

REPORTS AND ACTION PLANS OF THE UBC COMMISSIONS

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COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

ACTIVITY REPORT MAY 2010 – OCTOBER 2011

1. Commission meetings

The first meeting was held in Kolding in February 2010. It was decided, that the main focus of the Commission's work shall be on the topics Marketing BSR, Science Parks and reactivation of the Commission.

A second meeting was held in November 2010 in the science park Sophia Antipolis in Southern France. The meeting started with a presentation and a guided bus tour through the park. Formed and commercialised in 1969 the creation of the scientific park was extended thanks to the maintained will of active forces of the Alpes-Maritimes department, of the State, of the PACA region as well as the 5 initial communes (Biot, Valbonne, Mougins, Vallauris and Antibes) of whose terrain forms the 2 400 hectares. Today, there are more than 1 400 corporate names, and around 14 000 engineers, 7000 researchers and 5000 students. A discussion with Jean-Noel Durvy, Director, Fondation Sophia Antipolis and local entrepreneurs rounded up the first part.

Subsequently, there was a company visit, including a meeting with Pascal Barbry, Director of IPMC. Founded by Professor Michel Lazdunski in 1989 at Sophia Antipolis Science Park, the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology. (IPMC) is a joint research unit (UMR 6097) formed between the National Centre of Scientific Research and the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis (UNSA). The site consists of two buildings totalling 7,600 square meters. The IPMC currently accommodates 19 research teams and was ranked A+ by national authorities during its last assessment (2007).

In a meeting with Team Cote d'Azur, the Promotion and Economic Development Agency of French Riviera and Sophia Antipolis, there was the chance to inform about the market and the marketing efforts at French Riviera. Created in 1983 (formerly under the name of Côte d'Azur Development), it is a joint initiative of the Alpes-Maritimes county council and the French Riviera Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Its mission is to promote the Côte d'Azur territory towards international markets and help foreign companies establish themselves successfully in the region.

In spring 2011 we had a meeting in Kolding. It was decided, that the main focus of the Commissions' work for 2011 should be on the topics Science Parks.

Business Kolding participated in UBC XI General Conference 5-7th October 2011 in Liepāja.

Participants from Kolding:

Lone Leth Larsen, Head of Cultural Department, Municipality of Kolding

Jesper Vestergård Hansen, Head of Industry and Trade, Business Kolding

- Commission on Business was organizing a workshop "How to strengthen economic attractiveness of cities"
- Local business development - the Chinese way, Liang Hong, Vice-chairperson of Hefei People's Congress, China
A delgation from Hefei has already visited the Municipality of Kolding.
- Competitiveness of a city, strategy planning, Tomasz J. Kayser, Deputy Mayor of Poznań

- City branding & design, Lone Leth Larsen, Municipality of Kolding

2. Projects

BalMet Promo

BizCom has become a partner of the EU Funding Project “BaltMet Promo” and is member of the Policy Making Group. In this aspect, two meetings were attended. BaltMet Promo pilots joint marketing of the Baltic Sea Region in 2010-2012 with a budget of 2,8 MEUR, co-financed by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme. The project is coordinated by the City of Helsinki. The project aligns horizontal activities of the EU Strategy for the BSR related to the identity building and marketing of the region.

BaltMet Promo promotes the entire Baltic Sea Region globally and strengthens the BSR identity both at home and abroad by:

- jointly designing and selling BSR services and products for tourists, talents and investors
- mapping branding initiatives and encouraging policy dialogue on BSR branding
- testing a method on how to do collaborative place promotion for a macroregion and
- transferring the working method during the next project phase to other target markets and subject matters.

By joining together both public and private actors, the project brings forth Region’s strengths as a tourist, talent and investment destination. The development of concrete pilot products will be founded on solid research of the relevant markets.

Round Table – Subsidised Jobs in Europe

The UBC Member City Tallinn and the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation organised a joint roundtable on “Subsidised jobs in Europe – ideology, legislation and practise” on April 29th in Tallinn. The purpose of this meeting was to collect expertise about emergency measures to fight unemployment in different European cities.

The seminar started with an introduction by the Mayor of Tallin, Edgar Savisaar and the Chairman of the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation, Wolfgang Schmidt. Additionally, a presentation was given by Mihails Hazans from the University of Latvia and IZA, an expert on this field. Truman Packard, Lead Economist of the World Bank presented the international perspective of the topic. The EU perspective was commented on by Franz Pointner, Deputy Head of Unit, ESF Monitoring of Corresponding National Policies in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Latvia. The roundtable gave the chance to learn from the experience of different European cities. In detail, presentations were given by the Cities of London, Berlin, Riga, Malmö, Bilbao, Kemi, Vaasa, Vantaa and Narva. In the evening, the participants had the opportunity to follow up the discussion and broaden new contacts during a reception by the City of Tallinn and the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation in the historical Town Hall of Tallinn.

Kick-Off Promote young entrepreneurs

BizCom is working with the Flagship Project “Promote with young entrepreneurs”. The kick-off meeting was attended.

Workshop: The network of the harbours cities

On request of the Association of Municipalities of the North Tyrrhenian Sea, the Commission’s Chairman held a presentation about the work of the UBC in general and the Business Commission in special.

The UCAT project intends to create a stable association of Municipalities of the North Tyrrhenian Sea, which, through the promotion of joined politics and the exchange of best practices among the centres of the cross border area, is able to improve the quality and the access to the urban public services for citizens and enterprises.

The city networks and the institutional-transnational networks are one of the most remarkable challenges and opportunities of the next European future. To face these challenges the Maritime OP has developed a priority axis which favours the sharing of the relevant resources belonging to the different networks of the area in order to increase the competitiveness of the cross border zone. On the base of these cohesive processes, the cities (true heart of the economic competitiveness and social quality of the cross border system) can promote real politics of common investments aiming to qualify and to promote the growth and the sustainable development of the cross border area UCAT has been developed in order to initiate the establishment of this institutional network able to exploit these opportunities and challenges of development. UCAT will use the projet resources to implement the first and decisive processes of cohesion.

3. Cooperation with other commissions

Commission on Information Society

UBC Executive Board at the 60th meeting in Lahti, 11 March 2011, made a decision about merger of the Commission on Business Cooperation and the Commission on Information Society. The name of the Commission is "Business Commission".

Commission on Education

In September 2010, the Chairman attended the meeting of the Commission on Education in Tallinn. The work of the Business Commission was presented and possible fields of cooperation discussed.

4. Cooperation on Science Parks and promotion of UBC

During the 28th World Conference on Science and Technology parks the Union of the Baltic Cities invited to a sub-meeting in Copenhagen on 22 June 2011.

The objective of the meeting was to create a network that would strengthen the cooperation between science parks in the UBC Countries. Companies would benefit from this through increased focus on trade between til UBC countries, better opportunities for the creation of new businesses, common application for business projects etc.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting, as only very few had shown interest in participating.

13 October 2011 Bjarke Wolmar met with MD of Sophia Antipolis Jean-Noël Durvy to discuss potential co-operation on Science Parks in preperation of the conference in Kolding April 2012. Also the meeting discussed potential cooperation with the Mediterranean union.

The discussion on the Mediterranean union was very short since the Arabic revolutions has changed the setting somewhat and the past partners were no longer there. Thus, this will have to be on the agenda in a years time from now.

Bjarke Wolmar was invited as speaker for the conference on Clusters on the 17th November in Sophia Antipolis. The topic will be international cooperation.

Jean-Noël Durvy accepted the invitation as a speaker for the conference in Kolding. He would also be willing to provide input for the conference and co-operate on the establishment of the conference

through his network.

In the meeting Søren Kofoed and Gustaf Nobel participated as well. They will also participate in the conference in Kolding. Gustaf Nobel will be a speaker. He is currently preparing establishment of a new foundation on sustainability.

On October 24th and 25th we participated in the annual general meeting of Baltic Development Forum. The annual general meeting was held in Gdańsk, and we would like to strengthen the co-operation with Baltic Development Forum.

5. Collaboration in EU-projects

Business Kolding is a very active partner in the Baltic Supply project, which purpose is to strengthen the trade between the Baltic Countries. In the Baltic Supply project we work closely together with EEN – European Enterprise Network – and we do benefit a lot of the network, that we have obtained by being a part of UBC, and UBC benefit from the network, that we obtain from being involved in the Baltic Supply project. Through the Baltic Supply project we have been able to create contacts and co-operation between the University of South Denmark, Riga and Kiel.

The Commission is still a network partner in the “User-Driven Innovation Project”. The Project is running and the aim of the project is to gain improved knowledge through active participation and to ensure that information is available to the UBC member cities.

ACTION PLAN 2012

In 2012 the Business Commission will focus its activities in the following areas:

- Network of Science Parks
- Place Marketing
- Commissions Meetings

Network of Science Parks

The objective of this activity is to link the science parks in the UBC together and also create connections to the outside world. This will become increasingly important as the “low knowledge jobs” within the UBC region will continue to be exported to countries like India and China. The fruitful cooperation with Sophia Antipolis shall be continued and brought into a cooperation agreement.

Place Marketing

Global competition for export markets, capital and business locations make targeted profiling and national and international positioning of individual business locations within the UBC an absolute necessity. This is true particularly given the increasing mobility of workers and businesses, the increasing internationalisation of the economy, and the increasing rapidity of structural change towards knowledge economies. With the involvement of further experts from business and science, recommendations for further action will be prepared and set out in. All the countries in the UBC can benefit of a shared promotion and visibility to the outside. With this initiative the Business Commission wishes to promote contacts and information to all UBC member cities about chosen regions in Europe.

Commissions Meetings

Collaboration, networking and mutual understanding of the topics and opportunities is crucial for success. Therefore, at least one conference and one meeting will be arranged. In April 2012 there will be a conference on Science Parks in Kolding. In autumn 2012 there will be a meeting on Place Marketing.

Bjarke Wolmar
Business Kolding

Wolfgang Schmidt
City of Kiel

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

The 13th Annual Working Session was successfully realized by the City of Turku, department of Culture 22-25 September 2009 on the theme “The Cultural Dimension of Baltic cooperation – Developing Creative Industries” with 7 lecturers and speakers. The session gathered together 20 participants from 8 countries and from 10 cities.

The 14th Annual Working Session was hosted by the City of Umeå 22-23 October 2010 on the theme “The Role of Culture in Cityplanning” with 9 lectures and speakers. The session gathered together 29 participants from 6 countries and from 15 cities.

The Board of the Commission met in Tallinn 22-24 April 2010, in Umeå on 22-23 October 2010 and in Vilnius 14-16 April 2011. In Tallinn the CoC board met Programme Director Jaanus Rohumaa and Administrative Director Elena Natale from SA Tallinn 2011 who gave an overview of Tallinn 2011 programme. In Umeå Artistic Director Fredrik Lindegren and planning officers from different departments of the city administration gave an overview of the plans for the year 2014 when Umeå is going to be the European Capital of Culture. In Vilnius the board reflected with the officers from the Vilnius City Culture and Art Division and International division the experience of the past the European Capital of Culture 2009. In the closed board meetings the board discussed among other things the rules of the next election of the CoC board, budget, project plans for the future and decided about the winner of the UBC Cultural Prize.

The UBC Executive Board had a meeting in Lahti 11 March 2011, where the Activity Report October 2009 – September 2010 of CoC was presented.

CoC supported “**The Day of Culture**”, which is deeply related to the Pact of Peace established by Nicholas Roerich in 1929 and held every year 15 April, by spreading information about it and giving the right to use the name of UBC Commission on Culture in this connection. The chairperson of CoC gave commission’s greetings in the opening ceremony of the Day of Culture in Lithuanian parliament Seimas 15 April 2011.

In connection to the Day of Culture 15-16 April 2011 an international conference “**M. K. Chiurlionis and the Spice of Culture**” was organized in Vilnius and Kaunas where the CoC board participated.

CoC's contribution was also asked in the seminar held in M. K. Chiurlionis museum in Kaunas. Contacts with the International Association Peace through Culture were made during the conference.

The Festival of the Baltic Cities was held in St. Petersburg 11-13 June 2010. The main focus of the festival was drama. The city of Turku hosted the festival 13-19 May 2011 when the performing arts month was going on.

In connection to the Festival of Baltic Cities in Turku an **idea café** on a theme of European Capital of Culture was held on 14 May in Turku City Theatre. The director of culture of Turku Minna Sartes, the General Secretary of the Regional Arts Council of South-West Finland Henri Terho and the Director of Turku City Theatre gave an overview how planning process of the European Capital of Culture had been taken care of. The idea café gathered together 15 participants from Finland and Poland.

