



Flagship School to Work is platform for knowledge and measures that prevent early school leaving and integrate NEET into the labour market in the Baltic Sea Region

School to Work

Information Support Development

Flagship School to Work
www.szwflagship.eu

IN THIS ISSUE

Strengthened organization gave wind into sails of School to Works 2017

by Gunnar Anderzon, Leader of the Flagship School to Work, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

The Flagship Project School to Work aims at strengthening transnational cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region in education and work to prevent early schooling and developing support for vulnerable groups of students / young people, especially NEETs, early school leavers and newly arrived refugees.

And of course, we have contributed to this during the past year. We are now 60 members, eight new in this year. We have a renewed and improved organization led by strong strategic stakeholders. We have conducted seven study visits and

conferences, a number of work meetings, face-to-face meetings and met with young people in various activities and projects around the Baltic Sea.

However, we have some challenges. We need to find ways to finance transnational activities in a new and coordinated manner. Not only to strengthen the work of development and knowledge fulfilment but also to create a more sustainable development to continue to address social challenges like early school leaving, youth unemployment, and integration of newly arrived refugees.

We believe that this is important not only for the macro-region but also for cohesion everywhere in the EU. To quote an HR- guru, Peter F. Drucker "If you think training is expensive, try ignorance". Let's continue to train together.

We are looking forward to seeing new members next year and hoping for an equally rewarding 2018!



Support for Development

Knowledge Platforms of the Flagship School to Work support your work and development processes in many ways. Find out what Matti Mäkelä has to say about the different tools for support and development!

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Highlights of S2W Activities

A lot has been done in 2017. As a result, we have 60 members, 222 participants who have been present in 7 events. Find out more what has been done!

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Why Addressing Early School Leaving Matters?

by Anu Parantainen, Knowledge Platform on Prevention of Early School Leaving, Project Management Office at Education Division in City of Turku

Education is one of the most effective means to prevent the social exclusion of the young, and decreasing the number of early school leavers and drop-outs would generate enormous savings. According to the European Commission, the economic loss to Europe due to the disengagement of young people from the labour market is approximately 153 billion euros per. It's hard to understand how much money that really is, but let's make it easier: it's more than three times Apple Inc. profit per year.

When talking about early school leaving, in European level or even on national level, money is an important indicator, but most important it's to see it on individual level.

We don't have to always think about the biggest catastrophes when talking about young people being outsiders of the society. Just think about the life of a young person. Youngster who not enter further studies and that way are most likely to drop out from working life, are the ones who lose most. They don't have possibilities to make their dreams to be true and to be part of

something. Quite often the education and work are the paths to these possibilities.

Many good things have already been developed and it's no point to invent a bicycle again. Knowledge platform of Early School Leavers offers opportunities to share your own best practices. Tell others your good experience. Or share your ideas, find new partners and start new cooperation. One plus one can be more than two.

One of such occasions was a study visit to Turku in November. Study visit offered to learn more about one-stop guidance centres (Ohjaamo Turku and Vamos) for young people, as well as presented various ongoing initiatives for newly arrived refugees. Vocational education was another subject that was addressed. Vocational Education Institute in Turku has a special approach how to teach and empower students with entrepreneurship skills. The program offers intensive entrepreneurship camps for students from every study program of the Institute. Participants of the study visit were from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden.



More activities will come in 2018. Knowledge platform has planned to have a workshop already in February to look into successful methods on how to make vocational education more attractive. Additionally, there is going to be a study visit to Lithuania or Sweden that would have a focus to prevention of early school leaving.

We offer you to look into successful methods that you can try in your own town. Let's keep in touch!

Support for Development

by Matti Mäkelä, Knowledge Platform on Newly Arrived Refugees, Head of the Project Management Office at Education Division in City of Turku

One goal of the Knowledge Platforms and Flagship cooperation in general is to provide useful knowledge and data (surveys, policy recommendations) and development tools to Flagship members and partners.

Surveys and policy recommendations section offers information about different reports, studies and research projects provided by different actors such as municipalities, research units and networks.

Development tools section responds, for example, to a way too familiar challenge in transnational cooperation: "they had some good ideas, but we can't utilise them in our country because our operating environment is too different". This is done by providing new means and tools for the identification and transfer of innovations. Another aim of this section is to bring together the key information about the prerequisites for successful peer development as well as the different challenges and pitfalls you may encounter during the process.

The tools and operating models presented are suitable for use in both national and transnational cooperation.

And – like they say in TV Shop commercials – that's not everything. Via Flagship web-page (www.s2wflagship.eu) you can find new good practices to support your development work, participate study visits and seminars, and, moreover, find partners for your brand new project ideas and innovations.

