

Action plans 2012-2013 of the UBC Commissions

COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

Submitted in November 2011

Network of Science Parks

The objective is to link the science parks in the UBC together and also create connections to the outside world. This will become increasingly important as the “low knowledge jobs” within the UBC region will continue to be exported to countries like India and China. The fruitful cooperation with Europe’s largest and oldest Science Park Sophia Antipolis (France) should be further developed.

- International conference of Science Parks in Kolding (April 2012).
- Business Commission meeting back to back with the conference (April 2012).
- Conclusion of a cooperation agreement with Science Park Sophia Antipolis will be sought.

Place Marketing

Global competition for export markets, capital and business locations make targeted profiling and national and international positioning of individual business locations within the UBC an absolute necessity. This is true particularly given the increasing mobility of workers and businesses, the increasing internationalization of the economy, and the increasing rapidity of structural change towards knowledge economies. The objective is to inform about effective and proven strategies for international place marketing.

- Meeting of the Business Commission with the main topic “place marketing” (October 2012).
- Continuation of activities in connection with the BaltMet Promo project.

Cooperation and Partnership

Collaboration, networking and mutual understanding is crucial for success. With this initiative the Business Commission wishes to promote systematic contact to the relevant economic associations within the Baltic Sea Region and in Europe. The responsible business development agencies of the UBC member cities shall be linked together and get informed about chosen economic regions. A business delegation trip should be organized in 2013.

- Cooperation talks with economic associations in BSR and EU.
- Preparation business delegation trip 2013.

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

In 2012 the Business Commission will focus its activities in the following areas:

- Network of Science Parks
- Place Marketing
- Commissions Meetings

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fruitful cooperation with Sophia Antipolis shall be continued and brought into a cooperation agreement.

Place Marketing

Global competition for export markets, capital and business locations make targeted profiling and national and international positioning of individual business locations within the UBC an absolute necessity. This is true particularly given the increasing mobility of workers and businesses, the increasing internationalisation of the economy, and the increasing rapidity of structural change towards knowledge economies. With the involvement of further experts from business and science, recommendations for further action will be prepared and set out in. All the countries in the UBC can benefit of a shared promotion and visibility to the outside. With this initiative the Business Commission wishes to promote contacts and information to all UBC member cities about chosen regions in Europe.

Commissions Meetings

Collaboration, networking and mutual understanding of the topics and opportunities is crucial for success. Therefore, at least one conference and one meeting will be arranged. In April 2012 there will be a conference on Science Parks in Kolding. In autumn 2012 there will be a meeting on Place Marketing.

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

Submitted in December 2011

Chairperson Ms Lone Leth Larsen Vice-Chairperson Ms Jaana Simula Ms Ninni Berggren-Magnusson secretary. Agrita Ozola, Olga Cherkasova, Charlotte Lundkvist, Sigitas Sliazas, Karin Wohlgemut.

Boardmembers from Poland, Latvia and Norway are lacking

1. The UBC Cultural Prize will recognize extraordinary achievement by artistic groups or associations working in the field of cultural activity in UBC member cities. Emphasis will be on cultural activities where more UBC cities are involved. The idea is that the Board invites the cities to candidate for that prize once a year and that the prize has a special theme each year.
2. The traditional Annual Working Sessions initiated by the board or by the member cities will continue with focus on a special cultural field each year. The possibilities of organizing a working session 2012 in Vilnius are studied during autumn 2011. The city of Pori has also shown interest to host the session together with the Regional Council of Satakunta in 2014 in connection with the Mid Nordic Culture Days as has the city of Gävle.
3. Co-operation with the Festival of Baltic Cities will be developed. St. Petersburg is in turn to host the festival in 2012. The host of the year 2013 is open.
4. CoC is supporting "The Day of Culture", which is deeply related to the Pact of Peace established by Nicholas Roerich in 1929 and held every year 15th April, by giving the right to use the name of UBC Commission on Culture in this connection.
5. Contacts and collaboration with Les Rencontres, Ars Baltica, AER (Assembly of European Regions) Culture for health working group, Bridging Ages, Mid Nordic Committee Culture Group, International Association Peace through Culture, European Federation of Local Solidarity and other international networks on culture will be developed and kept alive.
6. The board will meet 2-3 times every year in different UBC cities and the local contact persons of UBC will be invited to the meetings.