The UBC Commission on Culture has been given out **the UBC Cultural Prize** since 2006. The idea is that the board of CoC invites the cities to candidate for the prize once a year and that the prize has a special theme each year. This year's theme was "Multicultural dialog". There were ten applications from five countries; Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. When choosing the candidate for the prize, the board of the Commission on Culture wanted to stress especially the Baltic dimension of the cultural activity. The prize of the year 2010 was given to Liepāja City Culture Department. The Liepāja City Culture Department has together with Liepāja Municipality, Liepāja City Puppet Theatre, Liepāja City NGOs and artist Aivars Kleins organized the Maritime Festival. The festival consists of three different parts; International Street Theatre Festival, Artists' Plein Air and the Stage of NGOs. The award ceremony was held in conjunction with the annual working session in Umeå and it took place in the Umeå 2014 "Glass house".

European Neighbours Day was celebrated 28 May 2010. European Federation of Local Solidarity (www.european-neighbours-day.eu) contacted CoC in order to get the Neighbours Day more known in the UBC network. The board decided to support the idea by spreading information to the UBC member cities. CoC was successful in spreading information and some UBC member cities made some Neighbours Day events in their cities.

CoC decided to collaborate with Bridging Ages network as a partner. The Bridging Ages network organized 17-19 November 2010 in Kalmar a conference "**Applied Cultural Heritage, How telling past at historic site benefits society**". CoC supported the participation of the representatives of UBC member cities. The conference participants from the UBC member cities could apply support for accommodation and participation fee up to maximum 400 euros. An application form was made and sent to the contact persons of UBC member cities. All together 4 participants from UBC cities in Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden applied for the support.

Bridging Ages conference **Using Time Travel to Explore the Turning Points in History** as a theme was organized 3-5 June in Tallinn. It gathered together 80 participants of which 29 were Estonians, mostly teacher and museum staff. Other participants came from Finland, Sweden and 7 other countries from all over the world.

Les Rencontres de Tallinn was held 9-12 June in Tallinn. The chairperson of CoC was asked to represent UBC in session 2: Cultural dynamism of Baltic Sea States. Involvement of regional networks and European Capitals of Culture.

The chairperson of CoC had 29 August some preliminary discussions with the Regional Council of Satakunta and Department of Culture of the City of Pori about collaboration in organizing **Mid-Nordic Culture Days 2014** in Satakunta region in Finland together with CoC, the Regional Council of

Ostrobothia and Mid Nordic Comittée Culture Group.

CoC supported the international project of arts “**Muses of the Sea**” which was dedicated to the International Day of Music 1 October 2011. The project was initiated by the Klaipėda State Musical Theatre.

Ars Baltica network presented in June 2011 an idea of establishment of a **Cultural Hansa**. CoC considered the initiative positive.

A series of workshops and meetings for planning a **Baltic Creative Management project** were held in Umeå 1-4 September, In Tallinn 12-14 October and in Jyväskylä 30 November – 1 December. The UBC cities that showed some interest to the project were Umeå, Vaasa, Tukums, Bergen, Riga, Rostock, Gdańsk and Jyväskylä. Umeå is the leading city of the project and responsible for planning process.

Contacts with Les Rencontres, Ars Baltica, AER (Assembly of European Regions) Culture for health working group, Bridging Ages, Mid Nordic Committee Culture Group, International Association Peace through Culture, European Federation of Local Solidarity and other **international networks on culture** were developed and kept alive.

The Catalogue of Cultural Institutions is available on www.ubc.net. Since 2006 it has included a network of cultural institutions around the Lake Victoria, in order to stimulate contacts with and within the sister organisation of UBC: Lake Victoria Regional and Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC).

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013 (DRAFT)

The new board that will be elected during the general conference in Liepāja 6th October is responsible for completing and overseeing the draft of action plan 2012-2013 that the old board has prepared.

1. The UBC Cultural Prize will recognize extraordinary achievement by artistic groups or associations working in the field of cultural activity in UBC member cities. The idea is that the Board invites the cities to candidate for that prize once a year and that the prize has a special theme each year.

2. The traditional Annual Working Sessions initiated by the board or by the member cities will continue with focus on a special cultural field each year. The possibilities of organizing a working session 2012 in St. Petersburg are studied during autumn 2011. The city of Pori has also shown interest to host the session together with the Regional Council of Satakunta in 2014 in connection with the Mid Nordic Culture Days.

3. Co-operation with the Festival of Baltic Cities will be developed. St. Petersburg is in turn to host the festival in 2012. The host of the year 2013 is open.

4. CoC is supporting “The Day of Culture”, which is deeply related to the Pact of Peace established by Nicholas Roerich in 1929 and held every year 15 April, by giving the right to use the name of UBC Commission on Culture in this connection.

5. Contacts and collaboration with Les Rencontres, Ars Baltica, AER (Assembly of European Regions) Culture for health working group, Bridging Ages, Mid Nordic Committee Culture Group, International

Association Peace through Culture, European Federation of Local Solidarity and other international networks on culture will be developed and kept alive.

6. The board will meet 2-3 times every year in different UBC cities and the local contact persons of UBC will be invited to the meetings.

7. The Catalogue of Cultural Institutions will be available at www.ubc.net.

Tarja Hautamäki, Chairperson

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

2009

Nature school network meeting, 17 December 2009, Riga

After welcoming words from Mare Aasma, Vice-Chairman of UBC Commission on Education, there was an information about the Erken Laboratory and the Färsna Farm by Karin Beronius, Uppsala University and Susanne Jansson, Norrtälje Nature conservation foundation. The Nordplus application for the nature schools network – terms and draft application was gone through by Karin Beronius, Uppsala University, Erken Laboratory. Kadri Randmaa from Kärddla Town Government presented the draft project “Interactive Baltic Sea program for children”.

It was the first network meeting after the decision what commission made on 3 April 2009 in Tallinn to create a network of nature schools in the Baltic region.

2010

Board meeting of the UBC Commission on Education, 16 March 2010, Stockholm

On the agenda there were 3 topics: activities 2010, budget 2010 and other questions.

Research for education in UBC, Spring-Summer 2010

The goal of the research was to have information about the education system in UBC countries. UBC Commission on Education is the first place where people will ask about education in UBC cities and countries. The Research comprises an overview about European Union and nation-state policy of education; School education, Higher education and Structure of Education System.

Environmental project for youth, whole the year 2010

Year 2010 was preparation time for commission having contacts to teachers and working out 5 parts of environmental youth project (*coast survey *informative text reading *tests, quizzes *essays *drawing). In Autumn was time to build up a computer system and it was tested in different countries, which have joined the youth program.

Nature school network, Spring 2010

Network of nature schools and centers applied for support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The deadline was 1 March and reply was positive in the end of May.

In the meeting commission planned to arrange three, one week long, pedagogical courses for teachers during three years. In connection to the courses, course material, in the shape of a pedagogical handbook, will be constructed and also distributed to the different partner institutions and participants. The courses and the material will be on three different themes: Outdoor teaching; Humans and nature, where nature is represented by 3 different biotopes (water, the forest and acre land), Pedagogies in teaching climatic effects. For that ideas it was decided to apply money from Nordplus programme.

Erken Laboratory Research School, 7 June – 3 July 2010, Sweden

The research school had 16 participants from different countries around the Baltic Sea, who went to the Erken Laboratory for one month in the summer. The goal of the research schools were to offer students between the age of 17-19 years from countries affected by the Baltic Sea to attend a “scientific monastery” to increase cultural exchange between the young people in the region and at the same time increase the interest for higher education and natural sciences.

Summer university for teachers

The summer university for 24 young teachers in natural sciences was hold at the Erken Laboratory during two weeks in August 2010 with the topic “Lakes as pedagogical tools in education”.

Promote young entrepreneurs

Representative of the Commission on Education participated on 20 May 2010 in Denmark in kick-off meeting for priority area 8 in Danish Ministry of Economic and Business Affairs, Copenhagen. By a lot of speeches there was thematic group session for 4 themes: entrepreneurship education and culture; trade and investment promotion; entrepreneurship in green business; labour mobility.

UBC Commission on Education proposed project “Promote young entrepreneurs”. It was one what UBC Executive Board decided to go forward with.

Nature School Network, 1-8 August 2010

Nature schools network - A common project on outdoor education with training of staff from 6 partner nature schools (22 teachers) was take place during one week in august at the Erken Laboratory and Färsna farm, Norrtälje, Sweden.

Vocational education

Commission has worked on creating a network for vocational education, similar to the network for nature schools and centers. In year 2010 a group of people prepared a joint project but it could not be finalized due to different interests and vocational education systems.

Annual Meeting of Commission on Education 2010

On 27 and 28 September 2010 the Commission on Education had its annual meeting in Tallinn.

Commission made an overview of educational research, nature school network, the environmental project and the flagship project "Promote young entrepreneurs". The annual meeting was held in two days: on first day was presented project for young entrepreneurs and network of vocational education; second day for network of nature schools and centers and running projects.

2011

Cooperation with other Commissions

Commission on Education wanted to prepare a joint project with the Commission on Business Cooperation about young entrepreneurs, but it failed because the person who must be contact person from Kiel became ill.

Commission on Education will take part in joint project of the Commission on Youth Issues about motivating youth to be active and take part.

Board meeting of the UBC Commission on Education on 11 February 2011 using teleconference program

Commission board tried to have a meeting using teleconference program. It did not run easily, there were some problems with hearing and seeing. But the most topics we had in the agenda, were covered.

EDEN4YOU – Entrepreneurship Development through an European Network for Youngsters and Women.

EDEN4YOU project was prepared in the beginning of 2011. It targets particularly young and female entrepreneurs, to be involved in a new dynamic employment model where they can have leading roles. The Programme is focused in particular on POLICIES.

Erken Laboratory Research School, 13 June – 9 July 2011, Sweden

The goal of the research schools were to offer students between the age of 17-19 years from countries affected by the Baltic Sea to attend in a "scientific monastery" to increase cultural exchange between the young people in the region and at the same time increase the interest for higher education and natural sciences. The students were offered a very good base in scientific education and a good atmosphere in a beautiful environment. All students conducted a project work of about 100 hours, finished with a written scientific report, a presentation and a poster. In addition, the students took part in several social activities in order to get to know each other, Swedish and other cultures.

Nature School Network, 7-14 August 2010

Nature schools network - A common project on outdoor education with training of staff from 6 partner nature schools (22 teachers) was taken place during one week in August at the Erken Laboratory and Färsna farm, Norrtälje, Sweden.

Comenius Regio

An application to the Comenius region program was granted in July 2011 and the bilateral project between Norrtälje municipality and Tallinn city on outdoor teaching and nature as a pedagogical tool will run for two years from 1 August 2011.

Board meeting of the Commission on Education on 16 August 2011

Norrtälje announced, that they will not continue with Commission on Education and made proposal to Kärddla take over chairmanship of the commission. In the meeting there were discussed the technical issues about the new chairmanship and Kärddla took time for consideration.

ACTION PLAN 2012 - 2013

I Promote young entrepreneurs

Next years Commission on Education will focus on topic “promote young entrepreneurs”, what is one of the flagship topic of Baltic sea Strategy:

a) EDEN4YOU – Entrepreneurship Development through an European Network for Youngsters and Women

EDEN4YOU project was prepared in the beginning of 2011 and will get. Results should be available by December 2011. If successful, the project must start on 01 January 2012 and will end on 31.12.2014. the project targets particularly young and female entrepreneurs, to be involved in a new dynamic employment model where they can have leading roles. The Programme is focused in particular on POLICIES.

b) Joint project with UBC Commission on Youth Issues

One part of the project is focusing on youth and media. There will be a creative media competition/campagne held in each participating city but also between the cities on topic „Lifestyles“ (voluntary work, mobility, ecological friendly lifestyle, active citizenship, equality and tolerance, different subcultures etc).

Second part of the project is focusing on empowering youth councils in our cities: exchanging knowledge and practices between youth councils who already exist and work well and those who are just starting.

The project has prepared and now applying money from funds.

c) Comenius Regio about young entrepreneurs

Commission on Education is preparing a project about young entrepreneurs and will apply for money in Comenius Region programme.

II Environmental education

In that topic we have 3 running projects for next years:

a) Nature school network

Network of nature schools and centers started in August 2010. The 5 partners from Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will have one common course at Färsna Farm and Erken Laboratoy in August 2012 with Karin Beronius, Norrtälje as coordinator.

b) Erken Laboratory Research School in Sweden

The research school will have 16 participants from different countries around the Baltic Sea, which will come to the Erken Laboratory for one month (June-July) in the summer of 2012 and 2013. Responsible person is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje.

c) Comenius Regio

The bilateral project between Norrtälje municipality, Sweden and Tallinn city, Estonia on outdoor teaching and nature as a pedagogical tool will run from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2013.

