



**UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES**  
**70<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**Turku, Finland, 2 June 2014**

**AGENDA with description**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
3. Presentation of the City of Turku.
4. "Best practices and the challenges the UBC cities face regarding youth", as outcome of the Commission on Youth meeting in Kaunas, 1-4 April 2014.

On 1-4 April 20 youngsters and 16 civil servants from Kolding, Guldborgsund, Karlstad, Falun, Gävle, Turku, Kotka, Tallinn, Maardu, Kuressaare, Riga, Liepāja, Kaunas and Gdańsk gathered in Kaunas at the spring meeting of the UBC Commission on Youth Issues. The main aim of the meeting was to develop a strategy and an action plan for 2015-2017, when the cities of Turku and Gävle will take the chair.

All participating cities made presentations about things the others could learn from their municipalities and the challenges they face regarding the youth. The cities presented the inspiring projects and programmes on the youth issues. The presentations gave a good overview of the current situation on the youth work in Baltic Sea Region and triggered many interesting discussions.

The rest of the day was dedicated to the existing strategy and the action plan. Analysis and brainstorming on partnerships, burning issues on youth and priorities of COYI were on the agenda. The second day's sessions gave a good preparation for the work on the new strategy and the action plan. After many discussions, the draft of COYI's strategy and action plan for 2015-2017 was adopted.

On the last day of the meeting, the Commission created a working group for the next Youth Conference which will be held parallelly to the UBC General Conference. The Commission decided on convening their autumn meeting in November in Riga, which is this year's European Cultural Capital.

Last, but no least, the participants were introduced to the Lithuanian culture and could get acquainted with the beautiful Kaunas.

5. "Talent Attraction and place branding with regards to workforce and tourism" , as outcome of the conference of the Commission on Business & Tourism held in Kristiansand on 8-9 April 2014.



Talent attraction and place branding with regards to workforce and tourism set the agenda for a two day public forum arranged by the newly merged Commission on Business and Tourism in Kristiansand, Norway on 8-9 April.

Jørgen Kristiansen, Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand and UBC Board member, welcomed participants from Denmark, Germany, Norway, Poland and Sweden representing local governments, international organisations, business development agencies and tourism organisations in Kristiansand. The extensive programme included the presentation and discussion of several projects from the Kristiansand region and the BSR.

Participants debated about strategies for fostering of regional start-up cultures through incubation (incubator Innoventus) and assistance for entrepreneurs (Connect network). The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) presented their programmes to mobilize highly qualified talents for positions as leaders, board members and other decision makers from different target groups (Global Future, Female Future, Summit). The regional trainee programme Trainee Sør has attracted during the last 10 years over 100 highly qualified master graduates to the region. The programme is based on the network cooperation among 30 private businesses and public institutions in southern Norway. Based on its model four other regional trainee programmes have been established in Norway and the forum participants showed great interest in possible adoptions of the concept.

The BalticlaB project is a EUSBSR flagship project and is managed by the CBSS Secretariat. It aims at bringing together young, creative minds in the Baltic Region to create and explore new perspectives and sources for inspiration.

The site visit at the Kilden centre of performing arts and the discussion with its marketing director Eldbjørg Dahl gave the participants insight in the cornerstone role that the concert, theatre and cultural house has for the attractiveness of the Kristiansand Region.

Along with key players, such as the Kristiansand Dyreparken Zoo and Color Line, Kilden is a member of the USUS cluster for companies within the travel, experience and cultural industry in Southern Norway. Project manager Kirsti Mathiesen Hjemdahl introduced the forums participants with organisation, strategic aims and the clusters regional repurchasing strategy.

During the past decade the economic development in Southern Norway has been significantly influenced by some fast growing energy technology companies. They are organized in the cluster Norwegian Offshore and Drilling Engineering (NODE) and participants discussed the mutual impact of cluster and region has with the founding cluster manager Kjell O. Johannessen. To match ideas for possible future projects with EU policy and concrete programmes the South Norway European Office was invited.

6. "Ideas & solutions concerning illegal graffiti, taxi services, offenses related to night bars, noise and youth delinquency, traffic offences, CCTV" as outcome 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Municipal Police held on 14-16 May 2014 in Vilnius.

Municipal Police has to act on social and environmental developments to provide solutions for the existing and upcoming challenges. To meet this challenge, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Municipal Police, was held in Vilnius (Lithuania) on May 14–16, 2014. This conference offered a platform for an international exchange of ideas, opinions, perspectives, results and solutions



concerning illegal graffiti, taxi services, offenses related to night bars, noise and youth delinquency, traffic offences, CCTV, etc.

