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More Baltic Sea Region cities to act for Climate-smart leadership

CDP, the global climate change disclosure non-profit, and the leading city network in the Baltic Sea Region, the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), have agreed on a two-year MOU to involve more cities in the development and reporting of target-oriented climate actions.

Climate change has led to a situation where cities have to define their roles in the face of a changing environment. Today, many cities in the region have incorporated sustainability goals into their city strategies.

UBC and CDP aim to increase the number of Baltic Sea Region cities using systematic reporting of their climate change related actions. Currently, over 500 cities, 100 states and regions, and more than 5800 companies use CDP's system to report, share and take action on climate change every year.

Maia Kutner, head of CDP's cities programme commented: "We look forward to partnering with one of the world's leading city networks – the Union of Baltic Cities. Our partnership means that even more cities in the Baltic region will be able to measure, manage, and report accurately on their climate change data every year. Baltic cities deserve high-quality, comparable data on climate action."

"Many cities in our region are well known from their climate expertise, and this should be visible globally. Today, less than ten UBC cities are now reporting to CDP. Our goal is to reach 100 percent", envisions the President of the UBC, **Per Bødker Andersen**.

He adds that climate-smart leadership is also one of the main operational goals in the UBC.

"We encourage all cities in the region to join this shared cause. Firstly, we strongly believe that the CDP's systematic benchmarking reporting tool provides cities with the opportunity to create useful data and share their tested examples with other parts of the world. Secondly, the new data from the cities helps us to identify new improvement opportunities and innovations to increase our cities' attractiveness for new investment. And finally, all data that will be collected and analyzed can be used in strategic decision making."

The invitations will go out to cities in February 2017. During the spring-summer 2017, cities will report their findings to CDP and UBC. The final report will be launched at the next UBC's General Conference in Växjö, Sweden, in October 2017.

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About CDP

CDP, formerly Carbon Disclosure Project, is an international, not-for-profit organization providing the global system for companies, cities, states and regions to measure, disclose, manage and share vital information on their environmental performance. CDP motivates companies, cities, and state and regional governments to disclose their impacts on the environment and natural resources and take action to reduce them. Some 5,800 companies, 500 cities, and 100 states and regional governments disclosed environmental information through CDP in 2016. CDP now holds the most comprehensive collection globally of primary environmental data and puts these insights at the heart of strategic business, investment and policy decisions. Please follow us @CDP to find out more.

About UBC

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region with around 100 Member Cities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Founded in 1991 in Gdańsk, UBC is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing the shared potential of its member cities. UBC works through its seven Commissions to foster sustainable, smart and safe cities. Please follow us @UBC_BSR and @UBC_Sustainable as well as www.ubc.net.