Kurt Pettersson
Chairman of the Commission
City of Norrtälje

Annely Veevo
Head of Commission Secretariat
City of Kärđla

COMMISSION ON ENERGY

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2011

Commission Meetings

The Energy Commission held a joint commission meeting with the Commissions on Environment and Transportation in Gdynia, Poland, during the spring of 2010.

In 2011 a joint meeting was held in Turku, Finland, the 2 January together with the Commission on Environment and Commission on Education.

The Energy Commission participated in the Executive Board meeting in Tallinn, Estonia, the 13-14 October 2010.

Cooperation with other commissions

It has been very natural to cooperate with other Commissions as a way to get more participants to the meetings and to get wider perspectives. Most of the cooperation has been with the Commission on Environment, but there has also been cooperation with the Commissions on Transportation and on Education.

Cooperation with other organizations

Joint Energy and Climate Platform of the BSR Organisations

The JECF was a cooperation between a number of BSR organizations on local, regional, national and international level. The work of the platform was a preparatory policy work prior to the UN Climate Conference, COP 15, held in Copenhagen in December 2009. The JECF finalized its guiding principles and goals for the ongoing cooperation in a communiqué.

Baltic Development Forum

The Energy Commission participated in the Baltic Development Forum Summit in Vilnius, 1-2 June 2010 and was also a participant in the Networking Village of the Summit.

Projects

LED – Light in Public Space

3 year long project (2009-2012) in the South Baltic Region Programme. Cooperation between 15 partners to investigate the possibilities to convert to LED-lighting in public space from an energy perspective, economical perspective as well as a way to make the cities and municipalities more safe and attractive. Partners from the UBC-cities of Oskarshamn, Kalmar, Wismar, Rostock, Gdynia, Gdańsk and Klaipėda. www.ledlightproject.com

ITEST (Increased Total Efficiency in Sewage Treatment)

3 year long project (2010-2012) in Life+. Sewage treatment project looking at the possibilities of

remove Nitrogen and Phosphorous from the sewage by adding excess heat from for example district heating. Oskarshamn in cooperating with KTH (The Royal Institute of Technology), Jayway and Emerson. www.itestlife.eu

EEMTE (Energy Efficiency in Municipality – Training and Exchange of experience)

A sub-project to the Interreg IVC-project Enercitee. Educational project about energy efficiency of housing for politicians and civil servants of municipalities and public bodies of the Småland and Blekinge Region. The project started the summer of 2011 and will proceed till May 2013. A cooperation between Oskarshamn and regions in Germany, France and Poland outside the UBC area.

<http://enercitee.eu/>

Bulletins

The Energy Commission buys a spread in each issue of the UBC Environmental Bulletin. An article was submitted to the general bulletin about the Adobe Connect Pro Account.

ACTION PLAN 2012 –2013

The overall Aims and Goals of the Energy Commission

From a broad perspective break down the energy issues to a local level and point out a few focus areas where the energy commission can have great impact. We will look at the energy system issue rather than individual sources, and introduce this to the municipalities.

- To boil down the EU-level and national level energy issues to a local level
- To raise awareness about projects and to take practical use from experience exchanges in projects within the UBC network
- Promote municipalities to use great examples to get more energy efficient
- To bring science and university knowledge closer to the municipal/local level

Focus areas

- Reduction of greenhouse gases related to the energy sector
- Energy efficiency programs
- Higher self sufficiency and local energy production

Concrete goals

- Further cooperation with other Commissions within the UBC network
- Disseminate the projects
- Start at least two new project
- Organize meetings with the Competence Board

Action Plan – an implementation

- Organizing commission meeting and workshops. This is a central arena where all cities are invited to give their input to the work of the commission.
- Interactive meetings and cooperation in order to reduce the carbon footprint
- Initiate and promote good project ideas
- Organize meeting with the competence board to narrow the gap between the university knowledge and the work in the municipalities
- Dissemination regarding Energy perspectives for the Baltic Sea Region

Eva Hjalmered, Head of Secretariat

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2011

Focus on Sustainable Development in Baltic Sea cities

UBC is extremely well placed to be involved and tackle many challenges the Baltic Cities and the Baltic Sea Region is facing. At the same time, we also have very good possibilities to contribute to improve the sustainable development in our region and we want to be a preferred partner in different tasks, projects and events. The past years of UBC's environmental work and the highly successful implementation of several Sustainability Action Programmes have taken us to the point where we have both an explicit responsibility and a potential to make an impact, if we so want to.

Good basis for our work is provided by the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 1998, 2001, 2004/2005, 2006/2007 and 2009, where a clear majority of the UBC member contributed. The state of the Baltic Sea and increasing effects of climate change are perhaps two of the main challenges to work on with during the upcoming years, but we still have tasks like, cleaner wastewater, sustainable transport, rebuilding and revitalizing of city districts and air quality as huge tasks for many of us. Several of our cities will face challenges with these issues and need all assistance that can be mobilised. Many of the tasks are not limited to border so UBC as a regional city network have the possibilities to act together and bring added value.

The mission of the UBC Commission on Environment is to tackle those challenges by all the means provided by our efficient network through sharing of problems, information and knowledge, approaches and solutions. In order to work more effectively we must improve our performance in all the fields and have clear goals and targets for our activities. From knowledge based analyses, technical solutions, improved political planning and decision making processes to improved information and dissemination strategies. One important task is that the UBC need to continue the development and to implement its Communication Strategy in order to improve actions and performances for the benefit of our member cities. This is a task for the whole UBC network and all levels of the UBC organisation are needed in order to improve these internal and external practices.

The UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 has started well and has already committed several projects with a total budget on approximately 10 MEUR. These projects provide an excellent framework of action to address the challenges in practice.

UBC Commission on Environment Actions

The UBC Commission on Environment (UBC EnvCom), chaired by Mikko Jokinen, Turku, has worked very actively during the whole reporting period. Mr Jokinen is assisted by the Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat and the secretariat is generously hosted by the City 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 current staff number of 20 full-time professionals (Finnish-Lithuanian-Polish-Russian-German-Ukrainian). The secretariat is now located in the so called Baltic Sea House in the old centre of Turku.

The UBC EnvCom has achieved a lot in different policy, networking, capacity-building and information activities. However, the most important resource of the commission are the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences, motivation and strong involvement for the mutual benefit. During the reporting period the UBC EnvCom have arranged several thematic seminar/workshop-type meetings with. During the reporting period these meetings were organised

in Kristiansand September 2009, Gdynia March 2010 and in Turku in February 2011. In addition a joint UBC Commission meeting was held in Turku in November 2010. In this meeting discussions about the implementation of the UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme as well as common preparations for the upcoming UBC X General Conference took place. In these commission meetings, broad participation took place both in terms of participants (approximately 60 – 80 persons per meeting) including several UBC Commissions, but also in terms of activity and need for discussion. In connection to the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2009 the personnel of the UBC EnvCom secretariat was in contact with all UBC member cities in order to check up contact information and possibility for participation in the survey. This has been much appreciated among the contact persons in the UBC member cities.

The UBC EnvCom website has been totally up-dated and contact databases maintained. The UBC Good Practice Database is working to better serve and collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities. More than 530 Good Practice cases are already listed in the database (see www.ubcwheel.eu).

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has continued with thematic editions on “Improving the state of the Baltic Sea” 2/2009, “sustainable Solutions for cities” 1/2010, “Quality of Life in Baltic Cities” 2/2010 and “Inspiring local level Decisions steer innovative cities” 1/2011 have been published. Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has a broad edition and it receives a high interest from member cities and partner organisations. The electronically version of the Environmental Bulletin is more and more requested. UBC Commission on Energy has own pages in the Environmental Bulletin since 2006. New posters and material has been produced depending on the need and events where UBC Commission on Environment has participated. The Commission website, www.ubc-environment.net has been further developed. Analyses on how to improve the network services have been carried out and there will be further improvements in this area in the near future.

The biggest single activity during 2011 was the arrangement and hosting of the “Solutions local, together – Nordic Conference on Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region 31.1–2.2.2011 in Turku, Finland. This Conference opened the Finnish presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2011 and was opened by the Finnish Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi. The conference took place at the Turku city theatre and includes several side events, markets, meetings and shows around the city of Turku. UBC EnvCom had the coordination responsibility of this mayor sustainability conference in the Baltic Sea region. The Conference takes place during 31.1–2.2.2011 in City of Turku and had approximately 650 conference participants. This Conference was supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, 10 different ministries in Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, Nordic and Baltic Associations of Municipalities and Regions in where also strongly involved. Participants from whole Baltic Sea Region were represented and a lot of UBC member cities participated and also presented issues, topics and sustainable solutions at the conference. For more info see www.solutions2011.fi

Activities – Serving UBC cities

Success, good service and a strong network can only be maintained through continuous development and improvements of all the activities among those involved in the activities. Interaction and good communication is one of the key elements of continuing development and improvement. The development of Baltic Sea cities has been long and successful. The network service of the UBC EnvCom is a combination of projects, regular meetings and workshops, information work and policy liaison with other organisations, environmental and sustainable development policy processes and policy-makers. Such policy-makers include Baltic Sea Regional actors like national ministries of the environment and foreign affairs, Nordic Council of Ministers, European Environment Agency, Baltic 21 and HELCOM, as well as the European Union – especially European Commission DG Environment,

DG Regio and Committee of Regions.

The UBC EnvCom builds its activities on principles of stable continuing development. For UBC it is important that the whole region develops in a balanced way and this work will be coordinated with the support and guidance of the UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 and hopefully implemented as much as possible as actions connected to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). In order to do this, the following activities will be carried out:

- **Meetings and workshops of the UBC EnvCom** twice a year – providing opportunity to discuss and plan projects and other activities as well as for direct learning and sharing.
- **Development and investment projects addressing the challenges** in Baltic Cities and implementing the thematic goals of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 - 2015 – the UBC EnvCom is involved in several large co-operation projects during the period and will continue to create development projects supporting our member cities.
- **Capacity-building** – organising opportunities for the cities to up-date their knowledge and competencies on environmental policies, practices and legislation, communicating different target groups and organisational setup, strengthening efficient Sustainability Management.
- **Internal development of cooperation** Improving the meeting and workshop methods and techniques has been a core task for the UBC EnvCom. UBC EnvCom has with great success used ADOBE Connect Pro as a communication tool. The tool has been used in bilateral discussions, smaller and large meetings and also training events.
- **Information services** – publishing Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin development and updating of the UBC Good Practice database on sustainable development issues in the Baltic Cities and partner organisations. Improving the UBC web-services on environment and sustainable development.
- **Good Practice work** – promotion of good practice and exchange of excellence will continue by the web-site, databases and other information services. Improve our surveys and find more use of the work put into the collection of data by liaison activities with other similar activities with Universities, evaluating and supporting sustainable development.

Resources

The Commission on Environment has an effective secretariat with good resources, located in the City of Turku. The secretariat has an international staff between 12 - 20 full-time professionals. The purpose of the secretariat is to serve the UBC network and to manage and co-ordinate the implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010-2015. The activities and services of the UBC Commission on Environment are closely tied to funding possibilities. Cooperation between several UBC Commission has been successful and can also lead to more efficiency and increased resourcing possibilities. However, the most important resource of the commission is the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences and strong involvement for mutual benefit. The best motivation for the secretariat and staff is therefore the motivation and positive spirit we meet among the UBC member cities.

Evaluation

UBC's EnvCom services are continuously evaluated and improved. These evaluations are extremely valuable as they provide our city network with information on development trends, possible problems and good practises all important for a balanced and dynamic development of the Baltic Sea Region.

European Union Policy co-operation on environment and sustainable development

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 commission has represented the UBC at the CBSS - Baltic 21, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and European Sustainable

Cities and towns Campaign and at European expert and working groups such as in EMAS revision.

The main focus during the last two year period has been in the implementation of the new EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. This strategy goes hand in hand with the new UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme and therefore there has been a need to combine the development of both processes simultaneously. Participation in the EU strategy implementation has taken a lot of resources. The UBC EnvCom is despite this convinced that added value can be reached by taking an active role. The role should include involvement in policy development, surveys, collection of good practice and assisting in arrangements of meetings. The UBC EnvCom has been involved in all these activities during the last two years. So far the cooperation with different stakeholders and coordination units dealing with the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region has been successful and requests from EU authorities has increased. UBC EnvCom was also in 2009 requested to cooperate an desist the Swedish EU Presidency with conferences, speakers and information about the cities in the Baltic Sea Region. We these activities as important tasks for the whole UBC and our UBC member cities.

During the reporting period the UBC EnvCom was involved in arrangements of the European Sustainable Cities and towns Campaign continued with the 6th Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Dunkerque France on 20 – 21 May 2010.

