



## UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

### Activity Report October 2013 – September 2015

#### The work continues

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (UBC SCC) is located in the Baltic Sea House in the old centre of Turku. The basic resources provided by the host city and the UBC combined with the successful project funding have enabled the secretariat to carry on a strong coordination role with a staff of between 10 - 20 full-time professionals (Finnish-Swedish-Polish-Russian-German-Ukrainian-Danish-Dutch).

During 2010-2015 the UBC SCC has been involved in 25 projects, with combined budget of 51.3 million euro. Approximately 45 cities have been involved in different UBC SCC projects (former Energy, Environment and Transport Commissions). Via other kind of activities the Commission is in contact with all UBC member cities annually.

#### Meetings

During 2014 – 2015 the UBC SCC (former Energy, Environment and Transport Commissions) has been responsible for coordination and facilitation of a huge number of meetings, workshops and conferences.

**In 18 – 21 May 2014**, a joint commission meeting was held in Örebro, by the commission on Environment, Transport and Urban Planning, with the thematic focus on “From wasteland and transport corridor to lively city”.

**On 23 - 24 of October** Gdynia (UBC TransCom) hosted a UBC and City of Gdynia Joint Conference entitled “Baltic Sea Region advancing towards Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning” organised within CIVITAS DYN@MO European project. The conference was organised with a view to supporting cities, focusing on the Baltic Sea Region in their efforts to elaborate the SUMP. The event gathered 25 international speakers from six European countries, experts in field of mobility planning, willing to share their knowledge on SUMP development over two days of presentations, discussions and workshops. 68 representatives of European cities and institutions took part in the conference increasing their knowledge on SUMP, exchanging experiences and tightening the network of Baltic Sea Region cities.

**In 14 - 17 September 2014** a joint commission meeting (UBC EnvCom and UBC Commission on Urban Planning”, focusing on “Urban streams – rebuilding the waterfront of Daugava River”, was held in Riga.

**In 19 – 20 March 2015** the first UBC SCC Commission meeting was arranged back to back with the Urban Magma Conference in Malmö. The Urban Magma conference focus was on Circular economy in the BSR and the UBC SCC was one of the co-organizers of the conference.

**In 3 – 4 June 2015** in Turku, the UBC SCC arranged an additional Commission meeting with the main agenda focusing on the re-establishment of the UBC SCC Commission, including appointment of co-chairs, advisory board, deciding in reporting and communication procedures. The meeting re-elected Ms Dace Liepnice from City of Liepaja, Mr Per-Arne Nilsson from City of Malmö and Mr Risto Veivo from City of Turku as co-chairs. The meeting agreed on establishing an Advisory Board consisting of National Contact Persons, sometimes also with a thematic focus area responsibility. The Advisory board members 2015 – 2017 are: Mr Andrus Jaadla, City of Rakvere (Smart City), Ms Saara Vauramo, City of Lahti (Climate Change), Mr Olli-Pekka Mäki, City of Turku (Biodiversity/Env. Protection), Ms Rieke Müncheber, City of Rostock (Mobility), Ms Solvita Lurina, City of Jelgava, Ms Indre Buteniene, City of Klaipeda, Ms Dagmara Nagorka-Kmiezkiec, City of Gdansk, Mr Andreas Hedrén, City of Växjö (Water Management), Ms Åsa Abrahamsson, City of Malmö (Circular Economy).

**On 30.09 – 1.10 2015** UBC SCC visited the UBC Safe City Commission and presented the activities and plans for upcoming years. The Commissions decided to continue with common meetings and will also look into possibilities to develop joint projects.

In addition to these above mentioned UBC meetings the SCC has been facilitating many meetings and workshops within project frameworks or together with several cooperation partners.

### **Development of Communication activities**

A huge and ongoing task has been the improvement of the UBC communication activities. The UBC SCC has renewed its web pages in the beginning of 2014. The UBC SCC has also been testing new techniques of communicating with members, project partners and other stakeholders with the goal to renew and make the communication more efficient. One strong signal from the discussions has been that communication should move more towards increasingly favoring electronic material.

UBC SCC took also an active role in planning and implementation of the general UBC Communication development events and workshops. During the UBC communications seminar in April 2015, the UBC SCC organized a live broadcast of the seminar.

During the last years testing of social media has taken place in order to reach out to a broader audience. Some statistics: Through increased use of social media the UBC SCC Facebook followers has increased with 50,2% since October 2013. According to google analytics new visits to the homepage made up 66 % of all visits. On twitter the commission reached a potential average of 2493 people per month since September 2014.

