



COMMISSION ON LOCAL SAFETY

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2013

Meetings conducted during reported period

The 4th Commissions on Local Safety meeting took place on 20-21 October 2011 in Nacka (SWE). Representatives of nine UBC members have attended (Botkyrka, Gdansk, Karlstad, Nacka, Orebro, Tallinn, Turku and Vilnius) to discuss issues related to public safety, compare knowledge and gained experience.

During the meeting the participants were acquainted with the results of the XI UBC General Conference in Liepaja where Commission got final approval of transformation from Working Group to Commission.

Invited guest professor Bo Gronlund from Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts presented interesting talk on crime prevention through environmental design and another invited speaker, Mr Hans Akerlund from the Swedish Construction Federation spoke on practical advice how to keep the building sector clean of criminal activities and unethical behaviour.

The 5th Commissions meeting conducted in May 2012, was organized by Tallinn Municipality. The following representatives from ten cities took part in that meeting: Tallinn; Örebro; Nacka; Karlstad; Gdańsk; Turku; Helsinki; Riga; Jelgava; Vilnius.

Taking into consideration the fact that the year 2012 is the European year of active ageing and solidarity between generations, this meeting was devoted to elderly and ways to ensure safety for older people. During that meeting several speakers gave presentations about various activities for the elderly which could be organized by local authorities and institutions.

Invited guest, the representative of European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), Mr. Sebastian Sperber, presented EU RECO network created under the auspices of Council of Europe. As a non-government organization EFUS closely cooperates with European Committee and assembles over 300 cities from Europe. The main activity of this organization is to work on all major issues in urban safety and security and build up links between European local authorities through practices, information exchanges, cooperation and training.

Moreover, the EFUS establishes relations between local authorities on a national, European and international levels and promotes the role of local authorities through of their programs, projects and researches. The first contact with EFUS has given to the Commission on Local Safety opportunity for future cooperation and gaining a wide range of experiences on the field of local safety and security.

The 6th meeting took place in Gdańsk 5-7 September 2012 and was merged with International Congress of Active Mobility. Several topics were devoted for safety traffic on the streets and brought to the members of the Commission range of good solutions and examples on organizing safety traffic in the cities. During that meeting, on close session an election of Commission management was conducted. With the approval of the delegates, the Chairman and two Vice-chairman were re-elected. There were seven participating cities: Nacka, Jelgava, Riga, Botkyrka, Vilnius, Karlstad, Gdańsk.

The third Congress of Active Mobility, attended by over 250 representatives from European countries, was devoted for popularization of different manners of active mobility and increasing safety traffic on the streets.

Commission on local Safety took important part in organizing the Congress, members of Commission promoted the UBC organization and Commission's on Local Safety Activities.

City of Jelgava organized the 7th Commission on Local Safety meeting that took place on 13-14 June 2013. The main topic of this meeting was "Street violence – prevention and elimination". Representatives from ten cities participated this meeting: Jelgava, Riga, Vilnius, Liepaja, Gdansk, Botkyrka, Nacka, Karlstad, Tallinn and Turku.

Invited guest, Mr Sebastian Sperber from the EFUS presented "Security, democracy and cities – the manifesto of Aubervilles and Saint Denis and its recommendations on collective violence". He summarized results of conference. In his presentation he told that European institutions should take more decisive action in the fight against organized crime, not only through the action of the police, but also through prevention policies and by supporting local communities.

Mr.Sperber stressed that street violence are very often committed by youth groups. However only a few of Baltic cities have a gang problems many of them encounter occasional problems with youth groups like vandalism, graffiti, harassment in the public space, violence at schools or in public transport. Street violence is important problem, also around BSR and UBC cities should constantly share experiences in that field. To overcome the common problem and support stakeholders dealing with street violence EFUS created an online portal to bring together knowledge and practices about street violence. The project had been carried out by many organizations and obtained support from Commission on Local Safety of UBC.

Representative from Botkyrka Municipality gave presentation "Riots in Europe cities – based on Stockholm's events". He described what had happened in Stockholm in May 19 2013. Riots started in Husby and quickly spread to other parts of Stockholm county. During those turbulent events Swedish law enforcement agencies worked closely one to another and learned to deliver fast and reliable information not only through press, television and radio but through social media as well.