7. An exchange programme for professionals in cultural institutions. Aim is to create network and enhance professionalism in the sector and thus bind together the UBC culturally

8. The Catalogue of Cultural Institutions will be available at www.ubc.net.

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The new board that will be elected during the general conference in Liepaja 6th October is responsible for completing and overseeing the draft of action plan 2012-2013 that the old board has prepared.

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COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

I Promote young entrepreneurs

Next years Commission on Education will focus on topic “promote young entrepreneurs”, what is one of the flagship topic of Baltic sea Strategy:

a) EDEN4YOU – Entrepreneurship Development through an European Network for Youngsters and Women

EDEN4YOU project was prepared in the beginning of 2011 and will get. Results should be available by December 2011. If successful, the project must start on 01 January 2012 and will end on 31.12.2014. the project targets particularly young and female entrepreneurs, to be involved in a new dynamic employment model where they can have leading roles. The Programme is focused in particular on POLICIES.

b) Joint project with UBC Commission on Youth Issues

One part of the project is focusing on youth and media. There will be a creative media competition/campagne held in each participating city but also between the cities on topic „Lifestyles“ (voluntary work, mobility, ecological friendly lifestyle, active citizenship, equality and tolerance, different subcultures etc).

Second part of the project is focusing on empowering youth councils in our cities: exchanging knowledge and practices between youth councils who already exist and work well and those who are just starting.

The project has prepared and now applying money from funds.

c) Comenius Regio about young entrepreneurs

Commission on Education is preparing a project about young entrepreneurs and will apply money in Comenius Region programme.

II Environmental education

In that topic we have 3 running projects for next years:

a) Nature school network

Network of nature schools and centers started in August 2010. The 5 partners from Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will have one common course at Färsna Farm and Erken Laboratory in August 2012 with Karin Beronius, Norrtälje as coordinator.

b) Erken Laboratory Research School in Sweden

The research school will have 16 participants from different countries around the Baltic Sea, which will come to the Erken Laboratory for one month (June-July) in the summer of 2012 and 2013. Responsible person is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje.

c) Comenius Regio

The bilateral project between Norrtälje municipality, Sweden and Tallinn city, Estonia on outdoor teaching and nature as a pedagogical tool will run from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2013.

COMMISSION ON ENERGY

Submitted in November 2011

The upcoming activities for the Energy Commission can be divided into three groups; general activities, projects and new ideas.

General activities

The Energy Commission plans to hold at least one commission meeting during 2012. The Energy Commission sees the strength of holding joint commission meetings considering time, travel and money. The UBC Energy Commission wishes to improve and advocate cooperation between the Commissions of the UBC and wishes to be an active and forceful partner.

The Energy Commission has a two-page spread in the issues of the Environmental Bulletin. The Bulletin comes out twice a year and is a good way to spread the activities and actions of the Energy Commission.

The website will be improved during 2012 to become more user-friendly and informative.

Projects

The Energy Commission is Component leader for information and dissemination in and LED-project called “LED – Light in Public Space”. This is a project in the South Baltic Programme aiming at providing facts for a conversion of public space lighting to versatile LED technology, based on a pedestrian perspective and other quality criteria. The project will be finalized in 2012 and the project partners are looking at possibilities of a follow-up project.

The Energy Commission is a partner in the Life+ project ITEST (Increased Technology and Efficiency in Sewage Treatment). This is a three year project started in 2010. The project focuses on biological wastewater treatment and the treatment of municipal wastewater. The project will demonstrate new methods to improve the treatment efficiency while at the same time saving electrical energy. The project is finalized in December 2012.

Energy Efficient Housing is becoming more and more interesting for the municipalities in the UBC and it was also made clear at the commission meeting at the General Conference in Liepaja. The Energy Commission is participating in the project EEMTE (Energy Efficient Municipalities – Training and Exchange of Experience), which is an Interreg IVC project looking at educating politicians and civil servants in the issue.

The Energy Commission cooperates with Baltic Development Forum, Danish Standards, Nordic Council of Ministers in Kaliningrad, Lappeenranta University of Technology and several others in a project of “Energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for non-state actors and local authorities in Kaliningrad Oblast. The last details are being negotiated and thereafter the project can start. Especially the work in the Energy Commission with lighting has been of interest.

New ideas

One of the ways to reduce the carbon footprint, to reduce the travels and to reduce the costs, is to have meetings via the Internet and to use the Internet to share documents.

