

ACTION PLAN 2017 - 2018

UBC Sustainable Cities Commission activities 2017 - 2018

General situation

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (UBC SCC) is active in several large scale processes and different development projects, policy-, networking-, and capacity-building activities prepared and supported by the UBC SCC secretariat in Turku.

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission is chaired by Co-chairs Dace Liepnice City of Liepaja, Per-Arne Nilsson City of Malmö and Risto Veivo City of Turku and has further strengthened its operations by a dynamic Advisory Board including members from almost all UBC member countries (Mr Andrus Jaadla, City of Rakvere, Mrs Saara Vauramo City of Lahti, Mr Olli-Pekka Mäki City of Turku, Mrs Rieke Müncheberg City of Rostock, Mrs Gunita Osite City of Jelgava, Mrs Irena Sakaliene City of Klaipeda, Mrs Dagmara Nagorka-Kmiezkiec City of Gdansk, Mr Andreas Hedrén City of Växjö Ms Ann Häger City of Malmö, Mr Mogens Björn Nielsen City of Århus.

The UBC SCC with focus on improving the service to the member cities, improving the knowledge of cities in the Baltic Sea region locally regionally and globally. During 2016 a big number of new UBC Commission contact persons have joined the Commission and together with the already established active key persons, they make a strong fundament for upcoming activities.

New UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021

UBC SCC is coordinating the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021 together with the UBC Executive Board and other UBC Commissions. The UBC Sustainability Action Programme has as a strong ambition to bring up UBC cities with well-known excellence in fields of Water management, climate change or sustainable urban mobility to global reputation and awareness. Several planning meetings have taken place and the programme is a good example of an interactive process between UBC member cities and the UBC SCC secretariat.

EUSBSR implementation

The UBC SCC is strongly involved in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC SCC has received flagship status for several projects and has been actively involved in several actions and flagship activities. This strategy goes hand in hand with the new UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021 and therefore there has been a close follow up including both processes. UBC SCC has been asked to participate in the EUSBSR Annual meeting in Berlin 2017. In 2017- 2018 UBC SCC will continue to participate in the implementation and close cooperation of the EUSBSR.

New EU Funding period 2014 – 2020 and project implementation

Engagement of UBC member cities in international cross-border cooperation will be one of the main goals of the internal UBC SCC activities. The UBC SCC will also put focus on engaging more cities in the operative activities. The new EU funding period puts focus on the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy and in particular on the transformation of the EU towards a sustainable economy and promote a transition to a low carbon society. UBC and our member cities will have huge tasks with the EU goals and tasks of the EU 2020 Strategy. The economic situation puts pressure on investments but one key issue in the upcoming EU budget will be on building on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth!

The new EU funding period 2014 – 2020 is in the mid-term phase and the UBC SCC is involved in several project applications together with a big number of UBC member cities and other partners from the member cities. Applications with focus on brownfield development, sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency in urban real estate and buildings, storm water management, waste water management (reduction of nutrients from rivers and water bodies), research of Mandate and responsibilities of local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region are in different phases of application stage.

Table 1: Running UBC SCC projects in 2017 - 2020

Focus area	Name	Funding
WATER MANAGEMENT		
Improved urban wastewater management	IWAMA	BSR VB
Stormwater management	iWaters	Central Baltic Prog.
URBAN MOBILITY		
Sustainable urban mobility	CIVITAS DYN@MO	7 th Framework
Sustainable UrbanMobility	CIVITAS Eccentric	Horizon/Civitas
Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning	SUMPs UP	Horizon
CLIMATE SMART CITIES / ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Climate smart district	Climate district Skanssi	National funding
Resource efficiency	Ecobudgeting Turku	City funding
Integrated City Planning	BUL Baltic Urban Lab	Central Baltic Progr.
Urban Planning	Carpe Essence	Horizon 2020???
Circular Economy	Recycled equipment	City + SITRA funding

Table 2: Project applications under preparation

Focus area	Name	Funding
URBAN MOBILITY		
Efficient urban mobility in BSR	Cities. Multimodal	BSR VB
Mobility as a Service fund	MAAS Finland	National structural

CLIMATE SMART CITIES / Climate adaptation and Disaster and Risk prevention

Risk Fire Oil Prev.Management	FiRe	Central Baltic Progr.
Resilience to Climate Change	CCRC	DG ECHO

The UBC SCC is ready to support the UBC member cities with expertise and recommendations for upcoming project funding period. This UBC member service has already taken place and can be enlarged depending on the needs in the UBC cities and seem to be really needed in many UBC cities.

Baltic Executive Programme – Leadership training

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission with the Advisory board will apply for joining the Baltic Executive Programme with the intention to focus on Sustainability leadership in the Baltic Sea Region. The Leadership Programme will focus on city leadership but will also be strongly linked to Leadership Programme for EUSBSR PACs and HACs, National SD committee members on the UN SD Goals.

Meeting and events

UBC SCC will be actively involved in the Baltic Sea Future event in Stockholm 6 – 7 March 2017. In 16-18 May 2017 the UBC SCC will arrange a Commission meeting in Jyväskylä focusing on “Circular Economy in cities”. In addition the UBC SCC will arrange two advisory board meetings. One opportunity will be to arrange an Advisory board meeting in London together with CDP focusing on Climate Actions in the BSR. In 2018 the UBC SCC is planning to arrange two Commission meetings, preferable in Lithuania, Germany or Denmark. The UBC SCC will also be present in the UBC Executive Board meeting in Kristiansand February 15 2017 and in the UBC General Conference in Växjö in October 2017.