Main Projects of the UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

- **CHAMP** – Combating Climate Change. LIFE+ funded project including Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy. 2009 – 2011. Based on the UBC Climate Change resolution in 2007.
- **BaltCICA** – Climate Change: Impact, Costs and Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region. UBC EnvCom partner in the project. BSR INTERREG IV B Neighborhood programme. 2009 – 2011.
- **NEW BRIDGES** – Strengthening Quality of Life trough improved Management of Urban Rural Interaction. BSR INTERREG IV B Neighborhood programme. 12 partners and 13 associated partners. 2009 – 2011.
- **PURE Phosphorous Reduction in Baltic Cities**. 7 UBC cities. 11 partners and 18 associated partners. BSR INTERREG IV B Neighborhood programme. 2009 – 2013.
- **PRESTO** Project on Reduction of the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea today.
- **Coordination activities: Russian neighborhood, Awareness Raising in Russia, Blue Pack and NEAT**. Several Awareness and neighborhood involvement projects between UBC and Russian cities. Ministry on Foreign Affairs and Environment in Finland. 2010 – 2011
- **Solution 2011 Conference**. Coordination and responsibility of a mayor sustainability conference in the Baltic Sea region. To take place during 31.1–2.2.2011 in Turku.
- **SNOOP project**. Ship exhausts emissions effects on marine environment and human health. Central Baltic BSR INTERREG IV A, Neighborhood programme. 6 partners. 2009 – 2013
- **INNOSHIP Project – Sustainable Ports and Cities**. 6 UBC cities. 19 partners. BSR INTERREG IV B Neighborhood programme. 2010 – 2013.
- **ELTIS + SUTP and Sustainable Transport** EU IIE funding
- **Quest SUTP and Sustainable Transport** EU IIE funding
- **GREENCITY** Project together with City of Umeå. Life + funding
- **NetCom** IEE funding. Strengthening the Covenant of Mayors work and networking

ACTION PLAN OCTOBER 2012 - SEPTEMBER 2013

UBC Commission on Environment activities in 2012

The commission is activated in different development projects, policy-, networking-, and capacity-

building activities. However, the most important resource of the commission are the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences, motivation and strong involvement for the mutual benefit.

The UBC Good Practice Database is working to better serve and collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities. More than 530 Good Practice cases are already listed in the database (see www.ubcwheel.eu). These cases and pages have been visited by more than 1 million visitors!

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin will be developed further and thematic editions on relevant topics will continue to be published twice a year. The Bulletin is made together with UBC Commission on Energy and discussions with other UBC Commission concerning involvement of them too take place for the moment. The electronically version of the Environmental Bulletin is more and more requested. The Commission website has continuously been developed. Please see www.ubc-environment.net.

European Union Policy co-operation on environment and sustainable development

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 commission is representing the UBC at the CBSS/ Baltic 21 and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM). UBC Commission on Environment will have a role in the planning of the 7th Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns. UBC EnvCom will support the city of Umeå in their planning for the Cultural Capital Year in 2014 and also in the preparations of the next Nordic Sustainability Conference also to be held in city of Umeå.

The implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will continue and the UBC Commission will actively been involved in several actions and flagship activities. This strategy goes hand in hand with the new UBC Strategy and UBC Sustainability Action Programme and therefore there has been a need to combine the development of both processes simultaneously. The UBC Commission on Environment has evaluated the different EU BSR Strategy Flagships and is for the moment closely involved in following flagship processes;

Priority area 1 “To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels”

1.2 “Cleaner wastewater

UBC EnvCom and UBC Energy. How; Follow the policy development, Implementation via following projects, PURE and PRESTO projects (coordinated by UBC EnvCom) and ITEST project (by UBC Energy). PRESTO has recieved Flagship status.

Priority area 4. “To become a model region for clean shipping”

4.1. “Promote measures to collect ship generated waste”

4.2. “Promote measures to reduce emissions from ships and enhance the development”

4.3. “Introduce differentiated port dues depending on the environmental impact of ships”

4.4. “Eliminate the discharge of sewage from ships”

4.5. “Improve the waste handling on board and in ports”

UBC EnvCom involved in the project INNOSHIP (with Flagship status) adressing above mentioned issues and tasks. Tasks; Follow the policy development, Implementation via possible upcoming development projects,

Priority area 5. “To mitigate and adapt to climate change and”

5.3 “Create a network of sustainable cities and villages”

UBC EnvCom. Tasks; Follow the policy development, cooperation with responsible country and organisation (Request by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and Boverket). UBC EnvCom has also

been running several climate change related projects and continue to be active in this field. A part of this is to support the Covenant of Mayors concept via the multi stakeholder project NetCom.

Priority area 8. “Implementing the Small Business Act: to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources”

8.4 “Make the Baltic Sea an Eco-efficient region”

Appointed by the UBC Executive board the UBC EnvCom is following the policy development and discussion in a project called Ecoregion project. Similar tasks are handled in the UBC EnvCom project New Bridges.

Internal UBC activities

In connection to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region we should promote the UBC Baltic cities Political Forum as an important Forum for policy development and building political commitment.

A important and for the UBC network crucial task is to continuously improve the meeting and workshop methods and techniques. This will also be one of the core tasks for the UBC EnvCom. UBC EnvCom has with great success used ADOBE Connect Pro as a communication tool. The tool has been used in bilateral discussions, smaller and large meetings and also training events. In end of 2011 UBC EnvCom will use and test ADOBE Connect Pro as a virtual conference facility in the LIFE+ financed CHAMP project.

UBC will continue to cooperate and implement the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010 – 2015 together with the other UBC Commissions. One concrete task will be to arrange the joint UBC Commission meeting in Halmstad 9 – 11 May 2012.

Main Projects focuses of the UBC EnvCom

Applications in the field of regional development, sustainable transport, Green smart growth, reduction of nutrients from rivers and water bodies, Research of Mandate and responsibilities of local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region – changes in municipal organizations are under preparation.

In continuation UBC EnvCom will continue to support the UBC member cities and will try to assist them in solving challenges.

The upcoming EU budget will put focus on the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy and in particularly on the transformation of 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 economical situation put pressure on investments but one key issues in the upcoming EU budget will be on building on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth! With this we will have one of the mayor tasks for the upcoming years of succesful UBC cooperation and work.

Evaluation

The Commission on Environment has an effective secretariat with good resources, hosted and located in the City of Turku. The secretariat has an international staff of 20 full-time professionals. The purpose of the secretariat is to serve the UBC EnvCom and to manage and co-ordinate the implementation of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2010-2015. The activities and services of the UBC EnvCom are closely tied to funding possibilities and the secretariat is therefore dependent of external funding programmes.

Björn Grönholm
Head of Secretariat
Commission on Environment

COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

Activities

Since the X General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities, held in Kristiansand, Norway, the Commission on Gender Equality has continued its work to promote and enhance Gender Equality work around the Baltic Sea.

Gender equality is promoted by developing cooperative structures for networking and the exchange of experiences and practical knowledge. The Commission has researched experiences of gender equality work in the member cities. The Commission has throughout this period worked with networks within the area of gender equality and been active in meetings and conferences. The Commission has also established contact with the European Institute of Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania. The working meetings have been very interesting and a new working method has been established.

The report Gender equality in the UBC, was presented and distributed at the X General Conference and then to all cities in the UBC. This was the Commission's main work during the period of October 2009 - March 2010. The report offers a framework that provides the basis for the development of gender equal societies. The report shows the conditions for social change to happen, and can be used as a way for cities to adapt to, and support, the objectives of gender equality. The report also presents examples of good practices of gender equality work from some of the member cities, and by using examples from different countries it allows for flexibility and creativity in fulfilling the objectives of gender equality.

The main focus of the commission's work has been to initiate cooperation between the commission and the cities where we have the meetings. This work has been very interesting and will be continued. Two cities, so far, have tried this way, Panevėžys in Lithuania and Gdańsk in Poland. Both meetings were very interesting. The Panevėžys meeting was an exchange of knowledge and discussion on gender equality with political representation and municipality officials. The Commission also shared best practise from around the region. The Gdańsk meeting presented a report on the situation in Gdańsk, initiated by the Commission and in collaboration with the University of Gdańsk. There was great interest from media and the meeting was reported by radio, TV and daily press. Participation came from politicians, municipality officials, civil society and NGO's. There was a very interesting discussion and raising many important issues. The meeting was also visited by a representative from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). The Declaration of Gender Equality from CEMR was one of the topics discussed.

The Commission has been working on a campaign with the main idea to raise awareness and create an interest to start discussing these issues. This campaign material will be launched during 2011 and distributed to all member cities.

The Commission has been involved and contributed to the UBC Bulletin with specific theme on gender equality. Articles were written on gender budgeting, gender mainstreaming, specific projects working as best practice.

The Commission also wrote an application within the area of labour market and creative industries, especially focusing on women's possibilities and career opportunities within these fields. The projects name was Gender Equal Labour Market (GELM) and application was within the URBACT-

programme. Unfortunately, the project did not manage to gain financing, but the ideas have been used within another project which one of the cities in the UBC took part in dealing with these issues.

The Commission on Gender Equality has expressed opinions and statements on the Baltic Sea Strategy, the UBC Strategy and the UBC Social Charter. Furthermore, the Commission has followed projects regarding labour market, trafficking issues in order to gain best practise and spread ideas around the UBC cities.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

The general goal of the Commission on Gender Equality is to achieve gender equality with a specific focus on:

- Labour market issues
- Social planning, urban planning and planning work
- Combating prostitution and trafficking

The goals of the Commission on Gender Equality are as follows:

- To disseminate knowledge about issues of gender equality. The commission will further the awareness-raising within the field of gender equality and the strategy of gender mainstreaming. The commission will disseminate knowledge about the work which is being done in the UBC-area by spreading examples of good practices. The main tool for this work is the report on gender equality and new campaign material.
- To spread campaign material and find ways to inspire the cities to promote gender equality as an important parameter for a city's growth and the well-being of its inhabitants.
- The Commission will continue to collect examples of good practices. Experience-based knowledge accumulated through exchanges within the UBC-network can inspire member-cities to move forward and apply knowledge in practice.
- Promoting municipalities to apply the examples of good practices to move forward in the work for gender equality and to promote mutual exchange of experiences of good practices within the UBC.
- Strengthening the cooperation with other commissions. Developing further cooperation with the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. The goal for this period is also to take part in at least two other Commission meetings and present the issues of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within their specific field.
- During the next two years update knowledge inspired by the previous report.

Aurora Moberg
Chairperson of the Commission
City of Umeå

Helene Brewer
Coordinator of the Commission
City of Umeå

UBC COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVITY REPORT FEBRUARY – SEPTEMBER 2011

Due to local elections our commission has launched its work in February this year. Our Letter of Intent has met moderate interest from UBC members. We got feedback even in 3 months after its publishing. This extended in time reaction has facilitated decision about starting with some minor initiative. Making use of the fact that two more Polish cities Gdańsk and Koszalin have recently declared will to access our commission activities, we have arranged in May first meeting of the commission in Sopot, Poland. Representatives of three Polish cities, nine persons were present, among them the Deputy Mayor of Elbląg. This event was meant as a working meeting with intention to get broader agreement and support of future program. Some good practices were exchanged too, however more important was decision about future collaboration.

In particular representatives decided to organize next open commission meeting this September in Elbląg under leading subject “Senior citizens and the city”.

This initiative was meant as exchanging cases, experiences, and solutions which work well in practice. Main questions are:

- how cities care about elderly people
- how cities counteract senior citizens' exclusion
- how cities can benefit from senior citizens.

The date and theme were set with intention to eventually prepare good background for contribution to the workshop devoted to ageing society during General Conference in Liepāja.

Along with recruitment new participants we entered into correspondence with two international organizations operating in Baltic Sea Region. These are Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being and Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association.

Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) is the intergovernmental organization acting on ministerial level, which Expert Groups create strategies, guidelines and practical solutions of problems connected with public health and social issues on macro level.

I had an appointment with NDPHS Head of Secretariat Marek Maciejowski, who introduced me to some projects under development of his organization.

These plans address:

- alcohol and drug related harm among young people,
- healthy nutrition, prevention and correction of overweight and obesity, promotion of physical activity among school-aged children,
- health policy and strategy support to combat non-communicable diseases and hazardous and harmful lifestyle epidemic in Northern Dimension geographical area,
- development of Occupational Health Services,
- development new roles and tasks to local hospitals in support of primary health care in BSR.

I have submitted invitation for a representative of NDPHS to attend with speech to our workshop during General Conference in Liepāja to the Committee of Senior Representatives, which is equivalent to the UBC Executive Board.

Baltic Region Healthy City Association, which is also a WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities

and Urban Health in the BSR promotes health conditions in urban areas in BSR and supports WHO programs concerning urban health issues. It aims at increasing the awareness of the local governments to take health as a central part in their decision making in the cities belonging to the Healthy Cities Networks and other interested actors.

