

UBC AGENDA 21 ACTION PROGRAMME 2004-2009

Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities

1. UBC Commitment on Sustainable Development

Sustainable development - balanced democratic, economic, environmental and social development - enables the current human generation to live meaningful and healthy lives without compromising the possibility of future generations to do the same. This is and has always been part of the basic purpose of the Union of the Baltic Cities, as expressed in the Statute of the Union.

The Strategy of the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), as approved by the VII General Conference in Klaipėda, 17-18 October 2003, further commits the UBC to advancing sustainable development. According to the Strategy, the Vision of the UBC includes:

We want to see a dynamic, democratic and stable European Baltic Sea Region in a successful economic, social and environmental development process...

... Our region possesses strong resources: natural, human, institutional, cultural and financial capital. It will be able to renew and increase the capital for the interests of both current and future generations. The resources of our cities shall be utilised in a sustainable way, ensuring a good future for coming generations...

... We want our citizens to live in secure cities with viable local economies, just, peaceful and tolerant communities, and eco-efficiency, united by a clean Baltic Sea...

The UBC Strategy also declares that the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme is an expression of common values of the Baltic Cities, and that the implementation of Sustainable Development and the Agenda 21 Action Programme is part of the basic purpose of the Union and belongs to its Mission.

Furthermore, the strategy also states that democratic development cannot be achieved without gender equality, and that society needs all competence, skills and creativity from the whole population.

The Union of the Baltic Cities and its member cities continuously recognise their responsibility for making our future a sustainable one and commit to undertake all the efforts that this requires.

2. Starting point and challenge

At the moment, the Baltic Sea Region and Baltic Cities are not sustainable. There are numerous environmental, economic and social challenges that need to be tackled in order to reach sustainable development. There are also many positive changes and co-operation processes at all levels in the region, which strongly contribute for the shift to sustainable development. Economic development in the whole region has been favourable, local democracy has been strengthened, and the state of the environment improved in numerous cities. At the same time, the state of the Baltic Sea is alarming, new social problems have been encountered following the rapid political and economic changes, and overall material and energy flows, as well as day-to-day production and consumption in the region are far from sustainable. A strong challenge during the programme period will be the enlargement of the European Union. Through improved co-operation possibilities and legislative framework it is also a great advantage.

In the Baltic Sea Region, some 50 million people live in cities larger than 50.000 inhabitants each, and the urban population to date exceeds 80% of total population. This population creates a heavy environmental burden both in its immediate living environs as well as in a larger area, and many social and economic problems culminate in cities.

Local government is the government level closest to the everyday life of citizens, and cities are the centres for economic, social and cultural livelihood. Local governments also control considerable

amount of resources, which should be increasingly mobilised for sustainable development. Cities and other local level actors have a huge potential in turning our common future into a sustainable one.

During 2000-2003, the UBC has been successfully implementing its Agenda 21 Action Programme. Almost all UBC member cities are currently implementing their own local Agenda 21 action programmes, and the UBC has become the most important source of working models and good practices on sustainable development to its members. Following this success, and building on the current needs of Baltic cities, as well as on Baltic Sea Regional, European and Global policy developments, the UBC is now committing to a new sustainable development action programme for the years 2004-2009. The emphasis of this new programme will be on implementation of concrete sustainable development actions in the cities.

Since the Rio World Summit on Environment and Development (1992), Local Agenda 21 has been on main focus as a tool and process in cities to create sustainable development. Agenda 21, the main document resulting from the Rio Conference, challenges (Chapter 28) local authorities world-wide to create their own local Agenda 21 processes. Since 1992, over 4000 municipalities in Europe have worked on their own local Sustainable Development processes and adopted local sustainable development action programmes. About half of these processes have been carried out by the cities of the Baltic Sea Region.

Many of the implemented local Agenda 21 processes have lead to considerable environmental and other sustainable development impacts in the cities. This is the case especially when local Agenda 21 is implemented with sufficient resources and time-span. Many Baltic Cities have also integrated sustainable development goals and processes into their overall city strategies.

