

# Baltic Cities Bulletin

1 / 1999

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## Local Agenda 21 in Baltic Cities

Welcome to  
V General Conference  
Stockholm 24-25 September 1999

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*Klaipėda*

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# Baltic Cities Bulletin



Dear UBC Friends,

One of the strategic projects of the UBC is to contribute strongly to the implementation of Agenda 21 in the Baltic Sea Region. As you can see in this issue of the Baltic Cities Bulletin, there are plenty of excellent Local Agenda 21 activities in our member cities. It also is very encouraging, that the level of these activities is very high both in the "Eastern" and "Western" member cities. Local Agenda 21 definitely is one of the most practical ways for local actors to contribute to sustainable development. Moreover, in the case of many UBC member cities, it can also be conceived as a positive contribution to international integration and EU approach.

During the recent years, the UBC has indeed become one of the driving forces of Local Agenda 21 work in Northern Europe. We play a central role in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21) and in the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum Network. Both our national governments and the European Commission have recognised our achievements and abilities, and also supported our activities financially.

Moreover, we are now preparing our own UBC Local Agenda 21 Programme. The last meeting organised on this programme in Lübeck 15-16 January gathered together 40 participants from the member cities. This active participation indicates a great interest in our cities. The necessary initiating force in this work has been the Commission on Environment. However, Local Agenda 21 never can be a matter of just one sector or one commission, and the intention now is to continue the work in co-operation with the Commission on Health and Social Affairs and the other commissions as well.

Recently, we have also made many important steps in other fields. Our good organisation, the increasing quality of our activities and the rising number of member cities have had many positive effects. I have experienced that organisations and authorities listen to us with rising attention. This is of course very encouraging.

In recent time, we have started activities I hope will lead to significant benefit for our cities. One example is the new EU Co-ordinators Network. We will organise activities to prepare the member cities for the enlargement of EU through this network.

I also believe that an organised co-operation between the major networks and organisations on different levels in the Baltic Sea Region is finding its forms. UBC initiated such co-operation at our last General Conference in Gdansk. I have attended two meetings with the BSR organisations, at the invitation of Council of Baltic Sea States. I think that the first concrete results of the co-operation will be noticeable soon, for example in connection with a joint meeting in Brussels soon.

The situation a few months ago after the last submission date of BSPF was rather discouraging. The perspective for our Polish and Baltic member cities to participate in EU projects was rather poor. However, many EU programs have been opened or will be opened during 1999 for participation for cities in accession countries. I can mention Daphne, Anima, Kaleidoscope, several programs for Business Development Projects and others. I think this is a very encouraging development.

Finally I would like to invite you all to the UBC fifth General Conference 24-25 September 1999 which will be held in the beautiful city of Stockholm. The theme this time is "EU Enlargement Process in the Baltic Sea Region", which is a very important question for all of us.

Anders Engström  
UBC President

Kalmar, March 1999

# CONTENTS

## **I. Local Agenda 21 in Baltic Cities**

- 2 Baltic 21 - Best Alternative for 2100
- 3 UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey
- 4 Local Agenda 21 Programme for the UBC
- 5 Lindholm 21
- 6 Bergen Forum 21
- 6 Wastesorting at Source in Copenhagen
- 7 Citizen Participation in Gdańsk LA 21
- 7 Bettering the Living Conditions Sustainable Strategy for Gdynia
- 8 Göteborg for Youth
- 8 Ecomeals for Children
- 9 Sustainable future for Youth LA 21 by Twin Cities
- 10 LA 21 Collaboration in Kotka
- 11 Environmental Protection Competition in Kaliningrad
- 11 Towards Sustainability in Kolding
- 11 The "Brommaplan" Project
- 12 Items for LA 21 in Kiel
- 12 Local Agenda 21 in Lübeck
- 13 LA 21 Framework in Kristianstad
- 13 LA Projects in Nacka
- 14 Local Agenda 21 Initiatives in Lahti
- 14 Success in Pärnu
- 15 Agenda Networks
- 15 Changing the Course in Vaasa
- 16 The World Agrees with Green Schools?
- 17 New Directions in Rostock
- 17 Environmental Programs of Šiauliai
- 18 Steps Forward in Ystad
- 18 Interactive Proces in Tartu
- 19 Citizen's Action in Tampere
- 19 Växjö Visions
- 20 Panevėžys LA 21 Feasibility Study
- 20 Local Agenda 21 of South-West Finland
- 21 Commitments of the Turku Statements



*UBC Presidents at the 22nd Executive Board Meeting in Szczecin*



*Winners of the UBC Children Drawing Competition*



*I drive on gas - how about you?*

## **II. UBC Today**

- 22 Invitation to the V General Conference
- 23 22nd Meeting of the UBC Executive Board
- 24 Commission on Education First Meeting
- 24 Commission on Environment met in Lübeck
- 25 Commission on Business Cooperation 2nd Annual Meeting
- 25 New Commission on Urban Planning
- 25 Conference on Logistic Centres
- 26 EU Coordinators Network in Riga
- 26 New MEAs in Lithuania
- 27 SAIL Project Gaining Face
- 27 "Rain of Love"
- 27 International Junior Tournament
- 28 EU Urban Forum
- 28 Mare Articum 1999
- 28 UBC Aid to Baltijsk and Kaliningrad

## **III. Member Cities in Action**

- 29 New business opportunities in Latvia
- 29 The Sibelius Hall
- 29 Baltic Bridge
- 29 New Directions for Elblag
- 30 Växjö Goes for Biogas
- 30 Democratic and Safe Society
- 30 Youth Department in Tallinn
- 30 Vilnius Tourism Awards
- 31 Bio-Time Ticking in Turku
- 31 Copenhagen Green Accounts
- 31 Town Planners Visit in Lübeck
- 31 40th Nordic Film Days
- 32 Teachers Environmental Course in St. Petersburg
- 32 UBC Promotion in Rostock
- 32 EMS in Kalmar
- 32 "For the Benefit of the Child"
- 32 Maritime Congress Fair MARI'99



# I. Local Agenda 21 in Baltic Cities

## BALTIC 21- BEST ALTERNATIVE FOR 2100

### Challenging Period

Most of the Baltic Cities are currently experiencing a period of remarkable changes. On the eastern side of the sea most cities are still working their way out of the socialistic regime. In many cases this means e.g. a slight decrease in the total number of citizens, increased unemployment and traffic problems and need to improve city infrastructure and ecological state of the environment. On the western side, cities are also fighting with unemployment problems. Mi-



gration of people from the countryside to growing cities is still occurring and causing many kind of problems for city planners and politicians. In all countries most of the cities are facing hard economic problems.

Under these circumstances cities must take care of their everyday duties. Making choices between different alternatives is routine to our politicians. Strategic planning has become a very important tool in local level decision making and is commonly used in cities.

Sustainable development is one new strategic principle which has become an important factor to guide city development in the 1990's. This is especially true in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), where a lot of municipalities have started their Local Agenda 21 work. Nevertheless, the concept of sustainable development is still quite poorly known among many cities and other stakeholders at the local level. As a result many local level decisions have little to do with

sustainability so far. At the same time it is widely accepted in international policy that sustainable development is the best alternative development path. Yet unwise decisions are made due to a lack of proper knowledge. It is not easy to adopt sustainability principles, because in many cases it means that one can not accept the economically cheapest solutions.

### Common Baltic View of Sustainable Development

To make sustainable choices easier for all stakeholders in BSR, the governments of our region decided in 1996 to produce a common view of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. As a result of two years hard work the document "Baltic 21 - An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region" was finally adopted at the 7th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Nyborg, June 22-23, 1998. Since then, Baltic 21, as it is now called, has been the main guideline for sustainable development in the region.

Baltic 21 is first of all governmental agreements for regional sustainable development in BSR. The preparation work to compile the document was, however, done together with large group of experts representing e.g. research bodies, municipalities, NGO's and many international organisations. As a result of this Baltic 21, which is by nature basically a governmental level action programme, includes now many actions relevant from the cities' point of view.

### The Role of Cities Is Important

The main core of the Baltic 21 is the Action Programme consisting of 37 practically-orientated proposals for future measurement. 27 of these actions represent Baltic 21 sectors: agriculture, energy, fishery, forestry, industry, tourism and transport. Three actions cover the prob-

lems of spatial planning and the work done under the umbrella of VASAB 2010. The coming 7 actions are the so called joint actions, in most cases covering issues not classified in other sectors. Among these are many which also have close connections to municipalities. Joint action number 4: "City co-operation and sustainable development issues in cities and communities" is the one where the UBC will be in the main role. The steering group of Baltic 21 (Senior Officials Group, SOG) has offered UBC the role of Lead Party in implementing this specific action. It seems obvious that the UBC will accept this offer and start to work in close co-operation with partners like ICLEI and BTO in its implementation.

### UBC Policy

Sustainable development will be one of the key targets for Baltic cities in the near future. It will be a complicated and difficult goal to reach, but one can also say that it is the only goal worth trying to achieve. The work started under the Baltic 21 umbrella will certainly help cities to identify and solve problems ensuring sustainable development. The UBC will encourage and help its member cities to manage this challenging job. The UBC is already preparing its own Local Agenda 21 strategy and together with partners like Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum (BLA21F) it will initiate new projects and activities to make sustainable development a visible and positive part of the future development of Baltic cities and their co-operation. That will be the best alternative for the next millennium, right from the beginning.

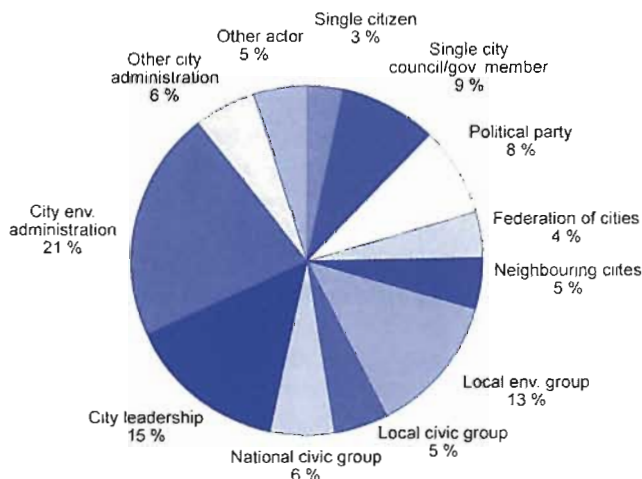
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# UBC LOCAL AGENDA 21 SURVEY

The UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey was carried out in summer and autumn 1998 in co-operation with the Commission on Environment and the Department of Public Administration at Abo Akademi University. The survey was funded by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. The intention of the survey was to gather information about how LA21 activity has turned out in the different member cities. A part of the survey was also reserved for feedback on the services offered by the Commission on Environment.

The survey was posted to the environmental contact persons of the 81 member cities (at that time). As the report was based on personal opinions of persons closely working with LA21 activities in UBC member cities, we assumed that the reliability of the answers was high enough. The return percentage reacted 73 % as 59



UBC member cities returned the survey and 22 did not. Geographically the distribution of received answers is satisfying as all involved countries show a return percentage of 50% or higher.

In the report on which this article is based we decided to use a grouping of the member cities in three comparable geographic groups. 25 member cities belong to the group of East-Baltic (Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). 15 answers were received from this group (60 % return rate). 34 cities belong to the North-Baltic group (Finland, Sweden and Norway, 26 answers, 76,5 %), and 22 cities are included in the South-Baltic group (Denmark, Germany and Poland, 18 answers, 81,8 %).

## Local Agenda 21 Projects

Almost 73 % (43 cities) of the UBC member cities that responded have a LA21 process going on. Eight cities (13,6 %) are planning to start a LA21 in the near future. Only seven (11,9 %) cities were not planning to start one. However, it can be assumed that several of the UBC member cities that did not answer the questionnaire belong to this group as the questions to a large extent were about LA21 activities within the city. However, considering even the missing cases, at least more than half of all UBC members are involved in LA21 activities (43 cities, 53,1 %). We also know that there are cities with a working LA21 project, that did not answer this questionnaire.

The first LA21 project was started in 1992, and the most active year to start new projects was 1997 when 11 new projects were initiated. Only 4 – 5 new projects are planned to start during 1998 – 2000 in the cities that answered the survey. According to the survey, 33 cities (40,7 %) stated that they already have an LA21 Action Plan, and have moved thus onwards from the planning phase of the LA21 project. A further 7 cities (14 %) responded that they have some other kind of local plan for sustainable development, and only 10 cities answered that they had neither. Most active in starting LA21 projects seem to be the North-Baltic cities.

Our study confirmed the assumption that LA21 activities are most profoundly driven in the Nordic countries. Also in cities belonging to the South-Baltic group the LA21 activity level is rather high as only 16,7 % of these cities are not involved in any form of local level sustainability process. The activity level is considerably lower in the East-Baltic member cities, as only one out of four cities of this group that answered our questionnaire have started a LA21 project. There is, however, a strong will to start such projects also in this group,

as close to half of these cities are planning to start a LA21 project.

There are three very active initiators of LA 21 projects. In over 21% of the cases the *environmental administration* of the cities has either alone or together with other actors initiated the LA21 project. The *City leadership* also seems to have been an active initiator of LA21 projects, according to the survey in almost 15 % of the cases. A third active agent seems to be the *local environmental organisations*, active in about 13 % of the cases.

## Effects of LA21 in the Cities

LA21 projects have, according to Rio, two main targets. First of all, to improve the state of the local environment, and secondly, to improve the civic participation of local residents, especially women, children, indigenous people, disabled, and other societal minorities. The overall answers tell us at least one thing. Most UBC member cities consider LA21 to have a moderate or even significant effect on the local level decision-making procedures. The pattern is clear: LA21 is supposed to have effects both on the decisions concerning the city environment and also to improve the possibility for the public to participate in the decision-making process. The "South-Baltic" expectations towards LA21 are a bit higher than the North-Baltic ones, and clearly higher than in the East-Baltic area.

The location still matters - it seems evident that at the moment UBC member cities in the south and north are clearly ahead of the cities in the eastern part of the region. The Nordic cities have been and will continue to be an important source of influence for their eastern companions. Size of the cities matters much less: the expected effects of LA21 are very similar regardless of the size of the cities. Among UBC member cities Local Agenda 21 work is seen as important and valuable.

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# LOCAL AGENDA 21 PROGRAM FOR THE UBC

**Local Agenda 21 work is of major importance for the whole Baltic Sea Region at the moment. The UBC has been a very active force in this work. Now, on the initiative of the Commission on Environment, the creation of the strategic Local Agenda 21 program of the UBC has gained pace. The goal is - through an effective process with large participation from the member cities - to create a comprehensive high quality Local Agenda 21 Program for the whole UBC as an organisation.**

The programme should provide the UBC with good guidelines for supporting the member cities in their struggle towards sustainability. It should integrate all sectors - and not concentrate only on environmental administration. It should also provide the UBC with a strategic approach to international co-operation in this field and also include practical guidelines for increasing sustainability in all the activities of our organisation.

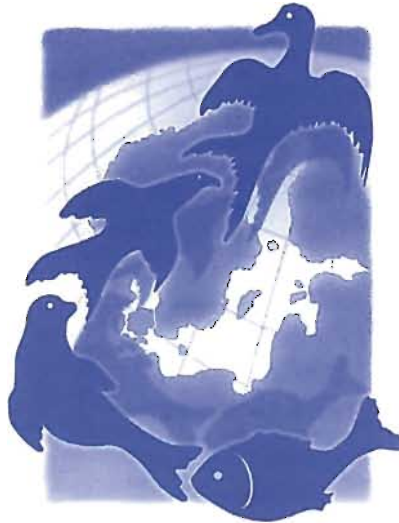
## International Dimensions

Quite evidently, the Baltic Sea Region is a European forerunner in the field of international co-operation for sustainable development. Baltic 21, Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (approved by all the states of the BSR and the European Union) is the first such inter-governmental regional Agenda 21 in the world following Rio Conference in 1992. The intensive co-operation on all levels from municipalities and NGOs to national governments is very prominent in the region and brings good results. The UBC is one of the most central actors representing the municipalities in this co-operation. This implies that we also have a special responsibility.

