

UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

Activity Plan 2024

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission plans its activities based on the UBC Sustainability Action Programme as well as input from UBC member cities and discussions in the UBC SCC Advisory Board, considering both the Baltic Sea Region and European-wide processes.

Our **main goal for 2024** is to bring added value to the UBC cities by facilitating exchange and cooperation between them as well as with other stakeholders for practical solutions to be implemented on local level.

Our **main objectives for 2024** are:

- to organise and facilitate both face-to-face as well as online formats to meet, exchange and cooperate,
- to inform UBC member cities about relevant solutions, processes, projects, and disseminate widely for further uptake,
- to represent the network in relevant events and collaborate with strategic partners,
- to improve collaboration within the UBC network with other commissions.

Planned activities for 2024

UBC Internal activities

Participation in UBC Executive Board meetings:

- UBC SCC will participate in UBC Executive Board meetings and present its activities,
- UBC SCC will prepare the spring edition of the Baltic Cities Bulletin.

Cooperation with other Commissions:

- UBC SCC will strengthen the cooperation with other UBC Commissions in different fields.

Networking activities

UBC SCC Advisory Board meetings (4):

- We will organise at least 4 (online) Advisory Board meetings using MS Teams,
- Offline meeting will be planned in connection with e.g. the Commission meeting, EUSBSR Annual Forum etc.

UBC SCC Commission meeting (1):

- Annual Commission meeting will be organised in autumn 2024 in Gdansk, the planning process is ongoing.

Webinar series UBC TALKS (5):

- We plan to organise 5 UBC TALKS webinars during 2024: 1. Interreg BSR funding opportunities for cities; 2. PFAS monitoring and risk assessment in cities; 3. Cities as role models for

sustainable education; 4. Monitoring and evaluation of sustainable urban mobility planning; 5. Pilots and education kit on phasing out single use plastic.

Other topical webinars (1-3):

- We plan to organise 1-3 topical webinars in connection to the ongoing projects, to promote best practices and solutions developed through projects;
- A follow-up webinar on the localisation of outcomes of the UBC SSC and PCC meeting in Turku will be organised in summer 2024.

Cooperation with external stakeholders

UBC SCC will continue networking and cooperation with external stakeholders and as recently defined in an internal process

- we will take part in CBSS meetings as defined by our mandate as a EGSD group member,
- we will take part in HELCOM meetings as defined by our observer status,
- we will support the Covenant of Mayors and the Green City Accord through dissemination of information as defined in our supporter agreement,
- we will support the CDP climate reporting platform for cities as defined by our mandate,
- we will support the NetZeroCities platform and 12 UBC Climate-neutral and smart mission cities,
- we will follow the EU Missions: Adaptation to Climate Change and Restore our Ocean and Waters,
- we will follow our defined external stakeholders/initiatives on BSR and EU level continuously.

Exchange formats with UBC member cities

- we will reactivate the SCC Thematic working groups and organise 1-2 online meetings for the mid-term review of the progress in the implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030,
- we will continue testing new formats of exchange between UBC member cities to discuss emerging issues and leading trends, based on the cities' needs and upon request.
- we will regularly update Baltic Smart Water Hub with solutions and good practices in smart water management from our member cities.

Communication, Dissemination and Representation activities

- we will produce and disseminate 3 Sustainable Cities Bulletins and regular newsletters,
- we will produce one Baltic Cities Bulletin together with the General Secretariat in spring 2024,
- we will regularly update and improve the website www.ubc-sustainable.net,
- we will regularly update our social media channels.
- Planned external events for 2024 (so far and more tbc):
 - The People and Planet: from Theory to Solutions, 13-15 February 2024, Lahti
 - Urban Future Conference, 5-7 June 2024, Rotterdam
 - EUSBSR Annual Forum, autumn 2024
 - European Week of Regions and Cities, autumn 2024

- European Sustainable Cities and Towns conference 1-3 October 2024 in Aalborg.
- Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2024, Helcom.

Project activities

Altogether in 2024, the UBC SCC will be implementing five EU-funded projects and one project funded by the Swedish Institute, the list of projects and funding sources:

- **EMPEREST** - technologies and tools to eliminate micropollutants from wastewater for reuse strategies. UBC SCC lead partner, Interreg BSR Programme funding.
- **SUMPs for BSR** - effective Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning to support active mobility. UBC SCC lead partner, Interreg BSR Programme funding.
- **BALTIPLAST** - prevention and reduction of plastic waste in the Baltic Sea Region. UBC SCC partner, Interreg BSR Programme funding.
- **Climate-4-CAST** - decision-support tool to accelerate cities' progress towards climate neutrality. (Interreg BSR Programme), UBC SCC partner, Interreg BSR Programme funding.
- **ZeroPFAS II** - a collaboration network within the Baltic Sea Region to step up efforts to reduce PFAS emissions. UBC SCC partner, Swedish Institute funding.
- **Urban Biodiversity Parks** - co-creative platforms for enhancing biodiversity, and community involvement. UBC SCC partner, European Urban Initiative funding.

In addition, UBC SCC is involved as associated organisation in the following projects: ChemClimCircle, Change(K)now!, NonHAzCity3, APRIORA (Interreg BSR Programme funding).

Project development:

UBC SCC is involved in one new project development - Strengthening Local Response and Resilience to Climate Change - led by the Council of the Baltic Sea States. In spring 2024 Secretariat will continue preparation of the core project application for the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 3rd call for proposals. Further, we will continue to follow opening funding calls and assist cities in preparation of joint project applications according to most pressing needs and challenges.