

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

YOUTHFUL CITIES
COMMISSION

Proposal for the establishment of UBC Youth Board



Context

- European Youth Strategy (to foster youth participation in democratic life);
- European Youth Goals (incl. Space and participation for all);
- UBC policy paper “Social Cohesion in Cities – beyond 2020” (UBC promotes the development of space and opportunities for youth political participation that ensure representation and considering of young people’s voice during the decision-making process).

Possible purpose(s) of a Youth Board

- To make young people more visible in UBC;
- To provide youth perspective on the agenda of UBC;
- To make activities of UBC more youth-focused and youth friendly;
- To maintain an image of modern and development-driven organization.

Experience of CBSS

- Baltic Sea Region Youth Forum (open network of organisations and individuals)
- Committee of Youth Representatives (10 – 20 individuals (16 – 30 years old), elected by BSRYF annually)
- Steering Group (3 representatives of CYR + 2 representatives of partner networks)

Activities of BSRYF:

Organizing regular online networking meetings for BSRYF partners and participants • Publishing policy recommendations written by young people in the Baltic Sea Region • Hosting an annual stakeholder meeting for Baltic Sea Region youth organizations • Supporting the CBSS presidency to hold a CBSS youth ministerial forum or event • Coordinating specialized sub-groups, youth working groups in support of the CBSS agenda, CBSS expert groups, task forces etc., and/or CBSS Secretariat units • Supporting activities within other fora, working groups, expert groups, EUSBSR policy area groups and other relevant organizations in carrying out meaningful youth participation • Implementing a communication strategy to ensure a broad representation • Conducting research, analysis, and monitoring of issues within the BSRYF scope

Experience of BSSSC

- BSSSC Youth Network consists of youth representatives (1 – 3 persons) of all BSR regions;
- Recommended age of youth network participants is 16 – 25 years;
- The youth leaders of the Network are the two Youth Board Members elected by the youth for a two year period;

The BSSSC Youth Network should initiate – in cooperation with the BSSSC Board, Youth Board, Secretariat and Youth Coordinator – online workshops and activities concerning the youth interests, BSSSC policy areas and other Baltic policies including Sustainable Development Goals, blue, green and circular economy, EU Youth policies etc. The BSSSC Youth Coordinator will be involved in the formulation of a list of important subjects to work on for the following year.

First ideas about composition and operations of UBC Youth Board


- Youth Board would act as:
 - reference point for other bodies of UBC regarding young people's opinions and concerns;
 - platform for cooperation between young people of the member cities.
- Youth Board could follow the principle of composition of UBC Executive Board. Still, an open-ended "forum" is also necessary to maintain the energy and connection to the cities.
- Youth Board could involve young people aged 14-16 to 24-30.
- Operating Youth Board would require additional staff resources within UBC and funding to cover travel/meeting costs of youth.

Necessary input from the Executive Board

In order to proceed with development of the concept of the Youth Board, YCC kindly requests an Executive Board's input on these points:

- Is Youthful Cities Commission authorized to proceed with development of a proposal for the Youth Board's model?
- What would be Executive Board's expectations and needs in regard to the Youth Board?

Next Steps

- Series of online discussions and workshops with other commissions, member cities and their youth councils (until end of 2024).
 - Detailed proposal presented at the Executive Board's meeting in spring 2025.
 - Formal voting about establishment of Youth Board during next UBC General Conference in autumn 2025.
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Thank you for your attention!

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