



September, 2013

## COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES ACTIVITY REPORT October 2011 - September 2013

### **Commission on Youth Issues. Organization of work.**

Chair of the Commission on Youth Issues is city of Tallinn (since 2008). Chair persons have changed due to the changes in city administration of Tallinn, but since April 2011 the Chairman of the Commission is Mr. Mihhail Kõlvart who is the deputy mayor of Tallinn. The Vice Chair cities are Gävle from Sweden and Turku from Finland.

The secretariat and administration of the Commission are located in Tallinn and within the city responsibility for organizing Commission on Youth Issues work is given to Tallinn City Government Sports and Youth Department. The youth representatives are still members of the Commission for approximately two years and each city elects their youth representatives themselves. Very often they are chosen from local youth councils, youth boards or youth NGO-s.

### **Commission meetings during the period October 2011 – September 2013.**

Commission meeting together with the Sports Commission held in Liepaja during the XI UBC General Conference.

Commission meeting in city of Kemi 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012

28 people from 14 cities attended the meeting in Kemi, Finland. Marianne Anttila and Ilona-Evelyn Rannala opened the meeting. UBC Commission on Sports representative Joanna Lehman also actively took part of the meeting and an agreement to do the next CoYI meeting in Gdynia was made. Also topics for next time were debated.

Presentations about Kemi youth work and voluntary work were made. First day was continued with planning the strategy and communication of UBC Commission on Youth Issues, moderated by Silver Pramann (expert included from Estonia). Results of this work were formed into “Priorities, tasks and actions 2012-2014 - UBC Commission on Youth Issues”. This will give the Commission more long term goals and continuity.

First discussions on the youth conference in Mariehamn 2013 were made and a core group was agreed on. Also an offer from Kotka and Örebro was made to organize youth event together with CoYI (those two cities have anniversaries). Helena Kempas introduced Kotka’s idea to make a summer camp or festival for youth.

Chair/Vice Chair issues were also discussed. Tallinn made a short introduction and described the work, expected from Chair City/Vice Chair City or what Tallinn has been doing these years. It was decided that during next meeting in Poland new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected.

Also a field trips to Primary School Syväkangas, Historical Museum and Snow Castle were made.

#### Commission meeting in city of Gdynia 29<sup>th</sup> of October – 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2012

27 people from 12 different cities participated the meeting. Beata Legowska, Vice Chair of Gdynia City Council said the opening words and Maja Wagner, Gdynia City Councillor and Beata Szadziul, Gdynia City Councillor made presentations about youth work in Gdynia and Gdynia City Youth Council. Members from the Youth Council make a short introduction to their work and a greeting video from Tallinn Deputy Mayor Mihhail Kõlvart was shown.

Fair of Good Ideas and Practice “Youth work structure of your city” and “Tolerance and intergenerational dialogue” were held to encourage cities to develop their systems, learn from other experiences, good examples and possibilities.

Most importantly 2 new vice chairs were elected for the Commission – Gävle from Sweden and Turku from Finland. This gave the Commission better possibilities to do more and also share the tasks in a more effective manner. Chair position will be given over in Mariehamn 2014.

Information about evaluation of the Commissions in UBC and about project “Life, media and participation – youth in Baltic Sea Region” seminar in Kloogaranna was given to partners and participants.

Fantasy morning was held to gather ideas, input and methods for the youth conference in Mariehamn 2013.

CoYI representatives met with Paweł Żaboklicki in UBC Secretariat in Gdansk to discuss Mariehamn general conference and youth conference common parts. Field trip to Gdynia Youth Centre was also held as a tradition of CoYI.

#### Commission meeting in city of Gävle 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2013

35 participants from 12 different cities participated the meeting in Gävle. Lena Modin from Gävle made an introduction to the meeting and made a presentation about Gävle and youth work in the city. Study visit was made to Culture House Lätting to have a Forum Theatre work shop about youth unemployment from a different perspective to understand youngsters situation better and later a discussion about it was held. After that all the cities made presentations about youth unemployment situations in their cities. Similar and not so similar problems were stressed and different solutions from different cities were shown to others.

Workshop for Youth Action Plan was held. Present situation, expectations, solutions and vision from youth and civil servants point of view were discussed and wrote down for the action plan to be made.

Youth conference in Mariehamn 2013 was discussed and planned in more specific topics. Also information was shared about present situation and future ideas. Participants also discussed on the system how UBC is supporting the Commissions and how we should maybe change it. Youth representatives had a video workshop where they showed the topic from their point of view in an audio-visual way.

It was agreed that meeting after Mariehamn in April 2014 is going to be held in Kaunas Lithuania.

## **Other activities**

During the period 2011-2013 Gävle, Kotka, Guldborgsund and Jyväskylä have officially joined the Commission (by signing Letter of Intent) . There have been 17 different cities from 9 countries participating in Commission's work actively and regularly during the period 2011-2013.

Chair city has been focusing on introducing the Commission work more widely and holding meetings in UBC countries from where the interest towards the Commission work has been moderate: during this period Poland and for the next period Lithuania. Encouraging Finnish cities has been very successful as we have Kemi, Turku, Kotka and recently Tampere very active in the Commission. At the same time it has been important to encourage already active cities who want to introduce their youth policy and youth work and are expressing willingness to host the meetings when locations are chosen.