Following the partial success of Local Agenda 21, and recognising the Global urge for faster and more wide-spread implementation, the Local Government Session on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002) endorsed the new working concept Local Action 21. Local Action 21 is accelerated implementation of Local Agenda 21 by putting emphasis on concrete sustainable development actions as well as further mainstreaming and integrating sustainable development. This concept has been expressed and defined in the Johannesburg Call of Local Authorities. As Local Action 21 also meets the current needs and challenges of Baltic cities, the UBC endorses it and shares the concerns, visions and approaches of World's Local Governments as expressed in the Johannesburg Call.

In Europe, the implementation of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, as well as the implementation of regional and national sustainable development strategies, needs to be accelerated. Strong emphasis needs to be put on the involvement of local governments. The UBC welcomes the Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the European Union, especially the Thematic Urban Strategy, gives its continued support to the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign and its strategic documents, as well as to the Agenda 21 of the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21) and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). These policy frameworks and co-operation processes continue to provide good basis for advancing sustainable urban development in Europe and in the Baltic Sea Region.

Inspired and supported by these co-operation processes and policies, and building on good continued co-operation with other local government organisations, stakeholders and partners in the Baltic Sea Region, Europe and other parts of Planet Earth, the UBC is well placed to proceed further in its efforts towards sustainable development.

For our guidance in that work, we have designed the Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. Our main challenge will be to implement concrete actions with concrete and large impacts on sustainable development.

3. Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities

3.1. Our objective and approach

The overall objective of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 is sustainable development in Baltic Cities. In order to reach the overall objective, the Union of the Baltic Cities has set itself five thematic goals / focus areas. During 2004-2009 the UBC and its member cities will work to implement:

1. Good governance and sustainable urban management
2. Sustainable use of energy and resources
3. Good living environment and nature protection
4. Sustainable economy and transport
5. Social integration and health.

To work on each of these focus areas the UBC will implement a number of projects and utilise its regular network activities such as exchange of good practices and policy liaison. Utilising our strong network, emphasis will also be put on innovative development of new services and activities. The largest “toolbox” to be applied will be the projects. They will mobilise the majority of member cities and several other partners, and will altogether cost approximately 8 Million euros.

The progress on the five goals will be monitored three times during the Programme period. Altogether 24 indicators have been defined to reflect the progress made under each task. First monitoring will be carried out in 2004, interim one in 2006-2007 and final one in 2009.

In the following chapter, the five thematic goals – our road-signs to sustainability – will be briefly introduced. And following that, more information will be given on the activities and methods for the implementation, as well as on the monitoring plan and indicators.

3.2. Good governance and sustainable urban management

A critical factor for successful long-term process to implement sustainable development in a city is the integration of sustainable development into the overall strategies and goals of the city. This is a crucial step of good governance and urban management aiming at sustainable development.

There is no way cities could reach sustainable development working on their own. Good governance aims at involving citizens and stakeholders in the sustainable development process – including all the generations and social groups. It increases fruitful co-operation and integrated approaches between different sectors and units of municipal administration, as well as between different levels of administration and government. Openness, transparency, co-operation, partnerships and access to information are examples of its elements. An enabling factor for good governance is culture of co-operation.

Sustainable urban management utilises different management systems and tools like EMAS, indicators and reporting, as well as takes into use green procurement principles and other tools available for making the city more sustainable by means of management.

Good governance and sustainability management are crucial for organising and enabling the cities’ own activities to become more sustainable as well as for enabling the city to mobilise citizens, companies and other stakeholder to co-operate for sustainable development. When properly implemented, they make permanent change for local sustainable development possible and greatly contribute to improving the city’s environmental performance.

To implement good governance and sustainable urban management in Baltic Cities, the UBC will:

- Promote sustainable development principles for local politicians and decision-makers in order to facilitate integration of sustainable development into strategic goals of cities,

- Promote participation, partnerships, transparency, integration and other elements of good governance,
- Study and build capacities for culture of co-operation,
- Promote and build capacities for environmental management systems,
- Promote green procurement and accounting,
- Contribute to development and dissemination of sustainability indicators for cities, and
- Continue to promote local Agenda 21.

