

Dear UBC Friends,

The Baltic Sea Region has all the potential of being one of the most dynamic, innovative and competitive growth regions not only in Europe but in the world. With urbanization and urban growth being an irreversible trend, the development of cities is of cardinal importance for our societies.

The main theme of the XIII General Conference is “**Building Smart Cities in the Baltic Sea Region**”. We believe it is a great opportunity to present your achievements and challenges.

By cooperating and by learning from each other we can promote sustainable smart development in the Top of Europe. The prominent representatives from the European institutions and regional organizations are today with us to share their knowledge.

The Gdynia Conference held in the premises of Pomeranian Science and Technology Park is also a forum to discuss the future of the UBC. During last years, our organization has undergone a remarkable renewal process. The new Commissions, which have started their work at the beginning of 2015, our new communication and marketing activities under way, have released new energy to serve better our Member Cities. What have the cities gained thanks to the UBC membership? What are their expectations? What could be improved? What are the UBC priorities for coming years?

I wish you all a successful meeting!

Per Bødker Andersen
President of UBC