I had the appointment in Turku with Johanna Reiman, Executive Director of the association and invited her to attend event in Liepāja. City of Turku is UBC as well as Healthy Cities Network member and health promotion in context of ageing population may be interesting for the audience.

Regarding other speakers for the General Conference workshop, I addressed Professor Peteris Zvidrins, Head of the Chair of Statistics and Demography, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Latvia, who agreed to deliver lecture about demography and ageing in BSR.

On 15-16 September 2011 in Elbląg Old Town City Hall took place open Commission on Health and Social Affairs meeting with 37 participants from 4 countries. Poland was represented by: Elbląg, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Koszalin, Malbork, Ustka. Finland was represented by: Helsinki, Turku, Vaasa. Latvia was represented by Riga. Estonia was represented by: Narva, Tallinn and Tartu. Together 13 cities were present. The base for the agenda of the event was “Elbląg Programme for the Elderly for years 2009-2013” which is being implemented in the host of the meeting. There were 10 lectures delivered by participating cities. Besides, participating in the event, representing NDPHS Marek Maciejowski submitted presentation on subject: “Promoting public health and social well-being internationally” proposing once again cooperation with the NDPHS in implementing projects his organization works on. Full list of the NDPHS projects actually under development is now available on UBC website <http://www.ubc.net/commissions,29.html> together with other conference materials. At the end of the meeting representing Vaasa Jukka Kentala initially declared will to organize the next UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs meeting in his city in 2012.

Attending Elbląg meeting Paweł Żaboklicki, UBC Secretary General introduced forthcoming XI UBC General Conference in Liepāja programme where Commission on Health and Social Affairs will organize W3. Workshop titled “How to meet the demographic challenge; the ageing society”.

We invited following speakers to deliver a lecture for this event:

1. Demographic development in Baltic Sea Region – Prof. Peteris Zvidrins, Head of Chair of Statistics and Demography, University of Latvia.
2. Primary health care and social care system development to meet the demographic challenge related to ageing – Prof. Arnoldas Jurgutis, International Technical Adviser for the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS), Klaipėda University
3. Promoting health and responding to challenges of ageing society – WHO Healthy Cities – Johanna Reiman, Executive Director, Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

According to the agreement of the UBC Board, the City of Elbląg presides the works of UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs from 2011. Hereby we would like to present the UBC Board action plan for the years 2012-2013.

Health and social problems are common and affect all inhabitants of Baltic Sea Region, nevertheless previous attempts to maintain activity in this domain were ineffective.

For this reason, main topic the Commission should focus on its reactivation and increasing awareness of possible cities' cooperation in the Commission.

The other goals of the Commission on Health and Social Affairs continue:

- increase of awareness of contemporary health and social problems in local authorities and society as a whole,
- promotion and support of UBC member cities projects related to health and social issues,
- cooperation with other UBC Commissions and external organizations in the field of health and social issues.

Because Elbląg has started from the very beginning and actually reactivated the Commission on Health and Social Affairs our activities will be continuously addressed simultaneously in following two directions. First of them is raising awareness and recruitment new active Commission's participants while the second aim are the other goals stated above.

In 2011 we entered into relations with two organizations sharing our interests. They are: Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) and WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Health in the Baltic Region (WHO CC) and with both we want to develop further co-operation.

Representative of NDPHS has attended meeting of the Commission in Elbląg offering cooperation in some projects NDPHS expert groups work on. This proposal has met with some interest from the present cities' representatives and there is also a chance for UBC to become NDPHS partner together with all the organizations mentioned previously. We plan to expand this relation.

We also intend to collaborate further with WHO CC aiming in popularization "Healthy Cities" idea. Main goal of this organization is increasing awareness of the local governments to take health as a central part in the decision making process. The themes of the UBC Commission for Health and Social Affairs are well in line with the WHO themes. There are also 24 WHO Healthy Cities in the Baltic Sea Region and this may be a good basis for our future co-operation.

We will strive to organize two meetings of the Commission every year. In 2012 hosting cities of the Commission meeting will be Vaasa (Finland) and Elbląg (Poland). Proposed general topics of these events are:

- Vaasa – non-communicable diseases,
- Elbląg – health care systems' organization.

In 2012 we will try to launch our Commission website to facilitate access to the information about current Commission activities and contact.

Taking all above into consideration we would like to propose following plan of work for year 2012:

First half of 2012	Launching Commission website.
May 2012	Meeting of the Commission in Vaasa (Finland) under leading subject: "Non-communicable diseases".
September 2012	Meeting of the Commission in Elbląg under leading subject "Health care systems' organization".
All over 2012	Continuous popularization of the Commission among UBC members.

Wojciech Drozd
Chairman, UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs

COMMISSION ON LOCAL SAFETY

ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2011

The creation of the Local Safety & Public Order Working Group

Activities of Local Safety & Public Order Working Group has been initiated by Gdańsk Municipal Guard in October 2009 by sending questionnaires about key issues matters of local safety among UBC cities. The aim was to gain knowledge if the member cities have the common problems in the field of public order. The second goal was to establish contact for eventual cooperation in this issue. 34 filled in sent backed questionnaires have showed relatively high interest of cooperation among UBC cities. Studies on municipal public safety in UBC region have shown common problems which could be solved through activities such as sharing of experience, cooperation, conducting joint trainings and seminars for the members of the Group.

Working Group initial meeting

In December 2009 results of the survey were published and presented to each representative together with the information about potential cooperation and an invitation for the first meeting. It took place on the 26 of March 2010 in Gdańsk and was attended by representatives from nine cities: Botkyrka (SWE), Elbląg (POL), Gdańsk (POL), Nacka (SWE), Riga (LAT), Sopot (POL), Tukums (LAT), Tallinn (EST) and Vilnius (LIT).

During this meeting, the representatives of above listed cities were introduced with structure and main goals of the Union of the Baltic Cities and conditions on which potential Working Group would work within structure of UBC. As a consequence of discussions was conviction of necessity of organizational framework. Therefore establishing the Working Group within UBC structure was the first step towards further cooperation. As the result of first meeting in Gdańsk, the Letter of Intent has been signed by the representatives of each participating city and lately presented to the UBC authorities on the 58th UBC Executive Board meeting in Trelleborg where agreed that the Working Group could cooperate in order to improve local security services as well as assure the safety standards and procedures for all BSR citizens.

Working Group Letter of intend

As it was decided in March in Gdańsk, signed Letter of intend was introduced to UBC Executive Board during 58th UBC Executive Board meeting in Trelleborg. The Board suggested carrying on the work of the group without establishing a formal UBC structure. The final decision regarding establishing formal structure will be taken during next UBC General Conference in Liepāja. The Board also approved the budget for Working Group and authorized the group to continue its work.

2nd meeting in Riga - results

The second meeting of Local Safety & Public Order Working Group took place in Riga on the 14 October 2010. This summit was mostly devoted for organizational issues: the Statute of Working Group, structure of organization, rules of membership and authorities. Also, the committee has been elected for the period of two years - Mr Leszek Walczak from Municipal Guard of Gdańsk as the Chairman and Mr Hans-Ivar Swärd from municipality of Nacka and Mr Andrejs Aronovs from Municipal Guard of Riga as Vice-Chairmen. Gdańsk has been chosen as a localisation for Secretariat of Working Group. Representatives from Jelgava, Liepāja, Jurmala and Panevėžys signed Declarations of Participation, which has extended Group to 13 cities.

In addition to organizational issues the 2nd meeting was also dedicated to Safe Cycling Programme that has been conducting by Gdańsk for several years. Gdańsk presented know-how and offered help for the members interested in project implementation. Finally, there was decided that future work should be organised by themes that were indicated during the first meeting in Gdańsk. The themes are:

- Alcohol abuse – methods (ways) of control intoxicated people, prevention of alcohol consumption in prohibited public places
- Traffic in centre of cities – ways of control and keeping order methods
- Youth – prevention and education programs
- Social riots – prevention programs, cooperation with other organisations
- Illegal Graffiti – prevention and education programs
- Tourists security
- Illegal trade in public places
- Crime preventive programmes
- Cooperation with safety players in the city
- Protection of environment

The topics were divided to each voluntary city which will be introduced during following Working Group meetings.

The secretariat of Working Group has created a web page located on main page of the UBC portal. This page includes the short history, statute and mission of organisation, minutes from conducted meetings, presentations and current activities.

3rd meeting in Vilnius - results

A logo of Working Group has been created and chosen by the group members during 3rd Local Safety & Public Order Working Group held in Vilnius 13–15 April 2011. This summit was devoted mostly for topics that there proposed in Riga's meeting. Cities presented their knowledge on different issues and managing methods in order to increase local safety standards. During this meeting there was also decided to produce leaflets about main security principles in the cities. The aim of the project was to give for the tourists advice how to stay secured when on vacation and familiarize them with local law. The secondary goal was to promote the Local Safety & Public Order Working Group as a part of UBC organization responsible for safety and security issues. Three cities participated to this project: Tallin, Vilnius and Gdańsk. Distribution of the leaflets in above mentioned cities took place beginning of August 2011.

Other two additional cities - Kaunas (LIT) and Karlstad (SWE) have joined to the Working Group by signing Declaration of Participation. The representative of Turku (FIN) has also attended the meeting and it is very likely that Turku will join the Group in near future.

Exchange programme

Based on bilateral agreement between Vilnius and Gdańsk an Exchange programme has started. The main goal of this programme is to train city guards or police officers in different cities in order to gain an experience one from another. The first part of the programme has been finished, two officers from Municipal Guard of Gdańsk had a one week practice in Vilnius. Second part was planned in September, but due to important duty issue, the visit of Vilnius Municipal Guard officers was postponed to 10-15 October.

Cooperation with other Commissions

Local Safety & Public Order Working Group cooperates with other organization from different fields mostly by participation in conferences, debates to gain knowledge, exchange experience and know better problems of general public.

The members of Working Group actively attended to Conference of UBC Commission on Transportation held on 21-22 October 2010. It focused on reduction programmes and strategies that can improve children's and youth's road safety. Also, the Safe Cycling programme which is constantly running in Gdańsk Municipal Guard was presented.

There is plan to attend the UBC Conference on Health and Social Affairs dedicated to the senior citizens' issue. The conference will take place in September 2011 in Elbląg.

The Local Safety & Public Order Working Group actively participates to the UBC bulletin regularly writing reports from meetings and articles about safety in BSR.

ACTION PLAN 2012 – 2013

Action Plan of the Commission on Local Safety is based on topics agreed during past meetings that reflect common problems we face on daily business in our cities.

The UBC Commission on Local Safety main areas of interest are:

- To support work for a municipal planning process that increases a safe community;
- To expand partnership and collaborations, which are responsible for safety promotion in the communities;
- To support work with crime prevention, work against illegal graffiti, against drug abuse;
- To promote work for an increased traffic safety;
- To advocate programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups;
- To promote long-term, sustainable safety programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations.

The UBC Commission on Local Safety objectives:

In order to find better solution to problems such as an illegal trade in the centres of cities, transport (i.e. TAXI) control, protection of environment, next meeting is planned in the end of October this year in Nacka (SWE). Representatives from designated cities will introduce the topics with procedures implemented. New ideas will be discussed as well as concepts on cooperation with National Police and other safety players in the cities. Our population is getting old. Senior citizens often feel alone and that makes them a good target for criminals. One of our tasks is to focus on security for elderly. Thus, Local Safety Commission plans to conduct at least one meeting in 2012 for elderly safety issues.

There are no countries within UBC that don't have problems with homelessness. Number of homeless people increases in bigger cities every year. Not only NGOs and other organizations should take care of them. Our objective as the local Municipal Guard/Police and other municipal body is to monitor and help homeless and support responsible organizations. Commission on Local Safety plans to more concentrate on this subject in year 2013.

Each of two above mentioned projects will be summarised in two separate summary reports.

During the period 2012 – 2013 we plan to organize two meetings/conferences in each year and strengthen the cooperation with other commissions with focus on Commission on Health and Social Affairs.

Leszek Walczak
Chairman of the Commission
Municipal Guard of Gdańsk

Czesław Dwojak
Coordinator of the Commission
Municipal Guard of Gdańsk

COMMISSION ON SPORT

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

I. UBC COMMISSION ON SPORT SOCIAL CAMPAIGN “ALWAYS ACTIVE” – CONCLUSION OF THE CAMPAIGN

In autumn 2009 the UBC Commission on Sport concluded the Social Campaign entitled “Always Active” whose objective was to prevent physical mobility restrictions (originating from advanced age) as well as to counteract consequent social exclusion. Within the campaign the Commission on Sport realised a number of initiatives comprising, among others, grant sessions and a conference which were targeted at promoting an active lifestyle as a factor enhancing health and functional capacity as well as at stressing the importance of healthy ageing process.

