

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

Activity Report 2011-2012 and Action Plan 2014-15

*Union of Baltic
Cities*

Content

The vision..... 2

The action plan for 2013-2015 2

Main activities in 2013..... 3

Main activities in 2011-2012 4

Budget 2013 5

Action plan for 2013 - 2015

The new vision outlines where the commission wants to be in the future and shapes the action plan.

The vision

The commission wants to work strategically and cross border with central national and international bodies dealing with policy making for sustainable and inclusive development within the Baltic Sea strategy and EU 2020 strategy. The commission on culture wants to be voice for culture on local level in order to have the cultural issues on local level heard and taken into account in all policies for developing the local level on regional, national and international context.

In order to realize the vision four objectives has been developed: 1. Network based cultural cooperation, 2. Professionalization of the cultural field, 3. Strategic partnerships, 4. Research

The action plan for 2013-2015

1. Network based cultural cooperation:

- Develop the exchange program even further, as this program has 3 aims, namely to stimulate professionalization, to develop the UBC cultural network, and to stimulate project making between the UBC cities.
- To promote a more intensive cooperation between the UBC cities on cultural level which has as criteria the cooperation aspect
- To promote the cities to invite cultural project from the other UBC cities for local events like festivals, celebrations or part of the daily programs

2. Professionalization of the cultural field:

- Exchange program to simulate the exchange of knowledge and experience through cooperation
- Sharing experiences at meetings and conferences
- Sharing new knowledge in newsletters, social media and the like

3. Strategic partnerships. Partners we want to develop contact to:

- Nordic Council
- PAC and the European Union
- Ars Baltica
- Others

4. Research

Research is necessary for the cultural field to promote the necessity of culture. We would like to develop programs together with;

- Nordic council
- National or regional universities
- City authorities
- Professional research institutes

Activity report for 2011 -2013

Main activities in 2013

Strategic partnerships:

- Meeting with the PAC and ARS Baltic to discuss shared interest and potential cooperation. Output: coordinated annual meeting with PAC, ARS Baltics and other Baltic unions in order to stimulate the network between the unions.
- Meeting with the Nordic Council to discuss shared interest and potential cooperation.
- Participation in Nordic Council strategy conference, UBC was presented as part of the panel discussion.

Professionalization of the cultural field:

- Board meeting and seminar in Tallinn. The commission had an open seminar after the meeting where they focused on a problem the town had: *"how to ensure historical centers sustain livable quarters and attractiveness as tourist centers"*. The meeting was open for employee and other people that could benefit from this seminar.
- Initiating a survey to identify the newsletters target group to optimize the communication.
- Cities in transformation, a conference organized jointly with the Urban planning commission 16-18. September in Kolding. The aim was to look at old industrial areas and suggest solutions, culturally and urban planning wise as to changes, that can secure a development towards a knowledge based future.
- Contact with project called FiSH, Rostock, that have potential to become an extended exchange-UBC project. FiSH is a national event for the young German Film community. It has a special outlook on films from by the Baltic region. Each year the festival audience and the young German film community get an amazing insight of films from our neighbor hood around the Baltic Sea. After each screening the young filmmakers talk about their movies and working conditions in their country in front of a highly interested audience.

Network based cultural cooperation:

- Winner of the cultural prize: Art Line. An international art project investigating and challenging the concept of public space. 14 partners from 5 countries around the Baltic Sea join to create a co-operative platform for art and academia in Poland, Sweden, Germany, Russia and Lithuania. The platform strengthen the institutions, create opportunities for artists, and interact with people in public space, on the internet, in exhibitions, and on the Stena Line ferries between Gdynia and Karlskrona.

Research

- We have developed a database for researched done in the cultural field. We have also used our website and newsletter to encourage member cities to send it relevant research reports.

Main activities in 2011-2012

- Developed a new vision for the commission.
- Annual working session in Riga/Cesis about culture as a tool for social inclusion.
- New strategy for the newsletter developed: the newsletter should be shorter and published more often.
- Exchange programme between Kolding Library and Linköping library. The exchange has lead to a further cooperation between the two libraries.
- Library in Jekapils and Tartu were also interested in a exchange, but no exchange partners were found.
- Cultural Prize: Cesis and Tartu

Budget 2013

	Old budget 2013	New budget 2013
15 th annual working session Kolding together with Committee on Urban Planning	5500	6000
The Cultural Prize	1000	1000
Board meetings	1500	3000
Exchange programme for our professional staff	3000	0
Promotion of initiating cultural projects across borders between UBC network.	4000	0
Administration	5000	5000
	20000 €	15000 €

Expenses (1.01.2013 -16.09.2013)	Amount
Travel (Lone/Coc Boardmeeting Tallin)	2707 kr.
Travel (Lone/UBC general konference Umeaa)	3434 kr.
Travel (Aleksandra/ Conference in Cph)	2867,65 kr.
Travel (Lone/Coc Boardmeeting Panevezys)	3076 kr.
Travel (Lone/UBC general konference Mariehamn)	3538 kr.
Administration	13.875,00 kr.
In total 16/09/2013 kr.	29490,65 kr.
In total 16/09/2013 €	€ 3.932