

23rd BSSSC Annual Conference Youth Working Group Meeting in Visby 22-25/09/2015

During 23rd BSSSC Annual Conference, the working group on youth policy had again a great chance to get together and meet in Visby for 4 days.

This year young participants from Norway, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Sweden together with national coordinators shone a light to the subject of digital evolution on the ground of education, development and impact on youth. The first days of workshops started with inspiring presentation by Mr Adam Hayes from Uppsala University Campus in Gotland who is a game designer. The practical workshops that followed the presentation focused on film making & editing.

First day was also a great time to make a summary of current work of the youth team in the BSSSC. The discussion about future plans and the way of further work was urgently needed as it has been noticed less interest of young people in the BSSSC activities. It was agreed that for further, youth would like to try to find a general consensus between Baltic States in intent current urgent questions. Youth from Baltic countries does not want to close eyes and pretend not to see current problems facing Europe, which is divided on many issues today. During main conference, youth representatives were asked by politicians what is the biggest struggle with which we were facing in Europe; Pawel Grzadko from the youth network answered that in one word: solidarity.

Second day of the BSSSC AC brought a lot of interesting presentations. Session III was given over to the youth. Nelija Karpunkensova and Vladimir Svet were moderating panel discussions. Gerd Tarand was as always fantastic prepared to his presentation, this year it was about e-revolution in Estonia. As Gerd announced at the beginning – “We as Estonians missed the last few years in the development of our digital technology, but still we are a few steps ahead of all of you!” – which was fully justified to say like this by Gerd. In Estonia since years all systems of public administration, banking, energy, education, universal system of democratic elections, health services have been integrated into one electronic national system operated by a simple, private ID card containing a chip.

Ms Kirsti Slettevoll, head of Nettskolen Buskeru” and Mr Sigrun Bergseth from Education department in Buskerud County presented how secondary school in Norway is operating only via internet in their e-learning teaching programme. The project started in a small school, however advantages of that innovative way of learning such as special educational path for people with disabilities or for youth in need of individual course curriculum, are impressive. The last presentation was given by Henrik Bergqvist, co-founder of company PicHit.me. It was an opportunity to talk with a creator of a company established in the small town of Visby, however having millions of users thanks to their strong cooperation with Microsoft. Henrik proved that big success can be closer than we can expect.

During the second day, young delegates from the BSSSC regions have elected a new Youth Board Member of the BSSSC. Since September 2015 our new representative in the BSSSC board will be Kari Lie, from Hedmark County who is the president of Hedmark Youth County Council together with Nellija Karpusenkovska from Latvia. Both two Youth Board Members are representative of BSSSC youth, presenting their ideas, opinions and further plans, taking part in all board meeting, preparing reports for youth network.

The end of the second day was a pleasant surprise for all guests invited to this session. In 2015 the Youth Network of the BSSSC is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. That is why Ms Małgorzata Ludwiczek, who is taking care of the youth team since their beginnings, together with the BSSSC Chairman Mr Ossi Savolainen honored previous BSSSC Youth Board Members for their impact, willingness to cooperate and work for young people.

And again that fantastic youth meeting organized by BSSSC has had to be finished. We as the youth would like to thank to all organizers for those great days in Sweden. We have had several discussions about our work and the development of our youth working group. Still a lot of things should be done to improve our final results after we

come back home and to our local community. However still these youth meetings sink into the memory of youth for a long time. BSSSC with their youth working network is a great complement to non-formal education. Often those regular meetings have a great impact on their future personal growth. As the youth network we are cooperating in the BSSSC with each other since 2001. Since that year hundreds of young people from all Baltic countries have taken part in youth events, exchange programs, scholarships, trainings, summer camps. The official youth working group celebrates the great 10th anniversary and we as the young people plea the Baltic Sea Region Representatives for continuation of that great work. The BSSSC Youth Network is an example of excellent cooperation, building mutual respect and understanding and as said earlier so important nowadays solidarity. We would like to express sincere thanks to everyone involved in work of the BSSSC Youth Network, for the benefit of young BSR generation.

Pawel Grzadko, former youth board member of BSSSC on behalf of all colleagues

Film 1

Film 2

Film 3