3.3. Sustainable use of energy and resources

Energy and resources are core factors of sustainable development on all levels. Cities have power over many decisions and plans of energy-usage and control considerable resources. Strong change in favour of renewable energy is critical for sustainability, and the Baltic Sea region has good natural potential for this.

The material and energy intensity of the current way of life in Europe is unsustainable and needs to be addressed by the Baltic Cities. Sustainable production and consumption are essential in this regard. They are also issues that cities can influence both directly in their functions as well as by awareness-raising towards citizens, businesses and other stakeholders.

Our cities have considerable responsibilities over heating and electricity in their territories. Many of them also possess means to affect energy production. They also organise waste management, and have means to affect waste generation and re-usage of materials. Water is one very important resource that is organised and provided by municipalities, and city planning controls large areas of land.

To implement sustainable use of energy and resources in Baltic Cities, the UBC will:

- Promote sustainable energy policies and practices,
- Build capacities for good waste management, re-cycling and composting,
- Promote eco-efficiency,
- Encourage cities to implement and raise awareness on sustainable production and consumption,
- Build capacities and promote sustainable land-use, and
- Raise awareness and build capacities on water management.

3.4. Good living environment and nature protection

Good environment is the pre-condition of life on Earth. Ecological impacts are of major importance for sustainable development strategies of cities. In cities, the environment is both an everyday enabler and venue of human existence and a venue for other forms of life.

Cities have great influence on the everyday living environment of their citizens and possess considerable means to affect the state of the nature. Good city planning is crucial. Air quality is one important thing that cities monitor and are in charge of. Green areas and nature protection contribute to wellbeing of humans as well as to preserving nature and maintaining bio-diversity.

Cities do have possibilities to affect emissions and pollution. Efficient collection of hazardous waste, good waste management and wastewater management are examples of issue where the cities play a major role. Clean soils and waters are important for the success of any city.

To strengthen good living environment and nature protection in Baltic Cities, the UBC will:

- Build capacities for sustainable city planning,
- Raise awareness on nature protection and bio-diversity in cities and towns,
- Promote sustainable land-use and urban green areas,
- Promote and build capacities for good air management and air quality monitoring,

- Raise awareness and organise exchange on waste water treatment, and
- Build capacities on management of hazardous waste.

3.5. Sustainable economy and transport

One of the central goals of local sustainable development is viable local economy. Balanced economic development is an important enabling factor for the environmental and social aspects of sustainable development. The Baltic Cities consider eco-efficiency and greening of economic activities to play key role in the future wellbeing of Baltic Sea Region and Europe.

Transport is a burning sustainability issue on European level. In cities, mobility is a pre-condition for various key functions of the urban system. At the same time, traffic is a source of big spatial, social and environmental problems. In Baltic Cities, traffic and transport planning and arrangements are extremely important for the urban environment, day-to-day wellbeing of citizens as well as for economic livelihood. This is the case both for mobility within cities as well as for cargo and travel over longer distances. During the recent decade, many Baltic cities have experienced large increase in usage of private cars. At the same time, many of our cities have created and implemented new more sustainable transport solutions. Such innovative solutions and de-coupling of economic growth and increase of transport is increasingly important.

To build viable local economies and make transport and mobility more sustainable in Baltic Cities, the UBC will:

- Continue the work on business co-operation between its members,
- Introduce topics with interrelation of economy, environment and transport,
- Raise awareness and build capacities for sustainable transport and mobility,
- Spread information on good implemented transport solutions, and
- Work on sustainable port policy to be adopted in all port cities of the Baltic Sea.

3.6. Social integration and health.

In order to address social challenges in its member cities, the Union of the Baltic Cities has adopted the UBC Social Charter (VI General Conference, October 2001). The charter expresses the aspirations of the Union in strengthening balanced social development in the Baltic Cities. The implementation of the charter is co-ordinated by the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs.

On global level, social issues like poverty and exclusion are at the core of unsustainable development and state of affairs. Social wellbeing and health are also strongly inter-linked. Social exclusion and poverty correlate remarkably with increased health risks.

In city level, work for better health is crucially linked with work for sustainable development. Making cities healthier also means making them more sustainable. People who have a stake in the society, as opposed to being excluded, have higher motivation and better possibilities to influence sustainable development.