The UBC SCC has previously published an Environmental Bulletin twice a year. According to a decision of the new UBC SCC there will be only one annual paper copy UBC Sustainability Bulletin. In addition to the annual Bulletin the Commission will publish quarterly e-Bulletins. The theme of the annual Sustainable Bulletin 1/2015 focused on "UBC Cities – Acting Smart". In 2013 the theme was "Next steps for building a sustainable Baltic Sea Region".

In May 2015, the SCC published the first issue of the quarterly Baltic Cities Sustainability e-Bulletin. The Baltic Cities Sustainability e-Bulletin includes updates from the commission and the secretariat, projects and events. In September 2015 the second e-Bulletin "A new step on our UBC Sustainability stairway" was published.

During 2014 – 2015 UBC SCC has been involved in development of several good practice databases.

#### **UBC Commission on Transportation Website**

The Commission on Transport's website was constantly updated. It contained relevant information concerning transport issues. The website served as a source of information which included links to international organisations dealing with transport. The website provided its visitors with automatically updated EU transport news from EurActiv portal.

### **Implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme**

The UBC SCC has been responsible for the implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 approved in the General Conference in Kristiansand September 2009. UBC SCC has been finalizing the implementation of the current UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 and started in 2014 the work with planning the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021 together with the UBC Executive Board and other UBC Commissions. The proposal of the new UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021 was presented during the UBC Executive board meeting in Dolina Charlotty, Poland, 10 – 12 of June. The final version will be presented and accepted at the UBC General Conference in Gdynia in October 2015.

Planning meetings have taken place during at the commission meetings in Örebro 2014, Riga 2014, Malmö 2015 and Turku 2015. Discussions have also been held with other stakeholders and organisations. The programme is a good example of an interactive process between UBC member cities and the UBC SCC secretariat.

### **Strategic Partnerships and Co-operation**

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 UBC SCC also represented the UBC at the CBSS/Baltic 21 and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

The UBC SCC also been involved in consultation with several authorities and EU funding programmes such as the Central Baltic Programme and the BSR INTERREG IVB Programme in relation to the new EU funding programme. Furthermore consultation has been with ministries of Finland, Estonia and Poland.

### **Involvement in EUSBSR implementation**

The UBC SCC (previously Environmental Commission) actively participated in the planning and implementation of the EUSBSR Summit 2014 Turku, with 1600 participants. During the EUSBSR Summit 2014 Turku several workshops and side events were also organised. The UBC EnvCom also had an own stand, at the summit, to promote the different activities of the Union of the Baltic Cities and the UBC EnvCom.

The UBC SCC has been strongly involved in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC SCC has received flagship status for several projects (PURE; PRESTO and BSR Innoship) and has been actively involved in several actions and flagship activities. UBC SCC also participated in the EUSBSR Annual meeting in Jurmala 15 – 16 June 2015 and several PA meetings.

For the upcoming activities and projects the UBC SCC has received EUSBSR Flagship status for new project applications “IWAMA-Integrated wastewater management in the BSR”.

### **Project activities**

The high number and visibility of UBC SCC (previously UBC EnvCom) coordinated projects or projects where UBC EnvCom is involved has been one of the most successful achievements during the last years. A high number of project applications have been accepted and resulted in external resources and increased cooperation among the UBC member cities. During 2014 - 2015 UBC SCC successfully finalized large scale investment projects in Belarus. During 2010-2015 the UBC SCC has been involved in 25 projects, with a total budget of over 52 million euro.

Support for the University of Gdańsk and the City of Gdynia in establishing and maintaining the BSR Competence Centre according to the action plan on BSR Competence Centre elaborated within the Civitas Dyn@mo project.

City of Gdynia has supported the abc.multimodal project whose aim was to integrate cycling into multimodal transport system and mobility culture (Commission on Transportation was an associated partner in the project) – dissemination activities.

In 2014 and 2015 the UBC SCC is active in several large scale project development processes. The UBC SCC has focused on applications in the field of regional development, sustainable transport, green smart growth, reduction of nutrients from rivers and water bodies.

