms Aļona Babiča, Ministry of Education and Science

Lithuania

Mr Raimondas Paškevičius, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports

Sweden

Ms Cecilia Ragnarsson, Ministry of Education and Research

Ms Åsa Bergqvist, Ministry of Employment (online)

POLICY AREA COORDINATORS

Core Group

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Senate Chancellery

Dr Stefanie Wodrig, Head of Baltic affairs desk (online)

Ms Merle Andraschko, Policy Area Coordinator

Norden Association Sweden

Ms Josefin Carlring, Secretary General (online)

Mr Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator

GUESTS

Baltic Sea Network – European Social Fund

Ms Tereza Vilén

Swedish ESF-Council

Flagship leaders

School to Work

Mr Gunnar Anderzon

Ms Lovisa Fransson

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

Other guests

Baltic Sea Strategy Point

Ms Viktoriia Hladii

Ms Marlene Riedel

REM Consult GmbH

Mr Hauke Siemen (online)