

INVITATION

Youth Guidance Centres (One-Stop-Shops)

Managing multi-competent teams – a new profession with a tailor-made education

WORKSHOP ON 14 DECEMBER 2021 AT 09.00 TO 10.30 (CET) – ONLINE USING ZOOM

Introduction

Young adults not in education or training and without a job is a vulnerable group in our societies. This group is often referred to as NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training). A diverse group, difficult to find, difficult to motivate to take the first step to ask for help and when they are in contact with welfare services the needed measures are complex. Therefore so-called “Youth Guidance Centres”, providing multiple welfare services gathered under one roof has proved to be a successful model when organizing an effective answer to this societal and individual challenge. This low-threshold service provision has become increasingly common, particularly in the Baltic Sea Region with for example “Ohjaamo” in Finland, “Navigatorcentrum” in Sweden, “Ungevejen” in Denmark and “Jugendberufsagentur” in Germany.

Commonly, the centres gather multiple municipal and national public services responsible for educational guidance, labour market integration, social services, and health. The idea is to make it easier for the user to access available services, while facilitating coordination and cooperation among authorities both on a case by case basis and on a strategic level. As new, cross-sectorial structures they face the complexity related to the needed collaboration between different authorities but also the need to provide individual guidance for users to the services offered by the centres. The key function in these centres is the coordinator charged with responsibility to manage the centre including staff representing different organizational and professional cultures, often with varying mandates and missions. This is a demanding role that needs to be strengthened, as integrated services become a necessary response to complex and increasingly fragmented welfare systems.

Mission

In the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the flagship School to Work (S2) with its NEETs platform it has been decided to define this new profession as coordinator and develop and test an education on Baltic Sea Region basis. This is done in an Erasmus+ - strategic partnership project. The partnership represents both practitioners and educational providers from Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, and Sweden.

Profession and education

A competence profile for this new profession as coordinator has been developed and tested with a reference group. Based on this competence profile a curriculum has been developed in spring 2021. The education with four modules started this autumn and will be finalized in spring 2022.

Workshop

Halfway through the education we would like to share some experiences with you from both the education and from Youth Guidance Centres in the Baltic Sea Region. Participants in the programme represent centres and similar structures in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden.

PROGRAMME

09.00 **Welcome and check in**

09.10 **Introduction to the wider context**

Shaping the future of Europe with support of macroregional strategies. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with the Policy Area Education, Science and Social affairs address complex societal challenges such as vulnerable groups of young adults.

*Anders Bergström, Policy Area Coordinator
EUSBSR PA Education, Norden Association, Sweden*

09.20 **Youth Guidance Centres – an introduction**

These centres offer support to young adults and are characterized by multi-competent teams representing different state agencies and municipality services as well as civil society organisations.

*Marita Räsänen, Coordinator
Ohjaamo Jyväskylä, Finland*

09.30 **Examples of Youth Guidance Centres**

Youth Guidance Centres are organized differently in the countries in the Baltic Sea Region. Two examples will be introduced

Germany Christine Schroeder, Coordinator

Jugendberufsagentur, Hamburg, Germany

Estonia Heidi Paabort, Programme manager (tbc)

Association of Estonian Open Youth Centres

09.50 **Coordinator Training Programme – a pilot education**

Youth Guidance Centres are relatively new structures and also the positions as Coordinators. In an Erasmus+ project the position as coordinator, in charge of strategic development and operations has been defined and a training for these coordinators. A pilot programme started this autumn and will be implemented with four modules until next summer. developed Introducing the programme with four modules. The programme will be introduced in brief together with some reflections from the first two modules.

*Bo Klindt Poulsen, Associate Professor
VIA University College, Denmark*

10.00 **Reflections in smaller groups**

Sharing experiences from own organisations on addressing the challenges related to vulnerable groups of young adults guiding them towards the labour market.

10.20 **Short summaries of the discussions in groups**

10.30 **Closing**

REGISTRATION

Welcome to register for the workshop at the latest on 9 December following this link, <https://forms.office.com/r/xMfXVBv28T>