Adobe Connect is a powerful and useful tool for this. This can be a very effective alternative for the Energy Commission and for the rest of the UBC, when it comes to webinars (web-based seminars) etc. The Energy Commission will provide information and knowledge about the system to the members of the UBC. By working more net-based the Energy Commission can attract new partners that can play a passive part and later on advance their activities.

The Energy Commission is looking for new projects that are of interest for the UBC, a follow-up of the lighting project “LED – Light in Public Space” is one alternative.

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The overall Aims and Goals of the Energy Commission

From a broad perspective break down the energy issues to a local level and point out a few focus areas where the energy commission can have great impact. We will look at the energy system issue rather than individual sources, and introduce this to the municipalities.

- To boil down the EU-level and national level energy issues to a local level
- To raise awareness about projects and to take practical use from experience exchanges in projects within the UBC network
- Promote municipalities to use great examples to get more energy efficient
- To bring science and university knowledge closer to the municipal/local level

Focus areas

- Reduction of greenhouse gases related to the energy sector

- Energy efficiency programs
- Higher self sufficiency and local energy production

Concrete goals

- Further cooperation with other Commissions within the UBC network
- Disseminate the projects
- Start at least two new project
- Organize meetings with the Competence Board

Action Plan – an implementation

- Organizing commission meeting and workshops. This is a central arena where all cities are invited to give their input to the work of the commission.
- Interactive meetings and cooperation in order to reduce the carbon footprint
- Initiate and promote good project ideas
- Organize meeting with the competence board to narrow the gap between the university knowledge and the work in the municipalities
- Dissemination regarding Energy perspectives for the Baltic Sea Region

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

UBC Commission on Environment activities in 2012 -

The commission is activated in different development projects, policy-, networking-, and capacity-building activities. However, the most important resource of the commission are the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences, motivation and strong involvement for the mutual benefit.

The *UBC Good Practice Database* is working to better serve and collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities. More than 530 Good Practice cases are already listed in the database (see www.ubcwheel.eu). These cases and pages have been visited by more than 1 million visitors!

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin will be developed further and thematic editions on relevant topics will continue to be published twice a year. The Bulletin is made together with UBC Commission on Energy and discussions with other UBC Commission concerning involvement of them too take place for the moment. The electronically version of the Environmental Bulletin is more and more requested. The Commission website has continuously been developed. Please see www.ubc-environment.net.

European Union Policy co-operation on environment and sustainable development

In line with the working principles of the UBC, the Commission on Environment has also contributed strongly to Baltic Sea Regional and European policy co-operation processes on cities' environmental governance and sustainable urban development. The commission is representing the UBC at the CBSS/Baltic 21 and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). UBC Commission on Environment will have a role in the planning of the 7th Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. UBC EnvCom will support the city of Umeå in their planning for the Cultural Capital Year in 2014 and also in the preparations of the next Nordic Sustainability Conference also to be held in city of Umeå.

The implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will continue and the UBC Commission will actively been involved in several actions and flagship activities. This strategy goes hand in hand with the new UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme and

therefore there has been a need to combine the development of both processes simultaneously. The UBC Commission on Environment has evaluated the different EU BSR Strategy Flagships and is for the moment closely involved in following flagship processes;

Priority area 1 “To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels”

1.2 “Cleaner wastewater

UBC EnvCom and UBC Energy. How; Follow the policy development, Implementation via following projects, PURE and PRESTO projects (coordinated by UBC EnvCom) and ITEST project (by UBC Energy). PRESTO has received Flagship status.

Priority area 4. “To become a model region for clean shipping”

4.1. “Promote measures to collect ship generated waste”

4.2. “Promote measures to reduce emissions from ships and enhance the development”

4.3. “Introduce differentiated port dues depending on the environmental impact of ships”

4.4. “Eliminate the discharge of sewage from ships”

4.5. “Improve the waste handling on board and in ports”

UBC EnvCom involved in the project INNOSHIP (with Flagship status) addressing above mentioned issues and tasks. Tasks; Follow the policy development, Implementation via possible upcoming development projects,

Priority area 5. “To mitigate and adapt to climate change and”

5.3 “Create a network of sustainable cities and villages”

UBC EnvCom. Tasks; Follow the policy development, cooperation with responsible country and organisation (Request by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Boverket). UBC EnvCom has also been running several climate change related projects and continue to be active in this field. A part of this is to support the Covenant of Mayors concept via the multi stakeholder project NetCom.

