

SCHOOL TO WORK

Sixth annual conference

Date: 25 April 2023

Place: Clarion Hotel Sign, Östra Järnvägsgatan 35, 111 20 Stockholm

Preventing early school leaving and reintegrating NEET youth into education or work requires a comprehensive and systematic approach with coherent and sustainable strategies. Many countries face similar challenges regarding the transition from school to work. There is much to be gained from exchanging best practices and learning from each other's experiences. At the conference, we will hear from initiatives underway in the Baltic Sea Region and the EU on following strategies:

- ⦿ **Basic skills and the STEAM approach** (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) in basic and secondary education – future-focused learning and enhanced core skills and key competences for all students.
- ⦿ **Early warning systems (EWS)** – the use of data collection and monitoring systems for early detection and intervention of students at risk of dropping out of school.
- ⦿ **One stop shops** – establishing and implementing a multiple services and guidance centre for reintegrating NEET youth into education or work.

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TAKE PART IN A TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE!

Meet experts, practitioners and researchers from all over the Baltic Sea Region.

The conference will also hear a keynote speech by **Dr. Paul Downes**, Associate Professor of Psychology of Education. He has been involved in various expert advisory roles for the European Commission, among them the newly adopted EU policy recommendation **Pathways for School Success**.

REGISTRATION

Register for the conference by following the link <<<[here](#)>>>. Last day to register is on 18 April 2023.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travel and accommodation costs are covered by participants. Participation at the conference including lunch and coffee is free of charge.



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Organiser: School to Work – a Flagship in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

09.00 Registration and coffee/tea

09.30 Welcome and opening greetings

Conference organiser introduces the day

09.40 European Commission – current issues *(tbc)*

An overview of topic-related initiatives on EU level.

A representative from the Directorate-General for education, youth, sport and culture, European Commission

09.55 Key features of a multidimensional, systemic whole school approach to prevent early school leaving and promote basic skills: Prevention and early intervention issues and opportunities

Keynote speech

Dr. Paul Downes, Associate Professor of Psychology of Education and Director of the Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dublin City University, Ireland

10.45 Coffee/tea break

11.00 Basic skills and STEAM fields

Enhancing basic skills and key competences is necessary in order for more students to establish on the labour market and to meet the skills needs of the future. City of Turku explains how they are actively and broadly working with this. Such as the project STEAM Turku, a science and technology path combining early childhood, basic and upper secondary level education, with the overall aim to increase the attractiveness of science and technology sectors.

Kalle Ojanen, Head of Program, Turku Vocational Institute, City of Turku, Finland

Matti Mäkelä, Head of the Project Management Office, City of Turku, Finland

Katri Lehtinen, Project Manager, Project Management Office, City of Turku, Finland

12.00 Lunch

13.00 Early Warning Systems – mapping and tracking

Introducing the concept of early warning systems (EWS) and learning from examples of mapping and tracking on students' progress through school.

The DigiOne system, which is being tested in a number of municipalities in Finland, provides information both at individual and group levels. The goal is to enable follow up

and assessment of students learning and schooling based on data at the institutional, municipal as well as national level.

The Netherlands has a national system that provides data on attendance and student performance, which enable the authorities to monitor students throughout the school system. Based on the data at individual level, early school leaving figures are mapped out at national, regional and institutional levels. It also allows actors at those levels to identify schools in need of targeted measures.

Anna Liljeström, PhD in Educational Psychology and Consultant, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Sweden

Seppo Pukonen, Project Manager, City of Turku, Finland

Marjan Zandbergen, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands

14.15 One stop shops

One stop shops/youth guidance centres offer support to young adults neither in employment, education or training. They are characterised by multicompetent teams representing different municipalities services and state agencies. Two examples share their experiences on the work of establishing and implementing this support structure. Lithuania has developed a national strategy for establishing youth guidance centres and several centres have opened since. Similarly, Poland is currently developing a strategy at national level for establishing youth guidance centres.

Brigita Elona Blavasciuniene, Advisor of Measure's Implementation Organization Division, The Public Employment Service, Lithuania

Konstancja Piatkowska, Head of Unit, Labour Market Strategy Unit, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, Poland

15.15 Coffee/tea break

15.45 Panel discussion and reflections

Paul Downes, Anna Liljeström and a representative from the European Commission (*tbc*) discuss the output from the day and look to the future. Participants reflect in smaller groups on main take away points from the day.

16.30 Conference ending

Conference organiser wrapping up the day