

COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2009

Organizational change within the Commission on Youth Issues.

From January 1st 2008, city of Kalmar has handed over the chair of the Commission on Youth Issues to the city of Tallinn. The new chair person for the Commission is Kaia Jäppinen who is the deputy mayor of Tallinn. The vice chair of the Commission is held by Birgitta Elfström who is the deputy mayor of Kalmar. The secretariat and administration of the Commission are still located in the city of Kalmar. Since city of Tallinn took over the chair of the Commission, the youth representatives within the Commission have also changed. The youth representatives are members of the Commission for two years then the city elects new youth representatives.

Commission meetings during the period October 2007 – September 2009.

Commission meeting in city of Tallinn 12-14 May 2008.

30 people from 12 different cities attended the open Commission meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. The new chairmen of the Commission, Kaia Jäppinen opened the meeting. The focus of the meeting was the future of the Commission and how the Commission could become a better platform for future development of new projects. During the meeting all participants got the opportunity to present their local youth policies and youth work.

During the first part of the meeting participants also got the chance to get some more information about the background and history of the Commission since 1997. This information was presented by the former chairman Charlotte Gustafsson. The participants also got a report from the youth conference in Pärnu and the outcome of the conference “Book of Possibilities”. During the first part of the meeting, information about the progress of the project “Different History – Common Future” was also given.

Commission meeting in city of Kristiansand 15-17 September 2008.

The Commission held its second meeting in the city of Kristiansand and it was a closed meeting for the core group of the Commission. During the meeting about 15 people took part and the main focus was the upcoming new youth conference in September 2009. The aim was also to meet with different youth representatives from Kristiansand to find a way for cooperation during the youth conference 2009, and with representatives from the Commission on Health and Social Affairs on same purpose.

Common commission meeting in city of Kalmar with Commission on Gender and Commission on Health and Social Affairs 23-24 April 2009

In April 2009 the Commission on Gender held an open Commission meeting in the city of Kalmar. During the meeting representatives from Commission on Youth Issues and Commission on Health and Social Affairs also took part. The purpose of the meeting was to give information about the activities within the different commissions and also to talk about possibilities of cooperation in the future. During the meeting around 10 people from 5 different countries took part.

Commission meeting in city of Riga 14-15 April 2009

The Commission meeting in Riga was an open Commission meeting. There were 30 people from 12 different cities participating. The first day of the meeting had two different parts, during first part each city got the opportunity to present their youth information and counseling work connected to EVS (European Voluntary Service) and the second part was an open idea market and partner search. During the second part of the meeting a lot of new and good ideas for new projects came up and some connections were made. The second day of the meeting focused on EVS and how we can develop different information sources on it – info stands were made during the group work, which can be used in every city.

Activities done in cooperation with EU project “Different History – Common Future”

The common EU project that was initiated within the Commission has now reached its final year. During the first 2 years of the project we have carried out tolerance trips, NGO meetings and EVS seminars. During the first part of the project we have also organized one big youth conference with around 120 participants. The conference was done in cooperation with the UBC general conference.

European Voluntary Service (EVS) promotion seminar in city of Tallinn 14-15 May 2008.

In connection with the open Commission meeting that took place in city of Tallinn there was also an EVS seminar organized within the EU project “Different History Common Future”. The focus of the seminar was on benefits for local organizations that are hosting volunteers. During the seminar the participants got the opportunity to hear about experiences from former volunteers as well as from current volunteers. During the seminar the city of Kalmar presented their experiences on hosting volunteers within the municipal organization and what benefits there are for the city and for the local youth.

Tolerance trip into the Danish-German border region 8-12 October 2008

Between the 8th and the 12th of October the Commission on Youth Issues in cooperation with the EU project “Different History – Common Future” carried out its, cultural diversity and tolerance with local minority groups.

NGO seminar in the city of Kolding 29th October – 1st November 2008

Between the 29th of October and 1st of November the Commission on Youth Issues together with the EU project “Different History – Common Future” arranged NGO meeting in the city of Kolding, Denmark. During the meeting there were two different themes discussed - “outdoor activity for youth” and “how to work with prevention of sexual diseases” among young people. There were 16 NGO's and organizations participating and sharing ideas and working methods.

NGO tolerance trip 22-25 April 2009

Between the 22nd until the 25th of April the Commission on Youth Issues in cooperation with the EU project “Different History – Common Future” carried out its third tolerance trip. The target group for the tolerance trip was NGO's working with integration and minority questions on local level. During the trip 26 people from different organizations took part. During the trip the group got the opportunity to experience and meet different minority groups and listen to their situation today on the Danish – German border. The group also discussed questions such as historical influences, cultural diversity and tolerance with different minority groups.

Youth Conference “Bridges over the Sea” in Kristiansand Norway 22-25 September 2009

In September 2009 it is time for the fourth youth conference to take place in the city of Kristiansand. The interest for the conference has been big and there will be over 150 people participating. The focus of the conference is the Baltic Sea Strategy from a youth perspective. The conference will be divided into seven different workshops that among other things will focus on Baltic Sea environment, attractive region, accessible region and tolerance theme.

European voluntary service (EVS) volunteer at the secretariat in the city of Kalmar

In June 2008 the Commission on Youth Issues secretariat in Kalmar sent in a new application for hosting a new EVS-volunteer (financed by the EU European Voluntary Service programme) at the secretariat in Kalmar. In February 2009 Heili Johanson from city of Tallinn came to Kalmar to support and help the secretariat with the Commission work and with the planning of the upcoming youth conference. Having a volunteer within the organization is very useful. It helps us see things from new perspective and it helps us to find new ways of working, not to mention all technical help. Heili will stay in Kalmar until November 2009.

Information spreading

Commission on Youth Issues has renewed its web-page during summer 2009, look at www.ubc-youth.org and is issuing newsletter twice a year starting from 2009.

ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2011

- 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 as outcome presented later on the web-page.
- New projects will be started during this period – one focusing on camping and training activities for youth and youth workers and another focusing on introducing youth opinions in Baltic Sea Region gathered during the conferences, promoting dialogue between youth and decision makers and at the same time introducing Commission work and youth work in Baltic Sea Region in general.
- Communication with the cities: newsletters and up to date web page.
- Joint competitions for young people in partner cities in different areas (photo, literature etc).
- Search for the new vice chair for the Commission.
- Moving secretariat of the Commission from Kalmar to Tallinn.

Kaia Jäppinen
Chairperson of the Commission
City of Tallinn