Priority area 8. “Implementing the Small Business Act: to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources”

8.4 “Make the Baltic Sea an Eco-efficient region”

Appointed by the UBC Executive board the UBC EnvCom is following the policy development and discussion in a project called Ecoregion project. Similar tasks are handled in the UBC EnvCom project New Bridges

Internal UBC activities

In connection to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region we should promote the UBC Baltic cities Political Forum as an important Forum for policy development and building political commitment.

A important and for the UBC network crucial task is to continuously improve the meeting and workshop methods and techniques. This will also be one of the core tasks for the UBC EnvCom. UBC EnvCom has with great success used ADOBE Connect Pro as a communication tool. The tool has been used in bilateral discussions, smaller and large meetings and also training events. In end of 2011 UBC EnvCom will use and test ADOBE Connect Pro as a virtual conference facility in the LIFE+ financed CHAMP project.

UBC will continue to cooperate and implement the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 together with the other UBC Commissions. One concrete task will be to arrange the joint UBC Commission meeting in Halmstad 9 – 11 may 2012.

Main Projects focuses of the UBC EnvCom

Applications in the field of regional development, sustainable transport, Green smart growth, reduction of nutrients from rivers and water bodies, Research of Mandate and responsibilities of local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region – changes in municipal organizations are under preparation.

In continuation UBC EnvCom will continue to support the UBC member cities and will try to assist them in solving challenges.

The upcoming EU budget will put focus on the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy and in particular on the transformation of 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 economical situation put pressure on investments but one key issues in the upcoming EU budget will be on building on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth! With this we will have one of the mayor tasks for the upcoming years of succesful UBC cooperation and work.

Evaluation

The Commission on Environment has an effective secretariat with good resources, hosted and located in the City of Turku. The secretariat has an international staff of 20 full-time professionals. The purpose of the secretariat is to serve the UBC EnvCom and to manage and co-ordinate the implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010-2015. The activities and services of the UBC EnvCom are closely tied to funding possibilities and the secretariat is therefore dependent of external funding programmes.

COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The general goal of the commission on Gender Equality is to achieve gender equality with a specific focus on:

- Labour market issues
- Social planning, urban planning and planning work
- Combating prostitution and trafficking

The goals of the Commission on Gender Equality are as follows:

- To disseminate knowledge about issues of gender equality. The commission will further the awareness-raising within the field of gender equality and the strategy of gender mainstreaming. The commission will disseminate knowledge about the work which is being done in the UBC-area by spreading examples of good practices. The main tool for this work is the report on gender equality and new campaign material.
- To spread campaign material and find ways to inspire the cities to promote gender equality as an important parameter for a city's growth and the well-being of its inhabitants.
- The Commission will continue to collect examples of good practices. Experience-based knowledge accumulated through exchanges within the UBC-network can inspire member-cities to move forward and apply knowledge in practice.
- Promoting municipalities to apply the examples of good practices to move forward in the work for gender equality and to promote mutual exchange of experiences of good practices within the UBC.
- Strengthening the cooperation with other commissions. Developing further cooperation with the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. The goal for this period is also to take part in at least two other Commission meetings and present the issues of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within their specific field.
- During the next two years update knowledge inspired by the previous report.

COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

According to the agreement of the UBC Board, The City of Elbląg presides the works of UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs from 2011. Hereby we would like to present the UBC Board action plan for the years 2012-2013.

Health and social problems are common and affect all inhabitants of Baltic Sea Region, nevertheless previous attempts to maintain activity in this domain were ineffective.

For this reason, main topic the Commission should focus on its reactivation and increasing awareness of possible cities' cooperation in the Commission.

The other goals of the Commission on Health and Social Affairs continue:

- increase of awareness of contemporary health and social problems in local authorities and society as a whole,
- promotion and support of UBC member cities projects related to health and social issues,
- cooperation with other UBC Commissions and external organizations in the field of health and social issues.

Because Elbląg has started from the very beginning and actually reactivated the Commission on Health and Social Affairs our activities will be continuously addressed simultaneously in following two directions. First of them is raising awareness and recruitment new active Commission's participants while the second aim are the other goals stated above.

In 2011 we entered into relations with two organizations sharing our interests. They are:

Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) and WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Health in the Baltic Region (WHO CC) and with both we want to develop further co-operation.

Representative of NDPHS has attended meeting of the Commission in Elbląg offering cooperation in some projects NDPHS expert groups work on. This proposal has met with some interest from the present cities' representatives and there is also a chance for UBC to become NDPHS partner together with all the organizations mentioned previously. We plan to expand this relation.