Gender equality is one of the issues strongly present in Agenda 21. It is a cross-cutting challenge that is relevant to all fields of this Programme.

UBC cities are responsible for many sport and cultural functions. These functions are very important also for the health and social well-being of the cities.

In order to increase social integration and make Baltic Cities healthier, the UBC will:

- Strengthen and monitor the implementation of the UBC Social Charter,
- Introduce sustainability issues and links in the commissions on sport and culture,
- Strengthen the work of the UBC Women's Network and Youth Network,
- Co-operate strongly with WHO Centre for Urban Health and the Healthy Cities movement,
- Promote equal involvement of men and women in municipal decision-making, and

- Raise awareness and promote social sustainability and urban health and their inter-linkage.

4. Activities, methods and tools

4.1. What can the UBC do?

The main strength of the Union of the Baltic Cities are its active members that make the network active, useful and efficient for all its members. Other remarkable strengths are the effective decentralised organisation, good contact surface for partnerships and political liaison, and proven performance in running strategic sustainable development programmes and projects, as well as the large resources of know-how and experiences available in the member cities. By fully utilising all these strengths – mobilising our whole potential – we are in a wonderful position to create permanent change for sustainable development in our cities and region.

During the programme period, we will work through three basic types of activities. We will:

- mobilise our whole network organisation and its basic services to promote and raise awareness, study and analyse, and build city partnerships for sustainable development actions,
- build partnerships and synergy with other organisations and contribute to Baltic Sea Regional and European policies and co-operation processes on sustainable development, and
- implement co-operation projects on sustainable development.

The projects are our largest undertaking and are expected to have the biggest impact with regard to the themes of the programme. However, these three types of activities are inter-related and will be implemented in good synergy with each other. In the following, they will be briefly introduced one by one.

4.2. Mobilising the network

The UBC is a very successful network of cities. During its activity since 1991, the amount of members has more than tripled and the activities have continuously developed. This network provides plenty of channels to advance sustainable development. The largest potential to address the themes of our Sustainability Roadmap is in the thematic commissions, as they deal with practical co-operation between the member cities and provide access to large numbers of leaders, experts and practitioners in all Baltic Cities.

During the programme period, special emphasis will be put on the involvement of all UBC commissions and networks. A strong role will be played for example by the commissions on environment, health and social affairs, transport, and urban planning, as well as by Women's and Youth networks. One important activity will be also the monitoring of the UBC Social Charter, carried out by the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. All UBC commissions organise meetings and exchange of information and experiences. Many also run projects, produce publications and use web-sites and other e-communication. These regular services and activities provide an excellent channel for awareness raising and promotion of sustainable development actions. During the programme period, they will be extensively used and mobilised for this.

Sharing of problems, experiences and solutions plays a central role. Exchange of good practices is one of the most powerful activities that a network of cities can undertake. The UBC is aiming at fully mobilising its potential to provide learning opportunities for its members. Our more than 100 member cities provide plenty of excellent implemented practices to learn about. Such examples have a great demonstration value – they show what is possible to do in the cities. In parallel with good practice activities, the UBC will also regularly work on other demonstration techniques, like environmental information centres aiming at capacity-building through practical on-site learning, new ecological technology, etc.

4.3. Partnerships and policies

The UBC wants to be “an open house” on sustainable urban development. All members as well as external partners and stakeholders are welcomed to join in our effort of making Baltic Cities sustainable. At the same time, we are willing to contribute to Baltic Sea Regional, European and Global partnerships and co-operation processes to advance sustainable development. Our conviction is that such an Open House approach is critical for bringing about a long-term change for sustainability. In applying it we are implementing principles of good governance to our own work.

UBC is currently contributing to several important co-operation processes on sustainable development. These include the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, EU working groups on different aspects of sustainable development, Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21) and the Baltic Sea Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). At the same time, through our involvement in these processes as well as through partnerships in projects and other activities, we are co-operating in good synergy with a considerable number of partner organisations, i.e., other local government networks and organisations advancing sustainable development.

