

Challenges and Chances for Students and Apprentices in the Baltic Sea Region

Dr. Gabriele Kötschau

Fünfte Hanse Tagung

**Bildungspolitische Strategien heute und morgen rund um das
„Mare Balticum“**

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The Baltic Sea Region

- **Denmark**
- **Estonia**
- **Finland**
- **Germany**
- **Iceland**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**
- **Norway**
- **Poland**
- **Russia**
- **Sweden**



Challenges in the Baltic Sea Region

- Youth unemployment
- Competition with other regions
- Lack of harmonisation of exams and diplomas in the region

Youth Unemployment in the Baltic Sea Region

Country	Youth unemployment rate				Unemployment rate
	2000	2005	2008	2009	2009
EU					
Denmark	6.2	8.6	7.6	13.4	7.4
Estonia	24.4	15.9	12.0	32.1	15.5
Finland	21.4	20.1	16.5	23.4	8.9
Germany	7.5	14.2	9.9	10.2	7.5
Latvia	21.4	13.6	13.1	41.3	20.5
Lithuania	30.6	15.7	13.4	30.4	15.8
Poland	35.1	36.9	17.3	22.7	8.7
Sweden	10.5	22.5	20.0	26.3	9.0
<i>EU-27</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>15.4</i>	<i>20.3</i>	<i>9.4</i>
Non-EU					
Iceland*	4.7	7.2	8.2	21.9	7.0
Norway	9.8	11.4	7.2	8.9	3.3
Russia**	25.7	28.4	29.4	29.0	8.5

Sources: EUROSTAT: data December 2009, in: euro indicators 46/2010, 31 March 2010

*OECD statistics; EUROSTAT not available

**ROSSTAT

Main reasons for youth unemployment

- Lack of training places and jobs
- Qualification deficits after school attendance; young people leaving school without any degree or certificate
- Difficulties in job-orientation in the transition from school to work
- little contact between school and the world of work lack of motivation of young people for school and training
- Social risk environment (problems in the family, drugs and alcoholism), or
- A combination of different factors

Measures to combat youth unemployment

- Training programmes for young people without any degree
- Training pact government – industry
- Job Centres with active offers after three months of unemployment
- Job coaches
- Salary support for employers accepting additional apprentices and young employees
- Financial and qualifying support
- Encouraging young people to start their own business

Meeting the challenges

- Education and active labour-market policy
- Early information about exchange programmes
- Closer cooperation between policy and business community
- Harmonisation of exams and diplomas

Youth Exchange

Open potential for youth experiences abroad, e.g.

- **Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs:**

<http://balticsea-youth.org/>

- **Voluntary services:** in Germany:

<http://www.friedensdienst.de/You-are-interested-in.206.0.html>

- **Youth exchange:** many offers; one example:

<http://www.rotary.org/de/StudentsAndYouth/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

EU-Programmes including the Baltic Sea Region

- **COMENIUS:** Europe in the classroom – promotes key-competences and motivation
- **ERASMUS:** EU-Programme promoting transnational academic cooperation in the EU including the non-EU countries in the region, Norway, Iceland and Russia
- **LEONARDO DA VINCI:** EU-Programme supporting vocational training, individual training and large-scale cooperation

Traineeship options in Baltic Sea Region for students

International organisations, such as the

- **Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS):** www.cbss.org
- **IPS Programme (Fed. German Parliament) for foreign young**

academians:

http://www.bundestag.de/bundestag/europa_internationales/internat_austausch/ips/programm.html

Traineeship on vocational training for apprentices

The Chamber of Handicrafts in Lübeck offers four programmes:

- **Fit for Europe:** traineeship for some weeks in a European country (of choice), completed with the „Euro pass”
- **MoiNN - Mobilität im Netzwerk Nord (Mobility in the Network North):** traineeships for apprentices in Denmark, Sweden and Finland, completed with the „Euro pass”
- **Vet-QS – VETQualification System:** common cross-border education between Denmark and Germany
- **ArTeMa - Art, Teaching, Management:** a project for German and Danish apprentices from different sectors


Conclusions

- The Baltic Sea Region has become a model for dynamic development; we have to continue
- Identification with our common region starts in the heads and minds
- We need a Baltic Sea Youth Foundation supported by all countries and actors in the region
- We need an ambitious media programme (like ARTE) to get to know more about our neighbours

Thank you for your Attention



Carl Eldh's beautiful sculpture "Sången" the singer in bronze (paired with a female statue entitled "Dansen")



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