



Baltic Cities Bulletin

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ENERGY MATTER

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New UBC Commission on Energy under formation



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Baltic Cities Bulletin

Dear UBC Friends!

It seems evident that the modern civilisation is based on energy. Being based on energy means, however, being dependent on energy supplies, prices of crude oil, natural resources etc. There is no doubt that energy matters and is one of the most sensitive issues in the contemporary world becoming the key topic in policies of many states and organisations. Moreover, energy is also a highly prioritized global environmental issue as its production has a harmful impact on environment. Bearing these facts in mind, Europe is discussing now the new strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy. Will the single European energy market emerge in the near future? Undoubtedly, the Baltic Sea actors should take a chance and create a common balanced energy market in the region. This issue of the Bulletin presents our member cities' experience with the energy supply security problems and environmental impact of its production. Their stories prove that there are great opportunities in the Baltic Region as far as renewable energy is concerned. Finally, the answers on how to utilize the governmental and EU regulations on energy for the benefit of cities and consumers are also presented.

European Union policy consequences are visible in the Baltic Sea Region not only in the energy field. Since 2004 the Union of the Baltic Cities with other Baltic organisations has been lobbying in Brussels on the new EU Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013, 3rd objective – the European Territorial Cooperation. Some of its assumptions are not suitable for the Baltic cooperation and should be changed - first of all the proposed 150 km limit for cross-maritime-border cooperation. The European Commission's suggestion of cooperation within the transnational strand indicated in its reply to our first joint statement is not satisfying – the proposed thematic areas within the transnational strand have very little to do with the tasks of the local authorities. That is why in April 2006, the UBC, B7 Baltic Islands Network and BSSSC signed the 2nd Joint Statement still opposing the limit of 150 km and applying for complement of thematic areas within transnational part of the programme with those which are essential for municipal cooperation. To be even closer the European policy, the UBC should be officially represented in Brussels. The Stockholm Region Office offered to function as the UBC antenna that will speak on behalf of our member cities.

Recent months have been also full of other international activities of the Union. UNITAR and UBC formalized their working relations signing the memorandum of understanding. This agreement allows to undertake joint actions in the field of human resources development with mutual benefits. The time since the VIII General Conference in Turku has been also fruitful as far as our Baltic activity is concerned. The Maritime Logistics Policy Paper has been prepared and sent to member cities for comments. As the Baltic Sea transport is developing so fast, a need to create a policy that would cover the entire scope of maritime logistics in the region has become obvious. This policy concerns the development of transport and infrastructure, safety and the environment and logistics information technology in the region. I believe this document will help UBC to take part in consultations regarding the European Union maritime policy.

The need for common actions is also significant when we are facing the global social problems. The UBC Board upon the initiative of the city of Umeå signed the Statement against trafficking. Unfortunately the number of trafficked women and children is still increasing. The document commits the UBC members to undertake all possible efforts to prevent this problem.

As you can see there are many challenging tasks for UBC and its members to be faced this year. I hope they motivate us to even more intensive actions.

With Baltic Sea greetings

Per Bødker Andersen
President of UBC





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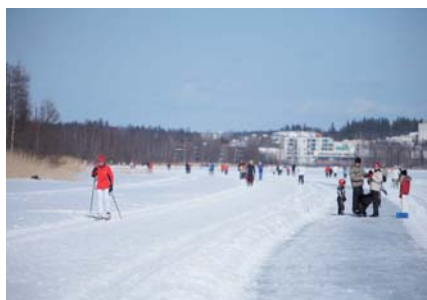
Gdańsk heating company - modernisation in accordance with natural environment



Mr Arvydas Garbaravicius, the Mayor of Kaunas, welcomed the UBC Board



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I. ENERGY IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

ENERGY MATTER

by Mr Stefan Windh, Chairman
of the International Committee,
Oskarshamn

Energy and matter, two sides of the same coin as Albert Einstein expressed his thesis. There has been an enormous rise in energy demand since the middle of the last century. That increase has resulted from not only rapid industrial development but also from the population growth. Between 1850 and 1970, world population multiplied by 3.2 times, and total energy use increased more than 12-fold. According to the recent forecast for the International Energy Agency, electricity demand will increase by about 30% in Europe by 2020.