The speakers presented their experience, ideas and findings. Participants had a chance to find out more on safety and reliability orientated talks and on the ongoing progress in innovations as well as the status quo in the cities.

Commission on Local Safety and City of Vilnius were co-organisers of the conference.

7. "How to redevelop the central passage of the city along the railroad , Örebro as case study" , as outcome of the seminar held in Örebro on 18-21 May 2014.

Örebro in Sweden has an amazing city centre with a castle surrounded by water at the core of the city. Here you will find a vibrant city life, beautiful buildings and a park which has been named the most beautiful park in the country. However, when one arrives in the city by train or by car one is greeted by something entirely different.

Örebro decided to transform the central passage along the railroad. It is about giving the city a new face but at the same time keeping all functions intact. How can we make this happen?

On 18-21 May three UBC Commissions on Urban Planning, on Environment and Transportation meet to solve the most challenging problems of the city. The workshop area includes the region along the railroad and Östra Bangatan between the recreational area Gustavsvik and the water tower Svampen. The aim of the seminar is to find the ways of redeveloping the area with all existing functions kept and some new added. The Commissions debate on how to make it greener and energy sufficient and at the same time more friendly and accessible.

8. Flagship project "Citizens for Safety" , information on latest activities.

In January 2014 the Gdańsk Municipal Guard and Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein entered into a grant agreement S37 - project "Building urban safety through citizens participation (Citizens for Safety)". The EU grant is 34 368,90 EUR (total budget of the project is 40 432 EUR). The project has been appointed as a flagship project of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and operates under an umbrella of the co-financing mechanism for Seed Money Facility. EUSBSR is a macro-regional strategy, which aims to strengthen cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region and to overcome the challenges and promote sustainable development in the region. The entire project is scheduled for 23 January 2014-22 April 2015. The preparation phase for developing project idea will take no more than a year.

Gdańsk Municipal Guard as the lead partner will cooperate with two project partners from the Baltic Sea countries: Liepāja Municipal Police (Latvia) and Vilnius City Municipal Administration (Lithuania). Gdańsk Municipal Guard is the leader of the Commission on Local Safety.

One of the key tasks of Gdańsk Municipal Guard is to collect data related to the security threats in the local environment, including studies of public opinion and the opinion of residents on their sense of security, to gather information on similar projects at the national level and to collect safety data together with project partners.



The project group will take into account all types of threats and problems the citizens face (juvenile delinquency, robberies, inappropriate design of public spaces, etc.).

The first introductory project meeting will be held in June 2014 in Gdańsk. Its purpose will be among others: to define goals, objectives and tasks of main stage project and to establish a macro-regional forum of exchange of knowledge and experiences with initiatives that encourage citizens to participate in safety. In the autumn 2014 the second meeting with project partners is planned in Liepāja (Latvia) where the group will discuss functionality of the project, its objectives, tasks and results.

Project “Building urban safety through citizens participation (Citizens for Safety) “ is co-financed by the European Union.

#### 9. Task Force on youth employment and well-being, information on latest activities.

Task Force on youth employment and well-being shall work until the next General Conference in Gdynia in 2015. Its work is based on the UBC General Conference in Mariehamn resolution establishing an international Task Force on youth employment and well-being. The resolution is attached.

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force meeting held in Tampere on 17 March 2014, the TF worked in three groups with the following themes:

- regional goals
- task force themes (youth guarantee, youth unemployment etc.)
- transfer of innovations

The TF members discussed the results and possible further steps.

Participants decided that UBC cities involved in the TF work will provide an overview on challenges, good practices and innovations/new ideas in their cities/regions on following themes, which are based on the original UBC Programme to Promote Youth Employment and Well-being presented at the General Conference in Mariehamn, in October 2013:

- guidance and support
- flexible educational paths
- cooperation between different actors
- participation
- taking special groups into account
- other services that prevent social exclusion

Cities can pick 1-6 of these themes based on their challenges and special interests. Also, they can present, for example, good practices in one theme and challenges in other. Moreover, all participating cities can introduce in their overview a project or development work they are especially proud of.

#### 10. Consolidation process of the UBC Commissions.

The 67<sup>th</sup> UBC Executive Board Meeting held in Kiel on 20 June 2013 discussed the question of consolidation of the Commissions in order to improve the efficiency of the UBC work according to the decision at the General Conference in Kristiansand. Following the Board's decision, its members sent their proposals to the Secretariat by 1 July 2013. Then the Commissions received the proposals for consultations. Several Commissions responded.



The General Conference in Mariehamn, 2-3 October 2013, mandated the Executive Board of UBC to actively continue dialogue on the structure and content of the UBC Commissions and obliged the Executive Board to reach a decision on the issue during the year 2014, so that starting from 1.1. 2015 the UBC shall have between five to seven Commissions which start to be operative from that date. The old Commission structure ceases to be in force on the same date.

