

Youth Guidance Centres and NEET Services

Baltic Sea Network – Capacity Building

INVITATION to the kick off for the network in Krakow on 10 to 12 March 2026

"If young people are not always right, the society which ignores and knocks them is always wrong." — François Mitterrand

Since 2008, youth labour market conditions have worsened across Europe, with unemployment still high in many regions. The NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) indicator highlights the diverse challenges faced by young people, especially those often overlooked in standard statistics.

Network background

Youth Guidance Centres, also known as resource centres or one-stop-shops, coordinate public services and stakeholders to support NEETs through person-centered approaches. Based on EU-backed models and best practices from the Baltic Sea Region, these centres now operate or are expanding in Lithuania, Poland, Denmark, Finland, and Germany. The Baltic Sea Network fosters knowledge-sharing and collaborative development among these initiatives.

Network offers

The network enables Youth Guidance Centres to exchange good practices, jointly tackle challenges, and develop staff training. The Krakow event will identify mutual needs, encourage cooperation, and welcome all interested stakeholders, even those outside such centres.

Practical information

The programme is offered for free, with lunches and coffee breaks provided for all participants. Participants are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and dinner expenses. Detailed information on how to find the premises will be sent two weeks prior to the event.

Registration

Welcome to **register at the latest on 16 February 2026** following this [LINK](#). Please wait for confirmation of your registration before planning your travels and accommodations.

Questions

Welcome to contact Mr Anders Bergström, anders.bergstrom@norden.se

PROGRAMME

10 March

Venue: Youth Activation Point – Ekspres Praca, ul. Bosacka 18, Krakow Railway Station

- 18.00 Welcome meeting at the Ekspres Praca Center – introducing the Youth Guidance Centre / refreshments will be served
- 19.00 Dinner (organized by participants themselves)

11 March

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Krakow Hotel & Convention Center, Grzegórzki, 31-572 Kraków

- 09.00 Welcome and opening
Representatives of the Małopolska Region
- 09.30 EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and School to Work, the collaborative platform
- 10.00 Youth Guidance centre – an introduction to the concept
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Introducing examples from Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Germany, Poland and Sweden
- 12.15 Introduction to the work in groups
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 5 working groups in parallel on the following topics:
- Building trust among the target group and foster them to take action to change their situation
 - Providing individually tailored services at Youth Guidance Centres
 - Managing teams with employers and multiple competencies
 - Connecting centres with employers – building a supportive eco-system among employers
 - Monitoring and evaluation – what indicators should be used
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 Work in groups continue
- 17.00 Break for the day
- Dinner (organized by participants themselves)

12 March

Venue: Career Festival at EXPO Kraków, ul. Galicyjska 9, Kraków

- 09.30 Introduction to the idea of the Career Festival and tour of the exhibition stands
- The 2026 Career Festival is a key event for primary school students and parents, offering interactive career presentations, workshops, and counselling, with the participation of vocational schools and entrepreneurs. The event has been organized in the Małopolska region since 2013.
- 11.00 Continuation of the work in groups from the day before / coffee served in the groups
- 12.00 Presentations and reflections by all participants
Concluding remarks including next steps for the network
- 13.00 Lunch