Sustainable development is also gaining more ground on the European level. The European Union has been adopting the principles of sustainability more and more during recent years. It is quite likely that the demand for sustainability will be increasingly embodied into the different policies of the EU. The EU Sustainable Cities Project is maybe the most prominent EU activity going on in this field at the moment. So far, the UBC has contributed to this project by acting as one of the core

organisers of the First Regional European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference (Turku Conference, September 1998).

It is very important that the UBC will in various ways maintain its acknowledged active role as a regional and European actor in the field of LA 21. The Local Agenda 21 Strategy has to provide a good basis for this. Moreover, we have to continue our active involvement in the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum Network, which is the



network formed by various international organisations, municipalities and NGOs for the implementation of Baltic 21 at the local level. It is also of utmost importance that we will continuously plan and implement new high quality activities and projects. Examples of such projects are the ongoing SAIL Project and the planned large three-year Baltic-Mediterranean Local Agenda 21 Project (BAMELA), the application of which was submitted to the European Commission in the beginning of February.

## Serving Member Cities

One of the points raised during the process is that there doesn't exist any single model of Local Agenda 21 work that would suit all cities. The differences between the cities are great, e.g., concerning the environment, the political situation and the economy. It is important first to evaluate the present situation and to consider what goals should be reached by the implemen-

tation of Local Agenda 21 before beginning activities. It is also at this stage essential not just to focus on the environment but also on the social and economic dimensions.

In order to gather information about the situation and the needs in the different member cities, the UBC Commission on Environment carried out the UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey in member cities in co-operation with the Åbo Akademi University. The results of the survey provide us with quite good basic information for preparing the LA 21 Program and the various LA 21 activities and projects. Further information about the survey can be found in a separate article in this bulletin.

However, policies can never be solely based on research and surveys. The survey can be seen as a very useful source of information, but it is not sufficient as such. The participatory process that has been initiated within the UBC for planning the LA 21 program is an important way to gather information too. The process was started at the LA 21 meeting in Nacka last year, and it was successfully continued in the Lübeck meetings (15-16 January). The advantage of meetings and workshops is the vivid dialogue and exchange of experiences. This is a very effective way to gather information about the needs in different cities and, moreover, to find potential partnerships between single member cities. The results of the Lübeck meeting and the next meeting, which will be held during the spring, will form the basis of the whole program.

## And What Should We Do?

Thanks to the very active participants, facilitators and reporters, the workshops at the Lübeck meetings also raised many concrete ideas about what the UBC could do in the field of LA 21. These ideas will definitely be included in the LA 21 Program. Here are presented short summaries of some of those ideas.

Information is important in all steps of the Local Agenda 21 process. Through its various channels, the UBC certainly makes a good contribution by spreading information about the activities going on and the



good practises innovated in different member cities. Meetings and mailing lists also provide occasions for networking between people. The use of the internet could be further developed.

The participation of youth in the Agenda 21 process is of great importance. Do the youth have the same conception of Local Agenda 21 as we have? Why not bring the youth of the member cities together to contribute to the work on LA 21? There are of course many ways how this can be done.

The pollution from point sources in western countries has decreased greatly in the last 25 years but at the same time pollution from non-point sources has increased due to lifestyle changes. Recently, similar kinds of lifestyle changes have started to take place in the eastern countries of Europe too. Right now, there are strong efforts to reduce point source pollution from the so called "hot spots" in these countries. This is an important goal, but the lifestyle questions should also be seriously considered. The UBC could, e.g., organise courses and practical demonstrations showing how to live in a sustainable way.



*Local Agenda 21 may be our best map for riding to the future*

The challenging discussions in Lübeck, of course, went well beyond these few ideas that could be included here. In any case, from the point of view of the LA 21 Program, it is important to stress that innovative practical actions are included into it. Our policies should not be just strategies on papers.

## Intersectoral Approaches

The Local Agenda 21 activities should never be a matter of just one department in the city administration or just one commission in a city network. There is a constant challenge of implementing integrated approaches which cross the traditional boundaries within the city administration. It is also very important that as many commissions and as many points of view as possible will be involved in the LA 21 Program process of the UBC.

So far, the most active commissions in this work have been the Commission on Environment, and the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. However, participation of other commissions is warmly welcomed. The next meeting will be organised in May-June. Obviously, this is a process worth participating in.

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## LINDHOLM 21

**Based on the Brundland Report from 1986, the Rio Conference in 1992 and the Aalborg Charter from 1994, the City of Aalborg has initiated a centre for sustainable development "LINDHOLM 21". The centre was established in 1996 as an association sponsored by the European Commission URBAN-Programme.**

The aim of Lindholm 21 is to discover and examine the possibilities for a new, more sustainable development in the local community. This means pushing the de-

velopment in a "green" direction together with elected partners in trade and industry, authorities, institutions and individual citizens. Through specific activities the centre influences the continuous changes and development of the partners and manages them towards sustainability.

Lindholm 21 aims at developing a network, skills and expertise through pilot projects, and achieving results that allow the core functions to proceed. The objective is to establish Lindholm 21 as the future pivot for green changes towards sustainability between public and private activities.

Indeed, the concept of 'sustainability' itself is extremely broad and not only deals with 'hard-core' environmental problems or complex technical correlation. Also 'soft' values such as human relations, social development and health problems fall under the concept. The Aalborg Charter for instance mentions sustainability as a tripartite concept, consisting of environmental,

socio-cultural and economic sustainability.

The target group includes all kinds of people as well as industry and trade, and not only those who already have adopted the green idea. In 1998 the centre worked on a wide range of tasks, including: development tasks in relation to business community, environmental management, analyse, advising citizens - green guide, ecotourism, urban ecology, international network and projects and general urban renewal.

Lindholm 21 is a centre for co-operation between industry and trade, authorities, and individual citizens. Continuity, coordinated work, and results are the key concepts.

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## BERGEN FORUM 21

Bergen, the second largest city in Norway, has approved an ambitious environmental plan. Since 1991 Bergen has aimed at becoming a lead environmental city. In 1994, Bergen Municipality signed the Alborg Charter committing the municipality to develop a Local Agenda 21 process in cooperation with inhabitants, organisations and companies.

Work on Local Agenda 21 in Bergen started in 1996, and in 1997 the "Bergen Forum 21" was established. More than 100 participants from organisations, institutions, local authorities, political parties and companies attended the opening ceremony.

"Bergen Forum 21" is meant to be a meeting place for Local Agenda 21 work in Bergen. Local authorities, companies, organisations and individuals meet for workshops, discussions and exchange ideas of how to take actions in order to improve the environment.

A very good example of a Local Agenda 21 project in Bergen is car-sharing. A group of people, who need to use their cars sporadically, share from two to five cars. 20-30 people can join one car-sharing group. This is a new way of owning a car and is an economic benefit for the owners as well as an ecological benefit for the city.

"Bergen Forum 21" has its own board, and Bergen Municipality pays the wages for the head of the office. The Lord Mayor of Bergen represents the Municipality on the board. The members of "Bergen Forum 21" have signed "the Bergen Agreement", which is a basic document for action towards sustainable development. All the members of "Bergen Forum 21" have to write a short document telling how they intend to contribute to sustainable development. A Local Agenda 21 program for Bergen will be based on these documents.

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## WASTE SORTING AT SOURCE IN COPENHAGEN

**In March 1998 the first of, so far, two local projects on sorting waste at the source got started in the City of Copenhagen. The second one came in October 1998. Both were initiated by local forces wishing to make a difference in their neighbourhood. Strengthening the cooperation between citizens and city authorities is a defining character of Local Agenda 21 in Copenhagen. These projects show how it can be done.**

The district of Indre Noerrebrogade was the first area to get started. This waste sorting project is a collaboration between the Indre Noerrebrogade Local Government Council, different grass roots organisations, a waste collection company and the citizens themselves and is a part of the so-called 'Eco-City Project', which is funded by the European Union's Life-Programme.

The target is to have a manual recycling station in each of the district's courtyards which can enable the sorting of up to thirty different types of waste. It is exactly this that makes these projects special. The City of Copenhagen already offers a variety of possibilities for sorting waste at the source but not in this magnitude of types and generally not placed so close to the places where people live. Local residents themselves distribute their household waste into different containers. Recycling stations on courtyard level have so far been established in four blocks.

After the first six months, the fraction of residual waste in the first of the blocks

had already fallen to about one third of the original volume. There were few negative reactions from the residents. Now they are talking about making green accounts so as to see what their buildings consume in terms of water, heating, electricity, etc.

Islands Brygge is the other community where sorting at source has begun. Both projects share the same objective: to reduce the amount of incinerated waste as much as possible. The initiative derives from a local Agenda 21 citizens group and the project is being funded by the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy and supported by, among others, the Environmental Protection Agency Copenhagen.

Finally the waste sorting projects have created the opportunity to utilize the so-called 'green caretakers'. The green caretakers look after the compost, keep up the courtyard and the recycling station and guide people on sorting, which is very important. The leaflets are therefore not just put in letter boxes, but are handed out to the residents personally followed by a few words on how and why to sort.

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## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GDAŃSK LA 21

**Further progress has been made in implementation of LA 21 in Gdańsk since the last update was published last year. In 1998 several meetings with citizens were organised in six city districts. During these meetings the idea of sustainable development, Agenda 21 and aspects of Local Agenda 21 in Gdańsk were presented.**

The citizens also received information about the quality of the environment in the city and in their districts. The main problems and future investments in the districts and possible impacts were also discussed. There were approx. 80 – 120 people attending each of the meetings and these participants can be divided into two groups. One group includes citizens who are very interested in the development of the city or the area they are living in. The second group showed less involvement in the presented topics. For them the meetings were utilized to present their personal problems or express their feelings directly to city authorities.

The candidates for LA 21 Forum have been chosen from among the citizens who took active part in the meetings and showed involvement in the problems of the city. Those who accepted this new role were invited to be a member of the Forum which began operating in October and started its activity in the first 'round table' meeting November 1998.

The representatives of local administration, NGOs, scientists, industry and business and citizens were called upon to form the Forum. The Forum met two times in 1998 and once on 6 January 1999. The first meeting held in November focused on procedure and future co-operation, during the second meeting in December the Resolution of the City Council on ecological policy dated July, 1993 was evaluated in order to revise it and make it suitable for the present time. During the third meeting a report on activities carried out following the Resolution was presented. Meetings are presently held monthly.

Apart from the topics already discussed the subjects for future meetings are: urban development of the city and its directions, strategy of city development – development of industry, tourism and transportation as well as culture and education, housing, environmental protection: nature and social environment, health and social care and environment and sustainable development indicators.

The LA 21 Forum and the topics discussed by its members were officially approved by the City Board. Useful opinions and comments from these discussions will be used in future documents prepared for the city. Reports from the meetings are presented to the City Board and problems that appear are reported in writing to the appropriate department for further action.

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## IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

**Elblag City has decided to participate in Rio's Local Agenda 21 Programme of 1995. To follow-up with the process, Elblag started co-operation with Ronneby (Sweden) in 1994.**

Since 29 June 1995, the city council is realising a Local Agenda 21 Programme, which is interrelated with the City's Development Strategy 1996-2010.

The city's sustainable development policy prioritizes growth by creating favourable conditions for citizens. Further, among other priorities one can find improving the environment state in the city and waste selection.

Simultaneously, a citizens' awareness campaign has started. Videos promoting selective collection of waste, a competition, a series of press releases and articles on waste management, leaflets, etc. are some examples of the efforts taken.

It is believed that integrated information, education and international ecological ac-



*The Piaski Ecological School is devoted to raising environmental awareness*

tions will contribute to improving living conditions.

Piaski Ecological School has an impact on environmental awareness of city inhabitants, offering a comprehensive programme for Elblag pupils, and other Polish and international cities, too. Beautifully located in the landscape park in the vicinity of the Vistula Bay, the school educates in the entire range of environmental topics.

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## SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY FOR GDYNIA

Gdynia has not started Agenda 21 formally, but the idea is realised in the city on the basis of the document called "Strategic Plan for Gdynia. Development Objectives and Executive Tasks". The over-reaching goal declared by the municipal government is to achieve a steady, publicly acceptable and sustainable development in order to match European Union standards of living, through the most favourable utilisation of its natural, human, financial and location resources.

Taking on the responsibility of democratic management in market economy conditions, the municipality initiated the work on a strategic plan of local socio-economic development in 1992, through the Baltic Gateways project. Four local working groups were created to prepare the Baltic Gateways Conference. These working groups gathered civil servants, councillors and representatives of major enterprises, science and research institutes and trade chambers.

In 1994 the City Board and the City Council adopted the "Strategic Plan for Gdynia - Conditions and Aims of Development" as a legal act. External consultants were engaged in the next stage of local strategic planning on a much broader scale than before. Six branch teams were appointed to deal with economy, housing, education, transportation, social problems and ecology. The results were presented to the councillors, officials from the City Hall and guests at the workshops. The outcome of the discussion, which took place during the workshops, laid the groundwork for the diagnosis of the city's development. That stage of the work concluded with a series of six sector seminars, attended by civil servants, councillors, external experts and representatives of local enterprises, research and science institutes.

The above mentioned groups were surveyed in order to establish the most important and urgent tasks. As a result of the survey the final version of the "Strategic Plan for Gdynia" was drawn up. The most important goals of development were urban centre of economic growth, environmentally friendly city, and safe, useful and open city.



Practical examples of LA 21 realisation in Gdynia are:

- ☺ launching public information and consciousness raising actions to introduce the local solid waste treatment system,
- ☺ completion of sewer piping in built-up areas,
- ☺ elimination of local coal-fired boiler plants by connecting the given areas to the district heating network,
- ☺ completion of the bus stock replacement, purchase of environmentally friendly buses and trolley-buses,
- ☺ completion of the air monitoring network in Gdynia,
- ☺ filling of the gaps between built-up space connected to municipal infrastructure systems, and
- ☺ consideration of green development in the preparatory process of local spatial planning.

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## GÖTEBORG FOR YOUTH

Since the 1970 UNESCO has carried out the program called **Growing Up In Cities** with the aim to find methods for better understanding ways how young peoples see, use and value the local environment. It is also studied how young people can be supported and involved in the process of developing and improving the city environment they live in.

The project is international and to develop it, UNESCO has invited more cities to take part, under the new name "Creating Better Cities with Children and Youth". The City of Göteborg has decided to take part in this project and has formed a cooperation between the City Planning Authority, the Environmental Strategic Office, City Office and three local districts: Bergsjön, Lundby and Kortedala.

Each local district has formed a youth-group consisting of four girls and four boys and a coordinator. Their task is to examine their neighbourhood, document good as well as bad places in text and photo, and also to invite and guide the other two groups in their district. The three groups will meet and discuss what conclusions they have made and how they experience their own and other districts regarding local environment. The conclusion of the project will be an exhibition where the groups will report on their work and make proposals for improvements. The exhibition will be shown in different places of the city.