Stay tuned!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Flagship's School to Work website www.s2wflagship.eu

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT ANU PARANTAINEN OR MATTI MÄKELÄ anu.parantainen@turku.fi or matti.makela@turku.fi



BASICS



Target Groups

Young people who risk early school leaving (14 to 18 years old)

Young adults who risk becoming/ are in NEET situation (18 to 29 years old)

Newly arrived refugees



Structure of the Flagship

Three knowledge platforms in fields of Education and Labour Market: prevention of early school leaving, integration of young people who are in NEET situation, and integration of newly arrived refugees.

FAST FACTS

60 Members

222 Participants

7 Events

Highlights of S2W Activities

by Inta Edgarsson, Coordinator of the Flagship, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

Introduction meeting with the Board of the Union of Baltic Cities in Kristiansand, February.

Study visit to Hamburg with a special focus on **one-stop guidance centres** and **youth transition** to work in April.

Seminar *Powerful Connections for a Holistic School to Work Transition* during the annual Forum of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in June.

Conference Flagship "School to Work": *Collaboration for Improvements in Stockholm*, June.

Introduction meeting in Vilnius with interested parties from Lithuania, September.

Workshop *State of the Youth Guarantee in Baltic Sea Region* in Växjö, October.

Study visit to Tartu with a special focus on work of **youth specialists**, activities within **youth guarantee** and **youth activity centres** in November.

Study visit to Turku with a focus on **one-stop guidance centres**, **attractiveness of vocational education** and activities for **migrants** in November.

14% Rate of Repeated Attendance

What will the New Year Bring?

In 2018, we have planned to expand Flagship's work in field of **support and development**, as well as **awareness raising** about **methods** and **measures** that serve as **best examples** in the **Baltic Sea Region** and can be adapted in other Member States of the European Union.

You are **welcome to participate** in activities that would inspire, investigate and develop methods and approaches of our members.

- **February:** introduction **meeting** in Latvia about attractiveness of vocational education and prevention of early school leaving,
- **March:** **study visit** to Lithuania or Sweden to look into best examples that prevent early school leaving,
- **March:** **seminar** in Rostock about methods of integration of newly arrived refugees,
- **May:** two **training sessions** for specialists (e.g. coaches) who work with newly arrived refugees in Turku and eventually in Malmö,
- **June:** School to Work **Conference** in Stockholm,
- **September:** **meeting** in Brussels with relevant EU and local stakeholders; Appreciative Inquiry and Fire Works - training in Stockholm,
- **October:** **study visit** to learn about methods of integration of newly arrived refugees.

Please note that these events are preliminary. To **receive updated information** about upcoming events, you can:

1. become a member of the Flagship School to Work,
2. or apply for newsletter via the website www.s2wflagship.eu,
3. or contact directly the leader of the Flagship or coordinators of Knowledge Platform.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Flagship's School to Work website www.s2wflagship.eu

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN TOUCH, PLEASE CONTACT INTA EDGARSSON inta.edgarsson@skl.se

Members

by Inta Edgarsson, Coordinator of the Flagship, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

To get an insight and inspiration are two of the most often mentioned reasons for a municipality or school to decide to become a member of the Flagship School to Work.

Membership is open to public and private organisations and institutions that aim to **reduce early school leaving** in upper secondary schools or in vocational education and training, **provide pathways to labour market** to those young people who are or might be at risk of being in **NEET situation**, and **integrate newly arrived refugees** in the **Baltic Sea Region**.

Today we have **60 members** from every country of the Baltic Sea Region. **We invite more organisations and institutions** to become a member of the Flagship School to Work in order to **enrich the competences** and **common understanding** of methods,

measures and activities that **inform, support and empower young people** once they are in a challenging situation at school, community or work.

Our members are:

- Municipalities and Regions,
- Public Institutions,
- Schools,
- National Agencies,
- Civil Society Organisations.

Join us to **gain insights** in latest findings and developments; **to develop methods and capacity; collaborate with peers; have a platform for initiating projects and participate in policy forming processes.**



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

You are welcome to join Flagship School to Work. Membership is free of charge.

Here you can find the [Membership Application](#).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT INTA EDGARSSON
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Thematic Working Groups: Core of the Knowledge Platform

by Anastasiia Klonova, Knowledge Platform Integrate NEETs, Norden Association in Sweden

Thematic Working Groups are going to be testing grounds for new ideas and methods. They will also capture and validate innovations and best practices in the Knowledge Platform Integrate NEETs.

We aim to identify, validate and further develop methods and tools that can be tested and adopted in new projects among partners in the Baltic Sea Region. We also foresee that groups will prepare inputs that could be proposed for improvement in respective systems (e.g. education, social affairs, labour market) at local, regional, national and macro-regional level.

labour integration of young people in NEET situation.

