

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
82ND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
Malmö, 18 October 2018

AGENDA as of 12 October 2018

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
2. Welcome by the Mayor of Malmö, presentation of the city.
3. Preparations to XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, 15-18 October 2019.

Information from the meeting of GC Task Force held in Kaunas on 12 June 2018.

Participants:

Mantas Jurgutis, Kaunas, UBC Vice-President, TF chair
Lina Duobaite, Kaunas
Charlotte Lundkvist, Umeå
Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock
Heiki Hansen, Elva
Bo Hjälmeffjord, Växjö (skype)
Ruta Monkuniene, Kaunas
Ruta, Stepanovaite, Kaunas
Jurate Tutlyte, Kaunas
Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General

Potential issues to be taken up at the conference as discussed by the Task Force.

Integration of migrants and refugees in the BSR cities
Digitalisation of municipal services, best practices
Culture as catalyst for development - European Capital of Culture and other examples
Inclusive cities - all citizens welcome to take part in city life. Baltic Charter The Inclusive City 2040.
Youth participation - nothing about us without us
Talent management/attraction to cities
EUSBSR Horizontal Action Capacity - cooperation of regional and local authorities, business, academia, civil society, etc.
Implementing the SDGs at the local level
Cities promoting renewable energy sources
Energy efficiency in cities eg. communal wooden housing
Circular Economy
Sustainable Tourism in the BSR
BSR Interreg programmes

Proposal:

The Board to discuss the main conference headline
The Board to authorise the TF to continue its work

4. Information from the Commissions/WG/Network concerning ongoing activities and planned activities for 2019.

Cultural Cities Commission
 Safe Cities Commission
 Smart and Prospering Cities Commission
 Sustainable Cities Commission
 Youthful Cities Commissions Commission
 Working Group on Gender Equality
 Communications Network

Proposal:

To assign 10.000 EUR as start-up money for the commissions for activities in 2019.

5. Supporting Youth Employment and Well-Being: Progress Report; Presentation about the new project STEAM.

During the last two years UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being has strengthened a cooperation with the EUBSR (European Union Baltic Sea Region) Flagship School to Work (S2W). The Flagship aims to strengthen transnational cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region in the field of education and works in order to prevent early school leaving and develop new support methods for vulnerable groups of students/youth, which means that their goals are parallel to the ones of the Task Force.

The cooperation has worked well and given added value to all partners. BSR Integrate Now, a joint ESF project to support the integration of newly arrived refugees, started in Turku, Stockholm and Malmö on March 2017; in April 2017 Task Force and Flagship arranged a study visit to Hamburg and in November to Turku and to Tartu. Moreover, in October a Knowledge Platform S2W was opened. This web-site offers a place to share good practices, learn from the others, join study visits, workshops and find partners for new projects. State of the Youth Guarantee in the Baltic Sea Region workshop was held in Växjö during the UBC General Conference in October 2017.

In 2018 the pace has even accelerated, and, so far, we have arranged study visits, workshops, conferences and other activities as follows:

- March 2018: Integration of Newly Arrived Migrants and Refugees Conference “Sharing the European Dream” in Rostock, Germany (two workshops: Education and Labour Market Integration)
- Study Visits: Turku (February), Gävle (March), Stockholm (June), Kristiansand (September)
- Dissemination and cooperation workshops in Riga (themes: youth guarantee, attractiveness of VET) and in Vilnius (theme: migration).
- Trainings: Entrepreneurship (Turku), Appreciative inquiry (Malmö and Turku)
- Compilation and dissemination of good practices
- Widening the national and BSR networks
- Flagship Conference in June (Stockholm)

Between 10/18 and 6/19 we are planning to arrange the following activities:

- Study visits (including creation and dissemination of the model Study visit 2.0); starting in Gdansk (November)
- National and transnational Migrants, Employment and Vocational Education Conference in Turku 31.10.-1.11. (including study visit 2.11.)
- Youth Guarantee Seminar in Brussels (preliminary meeting in November)

Proposal:

- The Board to discuss Task Force's work
- The Board to discuss Youth Guarantee Seminar (incl. possibilities of participating in seminar funding)
- The Board to authorize the Task Force to continue the work plan

STEAM Turku is a new initiative started by the City of Turku in cooperation with the local universities and universities of applied sciences, Its goal is to create Science and technology path in preschool, basic and secondary level education in Turku and Southwest Finland. STEAM also offers youngsters direct routes to further studies and the Turku technology campus.

6. EUSBSR Horizontal Action 'Capacity', information on latest activities.

Horizontal Action Capacity and Involvement (HA Capacity) was established in 2015 as part of the second revision of the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). UBC together with the Swedish Institute and Baltic Sea NGO Network are assigned to coordinate the HAC.

Horizontal Action 'Capacity' supports capacity building and involvement of the EUSBSR key stakeholders.

The Core Group prepared work programme for the period 1 June 2018 – 30 August 2020. The programme is divided into three areas of activities, each of them include specific actions:

- capacity building:

Organising and funding of development processes (flagships)

Alignment of policymaking on national level with EUSBSR

Annual spring meetings with NC's, PAC's and HAC's

- promotion of involvement and participation:

Co-organize Strategy Forums (Network Village + Speaker's Corner

Participation Day (prior to the Strategy Forums)

Promotion of involvement and participation

- coordination and communication :

Internal and external coordination

Implementation of the communication plan

The Core Group were called upon to present the work programme for the Interreg Baltic Sea Programme Secretariat in February 2018.