This co-operation is very fruitful, and we will continue it during the programme period with the aim to identify and engage also new partners with good capacities to contribute on the themes of our programme. We will also carry on the work in the Campaign, in the EU forums, Baltic 21 and HELCOM, with the aim of actively developing these processes and representing the points of view of local governments of the Baltic Sea Region.

4.4. Implementing projects

Projects are the largest set of actions to be launched for the implementation of this action programme. Our strong network with its active members, the Open House of partnerships, our good capacities, experiences and results in implementing projects, as well as the trust and continuous support of co-financing organisations make the UBC extremely well placed to implement effective projects on sustainable development.

During the programme period, we will seek to fully mobilise this potential and implement a considerable number of projects addressing all the themes of the programme. This is the most effective action that we can take to advance our objective of sustainable development in Baltic Cities and implement the five thematic goals of our programme:

1. good governance and sustainable urban management,
2. sustainable use of energy and resources,
3. good living environment and nature protection,
4. sustainable economy and transport, and
5. social integration and health.

Each of the projects will be addressing one or several of these thematic focus areas of the programme. The total budget of the projects to be implemented during the programme period is foreseen to be approximately eight million euros.

The projects will seek to utilise the experiences of our members, the expertise of our partners, the potential of our network and the funding instruments available. All the projects will be network projects: they will benefit wide amounts of member cities – either directly or through dissemination of pilot cases. The methods of the projects include capacity-building, evaluation and benchmarking, exchange and dissemination of good practice, research and development of pilot models, and policy development.

4.5. Table of projects

In the table below, the planned and on-going projects of the first cycle (2004-2006) of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 are briefly introduced. The table is based on current situation and will be up-dated as new project proposals will be designed and new projects started.

All the projects contribute to the implementation of the thematic goals of our roadmap, as indicated below. Many of these projects we are also carrying out in co-operation with other organisations working for sustainable development. Brief information on these partnerships is included in the right-side column. Most of these projects are co-ordinated by the UBC, however, please, note, that in some cases the project may also be co-ordinated by the other partner (as indicated below). For most of the projects, all of the indicated funding (budget) has been secured on the date of adoption of this programme by the VII UBC General Conference, but in some cases the final commitment of the co-funders may still be pending.

UBC Agenda 21 Projects (as of October 2003)

Project Title & Timing	Content in brief	Co-funders Budget in Programme period Partners
EMAS Peer Review for Cities 2003-2004	Developing in co-operation the environmental management system of 16 European cities (of which nine are UBC members)	European Commission DG Environment and Finnish Ministry of the Environment 350.000 € (for 2004) Eurocities, University of West England and City of Newcastle
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management; Sustainable use of energy and resources		
TBestC Transferring Best Environmental Solutions between Towns and Cities 2003-2004	Transferring good practices between 10 UBC member cities and co-operating with U.S. experts and cities	Nordic Council of Ministers and Finnish Ministry of the Environment 75.000 € (for 2004) U.S. Baltic Sea Regional Environmental Office and ECAT Lithuania
Programme themes addressed: Sustainable use of energy and resources; Good living environment and nature protection; Sustainable economy and transport		
Bridge Bridging the civil society with sustainable management of cities in the Accession countries of the Baltic Sea Region 2003-2005	Developing Good Governance in several UBC member cities in the Baltic States and Poland (cities not chosen yet)	European Commission DG Environment 610.000 € (2004-2005) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Grid Arendal), and Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management; Sustainable use of energy and resources		
New Hansa for Sustainable Ports and Cities 2003-2005	Developing ports' environmental and sustainable development policies and practices in co-operation between 16 ports and port cities (all of which are UBC members)	Interreg III B Finnish Ministry of the Environment Total budget M€ 1.5, of which 50% from Interreg III B) (2004-2005) City of Lübeck (coordinator), participating ports and cities, and

