



Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being

Final Report: The Good, The Bad and The Next Practices

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Background

The UBC Programme to Promote Youth Employment and Well-Being was introduced in Mariehamn general conference in October 2013.

The UBC General Conference decided to establish a Task Force on youth employment and well-being. It was set to work until the next UBC General Conference 2015, in which it will present its final report.

Meetings and Participants

Task Force held six meetings in 2014 and 2015 (Tampere, Turku, Karlskrona, Riga, Naestved, Espoo).

27 experts representing 15 UBC cities and six countries contributed to the work of the Task Force

Final Report

- Why Are We Doing This?
- Where Are We Now?
- Where the Magic Happens
- What's Next?

Why Are We Doing This?

Implementation of the Youth Guarantee in EU



Why Are We Doing This?

- The social exclusion and marginalisation of young people causes enormous economic costs that could be avoided
- The social exclusion and marginalisation of young people threatens social stability
- Working life requires everyone to contribute
- Education increases the years spent in working life
- Money is not everything

Where Are We Now?

- The youth unemployment rate in UBC countries is mostly at or below EU average
- The situation is best in Denmark and Germany; numbers dramatically below the EU norm
- The development has been positive in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland; clear reductions in youth unemployment
- The situation in Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland has not seen drastic changes

Where Are We Now?

- The percentage of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) is below EU average in all UBC countries
- Number of NEETs has slightly decreased from 2012 to 2015 everywhere except Finland and Poland, which have both recorded a slight increase

Where Are We Now?

- Online survey about the implementation and stage of implementation of the UBC Youth Employment and Well-Being Programme (8-9/15)
- 53 respondents, 47 of whom represented the public sector
- Nearly half of the respondents worked directly with young people; about one third were involved in project or other developmental work
- The responses originated from four UBC countries (Denmark, Finland, Latvia, and Sweden)

Results of the UBC Survey on Youth Employment and Well-Being

- Current situation (1=very poor, 2=poor, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=very good)
- Development during the last 2 years (1=very poor, 2=poor, 3=satisfactory, 4=good, 5=very good)



Where Are We Now?

- The overall picture is mostly positive; for example, guidance and support measures and cooperation between different actors received mostly positive marks, and the general consensus is that in both areas things have been moving to a positive direction
- When it comes to special groups such as immigrant youth and youth in need of special support, the picture was much bleaker
- Views on other services to prevent social exclusion such as anti-homelessness measures, crisis support, and the services provided for NEETs were mostly neutral
- While the overall picture does not look gloomy, there is still clearly room for improvement.

TOP 7 questions

- 1) How to motivate youngsters? Tools and methods
- 2) How to promote social entrepreneurship and social economics?
- 3) How to recognize and validate skills of the youngsters?
- 4) New ways for guidance and support of Immigrant-youngsters that arrived in their teens
- 5) How we can use new technology more efficiently in guidance, support and education?
- 6) Steps from ill-being to well-being and employment
- 7) How we help the system to become more diversity-friendly?

What's Next?

- 2-4 thematic workshops per year focusing on the youth guarantee and youth employment and well-being
- UBC should encourage all member cities to arrange, promote and seek funding for study visits and expert visits
- New projects and other forms of joint development between UBC cities
- Follow-up survey on the implementation of the Youth Employment and Well-Being Programme in 2017
- Decision about the coordination and funding of these measures
- Focus on finding and trying out opportunities and working towards the desired goals



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