## ECOMEALS FOR CHILDREN

**One of the topics often covered by Agenda 21 concerns ecological food. Many people wish to see more ecological food especially in schools and at childcare providers?**

"Ecomeals" is a cooperation project between the Environmental Strategic Office, the Procurement Authority and local districts in Göteborg. The aim of the project is to stimulate, inspire and support good examples in the city so that a growing part of the provisions served in schools will be ecological. Through this, one hopes to increase the supply of ecological foods and

to influence producers and purveyors to adjust their products to catering facilities. By an increased demand for ecological provision you can influence quality and hopefully price.

Well-attended seminars have been held for the cooks working in schools and day care centres, with inspiring discourses and presentations of good examples in the local districts. One of the cooks has written a cookery book where the ecological ingredients are marked and the book has been distributed to all day care centres in Göteborg.



The project will continue with more seminars and an extension to more districts. Hopefully the care of elderly and the medical care sectors will join the project, too. The project will be also extended to include seminars for teachers in domestic science with the aim of using more ecological products in the teaching of domestic science thereby influencing the young to eat more ecological food.

The project has been going on for more than one year and already a number of schools and children day care centres are now serving ecological products.

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**SUSTAINABLE  
 FUTURE FOR  
 YOUTH**

**Increasing the influence of the youth is an important part in the Agenda 21 process in the city of Kalmar.**

The document from Rio says "It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making process because it affects their lives today and has implications for their future. In addition to their

intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilise support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account."

YCSF is an exchange project where youths from four different regions around the Baltic meet to discuss local democracy and the sustainable development. The task to create the sustainable future is of crucial importance and youths ought to take part and contribute with their ideas in this work. Participating regions are Kalmar, Gdańsk, Kaliningrad, and since the third meeting on February 26 also Panevėžys.

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**LA 21 BY  
 TWIN CITIES**

**The Local Agenda 21 Project, made by the cities of Klaipėda, Espoo, Kristianstad and Køge, is co-financed by the Phare/Tacis CBC Small Project Facility.**

In October 1997 the Municipality of Køge invited some twin-cities for a seminar about Local Agenda 21. At the end of this seminar the participants agreed upon giving their assistance to the Local Agenda 21 work of Klaipėda.

The overall aim of the project is preparation of the Local Agenda 21 Plan for Klaipėda which then could be used as a tool and guidelines for the future environmental protection work in Klaipėda. In this way Klaipėda will become a part of the regional and global process of the sustainable development.

The key Lithuanian politicians, understanding that preservation of healthy life surroundings and natural resources for future generations are top priorities, signed the Rio Declaration in 1992. In 1996 Køge twinned with Klaipėda invited their counterpart city to participate in the international seminar on Local Agenda work. The outcome was

preparation of the joint application together with partners from Espoo (Finland), Kristianstad (Sweden) and Waterford (Ireland) with the aim of preparing the Local Agenda 21 Plan for Klaipėda. The project started in November 1998 with co-financing from the PHARE/TACIS CBC BSPF.

Klaipėda is the second Lithuanian city to have initiated its own Agenda Plan. The first project seminar showed that Klaipėda's population is not indifferent to environmental problems. With around 130 participants ranging from teachers, students, doctors, to industry representatives and NGOs, the conference contributed to introducing Klaipėda into the regional and global sustainable development and stability process. Preparation of Klaipėda Local Agenda 21 Plan with wide citizen involvement will encourage rationality in using natural resources. During the conference eight Agenda 21 groups were established which will start work on fields of energy, water protection, landscape and biodiversity, industrial enterprises, etc.

The forthcoming activities range from consultations by two Lithuanian experts, a study-tour to Viladecans in Spain (March 1999) to study the Local Agenda 21 experiences, Agenda 21 Plan preparation, meetings with foreign consultants, etc. It is expected that the final version of the Local Agenda 21 Plan will be in September-October 1999.

**Further information:**

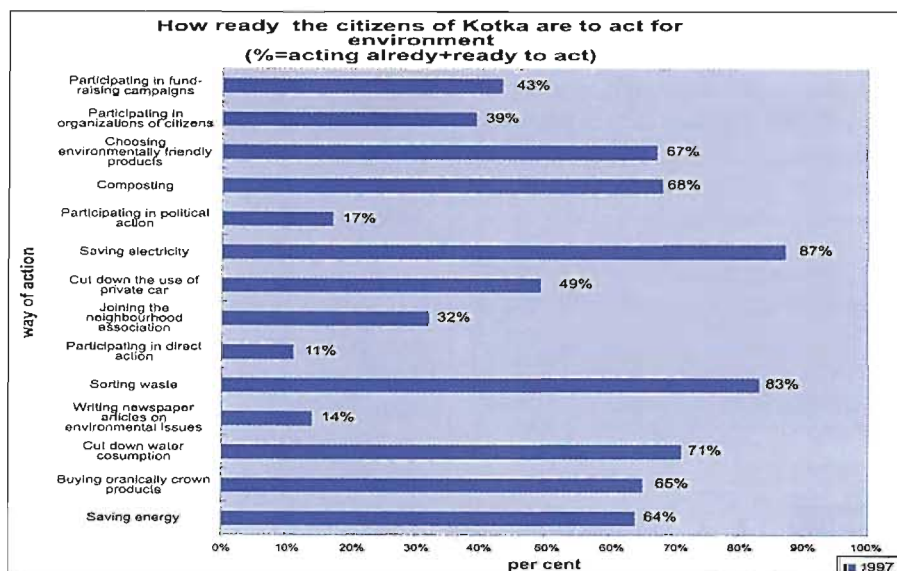
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## LA 21 COLLABORATION IN KOTKA



The UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, strongly emphasised the role of local people and actions in trying to solve global environmental problems. The challenge of Rio was accepted by the City of Kotka, which responded by launching a local programme on sustainable development.

The first plans for the programme were made in spring 1996. The leading idea of the planning process was to bring together as many organisations and people as possible to discuss sustainable development in a local context. The purpose of these discussions was supposed to outline the concept and also the basic means applied to reach the goal of sustainable develop-

ment. The interactive planning process was also supposed to result in a plan of actions. This practical plan could be then checked and changed, if needed.

The invitations were sent to people from private sector, local administration, organisations of citizens and educational institutes. Roughly 100 people responded to the invitation. The practical work took place in working groups, the so called fora, which were arranged around seven themes. These themes were environmental education, natural environment, social sustainability, industry and transport, services and traffic, rural areas and archipelago, waste management and cycling of materials. At the beginning of summer 1998 this process, which had started

two years earlier, was formalised in practical directives published by the local forum of people. The forum had reached an agreement about the steps the community should take during the next five years.

The directives are based on long-term goals and the practical steps were scheduled for the years 1998-2003. Some of the proposed actions were widely accepted already during the planning process. The local energy company is now planning to build a new wind-powered power plant. The company also participated in a project, together with Kotka Polytechnic and the Environmental Centre of Kotka, where a local CO<sub>2</sub> budget was calculated. Collaboration between the rural areas and villages and the urban areas was started as a result of the discussions on social sustainability.

Suitable indicators and tools were needed for the assessment of the results of the work. A working group consisting of members from the above-mentioned fora and city administration carried out preparations for indicators. As a result 20 indicators were listed. These included indicators for the state of nature and environment, for human values, attitudes and activities, for well being and share, and participation as well as economic activities. These indicators will be further developed as more experience is gained.

The first programme on sustainable development in Kotka was accepted by the City Council in December 1998.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMPETITION IN KALININGRAD



According to the Program of Cooperation 1999, the City of Kiel offered its help in organisation of the Annual City Competition in the sphere of Environmental Protection. This year the theme of the competition is "Energy saving".

The same form of competition has been taking place in the City of Kiel since 1992. The competition in Kaliningrad is organised in cooperation with the Environmental Department in Kiel. The City of Kiel provided substantial support in organisa-

tional and methodological questions and also cofinanced competition in Kaliningrad.

The main purpose of the competition is to involve the community and the citizens in the decision-making process of local environmental problems of the City of Kaliningrad and its suburbs. The participants of the competition can be organisations, schools or even groups of inhabitants.

A prize will be awarded to the winners for their ideas, decisions and actions regarding protection of nature or resources and

improving the environmental situation in the city and its surrounding. The awards will be given in June during "Environmental Protection Days".

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# TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY IN KOLDING

With recognition of the so called Aalborg Charter in 1994 Kolding City Council committed itself to act as a catalyst for sustainable development. And as a sustainable society requires changes in all spheres of local community, the authorities adopted the three main approaches: 1. the municipality as a green company 2. "green" administration of regulations and 3. green civic conduct.

## The Municipality as a Green company

Around 6,000 employees, including municipal administrations, schools, and

institutions are being trained to implement environmental management. Also, kindergartens participate in the environmental management activities, and children are engaged in numerous activities.

## Green Administration of regulations

By integrating Agenda 21 undertakings with current regulations, the municipality can influence the surrounding society and direct it towards sustainable development. Waste plan, environmental networking of the municipality with industry on environmental management, environmental ap-

provals and lifecycle evaluation are just a few examples.

## Green civic conduct

In order to get the citizens involved in the Agenda 21 work, a number of activities has been initiated such as: restoration of watercourses in co-operation with all the municipal schools, Urban Ecology Centre promoting "green consumer" behaviour, district improvement project based on the Agenda 21 undertakings, environmental improvements, and "green flag / green school" initiatives where teachers and pupils are working together in the course of education curriculum on weekly environmental topics.

Finally, during 1998-2000, an Agenda 21 Plan will be drawn up. All sectors in the municipality will be motivated to participate in the implementation of the plan.

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*Back to Nature in a Kindergarten in Kolding*



# THE "BROMMAPLAN" PROJECT

The project "Brommaplan - a good environmental choice" was initiated in the autumn 1995 when the district shop keepers applied for funds from the Stockholm City Environment Fund for Agenda21, having the vision to boost the Center's image in a cost-effective and innovative way.

Brommaplan, a typical town center from the 1950s, is surrounded by around 60 businesses of all kinds, shapes and sizes. "When we, the members of the local business association, searched for new ideas to make our market place the automatic choice of shopping centre for people in the area, it was natural for me, with my background as an environmental co-ordinator, to choose the idea of an environmental project," said Jan Peter Bergkvist, Hotel Manager of Scandic Hotel Bromma at that time, Hotel Manager of Scandic Hotel Hasselbacken today.

In 1995 Scandic was the first hotel chain in the world to install a completely recyclable and environment friendly system for soap and shampoo. Through this, the hotels have been able to reduce the shampoo emissions by 25 tons per year and reduce waste by 8,5 tons.

"We formed a project group including representatives of the companies, institutions and associations in the area and the municipality," Mr Bergkvist explained. "And we engaged an environmental co-ordinator on a part-time basis. The project group held a short meeting every month, discussed strategies and drew up guidelines, while our co-ordinator worked with the purely practical side; collected facts, trained the members and documented the project."

Since the project start up, the Agenda21 concept has become familiar to all who work at Brommaplan and to the customers. Today, among other things, one of the city's

waste recycling depots is located at Brommaplan. An eco-map has been distributed to 42,000 local residents and several of the companies now have an Environmental Manager.

"A project of this type requires three components in order to be successful," said Jan Peter Bergkvist, "namely the support of the municipality, one or more environmentally aware companies and a real enthusiast to act as a driving force. Forward-looking companies realise that the future depends on their respect for the environment."

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## ITEMS FOR LA 21 IN KIEL

**The City Council of Kiel has resolved that Agenda 21 should become a part of municipal policy. But how this should be done in detail was initially unclear. How can a city the size of Kiel, closely linked to the economic and administrative system, create a situation where ecological, social and economic interests are no longer permanently opposing forces? How can it be achieved that the people, who are the "cornerstones" of Agenda 21, come together and in fact agree on a plan of action for the future?**

This kind of comprehensive undertaking conceals the potential danger that the people expected to implement it will be quickly overloaded. To persuade people to engage themselves in a long-term development, the issues of greatest importance to their life situation must be identified. People can more easily identify with clear and practical ideas than with programmatic and abstract statements. Furthermore, to win over to the process as many social groups as possible it is important to pursue those ideas which are apparently suitable to be carried out by different population groups.

Requirements, including the call for clear ideas as well as the call for relatively undisputed themes are regarded by the City Council as met most easily by the implementation of projects. Therefore, there will not be general image-creating discussions and large forums devoted to general objectives that determine the Agenda 21 process in Kiel but from the start as many projects and activities as possible.

The projects and activities, to be clearly understood as "components" of the Kiel local Agenda 21, should demonstrate the following characteristics:

- ☺ be strongly oriented to action and implementation,
- ☺ the integration of ecological, social and economic objectives
- ☺ participation by all the people affected by the projects.

There are already a number of projects and activities both within and outside the City Council which meet these criteria. Their scope extends from the restructuring of important open spaces in the city to an ecological audit of municipal installations. Most of these projects are examples which show that implementation of the recommendations in Agenda 21 from Rio are not

only possible at the municipal level but are also reasonable and attractive.

They should provide something "to catch on to", to inspire more people to take part and "get something moving". In this way an ever-closer network of Agenda 21 activities arise, even if the great broad consensus about an action plan for the whole city has not been reached in Kiel yet.

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## LOCAL AGENDA 21 IN LÜBECK

**In April 1995 the citizens' decision to sign the "charter of the European cities and communities for the way to a future stability" gave the starting signal for the Local Agenda 21 development. Mayor Michael Bouteiller signed the so called CHARTA VON AALBORG on the 12.9.1995. Soon afterwards Lübeck Agenda Team started their work with the aim to create a dialogue between local power and the people, to develop "Lübeck Agenda 21".**

## Lübecker AGENDA 21

The Mayor's Agenda-team consists of local collaborators recruiting from such fields as: environmental protection, municipal services and town planning, as well as among deputies of environmental political associations, economic and social fields. Dipl. Ing. Frank D. Lammert, team leader, is to implement the Local Agenda 21 for Lübeck within three years. The Agenda office is situated in the municipal services building, which is used as a meeting place for all activists involved in the process. .

For the last seven years Lübeck has been actively involved in the "GESUNDE STÄDTE NETZWERK". This ambitious networking idea, initiated by the WHO -

"Health for everyone till the year 2000", is to harmonise with the aims of the Agenda 21. Previously in Lübeck health promotion focused on the prevention of addictive vices, health reports, district meetings and the co-ordination of self help groups. Future plans include a child health report and establishing of an office for pensioners. Apart from local workers, the self help groups arrange the contents of the "GESUNDE STÄDTE NETZWERK". Also, in the future such activities should be strongly combined with other initiatives of the Agenda process in Lübeck.

The documentation of future local beneficial projects currently implemented, is one of the four pillars of activity. The second pillar of activity focuses on the local workers: the action of the management, which should be measured by the criteria persistence and future stability in the municipality, private enterprises and local societies. For this, further education and municipal instruments will be developed. The citizens of Lübeck are the target group of the third pillar of action. Within the district round table groups will discuss different problems and try to turn the Agenda 21 ideas into reality. For example, within the framework of the big project "27 households of Schleswig- Holstein endorse "27 households from Lübeck". They will be advised about different themes of daily life, and are invited to check their everyday habits for future usage. The fourth pillar of action is the organisation and implementa-

tion of the Agenda 21 forum that includes the participation of every district in Lübeck over the next year. Every social group should participate in the publication of Agenda 21, and new members be introduced to the local Agenda process. The aim is to develop a dominant theme for the Agenda in Lübeck, and to

find a wide consensus over it.

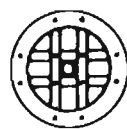
When the Local Agenda 21 in Lübeck is embossed, there are two directions. The first is a dominant theme and an action programme that is supported by most of the social groups and the second is more orientated to projects and aspects. This will be decided when each separate approach merges into the millennium.

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## LA 21 FRAMEWORK IN KRISTIANSTAD



## LA PROJECTS IN NACKA

The City of Kristianstad has been working with Local Agenda 21 since 1993. There is a special political board for Agenda 21 and a full time working coordinator.