### **Project table 2010 - 2015:**

#### **Themes:**

Climate Change projects:

Urban Wastewater projects:

Maritime Policy projects:

Sustainable Urban Mobility projects:

Smart Urban Planning projects:

#### **Project abbreviations**

CHAMP, BaltCiCa, NET-COM, NordLead

PURE, PRESTO, LearnWater, ITEST (co-ordinated by the Commission of Energy/ City of Oskarshamn)

BSR Innoship, SmartComp, SNOOP

CHALLENGE, CIVITAS DYN@MO, Smart Electromobility, ELTISplus, Quest, New Bridges

GREENCITY Umeå, Climate district Skanssi

Energy Efficiency projects: RENSOL (co-ordinated by the UBC Energy Commission / City of Oskarshamn)

Finnish-Russian Cooperation projects: Neat+, BSNA, Gulf of Finland Year 2014

More information about the projects can be found on the UBC SCC web-page [ubc-sustainability.net](http://ubc-sustainability.net)

**Project application table (September 2015):** (Focus area and project abbreviations)

**WATER MANAGEMENT** (Integrated Wastewater management, Storm water management)

Project abbreviations:

CLIMURBAN, IWAMA, TERNETS, iWATER

**URBAN MOBILITY** (Sustainable urban mobility, Electromobility, smart mobility)

Project abbreviations:

CIVITAS Eccentric, Cities.Multimodal, SUMPS-UP,

**CLIMATE SMART CITIES/ENERGY** (Brownfield, Energy efficiency Smart City, Circular economy)

Project abbreviations:

BalticUrban Lab, SMARTiFY, Sound Food Supply, BUF SmartCity, Circular Economy BSR

Involved UBC cities in above mentioned applications;

Totally 24 UBC cities for the moment directly involved in project applications: Aarhus, Guldborgsund, Gdansk, Gävle, Helsinki, Jurmala, Jelgava, Kaliningrad, Kalmar, Kaunas, Kohtlajärve, Lahti, Lubeck, Malmö, Naestved, Pori, Riga, Rostock, Szczecin, Söderhamn, Tallinn, Tartu, Turku, Vilnius

Björn Grönholm  
Head of Secretariat

1 October 2015

## Action Plan

### UBC Sustainable Cities Commission activities 2015 - 2016

#### General situation

The UBC SCC is active in several large scale processes and different development projects, policy-, networking-, and capacity-building activities prepared and supported by the UBC SCC secretariat in Turku.

The re-organized UBC Sustainable Cities Commission has further developed the activity of the Commission work. Close participation with the general UBC re-organization process has taken place. Special focus has also been on the UBC Communication strategy process where the UBC Sustainable Cities Commissions had a big role in planning and implementing of the UBC Communication seminar 14 – 15 April 2015 in Turku.

Re-organization of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (UBC SCC) with focus on improving the service to the member cities, improving the knowledge of cities in the Baltic Sea region locally regionally and globally. Throughout the years the UBC Commission on Environment and UBC cities have gained a strong reputation for being forerunners in several topics. With the re-organization of the UBC Commissions and the broader concept of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission it is a good

momentum to raise the ambition of the goals of the Commission. The new UBC Commission contact persons as well as the already established active key persons make a strong fundament for upcoming activities.

### **New UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020**

UBC SCC will finalize the implementation of the current UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 and has started the work with planning the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020 together with the UBC Executive Board and other UBC Commissions. The new Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020 will give the UBC SCC a mandate and clear direction for the work in the upcoming years. The proposal of the new UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020 will be presented in the UBC Executive board meeting in Dolina CharlottyPoland from 10 – 12 June and finally presented and accepted in the UBC General Conference in Gdynia in October 2015. The new UBC Sustainability Action Programme has as a strong ambition to bring up UBC cities with well-known excellence in fields of Water management, climate change or sustainable urban mobility to global reputation and awareness. Several planning meetings have taken place and the programme is a good example of an interactive process between UBC member cities and the UBC SCC secretariat.

### **EUSBSR implementation**

The UBC SCC is strongly involved in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC SCC has received flagship status for several projects and has been actively involved in several actions and flagship activities. This strategy goes hand in hand with the new UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020 and therefore there has been a close follow up including both processes. UBC SCC has been asked to participate in the EUSBSR Annual meeting in Jurmala 15 – 16 June 2015. In 2016 UBC SCC will continue to participate in the implementation and close cooperation of the EUSBSR.

### **New EU Funding period 2014 – 2020**

Engagement of UBC member cities in international cross-border cooperation will be one of the main goals of the internal UBC SCC activities. The UBC SCC will also put focus on engaging more cities in the operative activities. The new EU funding period puts focus on the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy and in particularly on the transformation of the 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 economic situation puts pressure on investments but one key issue in the upcoming EU budget will be on building on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth!

The new EU funding period 2014 – 2020 has started and the UBC SCC is involved in several project applications together with a big number of UBC member cities and other partners from the member cities. Applications with focus on brownfield development, sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency in urban real estate and buildings, storm water management, waste water management (reduction of nutrients from rivers and water bodies), research of Mandate and responsibilities of local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region are in different phases of application stage.