The thematic working groups will involve stakeholders from public and private sectors, civil society and academia from eight countries around Baltic Sea Region. The geographical coverage for the Knowledge Platform is Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and the four northern states in Germany namely Brandenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Hamburg.

Knowledge Platform Integrate NEETs (young people neither in employment nor in education or training) is coordinated by the Norden Association in Sweden. The platform aims to:

- bring together specialists who work in various institutions and organizations, and open perspective of transnational cooperation which is beyond the experience available within national systems,
- evaluate existing initiatives, their further development and test them in new projects, initiated by thematic working groups,
- share good practices among stakeholders in the region, and bring them together with organisations that work with integration of young people in NEET situation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Five Thematic Working Groups:

- entrepreneurship,
- labour market integration,
- education and training,
- civil society involvement,
- resource centres with multi-competence teams.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM AND THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS, PLEASE CONTACT ANASTASIIA KLONOVA
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Recruitment process to the Thematic Working Groups will start in the beginning of 2018.

The intention is to find activities that might be suitable for adaptation in other countries that will provide measures to foster social and

The management and activities of the knowledge platform are funded by the European Social Fund in Sweden, since March 2017.

What Can **Flagship** Do For You?



Suggest partners in **your field**

Suggest partners from **another sector**

Suggest partners from **another country** in the Baltic Sea Region



Offer **learning** possibilities

Offer **awareness** raising sessions

Offer information about **best cases** in the Baltic Sea Region

What Can **You** Do For **Flagship**?



Inform members about your **findings** and **methods**

Involve members in your **development** processes

Raise awareness about **best cases**



Initiate a **study trip** to your country

Participate in the **Thematic Working Group**

Suggest **recommendations** for **policy changes**

Funding for Development

by Inta Edgarsson, Coordinator of the Flagship, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions



Funding is one of the core elements to start and run a cooperation between countries. Flagship defines cooperation in terms of looking into methods that are best practices in the field and looking into ways

how to transfer know-how to one's own institution or organisation from another country.

There are some funding programmes that provide financial means for multilateral cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in fields of education, labour market and empowerment of young people who risk becoming marginalized.

Therefore, we gladly give you a short overview of funding programs that:

- support transnational cooperation,
- invests in well-being of young people who are at risk of early school leaving, find themselves in a NEET situation,
- support integration of newly arrived refugees,
- provide funding for competence building of specialists who work with socially vulnerable young people and young people who are in school to work transition.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND has a special Co-ordinated call for projects in themes like employment, youth employment, inclusion, social economy, learning and skills, migrants in spring 2018. It is said that Finland, Poland and Sweden will launch calls for projects in January 2018. More information is available at your regional or national ESF managing authority.

ERASMUS+ is a program known more for supporting exchanges for pupils and teachers, but it also has funding for strategic partnership for institutions that work in field of education. Funding can be used to finance participation in study visits and development of strategic cooperation. Application deadlines:

- Partnerships in the fields of Higher Education, VET, School and Adult education: by 21 March at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 September and 31 December of the same year,
- Partnerships in the youth field: applicants have to submit their grant application by: 1 February at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 June and 30 September of the same year; 26 April at 12:00 (midday Brussels time) for projects starting between 1 September of the same year and 31 January of the following year.

A Strategic Partnership is transnational and involves minimum three organisations from three different Programme Countries. There is no maximum number of participating organisations.

NORDPLUS is a program that supports increased quality and cooperation within the field of education of the Nordic-Baltic region.

The deadline for applications to the round of 2018 is 1st February and the total amount of available funds is 9.3 million euro.

Applicants can be institutions and organisations working within the field of education and training to strengthen network activities between educational institutions and organisations in Denmark, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Åland and for activities like transnational student, pupil or teacher mobility, as well as joint projects.

INFORMATION ABOUT CALLS

More information about **Erasmus+** is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/2018-erasmus-call-guide-published_en

More information about **Nordplus** is available here: <http://www.nordplusonline.org/News2/CALLS/Call-for-applications-to-Nordplus-2018>

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Flagship School to Work is a platform that represents initiatives and projects in fields of education and employment that aim to prevent early school leaving and to integrate young people who are not in education, employment or training into labour market by use of holistic approach and with a strategic significance for the Baltic Sea Region.

Flagship School to Work operates in policy area Education of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.



European Union
European Social Fund



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Happy New Year!

We wish you to achieve the heights,
 By lightning lights
 of satisfaction brought by Flagship
 because it will be hipp
 in 2018
 to be together and develop, and discover
 New heights of your work
 and our lights,
 and use your intellegency
 that will guide you in your trip
 of EXCELLENCY!

Gunnar, Inta, Lovisa
 Anu, Matti, Mika
 Anastasiia

December, 2017



Unsplash online community is the source of pictures used in this newsletter.