The city has comprehensive strategies and yearly programmes concerning Agenda 21. The work has been concentrated on spreading information and starting different projects in the spirit of the Agenda 21 document. However, there is a need for a long-term plan and work on this started in 1998.

The target groups for the different Agenda 21 projects are NGO's, companies, and employees in the municipality organisation and inhabitants in the municipality. The most difficult task is to reach all inhabitants, therefore the city has different Agenda 21 projects. One of these projects was to give every household a wall calendar containing information about Agenda



*A good place for awareness raising in Kristianstad is for example the Water Kingdom Outdoor Museum*

21 and simple examples on how to make lifestyle more sustainable. The municipality also arranges public lectures and takes part in exhibitions, study circles and other public activities.

A good example of activity is environmental education for employees, which started in 1996. Every employee is offered two days of environmental training. The education gives everyone a basic knowledge of environmental questions and platform to continue implementation of sustainable development at work. Thus far 2500 employees have been educated. Another activity is the European project "Eco Schools". There is a special network for the participating schools, aiming to ex-



*A girl from Trolle Ljungby School at the Green Flag certificate ceremony*

change experiences, develop environmental education and to learn more about Agenda 21. Also, the ecological building network arranges seminars to increase awareness about Agenda 21 and environmental questions in the building industry. In two projects of social and physical planning Agenda 21 has been given a special consideration. In these projects the inhabitants of the villages have been deeply involved in the planning process.

Local Agenda 21 has become a well-established part of municipal activities. The biogas plant and the new system for waste management are two examples that show a new way of thinking and dealing with problems. The government cofinanced these ecologically sustainable investments. So far most Agenda 21 activities have been concentrated on environmental issues. The Agenda 21 board now strive for further implementation of Agenda 21 in economic and social questions, to achieve the concept of sustainable development.

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The City of Nacka tries to stimulate and encourage citizens to change their lifestyle in a more environmental way. Many efforts have been undertaken with two projects described below.

In January 1999, an educational program for 30 Russian environmentalists was successfully completed. The aim of the program was to familiarise high level environmental officials from St Petersburg and the Leningrad region with western "know-how" in the field of environment. The main objective of the program was to build up knowledge needed for the introduction of Agenda 21 in their city and for use of such tools as EIA, ISO 14000 and EMAS. Another aim was to build bridges between cities and different organisations.

The University of Finance and Economics in St. Petersburg initiated the project. Planning and implementation of the program was carried out together with The Royal University of Stockholm and partly with the University of Agriculture in Sweden. The course was at the university level and its program was based on the step-by-step principle with a good measure of lectures, study visits and homework. A lot of attention was paid to the strategies of environmental work. The program closed with a five-day trip around Lake Mälaren. During the trip participants studied different positive examples, such as Understenshöjdens echo village and Sänga Säby conference centre. They got acquainted with e.g., different energy production solutions, with wetland areas and environmental management system in a large company. There were many opportunities to discuss different strategies and solutions.

REACTE, Raising Environmental Awareness among Cities and Towns in Europe, is the name of the EU project that starts in Nacka this spring. The main aim of the project is to increase the number of small/medium enterprises which are actively working with environmental issues. The other partners are Espoo in Finland, Getafe in Spain and Croydon in Great Britain.

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## LOCAL AGENDA 21 INITIATIVES OF LAHTI

Individuals and the administration have started to take care of the future by themselves. The Local Agenda 21 process is a good example of how people can increase responsibility on the local level. The City of Lahti has carried out pioneering work both in its own LA 21 process and in international co-operation.

By initiating the Lahti Environmental Forum in 1993 the city met the challenge of the Agenda 21 signed in Rio. The Forum has been able to affect the change of attitudes towards increasing responsibility for environmental issues. Different sectors of the local community, business, and citizens are implementing sustainable development by themselves, at work, home and during leisure time. Although the process has

Since 1996 the City of Lahti has been working actively for the implementation of Local Agenda 21 in St Petersburg and its surroundings, together with Russian authorities, NGO's and universities.

Lahti is the western coordinator of the EU-financed pilot project "Coastal Conservation and Local Agenda 21" which has been ongoing for two years. Lahti has been contributing to the establishment of a step-by-step Local Agenda 21 programme for two Russian pilot areas: the city of Kingisepp and one of the suburbs of St Petersburg, Primorsky. The fruits of the pilot project can be seen already today: the growth of knowledge of the Rio process has been considerable and today there is a number of activities, and partner organisa-

### Lahti Agenda 21 cooperation



started in a very positive way, there are still a lot of things to learn and environmental responsibility must still improve in decision-making activities of the city.

The project of developing an Environmental Management Scheme started at the end of 1994 as a part of the Local Agenda 21 process. It aims at a systematic, holistic and interactive approach to reduce the environmental impact of the city's activities. The city council approved the environmental policy in 1995 and the city board approved the environmental programme in 1996.

The project is based on a broad concept of environment. Different offices are completing their own, more detailed programmes. The different offices have been actively involved in the preparation of the policy and the programme. The environmental office of the City of Lahti coordinates the process.

tions in the field of Agenda 21 in St Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast.

Lahti's own positive experiences in Local Agenda 21 have activated the Local Agenda crew to continue cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Lahti along with UBC, ICLEI, and other experienced parties, has started a cooperation network, the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum. The forum aims at strengthening local Agenda processes, activating the exchange of experiences between the Local Agenda coordinators in different countries, and especially at promoting the establishment of new Local Agenda processes.

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## SUCCESS IN PÄRNU

The principles of sustainable development have been promoted and implemented in Pärnu for years. The best results have been gained in the sectors of energy and water management. Success has also been gained in applying the principles of recycling in the waste management sector.

Environmental activists have formed the Agenda 21 Work Group. In cooperation with a Danish consultant company, a number of activities have been carried out with the aim of ensuring sustainable development in the energy management sector.

Two boilers working on the local biofuels have been mounted in the central boiler house. For delivering the heat energy to end-users, the existing district heating pipelines have been partially changed to preinsulated pipes and frequency-controlled main pumps have been installed.

In cooperation with the Finnish Ministry of Environment and Vesihydro OY, a draft project for a new regional waste disposal plant has been completed. The new plant mainly aims at sorting and recycling of waste. Also special collection facilities for bottles, waste paper, plastic and for hazardous waste have been provided for inhabitants.

The Agenda 21 Work Group has selected four target groups among which the principles of sustainable development are promoted most actively. The target groups include the district of Pärnu with its 2,000 inhabitants, the privates of military troops located in Pärnu, children attending the kindergartens and Russian-speaking students of the Russian Gymnasium and Pärnu College.

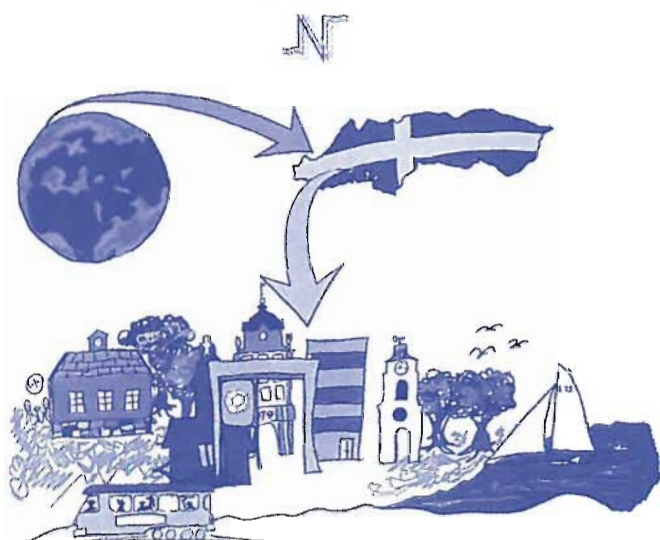
Access to the Internet was created in the military troop and the problems of Pärnu have been introduced to the privates. In the summer of 1998, the children at kindergarten had a meeting with the environmental experts and they were told about environmental protection. In cooperation with the inhabitants the environmental activists seek solutions to the problems the town faces. The initial version of Pärnu Agenda 21 should be completed by 1 June 1999.

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## Lokal Agenda 21 Norrköpings kommun



## AGENDA NETWORKS

**Norrköping adopted a revised Environmental Program in 1995, consisting of two parts. The first part is about the environmental problems and long-term goals of how to reach an improved environment. The second part is about setting environmental goals for the local government, where every department is obliged to work out its yearly environmental plan and to appoint one environmentally responsible person.**

In 1994 Norrköping opened the first Agenda 21-office in Sweden serving as the environmental information centre. The office also organises exhibitions and lectures, and arranges activities with an environmental aspect for the citizens, schools and kindergartens.

Much of the work is carried out through the local networks, such as for example:

☺ the Agenda 21 Network services the citizens, local authority, organisations and the commercial sector. Members have free access to all the Office's activities and publications;

☺ the Spider Web is a network for the young, aged between 13-18. All activities are arranged by themselves and the Agenda Office supports them in these activities;

☺ the Mosquito Net is a network for children between 5 and 12 years of age. All children in the network after performing some tasks become nominated as En-

vironmental Scouts, who get 5-6 various environmental assignments every year, which are to be reported to the Agenda Office. They also get involved in the environmental theatre, football games, trash collection days, etc.

Local Agenda 21 work in Norrköping started on 1 April 1996. Members of the Agenda 21 Network were invited to become the group members developing the goals for the local Agenda, and the Study Material as a result. In November and December 1997 a number of open meetings took place to collect opinions on what actions were needed to convert Norrköping into a sustainable society. In consequence, with the Agenda Office's help, Norrköping's Local Agenda 21 was accepted by the City Council in May 1998.

The document has 10 priority areas, includes goals for reaching the sustainable society, the vision followed by the action plan designed for the public, organisations, companies and the local authority. Implementation of the Agenda has just kicked off.

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## CHANGING THE COURSE IN VAASA

**The city of Vaasa joined the Sustainable Development Project run by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities in 1992.** The purpose of the project was to develop municipal waste management. As a result today only 10% of municipal solid waste goes to the landfill. The rest is either recycled or processed into RDF-fuel (refuse derived fuel), humus and bio-gas in a waste disposal plant which consists of a sorting unit and two bio-gas reactors.

The years of 1995-1996 saw an ecological planning competition on the Ristinummi suburb. At the same time a project was initiated to find out how children could participate in planning of the environment they live in. It showed that the environmental needs of children can be included in planning instructions and that children are quite competent at planning the environment for themselves.

In 1996 Adult Education Centres in Vaasa started an education programme called 'Local Democracy and Sustainable Development'. Over 700 citizens benefited from the lectures and study circles (1% of the total population of Vaasa). The latter brought a lot of valuable suggestions on sustainable development to the city administration.

On 29.09.1997 the city council made a decision that the city of Vaasa would promote sustainable development in its own activities by implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in all the city administration units. The EMS development started with waste management, which is now followed by the technical department, schools and day-care centres.

In May and October 1998 the first Citizens Forums or Vaasa-Forums were organised. They were occasions where everybody could come and tell what things they would like to change in Vaasa regarding the environment, social services etc. This year Citizens Forums in every city district are planned to maximize the possibilities for citizens participation.

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*Tingsted Green Skole is very popular among children*



## THE WORLD AGREES WITH GREEN SCHOOLS?

**Nykøbing F., a typical Danish city, situated close to the Baltic Sea, has developed various environmental projects. The Agenda-group in Nykøbing is collecting information about all activities going on related to Agenda 21 and at the same time encouraging new efforts, especially among the young.**

The school I work at - Tingsted Skole - has seriously, for at least ten years, worked with environmental subjects and in 1993 the school joined ECO-school's - in Danish "Grønt Flag - Grøn Skole". The project is run by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe and co-ordinated by a group of national operators, each responsible in their own countries.

All participating countries work according to the same basic principles which are:

- ☺ establishing an environmental committee
- ☺ developing an environmental Action Plan
- ☺ participation of at least 15% of pupils
- ☺ establishing an environmental code of behaviour
- ☺ publishing the results.

Themes? In Denmark the school must take a new theme every year starting with the basic themes such as water, waste and energy. Last year's theme in the Tingsted Skole was noise. With this project it was possible to lower the average noise level at the school by 9,65 dB - more than 50%.

This year's theme focuses on nature and it is an attempt to introduce more insects, birds and animals around the school by building birdtables, nesting boxes, planting more bushes, etc.

It is essential for us at Tingsted Skole that our work is close to the five bearings of Agenda-21, and it is important for us to publish our results. The school often gets international visitors, including countries such as Norway, Australia and China, who want to know how to become an ECO-school (Grøn skole). I myself travel around Denmark to teach others at meetings and seminars about our work and results. As one of our pupils at Tingsted Skole says: "The world agrees with green schools".

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## REGIONAL ACTIONS IN PORI

**Preparations for the Agenda 21 for the Pori region started in 1996. Altogether about 100 people representing various actors and eight municipalities were involved and the Environmental Forum of Pori Region was established.**

Development of the Agenda 21 was realised in seven working groups dealing with different fields. Finally, an Agenda 21 for Pori Region was approved by city councils in the spring of 1998.

In the Agenda 21 for Pori Region the problems, goals, strategies, projects and indicators of sustainable development have been defined according to the following themes: environmental consciousness, communities, enterprises, community structure, nature, energy, traffic, natural resources, water systems, air quality, waste and leisure activities. The central points of Agenda 21 for Pori Region are regional co-operation and agenda projects which will turn sustainable development plans into concrete actions.

Since Local Agenda 21 has been approved new projects have started in:

- ☺ managing handling of waste water for sparsely populated holiday settlements areas,
- ☺ starting of pilot project of the EAI concerning municipal planning,
- ☺ enterprises and environment in Pori region (brochure for schools),
- ☺ "Streetbrush" (making the spring cleaning of streets more effective),
- ☺ School Agenda 21,
- ☺ Municipal environmental auditing,
- ☺ wind power park of Sea Pori.

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### The working groups of the Environmental Forum of Pori Region

Industry, energy  
production and  
transport

Land use  
planning  
and nature

Primary  
production  
and nature

Living,  
everyday life  
and traffic

Administration

Commerce  
and consumption

Education,  
information  
and research



## NEW DIRECTIONS IN ROSTOCK

The City of Rostock is on the way to establish its future position as an economic and intellectual-cultural centre in the county of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, in the region around the Baltic Sea and in Europe. Rostock is trying, on one hand to keep the good traditions of the city with an old university and harbour, and on the other hand to find new ways and directions for sustainable development.

Rostock has declared its desire to promote sustainable development by becoming a member of the Climate Union of the European Cities, as a founding member of the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives and with the decision of the City Council to accept a Local Agenda 21 programme.

In May 1998 the city established a Local Agenda 21 Office and five persons were employed. In October the first "Future Festivity" of Rostock was held. Nearly 500 citizens and the mayor took part in this event. It was a cheerful start to the Agenda 21 process in Rostock. After several discussions the creation of working groups has

been proposed. They should develop initiatives and encourage discussions on different fields of activities with different groups of persons in all quarters of the city.



Some of the working groups have already been created and started the work, like 'Women', 'Development Policy', 'Future of Jobs' and 'Eco-Audit'. Others are still in preparation: 'Mobility', 'Environment', 'Citizen's Participation' and 'City's Quarter Agenda North-West and North-East'.

For the time being, the city has been working on a model project "Welfare oriented job creation programme" which use natural and city funds. The aim is to create 500 jobs especially for the long-term unemployed. This common initiative offers

the chance to implement in a relatively short time some of the sustainable ideas and projects elaborated by the working groups and investigations, e.g. the reconstruction of school yards following ecological aspects, the regional marketing of native agricultural products or the reuse of old construction materials.