		University of Turku Centre for Maritime Research
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management; Sustainable use of energy and resources; Good living environment and nature protection; Sustainable economy and transport; Social integration and health		
Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF) 2004-2006	To establish a series of Best Practices and demonstration projects regarding ten themes of Sustainable development, through co-operation of 20 cities and a number of scholars in the region.	BSR Interreg III B 2003-2006, 900.000 € Baltic University Programme, lead partner Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management; Sustainable use of energy and resources; Good living environment and nature protection; Sustainable economy and transport; Social integration and health		
Alliance of Baltic Cities (ABC) 2003-2005	The project is addressing city planning issues in 27 cities in the Baltic Sea Region. Issues tackled include eg. developed urban management, cities as regional engines, and renewal of city districts.	BSR Interreg III B 2003-2006 255.957 € Co-ordinated by the UBC Commission on Urban Planning
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management; Good living environment and nature protection; Sustainable economy and transport; Social integration and health		
RELATE 2003-2005	Developing Local Action 21 tools in co-operation with 16 European cities (half of which UBC members) – themes include viable local economies, eco-efficiency and just and peaceful local communities	European Commission DG Environment 250.000 € for UBC (total EU-funding 520.000 €) ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, coordinator)
Programme themes addressed: Good governance and sustainable urban management – Sustainable use of energy and resources – Good living environment and nature protection – Sustainable economy and transport – Social integration and health		
Partnership with Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation (LVRLAC)	Co-operation on development of the LVRLAC organisation and development of environmental and sustainable development techniques and demonstrations in Lake Victoria Region	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
Global partnership – awareness-raising effect in Baltic Cities and addressing several of the themes and aiming at large impact on Lake Victoria Region		
Adriatic Action Plan 2020 (AAP2020) 2003-2006	Co-operation on development of the Adriatic sustainable development action programme and its co-ordination, monitoring and management	Interreg III C
Baltic-Mediterranean partnership – no direct effect in Baltic Cities foreseen yet, but good basis for mutual learning and impacts in longer term		

5. Monitoring progress – indicators of the Programme

5.1. Monitoring arrangements

In order to monitor the success of this action programme and the state of sustainable development in the member cities, the UBC will during the programme period 2004-2009 carry out three assessments. The first one will be carried out in 2004, interim one in 2006-2007, and the final one in 2009. The purpose of these monitoring rounds will be to get overall information of the state of affairs and the trends on the level of all UBC members. For making this possible with the resources available, the indicators to be chosen will be as uncomplicated to use as possible, and will be largely based on existing data readily available in most cities. This pragmatic choice means that the chosen indicators may not give the most correct or whole picture of affairs in one single city. However, they will allow for cost-efficient monitoring on Baltic Sea Regional level.

It should also be noted that in addition to monitoring its own Agenda 21 Action Programme and the state of affairs in its member cities, the UBC will continue to contribute actively to different other initiatives for development of indicator systems for monitoring urban sustainability.

In order to monitor the impact of UBC activities on the implementation of the Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities in the cities, a specific set of questions will be prepared for the cities and linked with the thematic indicators.

5.2. Table of indicators

Below is a preliminary table of indicators intended for the monitoring. The indicators have been organised according to the themes of the Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. In the following, they are presented theme by theme. Further development of this set of indicators will take place during the programme period.

UBC Agenda 21 Indicators (as of October 2003)

Sustainable Management and Good Governance of Cities	
1.	Green procurement in member cities – share of cities that are implementing (in pilot units, in several departments or in all of their procurement).
2.	Green accounts (environmental balance sheet or similar practices) – share of cities that are implementing (in pilot units or in several departments).
3.	Use of Environmental Management Systems (EMAS or other) – share of cities that are implementing (in pilot units or in several departments).
4.	Local Agenda 21, participation and co-operation – share of cities that are implementing Local Agenda 21 or have integrated it into their overall strategy (additional indicators for participation and co-operation will be developed).
Sustainable Use of Energy and Resources	
1.	Energy consumption per capita – in the whole city.
2.	Share of renewable energy – as used in the municipal functions (and, if available, in the whole consumption in the city).
3.	Amount of waste per capita – in the whole city.
4.	Share of recycling and composting – in the whole city / municipal waste management.
5.	Water consumption per capita – in the whole city.
Good Living Environment and Nature Protection	
1.	Outdoor air quality – annual and/or seasonal share of days with good air quality.
2.	Waste water treatment share and performance – how large share is treated and how good are the treatment results, to what extent is urine collected.
3.	Toxic waste collected – share and amount.
4.	Share of protected nature areas – of municipal land area.

