



General Conference of UBC
Mariehamn, 1-4 October.2013

Resolution on forming a

BSR TASK FORCE PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND WELL-BEING

The main theme of the XII UBC General Conference (Mariehamn, 1-4 October 2013) was “investing in young people. Combating youth unemployment and marginalization – from words into action”.

The debate was stimulated by a UBC Programme of Action, prepared by Finnish Member Cities, and by the work of the UBC Committee on Youth Issues.

The numbers of unemployed young people have reached alarming levels. Governments, local authorities, trade unions, companies and civil society organisations are taking measures to reverse this trend, in order to prevent youth joblessness from causing a downward spiral into poverty, instability and civil unrest.

Joblessness and marginalization bring stress, social risks and cause diminished confidence, which further damage young people’s employment prospects.

Promoting employment and well-being of young people is everybody’s business.

The Mariehamn discussions clearly indicated that UBC Member Cities and its partner organisations possess a vast experience in these issues. Furthermore, it proved that they are interested to work together, nationally and across borders, to seek practical and effective solutions to tackle youth unemployment and marginalization.

Therefore, the UBC General Conference decides to set up a Task Force on youth employment and well-being. It shall work until the next UBC General Conference 2015, in which it is invited to submit its final report. In the meanwhile, it is encouraged to present proposals and initiatives to the UBC Board and all other interested organisations.

The Chair of the Finnish working group which produced the original UBC programme for Mariehamn is – in consultation with the UBC Commission on Youth Issues - requested to convene the first meeting of the international Task Force without delay.

Participation on the Task Force is open. Its shall conduct its work in English. UBC, its Member Cities and Commissions also invite other local authorities and partners – national authorities, businesses and trade unions, Pan-Baltic organisations and European institutions, civil society organisations and others – to join the work of this Task Force.