At the meeting in Rostock, 13 March 2018, the Board decided to allocate 6540 EUR divided in three parts for 2018, 2019 and 2020 as UBC co-financing in Interreg project.

The Swedish Institute decided to abstain from the Interreg project but not the other partners.

The actual total partner budget for the project is 72 240 EUR of which the 15% own contribution is 10 836 EUR instead of 6 540 EUR.

Proposal:

To hear the report by the UBC Strategy coordinator/HA Capacity Coordinator on HA Capacity' s past and forthcoming activities and to discuss UBC role and Member City participation.

To raise the UBC financing share to required 15% level of 10 836 EUR.

7. Cooperation with CDP, status report and plans for 2019-2020. (SCC)

The results of the cooperation between UBC and CDP has been discussed and accepted by the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission and the Open Advisory Board meeting of the Commission on 14 September in Klaipėda, Lithuania.

Proposals:

1) To make a new Memorandum of Understand for the next three years. The cooperation has been fruitful. Our member cities have an increasing interest to be involved and the UBC and our member cities have received a global recognition and visibility. CDP has continuously indicated a strong interest to continue the cooperation with UBC. The proposal for Memorandum of Understanding is attached.

2) A request for financial support for the cooperation between UBC and CDP. The application for funding is attached.

8. Proposal of the new UBC Social Charter. (Rostock)

In March 2018, UBC cities met to discuss possibilities and opportunities of a successful integration of immigrants. The challenge to integrate an extraordinary number of refugees from war and asylum seekers in our member cities led to the question if and how we could cope it. In workshops the city delegates analyzed the issue under different aspects:

- Sharing Online and Offline Communication - a Multicultural Package
- Gender and Minorities' Equality and Linking Cultures
- Equal Access to Education
- Creating a Stronger and More Inclusive Economy and Job Market
- Using, Developing, Creating and Designing the City Together
- Safe and Healthy Life for All
- Cohabitation of Religions and Traditions
- Sharing Culture

Making use of the Method of Appreciative Enquiry, moderator Piotr Wolkowski induced the participants to express themselves and to contribute to a summary of factors and measures to be taken in order to achieve a harmonized urban living together for all inhabitants. At the end it became clear that the conditions for a well-working urban society do not primarily depend on balancing discrepancies between long-established and newcomers. Above all, it is about equal chances for everybody, about the willingness to equally contribute to the society and to respect each other. It's the human being as such which has to be in the focus. So after two days of vivid

discussions the participants noticed that what they were discussing was how they wish the concept of the Inclusive City put into practice.

During the early years of UBC there was adopted a simple but important paper: the UBC Social Charter. Now it's time to use all our fresh expertise to prepare, discuss and adopt a new one.

So what could be better than to condense the essence of these visions in a Baltic Urban Charter 2040!

Proposal:

The new, pioneering document should be presented for discussion and adoption at the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas in October, 2019.

9. Concept of UBC National Coordinators. (Växjö)

The Executive Board at the meeting in Rostock 13 March 2018 agreed to launch an initiative to strengthen the capacity and proactivity of the UBC cooperation, by assigning UBC national coordinators in each of the UBC member countries. City of Växjö offered to make a description of this idea to be presented at the next Board meeting.

A national coordinator would be appointed in each city which holds the seat in the UBC Executive Board in each UBC member country. It is hoped to strengthen the commitment of the member cities to remain active in and contributing to the UBC network.

National coordinators are expected to act as extended arms of the UBC secretariat and make the dialogue within the UBC more effective. More information in attached draft proposal.

Proposal:

Each Board member city to propose a national coordinator by

10. 'Sport for Values' project. (Kaunas)

'Sport for Values' project aims at identifying good practice, developing practical tools and disseminating them through a series of workshops, training and conferences for urban sports development.

The project was submitted under the European Commission Call for Proposals EAC/S14/2018 "Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level" in July 2018.

The partners are: Kaunas, Lithuania (Applicant), La Rissa, Greece, Portimao, Portugal, Umeåa, Sweden, Campobasso, Italy, Fazana, Croatia, Sandanski, Bulgaria, Thermi, Greece, Liepaja, Latvia and Union of the Baltic Cities.

Total eligible costs – 227 813,70 EUR. The Grant requested from the Commission – 182 250,96 EUR.

Proposal:

To confirm UBC participation in the project and to encourage UBC member cities to take part in project activities.

11. Invitation to the International Youth Forum of the Baltic Sea States, St.Petersburg, 28.11-2.12.2018.

The project is aimed at finding new ways of developing cooperation with the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, proposing a division into thematic areas in the spheres of energy and transport, economy and business communications, youth policy and civil law. It will be a foresight conference for the initiation and preparation of new concepts for the strategic development of Russia's interaction with the countries of the Baltic Sea Region.

12. Agreement between the UBC and the City of Gdańsk on the UBC Secretariat. Draft proposal of the agreement is attached.

Proposal:

The Board to discuss the proposal of the agreement.

13. Any other business.

Credit cards for the commissions.

Planning Cities Commission chair, Gdynia, asked if they could get a credit / payment card in order to make bookings and payments. Until now the secretariat made bookings and payments for the Commissions. The Board of Audit suggested the Board should discuss whether the Commissions can get credit card or payments and bookings should be made from the secretariat as it has been done so far.

Proposal:

The Board to discuss the question.

14. Next Executive Board meeting.

The documents are available at:

<http://www.ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/82nd-executive-board-meeting-malmo-18-october>