The identification of indicators of sustainable development is considered as one of the important pre-conditions for a successful Agenda work. Within two-years a catalogue of indicators for the City of Rostock will be developed as well as the way of integration them step by step into the work of the Administration and the City Council.

Rostock is very interested in using contacts within the UBC for cooperation in the field of Local Agenda 21, to exchange best practices and to initiate common projects with other cities in the Baltic Sea region.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS OF ŠIAULIAI

**Šiauliai Municipality is solving environmental problems inherited after the collapse of the Soviet order. A large number of environmental programs 'Water', 'Waste', 'Environmental Monitoring', 'Bicycles', etc. were started to solve these problems.**

The program "Water" is one of the most successful. As a result, modern water-flow and drinking water purifying equipment will be installed in the year 2000. After that the city's authorities will start searching for the finances to solve other urgent problems, like reconstruction and extension of the network of pipes.

The environmental education project that started three years ago is another important field of activity. The main objective of this project is the introduction of a new educational program with the special attention to the environment. A kindergarten, a primary and a secondary school situated in the same dwelling area of Šiauliai are the

main participants of the project. The children in these institutions will have a possibility to acquire useful environmental knowledge from the first steps until graduation from the secondary school. Secondary schools of Šiauliai City participate in various national and local projects.

It is also important that every inhabitant of the city cares about environmental problems. Šiauliai Municipality is doing its best to improve the environmental climate of the city. People can inform the Municipal Environmental Monitoring Laboratory about the problems they face. During the traditional Environmental Days they can receive necessary information, test the quality of water and meet the people working in environmental protecting institutions. The public benefit leading to an increase of public awareness is obvious. The participation in the international project "Towards an Ur-



*Secondary school pupils participating in Environmental Education Project*

ban Agenda in Europe" contributes significantly to the successful implementation of Local Agenda 21 and the creation of Sustainable City development program which are priority initiatives of Šiauliai City Municipality facing the year 2000.

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# STEPS FORWARD IN YSTAD

**Proximity, culture, environment and quality are the four basic concepts for the Ystad's development in the next century.**

In 1991 - 1993 Ystad was involved in a tangible environmental project "Town and countryside in partnership towards sustainable development of towns and rejuvenation of rural life" which had been developed in collaboration with MOVIMUM, the Centre for Urban Environment at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. It covered six areas of study on the following environmental issues: waste disposal, flora and fauna, water, local food production, bio-energy and information. The aim of the project was to achieve sustainable social development as a follow-up of the Rio-conference 1992.

The outcome had been a clear and substantial change in the way environmental issues were tackled by many city departments. Town and countryside in partnership Project was also a natural starting point the Local Agenda 21 work in the authority under the leadership of the Environmental Delegation. Many organisations, such as non-profit associations, village "councils" and others together with local government departments got involved in the Agenda 21 Programme.

In spring 1998 Ystad City Council approved the Local Agenda 21 Policy. The Agenda was divided into ten different categories: waste disposal, biological diversity, the use of chemicals, food supply, production and consumption patterns, social planning, traffic and water. Every part ends up with a set of goals for how the authority can attain sustainable development in the next 5 - 15 years. There is still a lot of work to do but at least a small step forward has been done.

Below are given major examples of the so far accomplishments in Ystad:

☺ The city employees have been inspired to an environmentally friendly daily lifestyles, new ways of thinking, shopping and acting. This has been achieved through educating environmental representatives of many city departments.

☺ A functional collaboration has been established with non-profit associations, study organisations, village "councils" and others. Projects have been developed to encourage local citizen participation and influence the planning process.

☺ In terms of the biological diversity, an extensive tree planting project

has been implemented. The aim is to connect city parks and green areas with the newly designed recreational areas and meadows, groves, tree- and bush-rows, and with the open water north of the ring road at the outskirts of Ystad city. The city comprehensive development plan emphasises establishing of a blue-green network of nature and water areas in the entire authority.

☺ Purification of water, garbage selection, innovative district heating network are other examples of successful spheres.

And, finally, environmental issues have greatly influenced the educational work in schools and children day-care centres, which is very important for the environmental awareness of future generations.

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## INTER-ACTIVE PROCESS IN TARTU

**Task force consisting of 14 people, representing different institutions and target groups of Tartu initiated more than 100 people into active involvement and led the process of compiling and approving Tartu Agenda 21.**



Since 1994 Tartu, the only signatory of the Aalborg Charter in Estonia, has been active in the sustainable development movement in Europe. The decision of compiling Tartu Agenda 21 was made on 28 June 1995 by the City Council. Tartu Agenda 21 was built upon the base of Tartu Nature Protection Concept issued on 14 June 1988, where the basic principles of sustainability and main goals for Tartu were declared. These goals are:

☺ To secure a healthy environment for all citizens, minimizing harmful influence to the nature of the town and its surroundings.

☺ To secure diversity of landscape and nature in the city and its surroundings and create conditions for the self-renewal and protection of natural values.

☺ To increase and promote, through nature conservation activities, citizens' ecological awareness, sustainable use of natural resources, humanness, sense of beauty, and love for town and country.

Tartu Agenda 21 consists of 7 chapters and 37 articles. The key components are: mission statements and corporate visions of the sustainable development way in Tartu, integrating sustainability into the municipality's policies and activities, main values of the living environment in Tartu, local quality of life - present state of the art, goals and environmental impacts of the main activities and services. Attention was also paid to environmental perception and consciousness, awareness raising and education, methods of consulting, involving the wider community, as well as consideration of social constraints, which have been extremely serious.

Global problems have been highlighted through local context and possible actions. The role of different target groups and inhabitants has been analysed at more than 40 meetings, two forums, workshops and seminars. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats on the path to sustainable development were mapped and prioritised.

The Tartu Agenda 21 process has been very open and interactive with other local and regional projects, the Estonian Agenda 21 project and similar processes in other towns and rural municipalities in Estonia. Close cooperation and information exchange with ICLEI and European towns, municipalities and regions has been very encouraging for the entire process from methodological, as well as practical sides. Tartu Agenda 21 work has initiated an ongoing process in Tartu School Agenda 21.

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Tampere downtown scene by the courtesy of the City of Tampere



## CITIZEN'S ACTION IN TAMPERE

**In developing Local Agenda 21 for Tampere, the ideas for sustainable future of the City have been discussed by interest groups consisting of and led by concerned citizens.**

On 14 December 1994, the Tampere City Council committed itself to implementing an environmental policy programme (EPP) following up on the Rio's Local Agenda and the Aalborg Charter. The policy included goals and principles aimed at sustaining Tampere's environment. This would be accomplished through a specially designed Environmental Management System, incorporating environmental considerations in to daily city management.

One of the Agenda 21 principles is participation and actions of citizens. Therefore, Local Agenda 21 work cannot be restricted only to environmental management in city administration, but it must be broadened to involve all citizens. To get citizens opinions on the sustainable city development Tampere-Forum was initiated in autumn 1996. The Forum aims to inform the citizens about up-to-date activities in the city and offers possibilities to affect decision-making and sustainable city development. Different topics have been discussed at meetings, as well as on the internet, allowing a rapid modern exchange of ideas and accumulation of knowledge.

In August 1998 a Local Agenda 21 process was initiated to collect citizens' opinions. About 200 people attended the opening meeting, clearly showing that this kind of discussion was needed. Based on the points of view raised there, the following interest groups were created:

-city planning procedure, climate change, global responsibility, sustainable transport systems, biodiversity of nature, environment and health, social and domestic management, sustainable production, consumption and employment, sustainable cultural environment.

The action groups' objectives were to generate the picture of Tampere's sustainable development. The City Council initiated the programme, with the planning opportunity undertaken by citizens, NGO's, companies, and politicians.

In autumn 1998 the groups held individual meetings with their trained group leaders, discussing sustainable development within their area of concern. In January 1999 these ideas were presented as an Idea Bank. The next step is to combine the ideas of the groups, administrators and other interested parties with existing policies. By the end of June 1999 the Local Agenda 21 for Tampere will be presented and it will constitute the basis for the environmental policy of Tampere. It will also be used to update the City Environmental Management System.

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## VÄXJÖVISIONS

**In 1993 the municipal council passed an environmental policy for Växjö. This formed the basis for the work on Agenda 21.** The policy points out the guidelines for long-term sustainable development. The importance of Agenda 21 in Växjö is emphasised by the fact that the municipal executive board has executive responsibility.

Work on Agenda 21 developed further in cooperation with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation during 1995-97. The aim was to identify new methods in local Agenda 21 work, which were subsequently tested in about thirty pilot projects. This cooperation has included the training of politicians and civil servants, thereby forming the basis for the insight and conviction required for making controversial decisions. Since the project has been very rewarding for both partners, cooperation is now continuing with several municipalities. The project is called "Swedish Network for Fossil Fuel-free Cities" and aims at persuading municipalities to stop using fossil fuels.

Town and country planning is a vital instrument for guaranteeing long-term sustainable development. In the region of Gemla/Öja, outside Växjö, the inhabitants are making an overall plan and a local Agenda 21 for their own community. This method of planning demands more personnel and lasts longer than the traditional one, but it produces better results as the inhabitants themselves know their village best.

A proposal for a local Agenda 21 for Växjö, covering both the work of the municipality, as well as that of companies, organisations will be adopted by the municipality in the autumn. The basis for this has been laid down at meetings and round-table talks concerning energy, transport biodiversity and sustainable use of land, as well as sound housing and planning.

In the spring of 1998 Växjö was granted 97 million SEK from the Governments Investment Programme for ecological sustainable development for about 30 different investments, which primarily aim at reducing the use of fossil fuels. These local investment grants have created new opportunities for the real implementation of our local Agenda 21 vision.

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*Anders Engström and Zitu Tverkute during a project meeting in Panevėžys*



## PANEVĖŽYS LA 21 FEASIBILITY STUDY

**The feasibility study included several working groups on environment, education, university and business. Below, the work of the environmental group is presented.**

The group gave priority to such issues as environmental factors, research of noise pollution, examination of health of citizens in residential areas and rehabilitation of citizens influenced by noise and pollution of the atmosphere.

The level of air pollution in Panevėžys was investigated systematically by monitoring the ordinary air pollutants: concentration of nitrogen, sulphur oxide, carbon monoxide, dust and formaldehyde. The concentration of specific pollutants was investigated in air and soil, land and water and the City Noise Map was also made.

After this research, certain city districts were identified as having different levels of dangerous factors and the health of citizens from these districts was examined. Respiratory diseases were the most prevalent in both clean and polluted districts. In the relatively clean district oncological disorders made up 0,45 % of the diseases and in the polluted districts 1,7%; cardiovascular diseases 16,6% and 17,5%, injuries and intoxications 0,45% and 2,6% respectively. The research showed also that living in noisy districts led to increased cholesterol. The research of noise influence to the health in one of residential areas is still under way.

In order to reduce the influence of dangerous environmental factors to the health of the citizens living in unfavourable medical conditions, the Ecological Rehabilitation Programme was created and implemented. Ecological rehabilitation was applied to 80 citizens and almost all of them

received a positive effect.

In addition, preparations have begun for Municipal Environmental Audit and the University and Educational groups have raised the idea to establish the Environmental Training Centre in Panevėžys.

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## LOCAL AGENDA 21 OF SOUTH-WEST FINLAND

**As a follow-up of the Rio Conference, Varsinais-Suomi Province (South-West Finland) has put together a regional initiative for Local Agenda 21.**

The starting point for mutual collaboration amongst the municipalities of the region was a meeting in 1997. 19 local municipalities committed themselves to cooperation at that stage. Since then, almost every single municipality in the province has joined the initiative.

The success of the first gathering gave a promising start for mutual partnership and development of regional Local Agenda 21 activities. In a nutshell, it would seem fair to say that the key behind our progress has been the good co-ordination nurtured by active group work and the relentless involvement of our local communities. We have further strengthened our activities

through adequate training and awareness programmes organised by our local managerial groups.

Part of the overall vision has been further elaborated upon by creating, every autumn, several youth based educational programmes and related activities which simultaneously promote sustainable development and eco-cultural awareness among youth. These activities have been actively promoted by our environmental teaching group.

So far, our environmental awareness group has supported regional activities through participatory programmes and competitions. The group has found it very necessary to reach out to everyone in the local communities by publishing local journals and disseminating vital information through the local radio stations. Additional incentive to promote our awareness programme is planned by the local community libraries in which our information, leaflets, pamphlet and other environmental journals, covering issues on local environmental matters, environmental permits, construction and land use plans will be displayed.

Development on traffic-related issues has so far been progressive. The "traffic and municipality structure" group has presented various ideas and strategies of combating vehicular pollution problems. Prominent amongst its programme has been the "bicycle to work" campaign organised every spring. In addition, there is an ongoing discussion with the local road and traffic department about strategies for cutting pollution.

Issues concerning water and waste water handling have also been taken into consideration by the "Water group". At present, the group has succeeded in putting together easy-to-understand materials such as local strategies on water conservation, waste water handling methodologies, etc. The idea has been to promote easy accessibility of water-related information to citizens via their local municipal offices.

The task ahead is in any case enormous. However, the experiences of the past years assure us that the difficulties ahead are not insurmountable.

Story written by trainee Okunhon Darl. Eeosa

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## COMMITMENTS OF THE TURKU STATEMENT

We recognise our duties towards the generations to come, we pledge our continuous commitment to the principles, goals and guidelines of Agenda 21, the Aalborg Charter and the Lisbon Action Plan, and we will in all appropriate ways join our efforts to implement Baltic 21 - the first regional inter-governmental Agenda 21 program in the world after the Rio Conference - and to fulfill the principles and goals of the Athens Declaration for Healthy Cities.

As participants of the Turku conference - the first regional conference of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign - we want to express our full support to the Campaign. We are willing to carry on and further develop the Campaign together with actors from other regions of Europe. We are convinced that the following points must be considered and the actions taken in order to implement Baltic 21 and to support sustainable development for the future in the Baltic Sea Region and the whole Europe.

Herewith we pledge our common support to these goals, actions and points of view.

- The vital role of the local and regional authorities in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region must be recognised. We will strengthen and join the efforts of our distinct municipalities and organisations to fully support the implementation of the Baltic 21 action programme.

- We agree on the necessity to promote the Local Agenda 21 work in all possible ways. Our common goal will be that a vast majority of municipalities in each of the Baltic Sea countries shall have its own Local Agenda 21 process started before the end of 2000.

- We will join our efforts through the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum (BLA21F), which as a joint effort of different organisations and municipalities will pool, co-ordinate and promote the Local Agenda 21 activities in the Baltic Sea Region. We call upon the European Institutions and the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, to actively support this European Regional initiative for the promotion of Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development, in line with European Union commitments described in the follow up to the 5th Environmental Action Programme 'Towards Sustainability'.

- We will actively seek and develop tools for co-operation and networking between our local authorities and other actors and stakeholders, e.g., NGOs and local businesses, recognising the important role that the private sector plays in global, national and local economies and the opportunities this provides for a more sustainable future. The promotion of environmental education and public awareness is an important tool in our work, as is the involvement of young people in the local agenda process.

- We will in all appropriate ways seek for international partnerships within our region as well as with actors in other parts of Europe and in the rest of the World. We are willing to develop the Baltic Sea Region as an active region aiming at co-operation across the whole continent in the interest of our common future.

- We shall endeavour to exchange technical expertise and knowledge with local authorities in countries whose economies are in transition and between countries with developing economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This exchange should also include awareness raising, information and control on how "western" consumption and production patterns cause serious degradation on other countries.