We also intend to collaborate further with WHO CC aiming in popularization "Healthy Cities" idea. Main goal of this organization is increasing awareness of the local governments to take health as a central part in the decision making process. The themes of the UBC Commission for Health and Social Affairs are well in line with the WHO themes. There are also 24 WHO Healthy Cities in the Baltic Sea Region and this may be a good basis for our future co-operation.

We will strive to organize two meetings of the Commission every year. In 2012 hosting cities of the Commission meeting will be Vaasa (Finland) and Elbląg (Poland). Proposed general topics of these events are:

- Vaasa – non-communicable diseases,
- Elbląg – health care systems' organization.

In 2012 we will try to launch our Commission website to facilitate access to the information about current Commission activities and contact.

Taking all above into consideration we would like to propose following plan of work for year 2012:

First half of 2012	Launching Commission website.
May 2012	Meeting of the Commission in Vaasa (Finland) under leading subject: "Non-communicable diseases".
September 2012	Meeting of the Commission in Elbląg under leading subject "Health care systems"

	organization”
All over 2012	Continuous popularization of the Commission among UBC members.

COMMISSION ON LOCAL SAFETY

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

Action Plan of the Commission on Local Safety is based on topics agreed during past meetings that reflect common problems we face on daily business in our cities.

The UBC Commission on Local Safety main areas of interest are:

- To support work for a municipal planning process that increases a safe community;
- To expand partnership and collaborations, which are responsible for safety promotion in the communities;
- To support work with crime prevention, work against illegal graffiti, against drug abuse;
- To promote work for an increased traffic safety;
- To advocate programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups;
- To promote long-term , sustainable safety programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations.

The UBC Commission on Local Safety objectives:

In order to find better solution to problems such as an illegal trade in the centres of cities, transport (i.e. TAXI) control, protection of environment, next meeting is planned in the end of October this year in Nacka (SWE). Representatives from designated cities will introduce the topics with procedures implemented. New ideas will be discussed as well as concepts on cooperation with National Police and other safety players in the cities. Our population is getting old. Senior citizens often feel alone and that makes them a good target for criminals. One of our tasks is to focus on security for elderly. Thus, Local Safety Commission planes to conduct at least one meeting in 2012 for elderly safety issues.

There are no countries within UBC that don't have problems with homelessness. Number of homeless people increases in bigger cities every year. Not only NGOs and other organizations should take care of them. Our objective as the local Municipal Guard/Police and other municipal body is to monitor and help homeless and support responsible organizations. Commission on Local Safety plans to more concentrate on this subject in year 2013.

Each of two above mentioned projects will be summarised in two separate summary reports.

During the period 2012 – 2013 we plan to organize two meetings/conferences in each year and strengthen the cooperation with other commissions with focus on Commission on Health and Social Affairs.

COMMISSION ON SPORT

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The general objective of the UBC Commission on Sport is to promote sport and sporting activities as tools for making the Baltic Sea Region more attractive and accessible as well as for increasing fitness, health and social integration of the Baltic Sea citizens.

The UBC Commission on Sport objectives for the years 2012-2013 are as follows:

- to implement “Sport is cool” Campaign targeted at youngsters and intended to stimulate them to do sports and treat physical activity as an attractive way of spending leisure time (a multimedia competition, sports workshops and a conference for sports professionals)

- to develop cooperation with international organizations and other UBC Commissions within the area of sport
- to strengthen links among sports clubs, associations and institutions in order to create the Baltic Sport Network
- to promote sports events and sports exchange in and outside the Baltic Sea Region
- to increase the involvement of UBC member cities in actions promoting sport and healthy lifestyle on the national and international levels
- to encourage UBC member cities to actively promote active lifestyle habits especially among young people
- to stimulate UBC member cities, especially those engaged in the works of UBC Commission on Sport, to formulate policies stressing the importance of sport and recommending physical activity at all stages of life
- to raise awareness of the physical activity as an important element of healthy lifestyle among all age groups

COMMISSION ON TOURISM

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The UBC Commission on Tourism intends to mainstream its activities in 2011-2013 in four main directions: branding, project development (including Agora 2.0 and ESB!), international cooperation and marketing. It should be stressed that the activities are of cyclic nature. CoT sticks to organizing its meetings twice a year: spring and autumn in the cities around the Baltic.

1. **Branding**

This activity is to concentrate on the place branding activities in the BSR, as well as UBC branding. Both of these topics remain in compliance with the EU Strategy for the BSR and the UBC Strategy.