1. 2009 UBC Commission on Sport Grant Session “Active and Fit”

The “Always Active” Campaign was concluded in 2009 with UBC Commission on Sport Grant Session “Active and Fit”. The Commission on Sport allocated grants of the total amount of 5 500 EUR. “Active and Fit” grants were awarded for those projects which offered the best rehabilitation opportunities to elderly people with mobility restrictions and thus propagated physical activity among elderly people.

No.	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	“Healthy body – healthy mind”	Panevėžys (Lithuania)	2 500 EUR
2.	“Small ball – great exercise”	Koszalin (Poland)	1 000 EUR
3.	“Go, Seniors, go!”	Ustka (Poland)	1 000 EUR
4.	“Let’s go in for sports and be young”	Vilnius (Lithuania)	1 000 EUR

II. UBC COMMISSION ON SPORT CAMPAIGN “SPORT IS COOL” – LAUNCHING OF THE CAMPAIGN

Nowadays less and less young people regard sport as an interesting way of passing their leisure time. Instead, they choose to be inactive in their free time, and play for example computer games or watch television.

In order to counteract this tendency, in 2010 the UBC Commission on Sport launched the “Sport is cool!” Campaign addressed at young people from UBC member cities as well as adults who are professionally in charge of organising sports activities for young people and/or who work in sports departments of city administration, sports clubs and organisations.

The Campaign’s main objective is to promote among young people sport as an interesting alternative to regular pastime and consequently to stimulate them to actively spend their free time. Additionally, the Campaign focuses on raising youngsters’ awareness of the physical activity as an important element of healthy lifestyle.

Within the “Sport is cool” Campaign the UBC Commission on Sport has organised / will organise: grant sessions in 2010 and 2011, a multimedia competition in 2011/2012, sports workshops for young people in summer/autumn 2012, and finally a conference for sports professionals in spring/summer 2013.

The Campaign was launched in spring 2010 and will be concluded in autumn 2013.

Within the “Sport is cool” Campaign, UBC Commission on Sport has realised / is realising the following activities:

1. 2010 Annual Meeting “Sport is Cool”

On 22-24 April, in cooperation with the City of Tallinn, UBC Commission on Sport held its Annual Meeting 2010 “Sport is cool!”

The idea of promoting sport activities among children and young people was the main subject of the 2010 meeting. The Commission members looked for the measures of encouraging young generation to be physically active and fit as well as of promoting to them sport as an interesting way of passing their free time, and in this way discovering the tourist potential of the Baltic Sea Region.

The programme of the Annual Meeting included, among others, presentations of the best practices coming from various UBC member cities, such as Turku’s Poweraction being after school physical activities for young people, projects from Karlskrona or Tallinn. The Commission did not neglect youngsters from the disadvantaged groups, and thus prepared a presentation showing options to disabled young people, who can try their hand at sailing in order to actively discover the Baltic Sea Region.

Additionally, the UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting was an occasion to present and consequently to launch Commission’s Campaign “Sport is cool!” targeted at young people and intended to search as well as promote effective methods of encouraging them to be physically active.

2. 2011 Annual Meeting “Sport is Cool II”

UBC Commission on Sport intends to organise its 2011 Annual Meeting in Kaliningrad (Russian Federation) in autumn 2011 (October / November).

3. 2010 Grant Session “Sport is cool”

In the year 2010 the UBC Commission on Sport allocated grants of the total amount of 6 500 EUR. “Sport is cool” grants were awarded for those projects which offered original ways of encouraging young people to pass actively their free time as well as propagated physical activity among them.

No.	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	„Join Recreation Activities!”	Tukums (Latvia)	2 500 EUR
2.	„Bergen Rugby Project”	Bergen (Norway)	1 500 EUR
3.	„Sport for life”	Sillamäe (Estonia)	1 500 EUR
4.	„SPORT IS COOL - imPOSSIBLE”	Võru (Estonia)	1 000 EUR

In the years 1996-2010 the UBC Commission on Sport granted 51,775 € for the organisation of 57 projects in which approximately 37,000 sportsmen participated.

4. 2011 Grant Session “Sport is cool II”

In the year 2011 the UBC Commission on Sport will allocate grants of the total amount of 6 000 EUR. “Sport is cool II” grants will be awarded for those projects which offer original ways of encouraging young people to discover tourist opportunities of the Baltic Sea Region and thus to pass actively their free time. The grant session was announced in summer 2011, and the deadline for submitting projects is 28 October 2011.

III. UBC COMMISSION ON SPORT CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / UBC COMMISSIONS

- **The Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association** – WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities

and Urban Health in the Baltic Region. It coordinates and promotes the goals of Healthy Cities operations in the region. Its aim is to improve public health through healthy diet and physical activity.

- **Senior Activity Centre in Gdynia** – is involved in the work for the benefit of the elderly people, attempts to promote mental and physical activity among this age group.
- **UBC Commission on Youth Issues** – promotes youth co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region and works towards youth involvement, youth exchange and youth participation in the UBC member cities. Being youth-oriented, the UBC Commission on Youth Issues has been approached by UBC Commission on Sport, and a closer cooperation started. Its main objective is to implement the “Sport is cool” Campaign and to reach as many young people from UBC member cities as possible.

IV. UBC COMMISSION ON SPORT WEBSITE

The UBC Commission on Sport regularly updates its website so that it contains topical information about the Commission, its actions and undertakings.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

The general objective of the UBC Commission on Sport is to promote sport and sporting activities as tools for making the Baltic Sea Region more attractive and accessible as well as for increasing fitness, health and social integration of the Baltic Sea citizens.

The UBC Commission on Sport objectives for the years 2012-2013 are as follows:

- to implement “Sport is cool” Campaign targeted at youngsters and intended to stimulate them to do sports and treat physical activity as an attractive way of spending leisure time (a multimedia competition, sports workshops and a conference for sports professionals)
- to develop cooperation with international organizations and other UBC Commissions within the area of sport
- to strengthen links among sports clubs, associations and institutions in order to create the Baltic Sport Network
- to promote sports events and sports exchange in and outside the Baltic Sea Region
- to increase the involvement of UBC member cities in actions promoting sport and healthy lifestyle on the national and international levels
- to encourage UBC member cities to actively promote active lifestyle habits especially among young people
- to stimulate UBC member cities, especially those engaged in the works of UBC Commission on Sport, to formulate policies stressing the importance of sport and recommending physical activity at all stages of life
- to raise awareness of the physical activity as an important element of healthy lifestyle among all age groups

Joanna Leman
Coordinator
UBC Commission on Sport
City of Gdynia

Maja Wagner
Chairperson
UBC Commission on Sport
City of Gdynia

COMMISSION ON TOURISM

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

The Commission on Tourism was established in 1996 to promote tourism in the Baltic Sea Region. The Commission has focused on information exchange, education, promotion and development of sustainable tourism around the Baltic Sea Region. Ryszard Zdrojewski, Koszalin, Poland holds the function of the Chairman since 1.10.2005, while Ewa Kurjata (Szczecin, Poland) was in position of Co-chair since 2008 up to the end of 2010.

The purpose of the Commission on Tourism is:

- integration of the Baltic Sea Region communities through better understanding each other, exchange of tourist information and support of the tourist traffic;
- better coordination of tourism in the Baltic Sea Region through creation of cooperation network between the cities; development of interpersonal relationships and use of the Internet;
- promotion of active and healthy lifestyle in which tourism plays a significant role;
- permanent development of the tourist infrastructure through initiation of projects based on the European Union programmes;

The main activities of the UBC Commission on Tourism in the said period were:

- ***Like in the previous years, there were numerous articles provided by the CoT Secretariat to the UBC Bulletin.***

All articles were related to the activities undertaken by the Commission, its projects and competition.

- ***Publication of the 3rd edition of the catalogue: “Baltic Sea Region – Perfect Tourism Zone”.***

CoT published the 3rd edition of the catalogue “BSR – Perfect Tourism Zone” in 2011

- ***Preparatory work on new edition of “Baltic Notes” which will be released under the CoT auspices.***

“Baltic Notes” is cyclically published under the patronage of the UBC. The series focuses on the issues related to international cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. In particular, it focuses on the Polish reader. Yet, in the new series English editions will be also prepared. The publication’s aim is also to promote the Union of the Baltic Cities as an active international organisation with clear vision of the BSR. The latest edition of “Baltic Notes” is dedicated to the BSR common identity in the scope of the EU Strategy for BSR.

- ***The UBC Commission on Tourism Meeting in Rakvere 2010***

The Rakvere meeting concentrated around the issues related to the place branding in the BSR, Agora 2.0 Project and UBC City Marketing Guidelines. The major highlights of the meeting were Arne Ellefors’ address (the Swedish Cultural Tourism Institute) on „How could tourism be a part of branding the Baltic Sea Region?” and Dr Tomasz Studzieniecki’s lecture (Gdynia Maritime Academy) on place branding.

- ***The UBC Commission on Tourism meeting in Greifswald, Germany 17 – 19 March 2011***

The main subject of the meeting was: "Baltic Sea Region identity in the light of the UBC Strategy". There were 17 participants from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who took part in this event.

The meeting was opened by Ulf Dembski, the Deputy Mayor who made a short presentation about Greifswald.

In the first part of the meeting – „Baltic Identity” the following lectures were made:

- Tourism as a Part of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region made by Elke Ording, State Chancellery Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
- The Project „Seaside” made by Nicole Spittel, Vorpommern e.V. Greifswald
- European Route of Brick Gothic by Christoph Pienkoss, Europäische Route der Backsteingotik e.V., Berlin
- Project AGORA 2.0 - Heritage Tourism for Increased BSR Identity by Betina Meliss, University of Greifswald, Institute of Geography, Ryszard Zdrojewski, UBC / CoT
- Survey on Relevance of Heritage Potentials for Business Development, Ryszard Zdrojewski, UBC / CoT
- What do we have in common in the whole Baltic Sea Region? Betina Meliss, University of Greifswald, Institute of Geography

During the second part of the meeting the results of the 1st competition and CoT awards ceremony were presented as well as the announcement of the new competition was made. The second part was dedicated to CoT's internal matters: announcement of the new edition of the competition „Tourist destinations” and CoT activity plans 2010-2011. Ryszard Zdrojewski presented 3rd edition of "BSR – Perfect Tourism Zone" Catalogue and the report from the UBC Executive Board in Tallinn was discussed.

During the meeting the jury of the UBC Commission on Tourism Competition "Tourist hit of 2011 season" was chosen:

1. Merike Järv from Elva, Estonia
2. Laila Nordfors from Gävle, Sweden
3. Michał Sutyła from Międzyzdroje, Poland
4. Aira Andriksone from Riga, Latvia
5. Anett Dahms from Greifswald, Germany

The day trip to the Island of Ruegen took place on 19 March 2011.

- ***AGORA 2.0 project partners meeting in Minsk***

Between 7 and 9 October 2010 the representatives of the UBC Commission on Tourism, together with the Regional Development Agency of Koszalin (KARR S.A.) took part in the Agora 2.0 project partners meeting in Minsk. The meeting was dedicated to the implementation of the AGORA 2.0 project. During the first day the work group sessions took place. During the second day the presentations about Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region were presented. The participants took part in the Creativity Workshops to generate Innovative Ideas for Heritage Tourism. Both, CoT and KARR S.A. showed their

activities during the project implementation.

- ***AGORA 2.0 project partner meeting in Tallinn***

The meeting was dedicated to the implementation of the AGORA 2.0 project. During the first day of the meeting Project Coordinator – Betina Meliss made a presentation about Project Work Status. Presentation about each Work Package were made. Carsten Beyer – Financial Manager presented the overview about financial aspects of the Project Work Status. Each Project Partner made a short presentation what has been achieved so far. During the second day of the meeting in Tallinn Parallel Sessions took place. It was agreed that the next Partner Meeting will take place in Autumn 2011, probably in Stockholm. CoT and KARR S.A. took part in the meetings and discussions concerning Work Package 4 - Heritage Scouting. What is more Ryszard Zdrojewski made a presentation about implementation activities connected with WP 4. During the meeting, the list of proposals to the Six Baltic Sea Region Wonders

- ***ESB! Project partner meeting in Gdańsk***

The first project partner meeting took place in Gdańsk between 31.08 and 02.09.2011. The main aim of the meeting was to establish the role of each partner and establish the project timetable. “Enjoy South Baltic!” is a new and innovatory cross-border project co-financed from European Development Funds within South Baltic Programme 2007-2013 implemented by partners from Poland, Lithuania and Germany. The aim of the project is to strengthen the image and competitiveness of the South Baltic region defined as the “rising star” among other international tourist destinations and to improve the quality of tourist offer and services throughout direct cooperation to private sector. Tourist branch SME’s are key partners in the tourist offer management and selling system. The first stage of the project implementation will be focused on creation new tourist product and packages on the base of unique resources and observed trends in tourism but the second will be designed to launch the new products on the market. To that end it will be vital to connect south baltic tour operators and tourist agencies with the tourist industry in the perspective destination countries which communicate with the end customer, i.e. the tourist for whom the offer has been developed. The project has already started.