Table 1: Running UBC SCC projects in 2015 and 2016

<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Urban wastewaters	PRESTO	BSRVB
European sust. mobility	CH4LLENGE	Intelligent energy
Sustainable urban mobility	CIVITAS DYN@MO	7 <sup>th</sup> Framework
Prog.Energy, Mobility, Awareness raising	Green Citizens	Life+
Gulf of Finland Year	GoF	Ministries
Smart electro mbility	ÄSL	TEKES

Table 2: Project applications (decisions during autumn 2015)

<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<b>WATER MANAGEMENT</b>		
Urban flood management, hazardous subst.	CLIMURBAN	BSR VB
Improved urban wastewater management	IWAMA	BSR VB
Improved capacity in WWTP	WATERNETS	BSR VB
Stormwater management	iWaters	Central Baltic Prog.
<b>URBAN MOBILITY</b>		
New Urban Mobility for Europe	NUME	Horizon
Sustainable UrbanMobility	CIVITAS Eccentric	Horizon/Civitas
Efficient urban mobility in BSR	Cities. Multimodal	BSR VB
Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning	SUMPs UP	Horizon
<b>CLIMATE SMART CITIES / ENERGY EFFICIENCY</b>		
Rebuilding brownfield areas	Baltic Urban Lab	Central Baltic Prog.
Energy efficiency	Smartify	Horizon Smart Cities
Climate smart district	Climate district Skanssi	National funding
Resource efficient cities	Resource efficiency	SITRA
Circular economy	Circular Economy in the BSR	Swedish Inst./BSRVB

The UBC SCC is ready to support the UBC member cities with expertise and recommendations for upcoming project funding period. This UBC member service has already taken place and can be enlarged depending on the needs in the UBC cities and seem to be really needed in many UBC cities.

In 2016, there will hopefully by several running UBC lead development projects in several field.

#### **Meeting and events**

In 2015 the UBC SCC arranges the first Commission meeting back to back with the Urban Magma Conference in Malmö in 18 – 20 March 2015. The Urban Magma conference focus was on Circular economy in the BSR and UBC SCC was one of the co-organizers of the conference. A second Commission meeting of the UBC SCC will take place in Turku 3 – 4 June in Turku. In the Turku meeting the focus will with focus on re-organizing the Commissions, elect Co-chair and an Advisory Board, further develop the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 -2020, present actualities from UBC cities and start a project application process on “Circular Economy in the BSR”.

The UBC SCC will also be present in the UBC Executive Board meeting in Dolina Charlotty Poland in 10 – 12 June 2015 and in the UBC General Conference in Gdynia in October 2015.

In 2016 the UBC SCC is planning to arrange two Commission meetings, preferable in the Baltic States, Germany and Denmark.

#### **EU Policy co-operation sustainable development and Global activity**

In line with the working principles of the UBC, UBC SCC has also contributed strongly to Baltic Sea Regional and European policy co-operation processes on cities’ regional governance and sustainable urban development. The commission is representing the UBC at the CBSS/Sustainable Development Expert Group and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). UBC SCC participated in the evaluation and development meeting of the CBSS/Sustainable Development Expert Group 9 April 2015.

The close cooperation with these organizations as well as other similar organizations such as Baltic Development Forum, Baltic University Programme, VASAB, Nordregio, and Nordic Council of Ministers will take place in 2015 and 2016.

With the new UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2015 – 2020 there is also a clear intention to strengthen the activity on the Global arena. This can be done in close cooperation with the UBC member cities and their ongoing processes. The World Business Council on Sustainable Cities, the UN Climate policy process, the UN Smart City process are examples of global processes with potential interest of the excellence of UBC cities.

**UBC internal communication activities**

As a general and ongoing task are the improvements of our communication activities. The UBC SCC has renewed its web pages in the beginning of 2014. Please see <http://www.ubc-sustainable.net/>

The first UBC Sustainability eBulletin was published in May 2015. The intention is to have a quarterly, electronic eBulletin with updates from the commission and the secretariat, projects and events. Additionally there will be one printed UBC Sustainability Bulletin per year, where member cities can contribute with their own stories.

The UBC Good Practice Database has been an operative database of good practises in the BSR. In 2015 and in 2016 there is a need to further develop the database in order to better serve UBC cities, collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities. The intention is to develop the Good practice database with a new structure and information. As part of this a UBC Sustainability survey will be planned in 2015 and carried out in 2016.

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