UBC SCC will highlight and support UBC member cities actively during the Estonian EU Presidency, July – December 2017. UBC SCC will also take an active discussion with city of Aarhus about sustainability events as parts of City of Aarhus as European Capital of Culture 2017.

UBC SCC and in particularly the Advisory board will participate in the World Circular Economy Forum 5 – 6 June 2017 and will support UBC member cities to participate.

EU Policy co-operation sustainable development and Global activity

In line with the working principles of the UBC, UBC SCC has also contributed strongly to Baltic Sea Regional and European policy co-operation processes on cities’ regional governance and sustainable urban development. The commission is representing the UBC at the CBSS/ Expert Group on Sustainable Development and BSR Climate Platform. UBC SCC is also an observer of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). Through successful project management the UBC SCC has received Flagship status for several projects (IWAMA, iWater, FiRe, CCRC). The close cooperation with these organizations as well as other similar organizations such as Baltic Development Forum,

Baltic University Programme, VASAB, Nordregio, and Nordic Council of Ministers will take place in 2017 and 2018.

With the new UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021 there is also a clear intention to strengthen the activity on the Global arena. This can be done in close cooperation with the UBC member cities and their ongoing processes. The World Business Council on Sustainable Cities, the UN Climate policy process, the UN Smart City process are examples of global processes with potential interest of the excellence of UBC cities.

The cooperation with CDP, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between UBC and CDP signed 10 November 2016, will be intensified in 2017 and 2018, with a large scale campaign where UBC promote the CDP benchmark tool for Climate smart actions in UBC cities. The results from the first year benchmarking of UBC – CDP joint efforts will be presented in the UBC General Conference in Växjö October 2017. The cooperation will continue in 2018. In 2017 the UBC SCC will discuss cooperation possibilities with the Climate KIC organisation for elaborating possibilities of support for UBC cities in climate transformation activities. The Climate KIC has shown interest of UBC cities and is a good facilitator and funder of smart climate start-ups.

UBC internal communication activities

As a general and ongoing task are the improvements of our communication activities, with the focus of improving the interaction between UBC member cities. The UBC SCC continuously renew and update the web-pages. Please see <http://www.ubc-sustainable.net/>

Several (3 – 4 per year) UBC Sustainability eBulletin will be published in 2017 and 2018. The intention is to have a quarterly, electronic eBulletin with updates from the commission and the secretariat, projects and events. Additionally there will be one printed UBC Sustainability Bulletin per year, where member cities can contribute with their own stories. In addition the UBC SCC will continuously use social media as a tool for sharing information about our UBC member cities, important events and success stories in order to improve the positive picture of UBC and the Baltic Sea Region.

The UBC Good Practice Database has been an operative database of good practises in the BSR. During 2017 - 2018 there is a need to further develop the database in order to better serve UBC cities, collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities. The intention is to develop the Good practice database with a new structure and information. As part of this a UBC Sustainability survey will be planned in 2017 and carried out in 2018.

Björn Grönholm - Head of Secretariat, UBC – Sustainable Cities Commission

Description of the planned spendings 2017	EURO	Different currency
1. Secretariat costs		
1.1. Remunerations		
1.2. Secretariat travel, accommodation		
UBC Executive Board meeting in Kristiansand	800,00 €	
EU Strategy for the BSR Annual Forum, Berlin	1 200,00 €	
1.3. Promotion materials, web-page administration. Strengthening UBC network		
Work with UBC publications. Bulletins, newsletters, info letters	3 500,00 €	
Work with UBC Good practice database	2 500,00 €	
Printing and mailing of material	1 000,00 €	
TOTAL	9 000,00 €	
2. Commission's meetings		
UBC Commission meeting Jyväskylä	3 000,00 €	
UBC Co-chair travels to meetings, conferences (Covenant of Mayors, CBSS etc.)	1 800,00 €	
TOTAL	4 800,00 €	
3. Other costs (e.g. projects, surveys, grants, publications)		
Preparation and support of joint UBC Commission projects	5 000,00 €	
TOTAL	5 000,00 €	
TOTAL:	18 800,00 €	

Description of the planned spendings 2018	EURO	Different currency
1. Secretariat costs		
1.1. Remunerations		
1.2. Secretariat travel, accommodation		
UBC Executive Board meeting	750,00 €	
Spring and autumn Commission meetings (Host cities open)	2 500,00 €	
EU Strategy for the BSR Annual Forum	1 250,00 €	
1.3. Promotion materials, web-page administration.		
Strengthening UBC network		
Work with UBC publications. Bulletins, newsletters, info letters	2 500,00 €	
Work with UBC Good practice database	2 500,00 €	
Printing and mailing of material	1 500,00 €	
TOTAL	11 000,00 €	
2. Commission's meeting expenses		
UBC Commission meeting I expenses	2 500,00 €	
UBC Commission meeting II expenses	2 500,00 €	
UBC Co-chair travels to meetings, conferences (Covenant of Mayors, CBSS etc.)	1 800,00 €	
UBC 2 - 3 co-chair and 2 Advisory group meetings	3 000,00 €	
TOTAL	9 800,00 €	
3. Other costs (e.g. projects, surveys, grants, publications)		
UBC Sustainability progress survey 2015- 2016	6 500,00 €	
TOTAL	6 500,00 €	
TOTAL:	27 300,00 €	