- ***The UBC Commission on Tourism competition on the best tourist destination, idea or project developed by the UBC member cities.***

“Tourist hit of 2011 season”

The main subject and objectives of the competition are selection and promotion of the best product, site, event, idea in the field of tourism. The main aim of the competition is to promote the Baltic Sea Region as a tourist destination. The best tourist product, site, event or idea in the field of tourism will be selected based on the following criteria:

- a) Compliance with the objectives of the UBC;
- b) Compliance with the objectives of the CoT;
- c) Extent of the impact

Competition refers to activities that shall happen between 1 May and 31 October 2011. Applications are to be submitted via e-mail and in written form until 1 November 2011 (the date on the post stamp is decisive). Announcement of results latest by 30 November. Payment of prize money will take place in December 2011.

- **“Collection of Good Practices on Sustainable Tourism”, within the frame of the project EcoRegion (Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013) led by Greifswald University.**

The EcoRegion project has the ambition to identify practices that might be relevant for potential users of the EcoRegion good practice database. At the end, it will be the user to decide on the relevance of the practice and on whether it actually is a “good” practice or not.

ACTION PLAN 2011-2013

The UBC Commission on Tourism intends to mainstream its activities in 2011-2013 in four main directions: branding, project development (including Agora 2.0 and ESB!), international cooperation and marketing. It should be stressed that the activities are of cyclic nature. CoT sticks to organizing its meetings twice a year: spring and autumn in the cities around the Baltic.

1. Branding

This activity is to concentrate on the place branding activities in the BSR, as well as UBC branding. Both of these topics remain in compliance with the EU Strategy for the BSR and the UBC Strategy.

- Competition on the best BSR tourist destination
- UBC City Marketing Guidelines

2. Tourism projects based on EU programs

The CoT is a partner in **Agora 2.0** project developed through the BSR Program 2007-2013.

- Participation in seminars and activities within the project
- Dissemination of information related to project activities through the CoT Newsletter and directly
- Preparing surveys related to the relevance of heritage potentials

KARR SA is a partner in **Enjoy South Baltic! –Joint actions promoting the South Baltic area as a tourist destination.**

- Participation in seminars and activities within the project
 - study trips for journalists
 - foreign meetings to the tour operators
 - workshops for tourist service providers
- Dissemination of information related to project activities

3. EU Project development

This is to activate the Commission's members, through offering a series of lectures and workshops on actual project preparation, management and development. Through various working techniques the CoT wants to strengthen its own network of contacts and enlarge it through active involvement of cities. The members will be offered a manual elaborated in English which they can then use in their daily proceedings in their cities.

- Preparing surveys and policies related to tourism development in the BSR
- Case studies

4. International Cooperation

Establishing cooperation between CoT and other tourist associations in Europe and worldwide.

5. Marketing

- Publish the catalogue "BSR Perfect Tourism Zone 2011/2012" in a new, more attractive form
- Prepare the Newsletter sent out to the CoT members and the Agora and ESB! project network via Internet
- Publish "Baltic Notes" under the UBC patronage
- A series of articles on the BSR tourism, identity and integration in international and national literature
- Prepare a series of articles to be published in the UBC Cities Bulletin

COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2011

Initiatives of UBC Commission on Transportation

Joint meeting of the Commissions on Energy, Environment and Transportation 18-19 March 2010, Gdynia, Gdańsk (Poland)

The UBC Commissions on Energy, Environment and Transportation Joint Meeting was held in Gdynia on 18-19 March 2010. It was focused on Sustainable Solutions for Combating Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region – implementing the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2009-2015 and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The aim of the meeting organised jointly by three UBC Commissions was to analyse and discuss challenges of climate change from these three viewpoints.

On 18 March during the panel of the Commission on Environment participants got acquainted with the solutions for combating storm water in the city of Gdańsk (Poland) as well as with the storm water measures in the cities of Pori and Turku (Finland). The case of Swedish Climate municipalities allowed the guests to learn how to effectively implement climate change actions in cities. The panel of the Commission on Transportation stressed the importance of introducing the sustainable mobility solutions in our everyday live. Heavy traffic inevitably leads to air pollution having bad impact on our climate. The speakers presented a public transport policy in Gdynia (Poland) including the trolleybus system, paid parking zones and cycling initiatives. The representative of Ghent (Belgium) presented a highly developed cycling policy of this city comprising many initiatives and undertakings aimed at stimulating healthy transport habits. The speaker from Umeå (Sweden) presented, among other things, the activities of the agency for Mobility Management in Umeå as well as actions promoting sustainable transport solutions. At the end of the panel the Carbon Aware Travel Choice – the CATCH project was described by the representative of POLIS organisation from Brussels (Belgium). On 19 March the meeting of the Commission on Energy panel was held. During the meeting the innovative Baltic Sea Region & Technology Transfer system was presented by the representative of TT Center Kalmar Science Park in Sweden.

Road Safety Campaign

Since 2009 the UBC has been a signatory of the European Road Safety Charter. Bearing this in mind, the Commission on Transportation decided to carry out a Road Safety Campaign for UBC member cities. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness of all traffic participants: pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. It includes the following initiatives:

- Road Safety Course for Children – AUTOCHODZIK

This course was organised in Gdynia on 15 May 2010 as a picnic for inhabitants of Gdynia. Among many exciting and involving events and stands devoted to all generations there was the “Autochodzik” (walking car) tent that attracted hundreds of kids. It is one of the largest in Poland educational programmes focused on traffic education directed to pre-school and school children. During the specially designed route kids learn about traffic safety, learn road signs and have the possibility to obtain their first “driving licence”. The participants in the “Autochodzik” course were attracted by colourful plush cars and a traffic route created in a children-friendly and interesting way. Not only children enjoyed the stand, but also parents who observed their little drivers with curiosity and enthusiasm. They realised that elements of this game can be introduced in everyday activities and walks around the city. The event aimed at introducing new ways of teaching children how to behave safely in the traffic area and realising that such rules may be presented in a pleasant and joyful way attractive to future drivers.

- Road Safety Competition 2010

In December 2010 the Commission on Transportation organised a grant competition entitled “Bike to Work”. There have been submitted 7 grant applications. The competition was won by the Hanseatic City of Rostock. Prize of 2000 EUR was awarded for the organisation of actions promoting cycling as an everyday means of transport. The competition task consisted in presenting proposals how to encourage people to cycle to work and other places, developing cycling infrastructure, promoting intermodality, improving cyclists’ safety and security

- Brochure on road safety – “Safe on the road”

The Commission on Transportation published a brochure on road safety in three language versions: English: “Safe on the road”, Polish: “Bezpiecznie na drodze” and Russian: “Безопасность на дороге”. It was addressed to children of early school classes and shows the basic rules of behaviour on the road.

- Road safety promotional materials

The Commission on Transportation produced promotional road safety gadgets (reflective slap wraps and reflective hangers).

- Road Safety Seminar: “What can we do to increase the road safety among children and young people?” – 21-22.10.2010, Gdynia

On 21-22 October 2010 an international seminar entitled “What can we do to increase the road safety among children and young people?” was held in Gdynia. The seminar was organised under the auspices of the Union of the Baltic Cities and its goal was to present the situation of children as traffic participants as well as actions aimed at increasing their safety.

During the seminar there were introduced new EU orientations “Towards a European Road Safety Area: Policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020” aimed at reducing the number of road deaths on Europe’s roads by half in the next 10 years. In addition a programme called “Vision Zero” successfully realised in Sweden was presented. In accordance with this programme the number of road accident casualties is to be reduced to zero in the future. Sweden has currently one of the lowest road accident rates in Europe. A representative of the Belgian „Responsible Young Drivers” association presented the actions of European youth aimed at road safety. During the seminar representatives of among others „Renault Polska” as well as the association “Road and Safety” discussed actions, programmes and campaigns on traffic education for children and young people.

The participants in the seminar also had an opportunity to get acquainted with presentations of speakers representing the Technical University of Gdańsk, Pomeranian Council on Road Safety, Pomeranian Traffic Centre, “Safe in the Road Traffic” foundation, City Guard of Gdynia and Gdańsk as well as the Municipal Police Headquarters.

- Bike to School Grant Competition 2011

In September 2011 the Commission on Transportation announced a grant competition entitled “Bike to School”. The Commission will award two best projects which:

- promote bicycle as a means of transport and encourage young people to cycle to school
- introduce healthy lifestyle into the daily routine of young people
- promote sustainable urban mobility
- reduce speed in the school area
- reduce parking problems around schools

Each of the awarded projects will receive a grant of 1,000 euro. The deadline for sending applications is 14 October 2011.

European Road Safety Charter

Since 2009 the UBC has been a signatory of the European Road Safety Charter. The Commission on Transportation has been fulfilling the commitments resulting from the membership in this Charter. One of these commitments is to write articles on road safety in the Baltic Cities Bulletin. As a consequence, the following articles were published:

- Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/2009 – article: European Road Safety Charter – road safety prevention measures taken by UBC cities
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2010 – article: Road safety for vulnerable road users
- Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/2010 – article: Safe route to and from school

- Baltic Cities Bulletin 1/2011 – article: ERSC: Road safety in Sweden

Support for the Segment Project

The Commission on Transportation assisted in preparation of a conference in Gdynia, entitled: „Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Mobility” (15-16.09.2011) organised within the project: SEGMENT – Segmented Marketing for Energy Efficient Transport. SEGMENT is a 3 year IEE STEER funded project which will test the use of consumer market segmentation techniques in persuading people to change their travel behaviour and adopt more energy efficient forms of transport. SEGMENT will help build capacity in local authorities across Europe to implement resource-efficient and effective behaviour change campaigns increasing the uptake of sustainable transport methods.

UBC Commission on Transportation Survey

The UBC Commission on Transportation has sent out a survey on transport issues. It was prepared on the basis of the EU document: “White Paper 2011. Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area - Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system”. By means of this survey the Commission wanted to get to know the interests of UBC member cities in the field of transport in order to focus more and better adjust its future actions to the actual needs.

17 cities answered the questionnaire, the analysis of the results will be presented during the General Conference in Liepāja and the Commission on Transportation Annual Meeting in Riga.

UBC Commission on Transportation Annual Meeting and Seminar Riga (Latvia) 15-17.11.2011

The UBC Commission on Transportation together with Riga City Council have started the organisation of the Commission Annual Meeting and Seminar. The meeting entitled: Traffic safety measures for vulnerable road users - pedestrians and cyclists is planned for 15-17 November 2011 in Riga. The main topics include: promoting traffic safety in the city: Infrastructure planning in order to eliminate dangerous junctions / crossings, pedestrian safety, particularly in the dark time of the day, integrating bicycle infrastructure into city transport network, cycling promotion and safety. Other subjects comprise teaching road safety, education programmes for children as well as road safety and maintenance in winter. It is addressed to the UBC Commission on Transportation members, local government, non-governmental organisations, institutions dealing with road safety issues.

UBC Commission on Transportation Website

The Commission’s website is constantly updated. It contains all relevant information concerning transport issues. The website serves as a source of information which includes links to international organisations dealing with transport. The website provides its visitors with automatically updated EU transport news from EurActiv portal.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

In 2012-2013 Commission on Transportation will deal with transport-related issues connected with public transport, cycling, mobility management as well as with road safety. The planned activities include:

- presenting articles on road safety in the Baltic Cities Bulletin,
- including the presentation of the European Road Safety Charter as well as traffic safety issues

- at the meetings of the Commission on Transportation,
- organisation of the grant competition concerning transport issues,
 - co-organisation of a Joint Commission meeting with the Commissions on Environment, Energy and Urban Planning,
 - organisation of the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Transportation,
 - support for the project: SEGMENT – Segmented Marketing for Energy Efficient Transport. SEGMENT is a 3 year IEE STEER funded project which will test the use of consumer market segmentation techniques in persuading people to change their travel behaviour and adopt more energy efficient forms of transport. SEGMENT will help build capacity in local authorities across Europe to implement resource-efficient and effective behaviour change campaigns increasing the uptake of sustainable transport methods. The Commission on Transportation will assist in dissemination of project activities on UBC TransCom website,
 - creating a database of best practices in the field of transport,
 - establishing cooperation with European transport organisations,
 - assistance with preparation and realisation of transport projects, which will ask for support in the years 2012-2013
 - updating the website of the TransCom as an information source for the Commission members.