UBC Commission on Youth Issues representatives participated in evaluating UBC Commission on Sport Challenge the Water! Grant Competition. Our participant also took part in the meeting in Keila where all the Estonian UBC cities gathered.

CoYI has had three planning meetings for Mariehamn conference: one in Turku and two in Mariehamn. CultHus from Guldborgsund Nykøbing has supported a lot with writing projects and has been very active in Commission.

Commission has been actively informing about its work in UBC Bulletin regularly and is really pleased that UBC Secretariat made a bulletin about youth prospects and participation in November 2012.

### **Project „Life, Media and Participation – Youth in Baltic Sea Region“**

Duration: 01.03.2012- 31.08.2013

The main themes of the project were lifestyles, subcultures and attitudes in democratic processes and how does democratic life work in different cities and countries and how can we influence it.

The initiative for this democracy project derives from the needs of young people themselves. They brought the matter to UBC Commission on Youth Issues at their Copenhagen Meeting in January 2011 and Turku Meeting in April 2011. The participating youth and civil servants developed the outlines of a youth democracy project on empowering youth and youth NGOs to actively shaping the European region they live in.

The concept of how to plan youth democracy campaigns foresees round-table discussions with politicians to exchange experiences between youngsters and decision-makers on participation processes in their municipalities. The start-up of these discussions was joint international workshop/seminar. The seminar was held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 in Tallinn and Kloogaranna, where the youngsters exchanged their experience on youth participation, Youth Council work and found out about different possibilities of campaigning. Through the seminar youngsters from Sweden, Denmark, Latvia and Estonia were introduced

how to make their own campaigns by introducing different methods in campaign planning, in creative writing, video making, open-space discussions etc. For the result of the seminar youngsters made their own little campaigns that were held and introduced in Tallinn. All these activities that were carried out through the joint seminar youngsters got much motivation and energy to plan their own campaigns in their home cities.

#### Objectives:

- \*Experience exchange among youth from different cities in the Baltic Sea Region about their lifestyles, subcultures and attitudes towards inclusion in the democratic processes;
- \*Raise youth awareness about the democratic life of the region they are living in;
- \*Raise youth awareness about their possibilities to get engaged and participate in the democratic life of their communities;
- \*Increase knowledge and skills of young people in how to start their own media campaign and make their voices heard.

#### Activities:

- \*Intercultural workshop (seminar);
- \*Local round tables on young lifestyles, subcultures and youth democracy combined with workshops on creative techniques + making the campaigns;
- \*Exhibition of campaigns in the cities & virtual Internet exhibition.

#### Partners:

- \*Tallinn Sports and Youth Department
- \*Pärnu Town Hall of Youth
- \*Department of Culture and Association support/ Gävle Municipality
- \*Kulturhus Lätting (Gävle)
- \*Kolding Youth School
- \*Karlstad Kommun
- \*Kärdla Town Government
- \*CultHus/Nykøbing F/Guldborgsund Municipality
- \*Education, Culture and Sports department of Riga City Council
- \*Riga Pupils' Council

#### Results:

Through round-table discussions which were held with youngsters and decision makers of local government in every participating city young people got the chance to talk about the matters that are important to them. In these discussions rose up different themes that were relevant to young people and in what they wanted to let their voices heard of. In many cities youth council was the most effective way for youth to speak in topics that intrigue and are important to them. To promote local youth council work was one of the most favorable and intensive way to let the young people's voices heard. In these discussion rose many different themes like image of extreme sports and extreme athletes and the lack of places where to practise extreme sports, promoting healthy life styles among youngsters and their parents, extreme sports for wheelchairs, information application for phones/tablets that gathers information about your hometown, etc etc. In different creative workshops that followed round-table discussions youngsters learned how campaigns really work, how to plan a media campaign, how films work and how you can influence audience through films, and also how to make your own films. These workshops gave to youngsters a lot of ideas and motivations to do something they really enjoy and what really matters to them, and the implementation

and generation of ideas doesn't stop with this project. Ideas and plans are bigger than life, we have to just encourage youngsters to continue working with their ideas!

### **Information spreading**

Commission on Youth Issues has updated web-page [www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org) and has account in Facebook CoYI – Commission on Youth Issues. Also a Youtube channel has been made – UBC Commission on Youth Issues (<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCujLjtqmKPPo7cjU0YNiQ7g>)

### **Action Plan 2014-2015**

- Open Commission meetings will continue twice a year focusing every time on one area of the youth work, cities will present their practices and suggestions or conclusions made will be collected and shared between participants and others interested (in virtual format). Choosing best possible locations – bearing in mind activating new cities but at the same time encouraging already active cities.
- Implementing strategy and communication plan of the Commission and renewing it for another period.
- Continue introducing youth opinions, youth policy and youth work practices among UBC cities and inviting to join Commission's activities, network and initiating new projects. Focus on youth participation, youth centers' and youth council's work in BSR will be one of the thematical focuses for the new period.
- Negotiating with the UBC Board involving youth representatives to the leading organ of UBC.
- Work towards a better communication between Commissions and UBC lead organs and towards sustainable and well planned budget.
- Preparation for youth conference 2015.
- Work towards the sustainability of the Commission by fostering new cities to join and work with youth issues.

Mihhail Kõlvart  
Chairman of the Commission  
Deputy Mayor of Tallinn

Compilers: Ilona-Evelyn Rannala and Robert Lang  
Tallinn City Government Sports and Youth Department