The Commissions' leaders were invited to the 69<sup>th</sup> Board meeting in Tampere to discuss how to improve the structure of the commissions. Potential mergers of the Commissions shall improve their effectiveness and thus make their work more relevant to the UBC cities. The discussion revealed various points of view on the contents of the future commissions.

The Board decided to establish a task force to propose the new division of commissions at the Board meeting in autumn 2014. The Board authorized the Presidium to appoint the task force members.

The Presidium appointed small and operative task force consisting of:

Heiki Hansen, City of Elva

Lukas Wedemeyer, City of Kristiansand

Soeren Revsbaek, City of Naestved

Mikko Lohikoski, City of Turku, as chair

Paweł Żaboklicki, authorised ex officio to follow the work

The Commissions are to be consulted by the TF during the working process.

#### 11. New Baltic Sea Region programme 2014-2020.

As part of the European Union's new funding period (2014-2020), the Baltic Sea Region programme is being currently finalized. The public consultation on the Draft Version has been opened till 28 March 2014.

The Baltic Sea Region Programme covers eleven countries, eight of them EU Member States and three partner countries (Belarus, Norway, Russia). The Programme has been interlinked with the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and also, where applicable, the Russian North-West Strategy.

As UBC Member cities are key stakeholders in the Baltic Sea cooperation, and as the Baltic Sea Region Programme is central for funding of our future projects, it was of importance that the UBC and its Member Cities send their comments concerning the Draft Version

The President encouraged member cities to:

- send their own comments on the Draft Programme to the authorities concerned; and
- send their comments and views to the Secretariat

UBC submitted its comments to the Programme authorities through the attached statement.

#### 12. Information on BSR Urban Forum for Smart Cities project (BUF) – update.

As the cities are playing a crucial role in the Baltic Sea Region development, UBC Board has, together with the Baltic Development Forum (BDF) and the City of Turku taken the initiative to prepare a concept for a "Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities".



For this, we have received approval and financial support by the Seed Money Facility of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Baltic Urban Forum concept was launched at the UBC General Conference in Mariehamn and ideas as well as initial concepts were discussed in the initiative group workshop on 19-20 January 2014 in Tartu, Estonia.

More about the Baltic Urban Forum concept development at: <http://smartcitylab.eu/buf/>

13. Information on the programme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and 16<sup>th</sup> Baltic Development Forum Summit, Turku, 3-4 June 2014.

14. Any other business.

14.1 Proposal from the Baltic Ports Organisation on seminars on small & semi-sized ports.

Baltic Ports Organization is organizing seminars on small & semi-sized ports on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September in Bornholm, Denmark. These seminars deal with the two types of small and semi-sized ports. First seminar is addressed to small ports focusing on tourism, yachting, fishery. The second one is addressed for semi-sized ports having more commercial profile (cargo handling). In the Baltic region, local governments (cities, town or communes) play usually an ownership role in these type of smaller ports. Therefore, challenges that these ports are facing recently are also challenges for towns and communes in the region. The seminars are associated with the Baltic Ports Conference that is held on 4-5 of September 2014.

BPO invites UBC to co-operate in organizing these seminars. In general term co-operation between UBC and BPO could mean:

- inviting some speakers from UBC network for the seminars;
- participation of representatives of UBC at these seminars;
- promoting of the events via UBC network.

The intention of the seminars is to initiate the projects between these types of ports that should stimulate the exchange of know-how, increase the management skills and thus contribute to the performance of smaller ports in the Baltic.

14.2 New Baltic Cities Bulletin 'Town twinning in the Baltic Sea Region'.

UBC is the biggest organisation grouping local authorities in the region. The potential is even greater if we add all twin cities within the network and in the whole Baltic Sea Region. The majority of the UBC cities have at least two twin towns, many have even several. This makes our organization a far larger network, with an enormous capabilities. But here many questions come up. Is twinning fully exploited? Is it still relevant in the times when short-term cooperation projects seem to be prevailing? Does it bring any direct benefits to the citizens? Do we need formalized ties with other cities at all? Aren't we a big European and Baltic family yet?

This issue of the Bulletin attempts at addressing all these questions. The cities' stories present the roots of their international relations and their impact on the local development, evoke the touching moments from the past, provide an outlook on the future prospects.

Moreover, the Bulletin brings the information on latest UBC meetings and activities, news from the member cities and more.

15. Next meeting of the Executive Board.

Mentioned above documents are available at:

<http://www.ubc.net/documentation,76,2952.html>