Andrzej Bień
Chairman
UBC Commission on Transportation

COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

ACTIVITY REPORT 2010-2011

Meetings

Seminar in Tampere, 14-17 April 2010

The Tampere seminar theme “Edges of the City Centre and Reuse of Traffic Areas” concentrated on an acute question in many cities, namely increasing the density of city centres and avoiding urban sprawl. Also climate change and sustainability in urban planning were taken into account in the seminar programme, as Oras Tynkkynen, the Finnish Government Climate Policy Specialist, gave a presentation on urban planning in low-carbon societies.

The seminar workshops concentrated on two traffic areas: the first workshop on a lake shore area next to a busy highway that needs to be connected to the urban structure, and the another workshop on the reuse of the former railway cargo station area. The City of Tampere is planning big investments in the form of a tunnel and a new sports and concert arena to improve the areas, and the workshops made their own proposals for increasing the city density in those areas. The former traffic areas and creating new use to them is a common problem in many Baltic cities. Also, an important part of the seminar has always been the exchange of experiences between professional urban planners. This time there were 37 seminar participants from 21 cities in Russia, Scandinavian countries, Baltic countries, Poland and Germany.

Seminar in Šiauliai, 7 - 9 October 2010

Like many North European cities, Šiauliai is suffering from loss of inhabitants. One of the aims of the CUP seminar “Visions for an Attractive City and City Centre” was to find ways to increase the attractiveness of the city and to discuss how urban planning could help the city to keep its present inhabitants and possibly even increase the number of population.

The seminar concentrated on finding good examples of positive urban development. There were very interesting presentations from Hamburg, Odense and Umeå, where the local administration’s active approach to solving problems has led to fine results despite the economic and political difficulties. One of the main conclusions was that the cities active in finding ways to solve their problems are the ones that survive. Seeking financial possibilities together with private enterprises and different state or EU programs has made possible to carry out ambitious projects.

The seminar workshops focused on creating new use for the former Frenkelis leather factory area and on developing the city centre and the surroundings of the pedestrian street. There were lots of useful proposals for renovating old industrial buildings for education, culture, NGOs purposes and apartments, and for creating new parks, pedestrian and biking routes, light and new places of attraction for inhabitants. There were 36 participants from 18 cities and 8 countries in the Šiauliai seminar.

Seminar in Växjö, 11 -13 April 2011

CUP had its 23rd seminar “Innovative Districts” in Växjö. Already for 15 years the city of Växjö has been working for environmentally friendly urban development. That is why the seminar participants visited the wooden multi-storey housing complex on the waterfront of Trummen Lake. There were also lots of other interesting practical solutions to see for planners working with the questions of sustainable urban development.

The seminar workshops concentrated on Samarkand, an industrial and commercial area that needs certain updating, and the Trummen area with the Linné University and the wooden multi-storey housing project. The community feels these areas are placed apart from the city centre and thus the urban structure needs improvement. That is why the ideas of the CUP network of urban planners were appreciated. There was Martin Möller from the Århus University’s Alexandra Institute to tell about how business life and university meet and inspire each other for new development. Sidsel Jensen from the Gehl Architects gave an inspiring presentation about Samarkand, another workshop focus area. The workshops resulted in many new proposals for future urban development, including new housing and business building possibilities and cooperation with the university researchers.

45 participants from 20 cities and 8 Baltic countries took part in the seminar.

Seminar in Tartu, 19-21 September 2011

The 24th CUP seminar “Planning the History and Future in Consonance” was in Tartu in September 2011. Tartu is often considered the intellectual and cultural hub of Estonia, especially since it is home to Estonia’s oldest university from 1632. The historical elements of the Tartu city centre make it a very attractive city for its residents, university students and tourists, but the pressure to attract business life is also considerable like all over the Baltic Sea region. How to combine the historical features with modern commercial needs combining the values of the old and bringing new ideas, was the theme of the seminar.

Together with the late 1700’s and 1800’s empiric style old town the seminar participants visited unique

large wooden housing areas Karlova and Supilinn. There were also special lectures from Denmark and Sweden about how to support city centres' commercial activities and keeping city centres the real, alive centres they should be, taking into account both city inhabitants' social behaviour and traffic needs.

The seminar workshops concentrated on finding creative, good-quality solutions of combining historical city landscape with the needs of business life and creating modern attractions that the city needs to maintain its vigorous spirit.

The Tartu seminar had nearly 60 participants from 23 cities and 9 countries.

Coming seminars in 2012

The Commission on Urban Planning will have its 25th seminar in Halmstad, Sweden, in May 2012 together with the Commission on Environment.

In autumn 2012 the CUP will have a seminar in Elbląg, Poland.

Changes in the CUP Steering Committee

In the end of 2010, Lars-Göran Boström from Umeå left the CUP Steering Committee due to getting ahead on his career. Instead, Isabella Forsgren from Umeå joined the Steering Committee.

After the Tartu seminar in September 2011 Sirpa Kallio left her position as the Chairman of the CUP and a member of the Steering Committee due to getting ahead on her career. Niels-Peter Mohr Nielsen was appointed as the new CUP Chairman.

At the end of 2011 the Steering Committee of the Commission on Urban Planning has altogether 4 members: Mara Liepa-Zemesa from Riga, Marek Karzyński from Gdynia, Isabella Forsgren from Umea and Niels-Peter Mohr from Aarhus as the Chairman of the Commission.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

The Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) is a network of professional planners, researchers, architects, engineers and sociologists around the Baltic Sea Region.

CUP

- Wants to keep Baltic Sea Region cities on the map of Europe and the world by supporting local planners' professional skills and sharing knowledge
- Supports city servants in their work of building better cities, increases awareness of urban planning, architecture and construction

Also in the activity period of 2012-2013 CUP will have the following goals in its activities:

- Better quality of life in cities in the Baltic Sea Region
- Positive economic development in cities by initiating dialogue between city residents, private (commercial& industrial) and public sectors
- Sustainable development in the Baltic Sea cities

Urban planning and construction that reflects the socio-economic, cultural and political life of the cities is a tool to achieve these goals.

The Commission on Urban Planning will have its 25th seminar in Halmstad, Sweden, in May 2012 together with the Commission on Environment.

In autumn 2012 the CUP will have a seminar in Elbląg, Poland. Also, there are preliminary plans of arranging a seminar in Umeå in 2013.

In the future the Commission on Urban Planning still tries to follow the principle of not collecting seminar participation fees.

COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2011

Commission on Youth Issues. Organization of work.

Chair of the Commission on Youth Issues is city of Tallinn (since 2008). Chair persons have changed due to the changes in city administration of Tallinn, but since April 2011 the Chairman of the Commission is Mihhail Kõlvart who is the Deputy Mayor of Tallinn. The Vice Chair city is Liepāja and is represented by the Vice-Chairman of Liepāja's City Council Gunars Ansins.

The secretariat and administration of the Commission are located in Tallinn and within the city responsibility for organizing Commission on Youth Issues work is given to Tallinn City Government Sports and Youth Department. The youth representatives are still members of the Commission for approximately two years and each city elects their youth representatives themselves. Very often they are chosen from local youth councils.

Commission meetings during the period October 2009 – September 2011.

Commission meeting together with the Commission of Education held in Kristiansand during the X UBC General Conference.

Commission meeting in city of Liepāja 10 -12 June 2010

28 people from 10 different cities attended the meeting in Liepāja, Latvia. Commission on Sport was also represented. Vice-Chairman of the UBC Commission on Youth Issues, Gunars Ansins opened the meeting. Main topic for sharing best practices was this time about general youth policy planning and youth work in cities. UBC Commission on Sports representative Joanna Leman made a presentation about their work. Possible joint activities and information sharing was discussed and agreed. Two projects chosen last time were developed further and certain cities made preliminary decisions about joining one or another project. Youth Conference 2011 was discussed and first input was collected. Youth driven project IDEA House was presented by Vilis Bruveris, Aizpute, Latvia. Aims and goals of the Commission and future action plans were discussed and agreed. Field trips to Liepāja's Youth Center and University of Liepāja were organized.

Commission meeting in city of Rostock 26-28 October 2010

31 participants from 12 different cities attended. The Commission held its' second meeting of 2010 in the city of Rostock, Germany. Mayor of Rostock, Roland Methling, opened the meeting. Main topic for sharing best practices was this time "Supporting youth employment and career in our city". Overview of the questionnaire, carried out on Commission's web-page regarding youth policy and youth

work strategies in UBC cities, was given. 2 projects were chosen to develop for further work within Commission: youth democracy project and youth workers training project. Strategical goals and better communication of the Commission were discussed as well in the format of brainstorm. Field visit to “Rostocker Freizeitzentrum” was organized.

Commission meeting in city of Turku 25-27 April 2011

23 people from 12 different cities participated. Director of Turku Youth Department Annina Lehtiö-Vainiö opened the meeting and presented youth work of Turku. Also, Turku as European Capital of Culture 2011 program was also presented. Main topic for sharing best practices was therefore “Culture related youth projects in my city”. Pavels Jurs from Liepāja made a presentation about upcoming youth conference project (to be submitted to National Youth in Action agency), timetable and content was discussed by participants. Two new projects were introduced by Animare Project Management, who had prepared project drafts: finalizing decisions were made. Participants took part of European Cultural Capital program event “Dancing Tower” at Cultural Factory Logomo and field visit at youth center “Vimma” was organized.

Other activities

During the period 2009-2011 city of Turku has officially joined the Commission (by signing Letter of Intent) and city of Karlstad is ready to join officially. There have been 18 different cities from 8 countries participating in Commission’s work actively and regularly during the period 2009-2011, 8 of them have signed the Letter of Intent. Chair city has been focusing on introducing the Commission work more widely and holding meetings in UBC countries from where the interest towards the Commission work has been moderate: during this period Finland and for the next period Poland and Lithuania. At the same time it has been important to encourage already active cities who want to introduce their youth policy and youth work and are expressing willingness to host the meetings when locations are chosen.

There were 2 finalizing meetings held for the team of the project “Different History – Common Future...”. First 28-29 October 2009 in Kalmar (focusing on summary of the youth conference held in Kristiansand) and second one 9-12 December 2009 in Rostock (focusing on final project report).

Chair city Tallinn and Vice Chair city Liepāja met on Deputy Mayor’s level on 19 April 2010 to agree on co-operation and confirm main goals to be achieved during 2010-2011. Questions of shared responsibility and input of the resources from lead cities was also discussed.

UBC Commission on Youth Issues representatives participated at UBC Commission on Sport meeting 22-24 April 2010 in Tallinn.

Representative from UBC Commission on Youth Issues participated at Yc³ (Youth Cross-border Cooperation and Communication) Summit for discussing possible co-operation. Event took place in Karlskrona 23-24 July 2010.

There was one project preparation meeting in Copenhagen held on 11 January 2011, where most of the details for new project “Youth in Baltic Sea Region: Lifestyles, Media and Participation” were written down.

Two meetings have been held between Tallinn and Liepāja in the matter of preparing the youth conference 2011 (later decided: youth seminar). First meeting took place in Riga, 25 January 2011 and also representative from Kolding and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs attended. Second meeting

took place in Tallinn on 22 August 2011.

In 2010 Commission carried out a web-based questionnaire among UBC cities “Mapping existence of Youth Policies and Youth Work Strategies in UBC member cities”. Results were published also in UBC Bulletin “Baltic Cities” 2/2010. Commission has been actively informing about its work in UBC Bulletin regularly.

Information spreading

Commission on Youth Issues has updated web-page www.ubc-youth.org and has account in Facebook COYI – Commission on Youth Issues.

ACTION PLAN 2012-2013

- 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 collected and shared between participants and others interested (in virtual format). Choosing best possible locations – bearing in mind activating new cities but at the same time encouraging already active cities.
- Applying for projects: “Youth in Baltic Sea Region: Lifestyles, Media and Participation” (project might be divided into 3 smaller parts and applied for funding at different National Youth in Action agencies as suggested by head quarters of Youth in Action program) and “Smart and Motivated Youth Workers are the stars of Baltic Sea Region” and carrying out the projects.
- Finalizing strategy and communication plan of the Commission and implementing it.
- Introducing youth opinions, youth policy and youth work practices among UBC cities and inviting to join Commission’s activities, network and initiating new projects. Focus on youth participation and youth council’s work in BSR will be one of the thematical focuses for the new period.
- Negotiating with the UBC Board involving youth representatives to the leading organ of UBC.
- Preparation for youth conference 2013.
- Search for the new vice chair for the Commission.

Mihhail Kõlvart
Chairman of the Commission
Deputy Mayor of Tallinn

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