- We fully support the goals and activities of the WHO Healthy Cities Project in the BSR. We also appreciate and welcome the establishing of the Baltic Region Healthy Cities Project Office in Turku, Finland.

- We consider it an essential responsibility of the European Union (EU) to promote and implement the principles of sustainable development in the planning of all activities, policies and programmes affecting the Baltic Sea Region. Promoting sustainability must be regarded an essential part of the development of the Northern dimension of Europe. We see it as an essential responsibility of the governments of the BSR Countries and the bodies of the European Union to allocate appropriate resources to this work, and to support it politically.

- We urge the EU to include evidence of progress towards sustainable development as a requirement of the grant of any funding to EU and non-EU countries.

- The significance of sustainability in regard to urban issues should be taken into consideration in the forthcoming Urban Action Plan of the European Union. Special emphasis should be put on the influences in regard to the European integration in the Baltic Sea Region.

- As part of our work towards the Year 2000, our individual municipality will identify the key issues and obstacles effecting local sustainability and will strive to make real commitments to tackle these issues. Such commitments will reflect the principles of the Aalborg Charter and steps of the Lisbon Action Plan. At the same time, the commitments will move beyond these principles and steps thereby bringing sustainability to reality.

- We will identify and work towards five key commitments/pledges for the benefit of our city or town and its citizens. These pledges and the actions taken to meet them will be reported to the 2000 Pan European conference. The five commitments/pledges identified by each city and town will also be forwarded to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to be used for identifying key areas on which the Campaign should concentrate its efforts in the forthcoming years.

- We consider this statement as a message to be sent from the Turku Conference to the regional Sustainable Cities and Towns conferences, the next Pan-European Conference which is to be organised in 2000, to the European Union, to national governments and all municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Turku Statement was endorsed by all 400 participants of the Baltic Local Agenda 21- Health and Sustainable Cities Conference (4 September 1998). The complete statement is available from the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat and from the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign Office.



## II. UBC Today



### UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES V GENERAL CONFERENCE 1999

STOCKHOLM 24-25 SEPTEMBER



#### EU-ENLARGEMENT IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION - THE ROLE OF CITIES, REGIONS AND STATES

The City of Stockholm wishes you a warm welcome to Stockholm on 24-25 September 1999.

Spread over 14 islands and surrounded by water so clean you can fish or bathe in the very heart of the city, Stockholm is really the Beauty on Water. Stockholm is also the gateway to the 24,000 islands in the archipelago and to Lake Mälaren. The city offers a wide variety of entertainment, excursions and culinary pleasures.

During 1999 Stockholm is, besides the V UBC General conference, hosting several major events. The Viking Race, a long distance skating race in the winter and the World Police & Fire Games in July are some of these events. As the year ends, Stockholm will celebrate the dawn of the new millenium by organising the Stockholm Winter Festival.

Stockholm is strongly committed to the Baltic Sea co-operation and is very honoured to host the UBC General Conference addressing the aforementioned theme. EU-enlarge-

ment will, of course, affect us all: present, future members and states not applying.

I hope that the conference will be a success and that you'll have a pleasant stay in Stockholm!

*Carl Cederschiöld*  
Mayor, City of Stockholm

#### **Congress Venue**

V UBC GC 99 will be held at City Conference Centre (CCC), Folkets Hus, Barnhusgatan 12-14, in central Stockholm. CCC is located 5 minutes walk from the Central Station and the City Terminal (airport bus terminal).

#### **Distribution of Invitation Programme**

The invitation programme for UBC GC 99 will be distributed in April. The invitation will include the registration and hotel booking forms. A number of rooms within different price categories have been booked in Stockholm at preferential rates for the Congress.

#### **Congress Secretariat**

If you need any practical information or registration and hotel information, please contact Congrex at:

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## 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 22nd meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on 16-17 October 1998 in the City of Szczecin, Poland, upon the invitation of Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, Mayor of Szczecin and UBC Vice-President. The first day of the meeting was attended only by Executive Board members, the second day was open to representatives from all member cities.

### V UBC General Conference

Mrs Lillian Westerberg, on behalf of the Mayor of the City of Stockholm, proposed 24-25 September 1999 for the conference date. The Board accepted the proposal. President Anders Engström reminded that the first day of the UBC General Conferences has so far been devoted to specific themes while the second day was devoted to internal UBC matters. The Board decided that the main theme of the V General Conference will be devoted to the "EU enlargement process in the Baltic Sea Region". The Board encouraged all member cities to provide the Secretariat with proposals of questions, related to the above topic, to be handled at the conference.

### UBC Strategy and Regulations

Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, UBC Vice-President, responsible for drafting the UBC Strategy, reminded that the Strategy has been extensively discussed during the last three Executive Board meetings. Mr Sochański informed that the latest draft, revised after the last Executive Board meeting in Klaipėda, was sent out to Board members and only minor comments have been made. Secretary General Paweł Żaboklicki, responsible for drafting the UBC Internal Regulations, informed that the latest draft was sent to the Board members after the last Board meeting. The Secretariat received only a few comments to the latest draft of the Regulations. The Board decided that the Strategy and the Regulations shall be sent out for comments to all member cities.

### New Member Cities

Secretary General informed the Executive Board about new applications for Union membership submitted by: Bützow (Germany), Jekabpils (Latvia), Sillamäe (Estonia) and Vordingborg (Denmark). Representatives of applying cities made presentations introducing their cities and requested the Board to accept them as UBC members. The Board decided to accept the above mentioned cities as members of the Union of the Baltic Cities and wished them

successful cooperation with other UBC members. The number of Union member cities reached the figure 84.

### IBSC and CPMR

Mr Radoul Kovatchev, Managing Director, made a presentation on the aims and structure of the International Black Sea Club which is an organisation similar to the Union of the Baltic Cities operating in the Black Sea region. Mr Tommy Karlsson, Executive Secretary, introduced the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe and its Baltic Sea Commission, which associates regions from Baltic countries. The Board thanked Mr Kovatchev and Mr Karlsson for their presentations and expressed hope for fruitful cooperation between our organisations.



### Commission on Urban Planning

Mr Jussi Kautto, Development Chief, Helsinki, reminded that the question of UBC involvement in the field of urban planning has been raised at the 16<sup>th</sup> UBC Executive Board meeting held in Stockholm in January 1997. The Board appointed a working group led by Helsinki to prepare the basis for the creation of the new UBC commission dealing with urban planning. Mr Kautto put forward a proposal to establish the UBC Commission on Urban Planning. The Board decided to create the new commission with the cities of Helsinki, Malmö and Umeå as leading cities. The Board encouraged all member cities to take active part in the Commission's work.

Mr Mikko Jokinen, co-chairman of the UBC Commission on Environment, reminded that the Baltic 21 (Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region) final document was officially adopted by the Council of the Baltic Sea States during the last meeting

of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in Nyborg on 22 June 1998. Mr Jokinen stressed that UBC should play a major role in the implementation of the Baltic 21 programme at the local level. The Board appointed Mr Jokinen to represent UBC in the Senior Officials Group responsible for the implementation of the Baltic 21.

Mr Paweł Żaboklicki presented the three latest UBC publications, namely: Baltic Cities Bulletin 2/98 devoted to education in Baltic cities; new colour brochure introducing the Union of the Baltic Cities and a small UBC leaflet. Mr Żaboklicki expressed thanks to those cities which sent stories to the Baltic Cities Bulletin and photographs for the UBC colour brochure. The Secretary informed that the mentioned publications will be sent out to all member cities and may be used for general UBC information and public relations purposes.

The Chairmen of UBC working Commissions submitted reports on Commissions' activities since the last Executive Board meeting held in Klaipėda on 26-27 June 1998. The Board adopted the reports and encouraged the Commissions to continue their important work.

Mr Finn Risom, Aalborg, recalled a letter sent out by the Secretariat, including a call from Kaliningrad and Baltijsk for humanitarian help, in connection with the severe crisis in Russia, which dramatically affected living conditions in these cities. Several representatives of the cities present at the meeting informed about the aid for Kaliningrad and Baltijsk already sent or being presently organised. The Board urged the member cities to organise aid for Kaliningrad and Baltijsk if possible.

Following an invitation from Mr Martti Sinisalmi, Mayor of Pori, the Board decided to hold its next (23<sup>rd</sup>) meeting in Pori on 5-6 March 1999.



## COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FIRST MEETING

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the UBC Commission on Education was held in Norrtälje, on September 27-28. Professor Kurt Pettersson, Chairman, City Board of Education in Norrtälje, Sweden, was elected chairman of the Commission. Mr Ivo Eesmaa, Mayor of Kärdla, Estonia, was elected vice chairman. The Commission also decided that the secretariat should be located in Kärdla, Estonia.

More than 20 persons with an education background represented Denmark, Es-

also cover the education aims and problems in each country. More meetings tailored to experts, teachers and students for formulating specific aims were proposed.

**Adult education:** A web-page on the UBC-site was requested for all those interested in the adult education. Collaboration in tourism and cross-border dissemination of EU-information to improve the knowledge-level in those countries which are applying for EU-membership was proposed also.

**Information on education targets:** developing an information system with



Leaders of the Commission (from the left) Kurt Pettersson, Christer Stighäll, Ivo Eesmaa

tonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden at the launching meeting.

On the first day the delegates paid a visit to the Baltic Sea Programme at the secondary upper school, Rodengymnasiet, in Norrtälje, and to the Distance Education Centre of Norrtälje. The workshops on both days evolved around three themes: exchange of pupils, students and teachers; adult education; and information on education targets.

The second day was also dominated by a discussion on collaboration themes. Suggestions were as follows:

**Exchange of pupils, students and teachers:** More information needed on the participating countries' education systems – a bank of information – preferably through a web-page on the UBC-site which should

names of responsible persons in each participating city; creating a database of "good ideas" to put on the UBC web site and encouraging schools to utilize the network exchanges are priorities.

The workshop sessions were followed by sharing of experiences on EU-programmes and projects. In particular, the significance of choosing the right partners was stressed. Keeping this in mind, the Commission on Education will then develop active collaboration in EU-projects.

The first Commission meeting was a success and it laid the foundation for a fruitful, continuous collaboration between the Baltic Cities. The next meeting of the UBC Commission on Education is scheduled to take place in Kärdla, Estonia, on September 17-18, 1999.

## COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT MET IN LÜBECK

On the 15-16 January, the UBC Commission on Environment and the City of Lübeck organised a two-day meeting in Lübeck. The first day was devoted to the matters of the Commission and the second day to the Local Agenda 21 work of the UBC. The meetings gathered together 40 participants from the member cities. The City of Lübeck offered great hospitality and venue in the old Town Hall.

Many interesting presentations of the ongoing environmental and LA 21 activities in the member cities were given during the two days. These included, e.g., presentations about sustainable pilot households, the use of internet as a participatory method in LA 21 work, SAIL Project, and many other cooperation projects and short city reports.

The Commission meeting also endorsed the Report of the Activities of the Commission in 1998 and discussed and adopted the Action Plan of the Commission for 1999. The Commission decided that Carl Nielsen from Aarhus will continue as the Chairman and Mikko Jokinen from Turku as the Vice Chairman, and that the commission secretariat will remain in the City of Turku.

The Commission meeting also discussed the proposal of Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award. The intention is that the ceremonies of this UBC award could take place at the UBC General Conference in Stockholm in September.

On the second day (UBC LA 21 Working Group), the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Plan was discussed and developed in four workshops: Strategies for Networking, New Project Ideas, Information Work, and Contents and concepts of LA 21 Work.

The meeting agreed that the results of the workshops should form the general guidelines for further developing the UBC LA 21 Action Plan draft. It was also agreed that one more meeting would be required before the Action Plan should be presented to the UBC Board.





## CONFERENCE ON LOGISTIC CENTRES

UBC Commission on Transportation together with the Gdansk Maritime Institute organised the conference on Logistic Centres on 20 November 98 in Gdańsk. Many representatives of UBC member cities and outstanding experts participated in the event.

Being of great importance for the development of the trade and transport, logistic and distribution centres develop in economically advanced countries at locations where significant streams of cargo concentrate due to availability of at least two branches of transportation.

Such centres are quite numerous in Western European countries, usually occupying large areas providing transport,



reloading, storage, sorting, repacking, renting stores and consulting. The aim of the symposium was to propagate the idea of organising and constructing centres of this kind in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region including countries "in transition". Such investments absorb substantial funds and therefore it is necessary to carry out some research before making decisions, including being informed about the logistic centres that already exist and are prosperous.

For this reason the symposium programme included analytic and research activities related to development of logistic and distribution centres as well as examples of concrete solutions to problems of location, organisation and rules of work of such centres in selected countries of Europe. We hope that the seminar will contribute to the development of this idea in the cities of the Baltic Sea Region.

The report of the Conference will be published and distributed among the UBC members at the beginning of March.



## COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation took place on 12-13 February in Gdańsk and Gdynia, Poland. Both cities chair the Commission in 1999.

The meeting raised great interest since it was attended by 56 participants from 22 cities from 7 countries – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Poland.

During two days in Gdańsk and Gdynia, the representatives of the local authorities, trade offices and other institutions promoting business made presentations on topics concerned with business cooperation. The

participants could discuss all matters of interest in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere during longer breaks.

The participants approved the plan to publish a UBC statistical leaflet (UBC Facts & Figures or similar title) to promote and inform on the organisation. For further details, suggestions etc. please contact Mr Ryszard Toczek, Project Coordinator (City of Gdynia, tel./fax +48 58 6200917, e-mail: umgdynia@miasto.gdynia.pl)

The meeting was concluded with an invitation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting to be held in the City of Kolding, Denmark in 2000.

## NEW COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

The tenth UBC commission was launched on 17 October 98 by the UBC Executive Board. The preparatory work was made by three architects: Mr Jussi Kautto, Development Chief, Helsinki, Mr Tomas Sikström Head of the Planning Dept, Umeå, and Mr Lars Brattberg, Malmö Planning Chief.

The UP Commission will promote direct contacts and co-operation between cities around the Baltic Sea in the fields of urban physical planning, construction and architecture. A network of town planners, master planners, architects, civil engineers and other professionals is planned to be developed in 1999. An open invitation to cooperation will be sent out soon.

The UP Commission will focus on themes such as: inner city redevelopment, pedestrianised city centres, new housing developments, renovation of residential areas, old harbours redevelopment, storage or military areas, parks and recreational

areas, waterfronts, traffic, etc.

The International Urban Development Association, INTA, organises the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on 6-10 June in Lyon, France. The UP Commission disseminated out this invitation and as a result 11 UBC member city planners, architects or mayors from Klaipėda, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Vilnius, Gdynia, Gdańsk, Elbląg, Pärnu, St. Petersburg, Tallinn and Tartu will participate in the event, sponsored by the INTA.

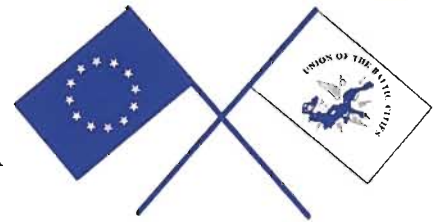
A meeting of planners, architects, civil engineers and others has been scheduled to take place in Malmö. The leading theme will be the Best Practice in Urban Physical Planning. All UBC member cities are welcome.

### Further information:

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## EU CO-ORDINATORS NETWORK IN RIGA



On 30 November the newly created UBC EU-Coordinators network met in Riga, on the Commission on Communication's initiative. Representatives of 23 UBC member cities attended the seminar.

Most cities in the EU countries have now created positions of EU Liaisons officers in their administrations. Also, more and more CEE cities are following.

