

**UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES**  
**86<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (ON-LINE)**  
**28 October 2020**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Technical instructions. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.

2. Information from the Commissions/WG/TF on latest and forthcoming activities. (7 min each)

Cultural Cities, Rūta Stepanovaitė, Chair of the Commission, Kaunas

Planning Cities, Paulina Szewczyk, Chair of the Commission, Gdynia

Safe Cities, Kaspars Varpins, Chair of the Commission, Liepaja

Smart and Prospering Cities, Wolfgang Schmidt, Chair of the Commission, Kiel

Sustainable Cities, Björn Grönholm, Head of SCC Secretariat, Turku

Youthful Cities, Dmitrijs Zverevs, Chair of the Commission, Riga

Gender Equality, Katarina Johansson-Storm, Ann-Sofie Lagercrantz, co-Chair, Kalmar

Youth Employment & Well-being, Matti Mäkelä, Chair, Turku

Inclusive and Healthy Cities – no leadership at the moment

Proposal:

The Board to take note of the reports.

3. XVI UBC General Conference in St.Petersburg, October 2021.

Proposal of the head theme could refer to resilient cities dealing with climate change, the pandemic and other challenges of the changing world eg.

“Resilient Baltic Sea Cities. Tackling the challenges and creating the future(s)”

The Board to set up the Task Force to work out programme of the General Conference. Presidium authorised to appoint TF members.

4. UBC Positioning Road Map for Brussels. (UBC Antenna)

According to UBC Member Cities, UBC should, as a representative regional organization, and in cooperation with other partners, promote the interests of its members and the region in European decision-making. Furthermore, UBC members “expect the organisation to work towards Agenda 2030 and to be a strong regional “player” and reliable body for European consultations”.

The partnership between UBC and OTB, initiated at the 85<sup>th</sup> UBC Board meeting, offers the opportunity for more effective advocacy and lobbying of UBC cities’ interests, increasing the visibility of UBC among European institutions, thus influencing EU policies that impact local member cities’ authorities in the long term.

The positioning roadmap prepared by the UBC Antenna is aimed to achieve the following results by the end of 2021:

- Improved visibility of UBC at the EU level
- Improved involvement of UBC in relevant EU policy dialogues
- Increased project financing with the current budget

The visibility and positioning strategy will provide basic information about key stakeholders and the UBC approach working with them. The document will provide a roadmap with activities.

Also attached the calls to EU funding programmes compiled by UBC Antenna in Brussels.

Proposal:

The Board to adopt UBC Positioning Road Map for Brussels.

#### 5. Task Force on Policy and Projects. Task Force on new Strategy.

The Executive Board at the meeting held on 17 April 2020 authorised the Presidium to set up the Task Force on Policy & Projects and the Task Force on new Strategy.

The first meeting of the Task Force on Policy and Projects was held on 15 June 2020.

At the meeting the following aims and objectives of the TF were set:

- Creating a comprehensive policy framework and position papers on relevant topics for UBC related on its core values and priorities of member cities
- Developing project concept notes
- Capacity strengthening of other UBC structures
- Creating reactive policy input within the regional and European policy debates

The road map for further activities was outlined and the timeline accepted.

The second meeting of the Task Force took place on 30 September 2020. It was decided to establish four working groups:

- Urban Agenda for EU
- Cohesion policies beyond 2020
- Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- Resilient UBC Cities

Task Force on new Strategy is to commence its operations soon.

#### 6. EUSBSR Horizontal Action Capacity. (HAC Coordinator)

UBC is one of three coordinators, together with the Swedish Institute and Norden Association representing the Baltic Sea NGO Network, of Horizontal Action 'HA Capacity' of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The overall coordination of the Strategy lies on 13 Policy Areas (PAs) and 4 Horizontal Actions (HAs). They are responsible for the application of the necessary measures to guarantee the success and visibility of the Strategy.

HA Capacity task is to increase the project capacity, skills and competence of all stakeholders involved in the Strategy, through the training programs. The other dimension of the Horizontal Action Capacity is to ensure broad participation of local and regional authorities as well as all other stakeholders.

Capacity building activities of HA CAP include among others, workshops for PAs/HAs, annual meetings of EUSBSR stakeholders, as well as support to other stakeholders.

The objectives of HA Capacity have been implemented within the project PA EDU / PA TOU / HA CAP - implementing three work programmes 2018 – 2020, co-funded from the BSR INTERREG Programme.

#### Online workshops

For this autumn, UBC will be in charge of organising seven online workshops. They are planned to be held this year using Zoom platform, covering following countries: Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

The objectives of each session:

- Promoting stakeholders and their involvement in each country
- Increasing the level of knowledge of macro-regional strategies
- Introducing concrete benefits for the stakeholders
- Brainstorming and suggesting potential follow-up actions within EUSBSR

The participants, including the stakeholders representing municipalities, different institutions and organisations, business and academia, will have an opportunity to discuss the biggest challenges of the regional cooperation and ideas on how to face them. 20 stakeholders from each city will be invited.