5. Share of greenery – of municipal land area.
Sustainable Economy and Transport
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployment rate – in the whole city. 2. Modal split of transport in commuting – in the whole city. 3. Share of pedestrian area, cycle paths and lanes – of all roads and streets. 4. Investments to public transport – share of total traffic investments of the city. 5. Adoption of sustainable port policy – number of cities that have signed the Memorandum of Sustainable Baltic Ports, special indicator for port cities.
Social Integration and Health
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voting rate in local elections 2. Share of women in city board 3. Poverty – share of poor people in the city 4. Health services availability – availability of basic health services and share of people excluded (or with hindered access) from them in practice 5. Life expectancy – average in the whole city.
Impact of UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For specific monitoring of the impact of the programme, a set of questions will be prepared, with the intention to analyse: 2. Reception of good practices and working models by the member cities on each of the five thematic areas – how effective channel has the UBC been? 3. Impact of the different projects on the activities in the cities on each of the five thematic areas – to be included both in the programme assessments as well as in the evaluations of the respective projects. 4. Participation of the member cities in the different UBC Agenda 21 activities and their perception of the usefulness and impact of these activities. 5. Evaluation of our policy impacts – to be carried out by self-evaluation of the involved representatives of the UBC – maybe to include also assessment by selected partner organisations.

6. Organising of work

6.1. The Programme cycles

The UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 will be implemented in two periodical cycles. These two programme cycles consist of planning, implementation, evaluation, further development and follow-up.

The implementation will start following the decision of the VII UBC General Conference, the firsts programme assessment (analysis of starting levels) will be carried out in 2004 and progress will be reported to the VIII General Conference in 2005. The first cycle will end at the interim programme assessment in 2006-2007.

The results of the interim assessment will provide input to further development of the programme and maybe already for longer-term planning also beyond the program period. The programme will be continuously adjusted and up-dated on the level of projects, but the interim evaluation is expected – if need be – to give input for larger adjustments and follow-up planning.

The second programme cycle will start after the interim evaluation. Possible remarkable alterations and further developments of the programme will then be introduced at the IX General Conference in 2007. The second cycle will finalise with the final assessment and reporting to the 10th General Conference in 2009, and planning of follow-up and future activities, possibly new strategy and action programme to be prepared for the adoption of the 10th General Conference.

6.2. Responsibilities and co-ordination of implementation

The UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 is a strategic programme of the UBC, aiming at implementation of the UBC strategy with regard to sustainable development. The main responsibility for its implementation between the general conferences is in the Executive Board and Presidium.

Practical responsibility for implementing actions, fund-raising and contributing to the programme is in all UBC bodies as well as in all member cities. Successful implementation requires a concerted effort of the whole network and its members. The commissions, networks and the UBC Agenda 21 Working Group will provide for venues to discuss and report on the implementation, create new approaches and ideas, as well as partnerships for new projects.

For the co-ordination and management of the programme, the UBC will utilise its Commission on Environment (EnvCom) Secretariat. The EnvCom Secretariat will be the programme agency responsible for planning, evaluation, co-ordination, management and reporting. It will also carry out fund-raising, be responsible for liaison with external partners and for representing the UBC in Sustainable Development co-operation processes. On the implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme and on the responsibilities related to this, the EnvCom Secretariat will report directly to the Executive Board and Presidium.

6.3. Funding

The total foreseen budget of the programme is 8-10 million euros. 7-8 M€ will be spent on projects and 1-2 M€ will be spent in the other activities. The UBC and its member cities and other partners will contribute core resources for the different projects and basic network activities. Most of the funding will come from different EU funding instruments. Nordic Council of Ministers, National Ministries and agencies, as well as other sources of funding available for sustainable development activities in the Baltic Sea Region will also be very important for the programme implementation. 3,8 M€ of the funding is already allocated to the different projects (see table in chapter 4.5 for more detailed information).

The programme agency (UBC EnvCom Secretariat) will be hosted for the whole programme period by the City of Turku. The city will provide for the secretariat basic funding, venue, as well as basic technical, financial and administrative services. The UBC shall also allocate annually funds to support the co-ordination.