

Invitation to the First Learning Cities Commission Meeting

UBC Board accepted the establishment of the Learning Cities Commission in April. The first ever meeting of the new Commission will be held on 24th of May from 2 pm to 4 pm Finnish Time (CET from 1 pm to 3 pm). First meeting will be held on-line (Teams) but in August-September we are planning to have a first live meeting and study visit of the new Commission.

Registration by using the link below (DL May 17th):

<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/EP/B2836B9B100014D3>

Main objectives (2022 and 2023) of the Commission will be as follows:

- strengthen the UBC cooperation in the field of education
- organizing workshops, webinars and study visits
- planning and implementing BSR Education Conference
- planning of new transnational projects (including a search for external funding)
- implementation of two General Conference workshops (STEAM and More inclusive VET)
- collection and dissemination of good practices
- deepening cooperation with the European Union Baltic Sea Region Strategy (EUBSRS) Policy Area Education (PA EDU)
- cooperation with other networks, such as Flagship School to Work and StartNet
- implementation of the Advisory Board (the role of the Advisory Board is to support the Commission in its actions by offering national and theme-related expertise and recommendations)

Education is the best way to combat the social exclusion of children, young persons and adults. STEAM guides children and young people into individual educational paths leading to high employability, and it also offers learning-by-doing options for those who struggle with regular, theory-oriented classroom study. School dropouts and absenteeism present a significant risk of social exclusion, and when they are combined with problems in basic skills, there is an extreme danger of a vicious circle of exclusion. Basic skill deficiencies can also be a major obstacle for adult participation in society and working life. The new Commission will be a significant tool in improving the joint collaboration of UBC cities in their work on these issues.

Commission strengthens cooperation with European Union Baltic Sea Region Strategy (EUBSRS) Policy Area Education (PA EDU), which contributes to increased prosperity that presupposes access to quality education and training for all, an effective and inclusive welfare system and a well-functioning labour market supporting geographical, professional and socio-economic mobility. Furthermore, Commission supports the UN's sustainable development goal 4.7 to ensure all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

Agenda:

1. Commission Action Plan for 2022
2. Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission
3. Main Activity Themes of the Commission (discussion)
 - proposed: STEAM, Basic Skills, Attractiveness of VET, NEETs (including School Attendance Problems)
 - other proposals
4. Cooperation with different actors
 - EUBSRS PA: Education
 - School to Work network
 - StartNet network
5. Planning of the September meeting / study visit
6. Planning of other activities (Fall 2022)
7. Advisory Board
8. Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2022
9. AOB

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