



**INSTITUTE FOR PRODUCTIVE  
LEARNING IN EUROPE**  
*Affiliated Institute of the Alice  
Salomon University*



**International Network of  
Productive Learning Schools and  
Projects**



**Ministry of General Education and  
Vocational Training, Science,  
Research and Culture**

January 2026

## **1<sup>st</sup> Announcement**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the *International Network of Productive Learning Schools and Projects*  
(INEPS)**

### ***“Opening Doors – From School To Vocational Life”***

**How *Productive Learning* improves career prospects**

**18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein/Germany**

#### ***What is the focus of the conference?***

The 33<sup>rd</sup> INEPS-Congress takes place in Spring 2026 in the north of Germany. It will focus on a crucial period in the life of each student: when obligatory secondary education comes to an end and students have to make decisions with high impact on their lives.

Successful transitions following lower secondary education are key topics of education in European countries and world-wide due to its urgency: Deficits and failure in this process cause risks for the wellbeing of the individual as well as the society as a whole, relying on the participation and the qualification of its members. Early school leaving and a lack of skilled personnel are “two sides of this coin”. Subsequently vocational orientation contributes to a wide spectrum of future social needs – from health and integration via social coherence to economic development.

To address important aspects of this process, this conference will focus on:

- How can school help young people to come to well reflected and sustainable decisions about their future education and training?
- How can secondary education help the adolescents to enter the world of work with confidence, self-assurance and well prepared?
- What strengthens young people to successfully manage the transition from school to vocational training?
- Which partners have to be involved and how do they cooperate successfully?
- And how does Productive Learning pursue all these targets?

#### ***Why is the conference relevant and why should you consider your participation?***

Take advantage of the opportunity to get insights into the curricular and methodological integration of Productive Learning in Schleswig-Holstein:

- Three days of learning at self-chosen practice places and two days of learning in school,
- curricular integration of all subjects (in practice and learning fields in school),
- communication group and individual counseling as constant elements of the educational process.

The two-year approach in class 8/9 leads to regular school leaving certificates and offers transmissibility for all kinds of upper secondary education. Within the last years almost 90 % of the participants, many of them considered as “at risk of dropping out” – reached their certification and more than 60 % continued in vocational training immediately.

It’s a **unique chance** to get to know the **practice of Productive Learning in Germany** developed through decades as well as **international practice and experience in the INEPS!**

### ***Who invites to the INEPS-Congress in Kiel and what does it offer?***

The Institute for Productive Learning in Europe (IPLE) in cooperation with the Administration Council of INEPS, the Ministry of Education in Schleswig-Holstein and the eleven schools offering Productive Learning in Schleswig-Holstein are glad to invite all INEPS-partners as well as guests interested in the topic and Productive Learning.

The conference includes:

- welcome by the ministry of Education and the minister Dr. Dorit Stenke
- insight into practice at up to 11 schools offering PL in Schleswig-Holstein
- key-speeches and discussion groups addressing important aspects of the topic
- special workshop for guests and newcomers
- options to foster co-operation and build new partnerships
- cultural side program

### **Preliminary Congress Program**

<b>Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
	Arrival day of participants - Sightseeing in Kiel - Welcome Dinner
<b>Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
	Excursion to Flensburg
	Visit of Productive Learning at Comenius-Schule
	Key-speeches and workshops at University Flensburg
	Option to visit the partner companies or the Phänomenta (Science museum and educational lab)
<b>Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
	Reception by the ministry of Education, Kiel
	Key-speeches and discussion groups
	Visit of Productive Learning at schools in Kiel
	Market of PL in different countries
<b>Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	
	Visit of Productive Learning at schools all over Schleswig-Holstein
	- activities in the classroom - visit of sites of learning in companies and institutions - discussion with students and educators of PL
	Evening program in Kiel (optional)

Friday, 22 <sup>th</sup> May	
	Visit to Lübeck
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- meeting the students and educators of Productive Learning in Travemünde</li> <li>- review and discussion of visits and discussion groups</li> <li>- INEPS plenary</li> <li>- Sightseeing in Lübeck and/or Travemünde</li> </ul>
	Farewell dinner
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	
	Departure of the participants

### Accomodation

Recommended hotels and hostels in Kiel:

- Holiday Inn - the niu, Welly Kiel
- B&B Hostel Kiel-Holstenbrücke
- Hotel Berliner Hof
- unique by ATLANTIC Hotels Kiel
- Hotel am Kieler Schloss by Premiere Class

### Transport Airport Hamburg - Kiel

- By train (return tickets starting 38 €), app. 2 connections per hour

### Congress fee

For INEPS members: 250 €                      For non-members: 300 €

This congress fee includes facilities and materials, three lunches and two dinners, coffee breaks and some of the transports during the congress days.

For preliminary **reservation** please send a mail to [produktives.lernen@iple.de](mailto:produktives.lernen@iple.de).

A more detailed invitation and a link to register with all necessary information will be provided soon.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Kiel!



Alexander Kraft, III 3;  
Ministry of General Education and  
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Naima FREITAS (U.S.A.)

***Annex: What is Productive Learning?***

Productive Learning is an educational approach developed by the Institute for Productive Learning in Europe ([IPLE](#)) and the International Network of Productive Learning Projects and Schools ([INEPS](#)). It was inspired by [City-As-School New York](#), a pioneer since 1972 in curricular integration of “out of school” resources for formal education and long standing member of INEPS.

Today more than 100 schools in Germany and INEPS partners in more than 10 countries are using Productive Learning

- to individualize educational offers according to the needs of the students,
- to connect school based learning and real-life experience to improve education and vocational orientation,
- to facilitate the transition from school to vocational training and further studies for all students, also the ones considered “at risk” of dropping out.

Find more information here:

[www.iple.de](http://www.iple.de)

[www.ineps.org](http://www.ineps.org)

[www.cityas.org](http://www.cityas.org)

[www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/III/iii\\_node](http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/landesregierung/ministerien-behoerden/III/iii_node)