

ACTIVITY REPORT

TASK FORCE SUPPORTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

NOVEMBER 2019 – OCTOBER 2021

1. General description

In 2020 and 2021 UBC Task Force Supporting Youth Employment and Well-Being concentrated on three major themes, which are as follows:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Path for every child and youngster
- Basic Skills or Upgrading Pathways (youngsters with problems with basic skills, such as math, literacy and IT)
- Attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training

Concentrating on certain themes made cooperation and creation of common goals and projects easier.

Between 1.11.2019 and 7.9.2021 Task Force arranged seven events (workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings), which had 207 participants. In September and October 2021 TF will arrange 2022 planning meeting and STEAM workshop, which means that the total number of arranged events during the reporting period is nine while the number of participants will rise to, at least, close to 250.

Moreover, TF continued other activities (co-operation with other networks, dissemination of good practices and planning the new joint projects).

Chair of the Task Force and an author of this report: Matti Mäkelä, Head of the PMO, City of Turku

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

During the reporting period the Task Force arranged the following meetings, seminars, workshop and conferences (first one – Tallinn's study visit and workshop – was arranged as a live event, all the others were online events):

STEAM BSR study visit and workshop in Tallinn, 11.-12.2.2020 (18 participants)

- Best practices around the BSR
- Road Map for the STEAM BSR Cooperation (first step)
- Tallinn's best STEAM practices

TF Planning Meeting: STEAM Activities 26.8.2020 (8 participants)

The Aim of the meeting was to continue the work started in Tallinn. Participants discussed about STEAM activities in BSR Cities and planned coming STEAM events (Annual Forum, School to Work Seminar) during the Fall 2020 and also in 2021.

STEAM workshop as a part of Annual Forum 2.10. (26 participants)

- Best practices and a concrete plan for the future cooperation (collection of tools and practices, joint trainings, study visits, workshops, seminars, new projects, BSR science competition)

21.10. School to Work seminar (68 participants)

- Themes: STEAM, basic skills, NEETs, Early School Leaving and attractiveness of VET
- Key Note speakers about Basic Skills and STEAM
- 12 workshops

Webinar / Online Study Visit: STEAM in Turku 18.5.2021 (58 participants)

- STEAM Turku in a nutshell: aims and goals, values, activities
- Turku's best STEAM practices

**Webinar: Today's Truants – The best practices to manage school attendance problems, PART I
20.5.2021 (11 participants)**

In this webinar Jukka Laine, rector of a comprehensive education, introduced the topic of SAPs – what they are, how to identify them and how they manifest in comprehensive education. After the presentation the attendants were divided into break out rooms for discussions.

**Webinar: Today's Truants – The best practices to manage school attendance problems, PART II
7.9.2021 (18 participants)**

In this webinar Malin Gren Landell, a psychologist, psychotherapist, researcher, and a renowned author gave a presentation that addressed what we know and what we need to know more about to deal better with SAPs. Three keys were addressed, namely; Attention, Attendance data and Assessment.

During the year 2021 TF has also planned two workshops to the UBC General Conference workshops, which will be held in 2022/23:

- VET Goes Hybrid: Developing Resilient, Equitable and Attractive Solutions to Vocational Education and Training
- Resilient cities through attractive education – STEAM education tackling global challenge

In addition, TF will arrange during the Fall 2021 a planning meeting for the activities of the year 2022 (22.9.) and one more STEAM webinar (October or November).

3. Projects

Transnational ESF project BSR Neets supported the work of the Task Force by, for example, arranging a transnational meetings and disseminating best practices. BSR Neets project ended in April 2020.

During the year 2021 organisations from four BSR countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland) started to plan a STEAM based Erasmus project. This work continues.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Task Force has worked very closely with Norden Association and SALAR (leading organisations in the School to Work network) and Goethe Institute Brussels (leading organisation in the StartNet network). Both networks have parallel goals to the Task Force and cooperation with these organisations and networks has created an added value for the TF in, for example, marketing, communications and development work.

5. Communications

During the years 2020 and 2021 TF has done the following communication tasks:

- marketing the workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings using different tools (web-site, email etc.) and networks and actors (UBC Secretariat, S2W network, StartNet network etc.)
- development of the web-site
- collection and dissemination of the best practices
- writing articles about the work of the TF to different UBC and other publications (for example, TF's STEAM-work was presented in "STEAM of the Steam" publication, which was published by the City of Turku)

6. Other activities

During this period the Task Force was involved in other activities as follows:

- Collection of good practices
- Further development of the web-site
- Cooperation with other networks, such as School to Work and StartNet
- Follow-up for the funding possibilities and creation of the new projects

Matti Mäkela
Chair