- Competition on the best BSR tourist destination
- UBC City Marketing Guidelines

2. **Tourism projects based on EU programs**

The CoT is a partner in **Agora 2.0** project developed through the BSR Program 2007-2013.

- Participation in seminars and activities within the project
- Dissemination of information related to project activities through the CoT Newsletter and directly
- Preparing surveys related to the relevance of heritage potentials

KARR SA is a partner in **Enjoy South Baltic! –Joint actions promoting the South Baltic area as a tourist destination.**

- Participation in seminars and activities within the project:
 - study trips for journalists
 - foreign meetings to the tour operators
 - workshops for tourist service providers
- Dissemination of information related to project activities

3. **UE Project development**

This is to activate the Commission's members, through offering a series of lectures and workshops on actual project preparation, management and development. Through various working techniques the CoT wants to strengthen its own network of contacts and enlarge it through active involvement of cities. The members will be offered a manual elaborated in English which they can then use in their daily proceedings in their cities.

- Preparing surveys and policies related to tourism development in the BSR
- Case studies

4. **International Cooperation**

Establishing cooperation between CoT and other tourist associations in Europe and worldwide.

5. Marketing

- Publish the catalogue “BSR Perfect Tourism Zone 2011/2012” in a new, more attractive form
- Prepare the Newsletter sent out to the CoT members and the Agora and ESB! project network via Internet
- Publish “Baltic Notes” under the UBC patronage
- A series of articles on the BSR tourism, identity and integration in international and national literature
- Prepare a series of articles to be published in the UBC Cities Bulletin

COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

In 2012-2013 Commission on Transportation will deal with transport-related issues connected with public transport, cycling, mobility management as well as with road safety. The planned activities include:

- presenting articles on road safety in the Baltic Cities Bulletin,
- including the presentation of the European Road Safety Charter as well as traffic safety issues at the meetings of the Commission on Transportation,
- organisation of the grant competition concerning transport issues,
- co-organisation of a Joint Commission meeting with the Commissions on Environment, Energy and Urban Planning,
- organisation of the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Transportation,
- support for the project: SEGMENT – Segmented Marketing for Energy Efficient Transport. SEGMENT is a 3 year IEE STEER funded project which will test the use of consumer market segmentation techniques in persuading people to change their travel behaviour and adopt more energy efficient forms of transport. SEGMENT will help build capacity in local authorities across Europe to implement resource-efficient and effective behaviour change campaigns increasing the uptake of sustainable transport methods. The Commission on Transportation will assist in dissemination of project activities on UBC TransCom website,
- creating a database of best practices in the field of transport,
- establishing cooperation with European transport organisations,
- assistance with preparation and realisation of transport projects, which will ask for support in the years 2012-2013
- updating the website of the TransCom as an information source for the Commission members.

COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

The Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) is a network of professional planners, researchers, architects, engineers and sociologists around the Baltic Sea Region.

CUP

- Wants to keep Baltic Sea Region cities on the map of Europe and the world by supporting local planners' professional skills and sharing knowledge
- Supports city servants in their work of building better cities, increases awareness of urban planning, architecture and construction

Also in the activity period of 2012-2013 CUP will have the following goals in its activities:

- Better quality of life in cities in the Baltic Sea Region

- Positive economic development in cities by initiating dialogue between city residents, private (commercial& industrial) and public sectors

- Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea cities

Urban planning and construction that reflects the socio-economic, cultural and political life of the cities is a tool to achieve these goals.

The Commission on Urban Planning will have its 25th seminar in Halmstad, Sweden, in May 2012 together with the Commission on Environment.

In autumn 2012 the CUP will have a seminar in Elblag, Poland. Also, there are preliminary plans of arranging a seminar in Umeå in 2013.

In the future the Commission on Urban Planning still tries to follow the principle of not collecting seminar participation fees.

COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES

Submitted for the UBC GC in Liepaja

- 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.

- Applying for projects: “Youth in Baltic Sea Region: Lifestyles, Media and Participation” (project might be divided into 3 smaller parts and applied for funding at different National Youth in Action agencies as suggested by head quarters of Youth in Action program) and “Smart and Motivated Youth Workers are the stars of Baltic Sea Region” and carrying out the projects.

- Finalizing strategy and communication plan of the Commission and implementing it.

- 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 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.

- Preparation for youth conference 2013.

- Search for the new vice chair for the Commission.