

Meeting of the UBC Task Force on the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, 15-18 October 2019

17 October 2018, Malmö

Moderator – Mantas Jurgutis, Vice-President of the UBC.

Agenda:

- Introduction of the work and results of the TF meeting in Kaunas in June, 2018.
- Themes of the GC;
- Organization of the GC.

Discussed:

1. Main themes proposed and discussed:
 - URBANISATION;
 - DIGITALIZATION (how to use new technologies in a better way to make life easier);
 - INCLUSIVE CITIES (public trust in policy makers, people lose interest in politics).

The themes can be combined.

2. Active interaction of the moderator and the audience + more fun (untraditional approach) + youth.
3. Concentration of the programme for the Mayors (policy makers) in 24 hours (they do not have much time, so the agenda for them must be concise and concentrated in a short period; they can come specifically for Mayor's lunch or other targeted activity);
4. Proposal to accept/implement a new Urban Charter (substituting the Social Charter). It can be viewed as a new vision of cities in 20 years, a commitment of the UBC to such a vision of future cities (here can be many aspects integrated: social welfare, inclusiveness, nature based urbanisation, integration of refugees, etc.).
5. Discussion about seminars/parallel workshops and proposals to devote seminars to:
 - Global macro-regions;
 - EU strategy for the BSR – 10th anniversary;
 - New Urban Charter (Baltic Charter);
 - Seminars organized by commissions;
6. Youth dimension is very important and must be integrated in all topics and all levels;
7. To take into account the EU Presidency of Finland.

Conclusions:

1. UBC General Conference is seen as an opportunity to engage our stakeholders and promote UBC on the European and global scale.
2. The GC main topic must be general and emphasizing the crucial roles of the cities.
3. The draft version of topics will be prepared and sent out to Board members to discuss and vote for them.

Participants:

Mantas Jurgutis, Kaunas, UBC Vice-President, TF chair, Lina Duobaite, Kaunas, Charlotte Lundkvist, Umeå, Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, Heiki Hansen, Elva, Bo Hjälmeffjord, Växjö, Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, Vilnis Vitkovskis, Liepāja, Mikko Lohikoski, Turku, Irene Pendolin, Turku, Monika Pawlińska, Gdynia, Matti Mäkela, Turku, Valeria Kodolova, St. Petersburg, Anna Dargiewicz, UBC Secretariat, Justinas Juškevičius, Kaunas, representatives of the UBC Commissions: Rūta Stepanovaitė, Cultural Cities, Kaspars Vārpiņš, Safe Cities, Cathrin Truckenbrodt, Smart and Prospering Cities, Björn Grönholm, Sustainable Cities, Carsten Adamsen, Youthful Cities.

Lina Duobaite, Malmö, 17 October 2018