



COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2011

Commission on Youth Issues. Organization of work.

Chair of the Commission on Youth Issues is city of Tallinn (since 2008). Chair persons have changed due to the changes in city administration of Tallinn, but since April 2011 the Chairman of the Commission is Mr. Mihhail Kõlvart who is the deputy mayor of Tallinn. The Vice Chair city is Liepaja and is represented by the Vice-Chairman of Liepaja's City Council Mr. Gunars Ansinš.

The secretariat and administration of the Commission are located in Tallinn and within the city responsibility for organizing Commission on Youth Issues work is given to Tallinn City Government Sports and Youth Department. The youth representatives are still members of the Commission for approximately two years and each city elects their youth representatives themselves. Very often they are chosen from local youth councils.

Commission meetings during the period October 2009 – September 2011.

Commission meeting together with the Commission of Education held in Kristiansand during the X UBC General Conference.

Commission meeting in city of Liepaja 10 -12th of June 2010

28 people from 10 different cities attended the meeting in Liepaja, Latvia. Commission on Sport was also represented. Vice-Chairman of the UBC Commission on Youth Issues, Mr. Gunars Ansins opened the meeting. Main topic for sharing best practices was this time about general youth policy planning and youth work in cities. UBC Commission on Sports representative Joanna Lehman made a presentation about their work. Possible joint activities and information sharing was discussed and agreed. Two projects chosen last time were developed further and certain cities made preliminary decisions about joining one or another project. Youth Conference 2011 was discussed and first input was collected. Youth driven project IDEA House was presented by Vilis Bruveris, Aizpute, Latvia. Aims and goals of the Commission and future action plans were discussed and agreed. Field trips to Liepaja's Youth Center and University of Liepaja were organized.

Commission meeting in city of Rostock 26th -28th of October 2010.

31 participants from 12 different cities attended. The Commission held its' second meeting of 2010 in the city of Rostock, Germany. Mayor of Rostock, Mr. Roland Methling, opened the meeting. Main topic for sharing best practices was this time "Supporting youth employment and career in our city". Overview of the questionnaire, carried out on Commission's web-page regarding youth policy and youth work strategies in UBC cities, was given. 2 projects were chosen to develop for further work within Commission: youth democracy project and youth workers training project. Strategical goals

and better communication of the Commission were discussed as well in the format of brainstorm. Field visit to “Rostocker Freizeitzentrum” was organized.

Commission meeting in city of Turku 25th-27th of April 2011

23 people from 12 different cities participated. Director of Turku Youth Department Mrs. Annina Lehtiö-Vainiö opened the meeting and presented youth work of Turku. Also, Turku as European Capital of Culture 2011 program was also presented. Main topic for sharing best practices was therefore “Culture related youth projects in my city”. Pavels Jurs from Liepaja made a presentation about upcoming youth conference project (to be submitted to National Youth in Action agency), timetable and content was discussed by participants. Two new projects were introduced by Animare Project Management, who had prepared project drafts: finalizing decisions were made. Participants took part of European Cultural Capital program event “Dancing Tower” at Cultural Factory Logomo and field visit at youth center “Vimma” was organized.

Other activities

During the period 2009-2011 city of Turku has officially joint the Commission (by signing Letter of Intent) and city of Karlstad is ready to join officially. There have been 18 different cities from 8 countries participating in Commission’s work actively and regularly during the period 2009-2011, 8 of them have signed the Letter of Intent. Chair city has been focusing on introducing the Commission work more widely and holding meetings in UBC countries from where the interest towards the Commission work has been moderate: during this period Finland and for the next period Poland and Lithuania. At the same time it has been important to encourage already active cities who want to introduce their youth policy and youth work and are expressing willingness to host the meetings when locations are chosen.

There were 2 finalizing meetings held for the team of the project “Different History – Common Future...”. First 28-29th of October 2009 in Kalmar (focusing on summary of the youth conference held in Kristiansand) and second one 9th-12th of December 2009 in Rostock (focusing on final project report).

Chair city Tallinn and Vice Chair city Liepaja met on Deputy Mayor’s level on April 19th 2010 to agree on co-operation and confirm main goals to be achieved during 2010-2011. Questions of shared responsibility and input of the resources from lead cities was also discussed.

UBC Commission on Youth Issues representatives participated at UBC Commission on Sport meeting 22nd-24th of April 2010 in Tallinn.

Representative from UBC Commission on Youth Issues participated at Yc³ (Youth Cross-border Cooperation and Communication) Summit for discussing possible co-operation. Event took place in Karlskrona 23rd-24th of July 2010.

There was one project preparation meeting in Copenhagen held in January 11th 2011, where most of the details for new project “Youth in Baltic Sea Region: Lifestyles, Media and Participation” were written down.

Two meetings have been held between Tallinn and Liepaja in the matter of preparing the youth conference 2011 (later decided: youth seminar). First meeting took place in Riga, 25th of January 2011 and also representative from Kolding and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs attended. Second meeting took place in Tallinn 22nd of August 2011.

In 2010 Commission carried out a web-based questionnaire among UBC cities “Mapping existence of Youth Policies and Youth Work Strategies in UBC member cities”. Results were published also in UBC Bulletin “Baltic Cities” 2/2010. Commission has been actively informing about its work in UBC Bulletin regularly.

Information spreading

Commission on Youth Issues has updated web-page www.ubc-youth.org and has account in Facebook COYI – Commission on Youth Issues.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

- Open Commission meetings will continue twice a year focusing every time on one area of the youth work, cities will present their practices and suggestions or conclusions made will be collected and shared between participants and others interested (in virtual format). Choosing best possible locations – bearing in mind activating new cities but at the same time encouraging already active cities.
- Applying for projects: “Youth in Baltic Sea Region: Lifestyles, Media and Participation” (project might be divided into 3 smaller parts and applied for funding at different National Youth in Action agencies as suggested by head quarters of Youth in Action program) and “Smart and Motivated Youth Workers are the stars of Baltic Sea Region” and carrying out the projects.
- Finalizing strategy and communication plan of the Commission and implementing it.
- Introducing youth opinions, youth policy and youth work practices among UBC cities and inviting to join Commission’s activities, network and initiating new projects. Focus on youth participation and youth council’s work in BSR will be one of the thematical focuses for the new period.
- Negotiating with the UBC Board involving youth representatives to the leading organ of UBC.
- Preparation for youth conference 2013.
- Search for the new vice chair for the Commission.

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