During this meeting a new concept of involving young people with safety and security has been introduced by representative of Gdansk Municipal Guard. This concept concerned "Safety knowledge competition" which main goal was to develop personal responsibility and intellectual skills, security improvement in the cities by the ideas of teenagers. All participating in the meeting cities were invited to take part in this program.

Exchange program

Based on experience from 2011, some UBC cities decided to carry on exchange program. The main goals of this activity is to exchange experience in organizing and conducting patrols in the city and develop a good cooperation between Municipal Police around Baltic States.

During reported period three exchange programs were conducted:

Vilnius and Riga – November 2012 – totally 11 officers;

Vilnius and Tallinn – April, May 2013 – totally 8 officers;

Gdansk and Vilnius – September 2013 – totally 4 officers.

Safe and Cool competition

Safety is one of the important needs of a human being, the UBC municipalities have done a lot for their citizens to promote and provide a safe environment. Delivering safety and security we should be more oriented on young generation. Let the generation speak - adolescents may have a good ideas how to improve their feeling of safety and security. The UBC Commission on Local Safety has decided to announce "SAFE & COOL" grant competition for the UBC member cities schools and award the initiatives aimed at promotion safety. This competition was announced at the beginning of 2012. Only schools from the UBC municipalities were eligible to enter this competition. Special appointed commission evaluated received applications and by their decision the Gimnazjum No 16 from Gdańsk has won the competition for the project: 'School – housing neighborhood = our safe home' and has been granted 2.000 EUR. Official handing of award took place on 25 October 2012.

Joint activities with other UBC Commissions and other organizations.

Co-organization and conduction International Active Mobility Congress with the Polish Union of Active Mobility (PUMA) and Central MeetBike organization. The third Congress of Active Mobility was devoted for popularization of different manners of active mobility and increasing safety traffic on the streets. Commission on Local Safety took important role with organizing this Congress, members of Commission promoted UBC organization and Commission's on Local Safety Activities. The Congress gather impressive publicity and been attended by over 250 representatives from all over Europe.

Participation, together with Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania, in European Crime Prevention Network project. The project has been awarded a grant that allows to organize "Best Practice Conference and European Crime Prevention Award 2013" The Commission actively continues this cooperation and participates in conferences .

Initial cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea State Secretariat (CBSS) in order to take a lead of the Flagship Project within EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) under Priority Area Secure scheme. Commission's representative actively participate in the meetings organized by Priority Coordinator and seek for possible financial sources.

Moreover, Commission's Secretariat representative attended to International Conference of Municipal Police on October 2012 in Riga, the main topic of this event was „Municipal Police – guaranty of the safe city”.

In order to close cooperate with the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), the Chairman of the Commission, Vice Chairman and member of secretariat, participated in EFUS 2012 Conference "Security, Democracy and Cities : The Future of Prevention". This event took place on December 2012 in Paris.

ACTION PLAN 2014 – 2015

Action Plan of the Commission on Local Safety is based on topics agreed during past meetings that reflect common safety in UBC cities. The main topics that will be taken under consideration during planned period are:

- To exchange information about best solutions on CCTV systems operating in the cities;
- To expand partnership and collaborations, which are responsible for safety promotion in the cities;
- 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 support work with crime prevention, work against illegal graffiti, against drug abuse.

During the period of 2014-2015 the Commission on Local Safety plans to organize two meetings/seminars each year.

In coming years the Commission on Local Safety plans to widen cooperation with other organizations dealing with safety in the cities. EFUS is one of most important organization in Europe, which assembles over 300 cities. The experience of this organization with EU projects about safety and security may bring to the Commission good ideas and solutions on EU co-financed projects.

Focusing on the Flagship Project under PA Secure scheme seems to be a strategic decision not only for the Commission on Local Safety itself, but for the whole UBC organization as well. Due to that we plan to continue the development of the flagship project for next two years.

During the meeting in Jelgava, a project concerning "Safety knowledge competition" was introduced to a wider audience. This project has been implemented in Gdansk and already brought good effects. Commission on Local Safety is going to support this project on macro regional level in the planned period.

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