Expected results of the workshops:

- The visibility of EUSBSR and its benefits is increased in member states
- The support for shaping the national implementation of the strategy is increased within the pool of new stakeholders
- The higher commitment of new stakeholders to integrate the strategy in their strategic decisions or initiatives

#### 7. Information from the 11<sup>th</sup> EUSBSR Annual Forum in Turku, 20 October 2020. (Turku)

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum “Our Region, Our Future – Towards a Decade of Innovation and Sustainability” was organised online as a virtual event, broadcasted from Turku, Finland on 20 October 2020. The main organisers of the forum were the City of Turku and the Council of the Baltic Sea States, in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The themes of this year’s Forum was sustainability and innovations. The aim of the Forum was to form innovative constellations to find common approaches, which would contribute to the three objectives of the EUSBSR: Save the Sea, Connect the Region, and Increase Prosperity.

The first section of the programme was exploring the cooperation for Innovation and Sustainability. The second part of the programme presented concrete examples of cooperation

within the EUSBSR. The third part concentrated on the future: what will the EUSBSR cooperation look like in the next 10 years.

In September-October 2020, as a part of the EUSBSR Annual Forum, 13 online workshops were held covering the areas related to the Forum's main theme.

Sustainable Cities Commission co-organised two workshops: "Reducing security risks related to the climate change and mainstreaming climate agenda in EUSBSR after 2020" and "Unlocking the nutrient recycling potential in the Baltic Sea Region."

The traditional youth event - the Baltic Sea Youth Camp - was co-organised by Youthful Cities Commission within the frame of Baltic Sea Youth Platform on 17 October 2020.

Task Force on Youth Development and Well-being was a co-organizer of the STEAM – Science and Technology Path for Every Child and Youngster virtual workshop.

8. 2<sup>nd</sup> BRICS International Municipal Forum in St. Petersburg, on-line, 5-6 November 2020. (St.Petersburg)

International Municipal Forum of the BRICS countries is the most important annual business event in the framework of the BRICS International Municipal Cooperation Project.

IMBRICS is an annual platform that brings together the municipalities of the five countries to build political, economic and humanitarian cooperation.

The cities of BRICS and other countries will present their socio-economic opportunities and municipal achievements in scientific and engineering efforts. They will also exchange the best practices aimed at the development of mutually beneficial integration processes.

The Forum's program is focused on discussing key issues in the field of economic and industrial development, investment, construction and modernization of urban infrastructure, urban studies, digitalization and innovative technologies, ecology, waste management and recycling, agriculture, tourism, culture, education, sports, humanitarian cooperation and social designing.

UBC member cities are invited to join the event, more information attached.

9. Severe waste water treatment problem in Guatemala – update. (Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock)

At the 85th UBC Executive Board Meeting on 17 April 2020, Rostock asked for support in the activities to save the Lake Atitlán in Guatemala from biological collapse using UBC experience and the cooperation with LVRLAC (Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation, [lvrlac.org](http://lvrlac.org)). The City of Rostock is holding a friendship with the City of Panajachel ([www.municipalidaddepanajachel.gob.gt](http://www.municipalidaddepanajachel.gob.gt)) which is situated at the shore of that Lake. The responsible entity is the Guatemalan Governmental Environmental Office AMSCLAE (Autoridad para el Manejo Sustentable de la Cuenca del Lago de Atitlán y su Entorno, English: Authority for the Sustainable Management of Lake Atitlan Basin and Its Environment, [www.amsclae.gob.gt](http://www.amsclae.gob.gt)).

Since April, first contacts have been established thanks to UBC, e.g. with the LVRLAC. Participation in the World Water Congress & Exhibition to be held on 9–14 May 2021 was suggested by Sustainable Cities Commission.

For 2021 it is planned to have the Guatemalan specialists in Europe. During this visit Rostock would like to establish a personal connection with UBC experts. Also, it would be recommended by the city of Rostock to invite the Mayor of Panajachel and some experts to the XVI UBC General Conference in St. Petersburg.

#### 10. Commissions project applications.

Proposal of the new regulation. UBC Commissions and other bodies apply for funding from external sources ie. EU programmes etc.

Proposal is that the Presidium should approve each application before it has been submitted.

#### 11. Application from New Horizons Social Cooperative to become UBC partner.

New Horizons Social Cooperative was founded in 2015 in northern Wielkopolska region by six municipalities. Since then, the Cooperative has been working for the benefit of excluded, disabled and elderly people. The profile of the Cooperative's activities is based on social services (care and specialist), but also on rehabilitation, education, training and cultural activities. The Cooperative employs several dozens of people, a multidisciplinary team of experts including physiotherapists, speech therapists, nurses, psychologists, sociologists and gerontologists. The President is Małgorzata Modrak, a gerontologist and health promoter.

<https://translate.google.pl/translate?hl=pl&sl=pl&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fnowehoryzonty.info%2F>

The application is attached.

Proposal:

The Board to accept the new partner and to authorise the Presidium to determine the annual fees for UBC partners.

#### 12. Next Executive Board meeting, spring 2021.

#### 13. Any other business.

The documents (attachments) are available at:

<https://ubc.net/document-categories/86th-executive-board-meeting-line-28-october-2020>