While opening the seminar, Mr Andris Bērziņš, Riga City Council Chairman introduced the network. Mr. Håkan Gustafsson, Senior Advisor, Swedish Association of Local Authorities, contributed with the local impact of EU membership. The role of the EU co-ordinator and the benefits of building the resulting network, partner-cities' needs in terms of the EU integration are just a few examples of themes tackled during the seminar.

The Riga seminar participants agreed upon a concrete action plan for the coming year. The project will accommodate:

☺ Three seminars in: Nacka, Sweden; Tartu, Estonia; and Gdańsk, Poland, focusing on: EU institutions and their functions; available funds and programmes; future development of the EU; methods of collecting and spreading information; how to organise EU related work and how to create networks in municipal administrations; how to create and develop successful EU-projects; how to apply for financial support from the EU; intercultural communication; future development of the Baltic Sea Region; facts and joint visions; follow-up activities in the network

☺ An Internet homepage devoted to EU-information, translated into national languages of the Baltic states, including Po-

land and Russia; the bulletin board, the discussion forum, a list of the members, links, documentation from the seminars and a newsletter.

☺ A mailing list for the EU co-ordinators network – (It is already functioning).

The network application has been submitted to the EU Programme SWEBALTCOP for co-financing. Invitations to the seminars will be disseminated among all UBC member cities. Everybody is welcome to join the network.

### Further information:

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## NEW MEAs IN LITHUANIA

The UBC's model of Municipal Environmental Auditing (MEA) is now being implemented in two Lithuanian member cities: Panevėžys and Klaipėda. The MEA in Panevėžys was launched by the decision of the City Council in December. The intention of the Council decision is to gather strong support for the process within the city administration and political leadership. This is very important for the success of MEA, as the process affects all departments in the city. Klaipėda will start a little bit later, in April-May '99. The reason for this delay is the city's tremendous activity in international co-operation - there are almost too many other co-operation projects going on right now!

Since January, the information gathering phase has been going on in Panevėžys. The work is being carried out by a team of four Lithuanian project workers assisted by two Finnish trainees and lead by Ms Zita Tverkute, the head of the Environmental Department of Panevėžys. The ECAT-Lithuania (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology) has also proved to be a good partner in the project. Mr. Pekka Pietilä, the leader of ECAT-LT,

has generously provided his assistance in contact work and team-building/human resources. The Commission on Environment supports the activities in both cities and acts as an overall co-ordinator of the project.

These new MEAs are funded by the Nordic Minister Council (NoM). This funding of EURO 45.000 will enable the UBC Commission on Environment, in addition to the new MEAs in Klaipėda and Panevėžys, to finish the ongoing MEA in Pärnu, Estonia. However, in order to reach the overall goal of running at least one MEA in each of the Baltic States, Russia and Poland, further funding will have to be applied for. Luckily an option for further funding was included in the decision of the NoM. Other potential funding sources are the national ministries and the European Commission, which funded the pilot MEA in Tallinn under the LIFE Program.

The UBC MEA Model is composed in such a manner, that great advantages and synergies can be reached through twin city co-operation. The running of MEAs is also possible by mutual co-operation of member cities. The Finnish cities of Pori and Turku are running MEAs in co-operation

in 1999, and the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat will follow this activity and also encourage other cities to follow the example. One of the intentions with the MEA model of the UBC is also to provide a practical tool that can be used in twin city co-operation.

Bearing in mind the possibility of further funding, the UBC member cities interested in starting new MEAs are advised to contact the Commission on Environment Secretariat. It would also be helpful if these cities had good twin city contacts, which would provide a basis for co-operation in the MEA. The MEA Manuals and Workbooks are available to all interested from the Commission Secretariat in English, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian.

### Further information:

Commission on Environment Secretariat  
Tel. +358 2230 2202  
Fax +358 2253 8613  
risto.veivo@pp.weppi.fi



## SAIL PROJECT GAINING PACE

The SAIL Project on Local Agenda 21 is well on its way. The development of study and awareness raising material for municipal decision-makers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia will be started at the first project workshop in Jurmala, 11-14 March.

The project will arrange altogether five workshops. In addition to Jurmala these workshops will take place in Gdańsk, Tartu, Kaunas and St. Petersburg. During each workshop there will also be an "open day roundtable" for local experts. In between the workshops, the project partner ICLEI provides its advice on request to all the project partners via e-mail, fax and phone and via the SAIL WebSite.

At the last phase of the project five dissemination meetings will be organised for high level municipal decision-makers, such as mayors and experts.

### SAIL Workshop Schedule:

11-14 March, Jurmala  
21-25 April, Tartu  
10-13 June, Gdańsk  
5-8 August, Kaunas  
30 September - 3 October, St. Petersburg

Further information about participation at the "open days" and other project matters can be obtained from the Co-ordinator Kari Porra.

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Åbo Lawn-Tennis Klubb organized the first European Tennis Association Ranking tournament in Finland, November 17-22, 1998. Benecol International Junior Tournament held on November 20-22, 1998 was the accompanying event.

Sanctioned by the Finnish Tennis Association, the City of Turku and the UBC



## RAIN OF LOVE

In such a poetic way was entitled one of 236 works sent to the drawing competition *The Children of the Baltic*. Twenty five cities from eight countries (Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden and Russia) participated in the competition.

The competition final took place on 28 January 1999 in the Theatre Hall of the former Students Club in Gdańsk. Twenty one people agreed to act as the jury members, among them the representatives of the diplomatic corps residing in Tri-City (Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark), the municipal authorities of Gdańsk, Sopot and Gdynia, international culture organisations (Russian Centre of Culture and Science, Danish Culture Institute) and renown artists. The jury faced a very difficult task of choosing 8 finalists and 2 distinctions. The results are as follows:

I prize: Tomasz Linda (12 years), Gdańsk, Poland, II: Mohammed Ali (11 years), Malmö, Sweden, III: Neringa Kekyllte (9 years), Siauliai, Lithuania, IV: Yulia Shishova (12 years), Sillamäe, Estonia, V: Katrina Olonkina (13 years), Ventspils, Latvia, VI: Yulia Abrazoumova (9 years), Kaliningrad, Russia, VII prize: Kiira Korpi (10 lat), Tampere, Finland and VIII: Anne Sonntag (12 lat) Rostock, Germany

In addition, the jury decided to distinguish two works from Estonia and Lithuania since these two countries sent the biggest number of works. The awarded participants are: Anna Ilushenko (12 years), Sillamäe, Estonia and Agne Brazauskaitė (12 years), Kaunas, Lithuania.

The competition raised much interest in the mass media and the results were immediately announced on several radio stations,



in local newspapers and on regional TV. On the following day, regional TV interviewed the winner of the competition.

The works we obtained are the beginning of new projects such as exhibitions in the cities around the Baltic, virtual art gallery on the UBC internet home page and publications of posters, calendars, post cards, etc.

In the very near future we are going to honour all children participating in the competition by opening a Virtual Gallery at the UBC www site to show the works diversity, maturity of execution and the profound involvement on the children's and teachers' or instructors' part. By means of such a gallery we would like to thank all the children for their participation in the competition. The competition was a source of unforgettable impressions and experience while all works were like one great rain of love, rich imagination and particularly the rain of great talent of the Children of the Baltic Sea.

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## INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Commission on Sport, the latter sponsored 47 players out of 170 representing clubs from UBC cities.

Four venues enjoyed the games played in 8 categories, representing boys and girls aged 12, 14, 16 and 18. UBC competitors were very successful in winning almost everything. Surprisingly enough, many of

the players in the tournament also represented their own national teams.

Further information:  
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## EU URBAN POLICY

With urban issues featuring more prominently on the policy agenda, the European Commission organised a high level discussion group, the URBAN FORUM, to address the challenges faced by European Union towns and cities. UBC was represented in Vienna by Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, UBC Vice President.

Within the context of achieving the overall objective of sustainable urban development, sessions within the URBAN FORUM (26-27 November '98) addressed the Framework's specific proposals under the following headings:

- ☺ Strengthening productivity, employment and economic growth in towns and cities
- ☺ Promoting equality and social inclusion in urban areas
- ☺ Protecting and improving the urban environment: local and global sustainability
- ☺ Contributing to good urban governance and empowerment

The discussions at the URBAN FORUM allowed a wide range of actors from various levels of government and various perspectives to voice their views on how EC can best promote and or facilitate integrated approaches to sustainable urban development.

The Commission's Action Plan complements needs and expectations of UBC members. In particular, subsidiarity, integration, partnership, environmental sustainability, market efficiency - these are the principles fully supported by the organisation. The Commission's proposal of a total package of Euro 275 billion for structural policies for the period 2000-2006, as well as Euro 45 billion allocated to accession countries, including Euro 7 billion via the pre-accession instrument for transport and environment, is also appreciated.

It is our anticipation that pre-accession funds be primarily allocated in regions located close to the EU external borders, i.e. also around the Baltic Sea. Furthermore, the Commission intends to adopt guidelines including "urban dimension" for the use of the funds by Member States.

UBC in general supports the concept of integrated urban development action. Yet, it's necessary that regional plans and operational programmes refer explicitly to the urban areas, which should then be prepared and subsequently adopted jointly by cities and regional authorities.

The Commission proposal for ERDF funding through INTERREG III the co-operation between urban areas in different Member States can enable the UBC to fulfil many ideas concerning cross-border and inter-regional urban development strategies and planning approaches. Networking and clustering between EU actors and urban centres in accession countries is required besides others in order to familiarise and prepare those cities to successfully meet EU conditions and challenges: public procurement, free movement of goods and people, environmental requirements.

As one of the UBC main tasks is an exchange of experiences, action 20 supporting innovative urban development strategies is appreciated. In particular the CEE cities have special needs in terms of strategic planning, information policy and public participation, human resources, infrastructure, revitalisation of residential areas, housing, recovering industrial sites, architectural heritage and environment. Action 20 combined appropriately with PHARE and TACIS funds may lead to improvements in urban conditions in Central and Eastern Europe.

Union of the Baltic Cities considers the Action Plan for Sustainable Urban Development as a very positive step for the Baltic Sea Region's further integration.

## MARE ARTICUM 1999

Since 1997 MARE ARTICUM has established a stable net of correspondents representing the leading artistic institutions in the Baltic Region. Since then, the net jointly prepared two issues of the magazine: *Utopia* and *The Autonomy of Art*, as well as developed several bilateral artistic projects in Riga, Szczecin, Orońsko and Stockholm.

Baltic Biennial organisers – Szczecin Pomeranian Dukes' Castle and Szczecin City Council appointed MARE ARTICUM net as a co-ordinating body for the new edition to be shown in Szczecin in October 1999 under the name N.E.W.S. The event will feature the art of the 90-ties, panel discussions and video presentations.

Approximately 25 Baltic artists, recommended by the MARE ARTICUM's correspondents, will participate in the show. Critics and theorists will contribute to the panel discussions.

Szczecin has also approached the Baltic Art Centre in Visby and Riga's Foreign Art Museum with a proposal for closer collaboration within the project. To discuss the

details the Gotland Community invited the representatives of the above institutions and organisers from Szczecin to the meeting in Visby held on 14-17 January 1999. The show will be presented in three locations: Szczecin, Riga and Visby. Negotiations with other art centres to extend the project to four locations are still being carried out.

The new issue of MARE ARTICUM, the Baltic art magazine, has just been published. This time the leading theme is *The Autonomy of Art*.

One can find here articles on interesting art events in the Baltic (e.g. 2nd World Latvian Exhibition, 6th Performance Festival in Bytów (Poland), Performance Festival Civilisation Anticivilisation Bröllin/Szczecin/ Berlin), as well as discursive articles presenting leading artists in the Baltic Sea Area, including: Pekka Niskanen, Lea & Pekka Kantonen (Finland), Mirosław Bałka, Grzegorz Kłaman (Poland), Eriks Božis (Latvia), Inessa Josing (Estonia), Artur Klinow (Belarus) and others. MARE ARTICUM is also presenting the lead art institutions like GEDOK Atelierhaus in Lübeck, International Art. Centre in Poznań, Moltkerei Werkstatt Cologne and Schloss Bröllin Mecklenburg.

Next 1999 issues will feature the Beauty, N.E.W.S.'99 the Baltic Art Biennial, and Boredom.

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## UBC AID TO BALTIJSK AND KALININGRAD

In summer 1998, the cities of Kaliningrad and Baltijsk asked all UBC member cities for help in this time of economical and financial crisis in Russia. For many public social institutions like hospitals, orphanages, senior homes, etc. It is now extremely difficult to maintain the minimum standards of attention.

The call was heard all around the Baltic Sea. Citizens of a great number of cities collected goods or money, especially before Christmas. On the 22nd UBC Board Meeting in Szczecin on 16-17 October 1998 the Commission on Health and Social Affairs offered to collect the information about the city initiatives and other useful information for those who want to help.

Read about it in the UBC Bulletin on Health and Social Affairs No.1/1999.



# III. Member Cities in Action

## New business opportunities in Latvia

Rēzekne Special Economic Zone, created in 1998, is located at the junction of the highways and the railways Riga-Moscow and St.Petersburg-Warsaw-Berlin. Its territory covers western part of the city and has well-developed infrastructure.

The prime requirement is that businesses must be environment friendly. There they can buy some piece of land or only hire it. Moreover, the entrepreneurial associations have the special status which allows for tax alleviation. Therefore, the goods production could be more profitable. Main activities in the zone are: production of electrical tools, canned milk; bakery; distribution centres and warehouses. Some of those enterprises currently exploit only half of their capacities and are ready for increasing the scope of their activities.

### Further information:

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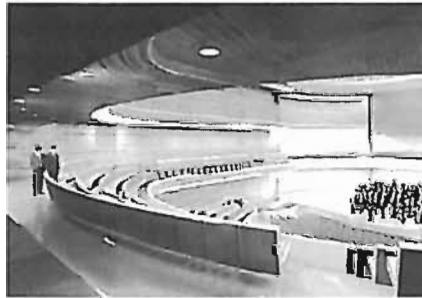
## The Sibelius Hall

A new unique congress and concert centre, the Sibelius Hall, will be completed in Lahti at the end of 1999. The City of Lahti has numerous cultural activities: museums, theatres and vivid music life. The Lahti Symphony Orchestra is world-famous among friends of classical music.

By the end of this year the new congress and concert centre will be completed on the shore of Lake Vesijärvi, where the first steam saw mill of Lahti started industrial activity 130 years ago. The entire shore district has been occupied by industries since the 80's. Since then a harbour has been raised with harbour storehouses, cafes, steam ship restaurants, as well events connected to the new Sibelius Hall. Architects Kimmo Lintula and Hannu Tikka had a challenging task of combining new wood building technology with the buildings of an old carpentry factory built of bricks.

In the main hall with the capacity for 1250 persons, there will be state-of-the-art acoustics that can be adjusted according to the events, for a symphony

or a rock concert or for meeting purposes. Separate congress wing, exhibition space and the lobby space "Forest Hall", which combines the new and the old building, provides premises for banquets, exhibitions and other activities.



The glass-shelled, wooden Sibelius Hall will counter the challenges of the new millennium with its modern meeting and congress techniques, but it will surely also be acknowledged among citizen and visitors as an interesting object of visit, as well as the centre of splendid concerts and various other happenings.

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## Baltic Bridge

Kristianstad's Baltic Bridge links occident and orient. Once the permanent connection over the Öresund Sound is opened in the year 2000, Kristianstad will gain in importance for the Baltic Region, becoming a natural crossroads between Denmark/northern Germany area and the Baltic States/Russia. Kristianstad already has strong ties to the countries on the other side of the Baltic, including the Baltic Office, the Eastern Trade Office of the Chamber of Commerce of Southern Sweden, the Swebaltcop Secretariat and the Euro Info Centre South (EIC South).

Both in the air, via scheduled flights from Kristianstad Airport and on the sea via ferry lines, the Baltic Bridge makes Kristianstad the natural choice for companies wishing to expand in the Baltic Sea Region. Moreover Kristianstad has excellent train connections to Malmö and Copenhagen and the road connecting Copenhagen and Åhus Harbour is the main southern artery. This complete transport centre offers large-scale

bulk and container traffic to Baltic and northern German harbours.

Kristianstad boasts a growing commercial sector with several of Sweden's largest food companies, a large poultry firm, dairies and starch companies. The plastic, information and transport sectors are growing rapidly and with excellent data and communications, IT companies provide Kristianstad with a definite edge.

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## New Directions for Elbląg

With its over 750 year history and Hanseatic traditions, Elbląg is presently a dynamically developing city attempting to use its favourable location, rich history and the economic potential. The new city's image is being promoted, in which Elbląg is shown as a city of the modern and well developed economic potential. Its biggest enterprises - ABB "Zamech" Ltd, Elbrewery Co. Ltd. and Bianka Polska Ltd., can serve as perfect examples of industry restructurisation in Poland. With its beautiful and unspoilt environment, and European class architectural monuments, Elbląg is an unquestionable tourist attraction. It is further a city of young people (around 33% of the whole city population) studying at higher education schools which are numerous here.

The city's future development has been described in "the Development Strategy for Elbląg 1996-2010" and its priorities were identified in such fields: harbour and its surroundings, resource base and technical infra-structural development, creating more favourable conditions for the SMEs development and establishing the Municipal Enterprise and Investment Centre, improvement of both the housing industry and the environmental services, and investment in the city communications system.

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## Växjö Goes for Biogas

In Växjö waste from households is too easy dumped which is both burdensome for the environment and wasteful in many ways. With its new OPTI gas project the city looks at the possibilities of using the biogas and how the nutrients could be used as the fertiliser.

Biogas is a fuel which releases fewer dangerous substances into the air and can be used in cars and buses. The possibility to use manure and energy crops from farms for biogas production is also being researched.

If the preliminary study shows good results, a plant for processing organic material will be built. Energy, such as biogas, will be collected and the remaining material returned to farmland. The plant will have two separate product lines, one of which will provide nutrients suitable for use in food production.



The approach of anaerobic digestion of all available organic waste and energy crops, is new to a region with low agricultural activity, such as Växjö. With strong political support, both local and national, the investment in a biogas infrastructure in Växjö will make an important contribution to the establishment of an infrastructure for production and distribution of biogas fuel for vehicles. Consequently, the government subsidy of 4.3 million ECU was granted for investments in a biogas infrastructure.

The Växjö Municipal Board has unanimously committed itself to reduce radicalistically the use of fossil fuels. The preliminary study will be carried out in cooperation between the University of Southern Jutland, ECAT Lithuania, The Swedish Farmer's Union and the Agricultural Institute with support from the Swedish Government and the EU's Alterner II Programme.

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## Democratic and Safe Society

The closing conference of the Project "Local Politics and Civic Influence" also known as the Democracy Project was held in Šiauliai on 10-11 December 1998. About 80 participants representing Swedish and Lithuanian UBC member cities shared their experience during six workshops.

The project also focused on the situation of women and young people and it undoubtedly contributed to the consolidation of some basic ideas of democracy in Lithuania. During the closing session, the UBC President, Mr Anders Engström, pointed out that the local authorities in Lithuania should make more efforts to increase society's interest in politics.

Another project "Fighting Against Violence in Families" involved the twin cities Šiauliai and Kristianstad. Kristianstad Department of Social Affairs and Šiauliai Municipal Police are the main participants of this project. The aim of the project is to prevent family violence and to assist victimized children, women and older persons.

For many years the police were oriented only to punishment of violators, but for the last several years they work in absolutely different direction. The target of utmost importance is not the punishment of violators but support and clarification of the problem. After a successful start, this vitally important project is to be continued through out the year 1999 on the international level as a part of Femina Baltica.

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## Youth Department in Tallinn

Since 1 January 1999 a separate unit dealing with youth issues exists in the Estonian capital. Youth Department aims to co-ordinate youth work and to promote youth initiatives.

Tallinn City Council concluded that youth is one of the key issues in city development. Young people should participate in planning of the City, as they are the ones who will have to live there after the plans are accepted. They should see and feel the care by the City to care of the City themselves.

One may wonder why it took over seven years of independence of Estonia before such a co-ordinating body was established. Youth movement has not been strong and

young people are not standing actively for their rights. The draft of the Youth Work Law reached the Estonian National Parliament only this winter. But as problems with youth are growing every year, it became obvious that co-ordinated efforts by the City Government are needed.

The main tasks of the new department include: crime prevention, summer camps programme, establishing of youth centres, youth information points (first have already been financed by the PHARE/TACIS Programme) and developing youth counselling services. A youth training centre will be founded as a joint project of the department and the Ministry of Culture. Financial support to youth organisations' and other NGO projects is anticipated next year.

Youth Department is looking forward to developing fruitful co-operation with other youth structures of the Baltic Cities. The Department is interested in the experience of other cities as well as in developing exchange programmes of youth workers and volunteers.

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## Vilnius Tourism Awards

For the very first time Tourism Award competition was organised in Vilnius, Lithuanian capital. In cooperation with Vilnius Municipality, Lithuanian Tourism Board, Lithuanian Tourism Association, Lithuanian Hotel Association, National Association of Hotels and Restaurants and Lithuanian Guides Guild completed Vilnius Tourism Awards competition.

The competition was held between 15 May till 8 November 1998, and 12 hotels and 22 restaurants took part in it. It was the high tourism season, so many tourists and citizens could choose the most hospitable Vilnius hotel, restaurant and most friendly hotel front desk staff and restaurant waiter, too.

Winner enterprises were nominated to St. Christopher Statue (Vilnius city patron) to be handed in by Mayor of Vilnius. The best won trips sponsored by SVEBAS, Lithuanian travel agency and FINNAIR airline.

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## Bio-Time Ticking in Turku

The City of Turku is to invest heavily in biotechnology with its newly planned 26 ha. Bio Valley. The first construction phase will commence this year in a central location in Lauste with 112,000 sq. metres of floor space. In addition to research and product development units, Bio Valley will also house pharmaceutical industry production plants. The City has invested around EUR 12.6 million to found a real estate investment company to manage the premises.

As biosciences are a core skill in Turku Region, R & D activities in the biosciences are well organised here with five universities which makes the bio-research of the very highest standard. The strongest fields here are biomedicine, diagnostics, biomaterials, biochemistry, agrobiolgy and health promoting functional foods. These are also thought to be the fields where the best prerequisites for international growth exist.

Two kms away from the future Bio Valley, the Bio-City operates as a part of the Turku Technology Centre where universities and enterprises collaborate closely. Bio-City has been rated as a top science unit and its research group includes more than five hundred people. Together they form the Nordic countries' largest innovation base operating in one location. The biosciences know-how centre programme, managed by Turku Technology Centre, focuses on bio-materials, diagnostics and pharmaceuticals development. This bio-business in south west Finland will be government supported as a concentrated field of know-how from 1999 to 2006. A lack of suitable production space has to date limited development, but Bio Valley will remove this one last obstacle.

Again, a city programme "Vitality" has been started in Turku Region. It aims to create a practical co-operation model between the regional foodstuffs industry, research and training, and the municipalities, where the latter has long traditions and solid expertise.

Turku has moved on to bio-time. Success will be achieved in co-operation between enterprises, municipalities and universities. The doors stand open to all experts in the field.

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## Copenhagen Green Accounts

The major objective of local Agenda 21 in Copenhagen is to make sure that the city is never accused of living in a "glass house" when it comes to environmental measures. Not only citizens and enterprises have to behave in more environmentally sound ways - even the city's administration itself has to take action.

The City of Copenhagen has in the last couple of years published annual green accounts for Copenhagen as a geographical area. In 1999, however, it will also launch its first green accounts covering its institutions, buildings etc. Initially, the consumption of electricity, water and heating will be shown to trace the areas of potential savings.

Concurrently, the city administration has begun the process of introducing environmental purchasing of goods and services. The significance of this is underlined by the fact that the largest workplace in Copenhagen is - the City of Copenhagen. In mid-1998 already the Energy, Water and Environment Administration decided to choose the most environmentally friendly products when buying cable, pipes, electronics and office supplies.

This department will also evaluate whether transport during working hours is carried out in environmentally friendly ways. Furthermore, it is to draw up the action plan for the introduction of ecological foods in day care institutions, educational institutions, nursing homes and hospitals. Alongside, the city is also developing the pilot project on environmental management in the city administration. After its evaluation in 1999, the project will recommend the policy on environmental management in all of the city's institutions.

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## Town Planners Visit in Lübeck

Town planners from the City of Kalmar visited their colleagues in Lübeck on 10 December 1998 to see the development phases of Lübeck, especially the old town.

The starting point to present changes was situation of the town development after the World War II and the next points were the use and construction concept during the sixties and seventies, as well as

the restoration, which made progress during the seventies, after the grant law of town planning came into force.

The Swedish experts were very interested in organisation of the traffic for business and shopping in the old town. Kalmar is also planning a similar traffic-concept for profitable and calmed old town similar to Lübeck's.

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## 40th Nordic Film Days

The 40th Nordic Film Days in Lübeck came to a close in November with the main award going to the Norwegian film "Only Clouds Move the Stars". This story, about an 11-year-old girl whose parents withdraw into mourning when the girl's younger brother dies, is the first feature film by Torun Lian, who had previously made a name for herself as a scriptwriter of the film "Frida - Straight from the Heart".

The 40th jubilee was completely under the spell of its guest of honour and world star Liv Ullmann, who was awarded an honorary professorship by Heide Simonis, the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein. Liv Ullmann, who is Honorary President of the festival, attended virtually all of the events, gave numerous interviews, and lent the Nordic Film Days that special bit of glamour that had made this edition one of the very best in its forty-year history. Joining in the celebration were some 14,000 spectators, an all-time record. They included guests from some 20 of the cities represented in the UBC.

One of the most talked-about topics was the new Danish trend "Dogma 95" with its hand-held cameras and real locations. Accordingly, Thomas Vinterberg's feature film "The Celebration" appealed to both viewers and juries, taking home a total of three awards, including the Baltic Films. For the first time a jury of four Lübeck children awarded the prize of 5,000 Marks which went to the excellent Icelandic children's film "Count Me Out" by Ari Kristinsson.

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## Teachers Environmental Course in St. Petersburg

In October 1997 the Nacka Gymnasium Team attended the Ecological Olympiad in St. Petersburg organised under the co-sponsorship of UNESCO. The team of students were successful and enjoyed the competitions and hospitality of their Russian hosts. During the competition days contacts were made with Russian teachers from school 466 in Pesochny. Great interest in the way Environmental Sciences in Nacka Gymnasium is taught was shown. The idea was to perform a teachers' training seminar for Russian teachers on the environmental sciences. In winter plans were made, money raised and the seminar date set (20–22 May '98). Energy and hospitality of Sirkija Tatiana, School Headmaster, and her staff greatly helped to make the initial ideas become reality. The contents of the course centered around three themes:

1. Nacka's lakes water quality monitoring in close collaboration with the Municipality of Nacka, 2. Practical methods in making monitoring activities in a credible way, 3. Eco-technological solutions to environmental problems worked out by the Royal Technical Institute, KTH, and Nacka Gymnasium.

An evaluation by 28 natural science teachers and lecturers taking part in the course showed overwhelming appreciation to the course organisers – Lars Davidson and Susanne Mellvig, teachers at Nacka Gymnasium. The course was sponsored by Swedish Tempus and co-financed by Nacka Municipality.

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## UBC Promotion in Rostock

27 participants from 18 German cities, mainly mayors, paid a visit to Rostock on the invitation of the city mayor. The meeting was organised to disseminate information about the Union of the Baltic Cities. Bützow, Kiel, Lübeck, Rostock, Wismar – German UBC member cities presented the organisation and explained their roles there. As some cities still experience a language barrier, a brochure about the UBC in the German language was prepared.

Mayor of Lübeck Michael Bouteiller stressed the importance of strong organisation of the cities in Baltic Region who

are its engines. UBC as an organisation is strengthening this role of the cities, and it's an active observer in such organisations as e.g. CBSS, HELCOM or CLRAE.

Mr Arno Pöcker, Mayor of Rostock explained the actual aims and activities of the leading role of Rostock and Lübeck in the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. Long term and efficient collaboration of cities in the UBC network on developing common projects was stressed, too.

Mr Thomas Beyer, Senator of Hanseatic Wismar informed about the UBC membership impact on Wismar. One of the youngest member cities' mayor Mr Lothar Stroppe of Bützow gave the reasons for joining the organisation. Among others, the city was determined to actively participate in the development and enlargement of Europe, wanted to share with its experiences, and gain from projects.

Rostock believes this action contributed to attracting new members from Germany.

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## EMS in Kalmar

Kalmar municipality has taken a big challenge to implement an environmental management system, according to ISO 14 001 in all administrations and municipal companies. The process towards EMS, eco management system, is long and sometimes quite hard.

The first survey in 1996 showed interest of the heads of departments and municipality owned companies, as well as of politicians. In September 1996 the executive committee took the decision that the whole municipality should start the progress towards implementing EMS in accordance with ISO 14 001 or EMAS.

Today Kalmar Energy and the real estate departments are certified according to ISO 14 001. Our water and waste management company, as well as the first pioneer school plan to reach this goal in the next few months. Most of the departments have an environmental investigation done and policy taken but with the implementation of EMS still to come.

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## “For the Benefit of the Child”

“For the Benefit of the Child” process was launched in Kotka in 1995, when the local police, social and health authorities found that children and youth were having more and more problems. These problems have manifested themselves in an increased use of intoxicants and crime. The systems were not able to respond early enough so preventive measures were required.

The length of the process was set at a total of ten years. The process aims at supporting and improving the way children, the young and their families are coping with life, and reducing crime and use of intoxicants. The target group comprised about 180 children, born between 1989 and 1990, and their families selected from two residential areas in Kotka. When the process was started, the children were 5 and 6 years old.

The process concentrates on supporting the inhabitants' own resources and reinforcing their own positive networks and on creating new networks. The other important issue is developing the multi-professional work of employees involved. The practical work is carried out by multi-professional regional teams, which support, develop and follow the progress of the process. The teams are also responsible for arranging training and research.

The events arranged so far include e.g. meetings between the regional teams and the follow-up team, training and seminars, various theme evenings, essay writing and drawing assignment or a study trip to Stockholm.

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## Maritime Congress Fair

MARI'99, Rostock 2-3 June '99

The congress is dedicated especially to the reinforced internationalisation of maritime business and trade. The following workshops are planned: 1. Problems of modularisation of complex products, 2. Ship security and maritime environmental protection, 3. Intelligent process management of maritime systems

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by Tomasz Linda from Gdańsk

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### ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The theme of the next bulletin will be ‘TOURISM IN BALTIC CITIES’. Everyone is welcome to send material to be published in it. The deadline for contributions is 25 May 1999 – please respect it.

The Editorial Board wishes following contributions to the bulletin:

- Stories related to the theme
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories

Please do not hesitate to contact the UBC secretariat in any questions relating to the Baltic Cities Bulletin!



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**Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 86 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.**

**The Union has based its operational activities on ten working Commissions on Business Cooperation, Communication, Culture, Environment, Education, Health and Social Affairs, Sport, Tourism, Transportation and Urban Planning. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.**

**The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).**

**The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.**

**Please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.**