It will be more than double in Asia and the rest of the world. Despite the importance of energy to every aspect of our lives, many Europeans are not adequately armed with the basic energy knowledge to make informed decisions or determine what can be done to manage and conserve energy resources. At a community level we have to increase this knowledgebase and supply the necessary infrastructure for a new mix of energy sources bearing in mind the dependence and fragility of the distribution grids. This has to be combined with our concern regarding the effect on our global and local economy for both private and public consumers. All this has to be consistent with our environmental

goals and targets connected to energy production and consumption.

Energy in Europe

Modern civilization is based on access to energy. All cities and surrounding communities are dependent on the access to power, heat and light in one way or another. Constant fluctuations on the energy market and emerging new technologies create a complex matrix of long and short-term facts that have to be considered at every level of both public and private sector. The New Green Book from EU labelled "A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy" will give attention to this matter for a long time since we are transforming into a new energy market with no borders. A common European energy market

is emerging on the horizon, and the Baltic Region that climatologically differs from Central and Western Europe, will be a focus point. Oskarshamn municipality in Sweden is therefore promoting the creation of the UBC Energy Commission in order to establish a center of excellence for member cities in the Baltic region.

For more knowledge in the Baltic Sea Region

In order to share and distribute knowledge about the best practices in this area there is a need for the UBC Energy Commission. The proposed Commission will have the following objectives as a starting point:

- to display the wide range of different energy projects covering a diversified mix of interesting technologies and plans concerning cities and local residential areas.
- to organize specific symposiums and meetings and publish reports in order to share knowledge covering the scope of our mission among the cities included in the UBC
- to actively take part in training, education, research and development of interest to the member cities based on external funding from EU and other sources.
- to promote and lobby for the local perspective on energy policies based on regional, national and international interests.

Particularly renewable energy sources like hydro, wind, wave and bio-energy will be investigated from a local

photo: © OKG



perspective as well as the possibilities of increasing efficiency and reducing the fumes of carbon dioxide, especially within the transport sector. It is therefore vital that we can share knowledge regarding best practices in the field of energy efficiency & savings. From the local perspective it is also important to keep a close eye on the power grid and supply pipes from a perspective of security, durability and possible environmental impact.

Nuclear power

Any discussion about clean energy should also include nuclear power. The lack of carbon depletion and avoidance of million of tons of emissions (NO_x, SO_x and CO₂) make modern nuclear power one of the cleaner energy sources capable of generating huge power output. There are some key issues

to be resolved before nuclear energy will enjoy public resurgence in Scandinavia, Germany and some other countries. First is of course finding acceptable solutions for transportation and storage of nuclear waste. Second is the industry's need for a supportive administration over a long period of time. The third issue is that the technology's risks and rewards have to be thoroughly understood by the investing community. Oskarshamn has over 30 years of experience of production of nuclear power and is one of two

contenders for hosting the first nuclear waste disposal facility of Sweden. So Oskarshamn is already a centre of excellence in all these areas with extensive research facilities and are willing to share and further enhance its expertise in this field.

Energy from the local perspective

Baltic states as well as Russia and large parts of Europe are attached to power grids and pipelines crossing the continent. New one is under way from Norway and others from Russia under the Baltic Sea. This infrastructure has been little debated and the knowledge is scarce. The municipality of Oskarshamn, according to the question of nuclear waste, has got



Mr Peter Wretlund, the Mayor of Oskarshamn, makes the following statement:

We are faced with a tremendous challenge to manage our existing resources and generate that needed extra power in the future. This must be done while we are also protecting the environment and preserving natural resources. Different techniques are applied in order to both save and extract maximum energy bound in solid or liquid matters like oil, cooled gas, uranium, wood, grain etc. The movement of wind, water, the heat and light of the sun and the heat from the ground, are all sustainable energy sources that can be turned into usable form of energy. Fuel cells are developing as a new technology with great promises for many sectors. We have to follow this development closely since we have a responsibility for our community's development.

a long experience of working with complex energy-related questions related to the perspective of democracy. A new UBC Energy commission has to report status, facts and bring the case to its members for discussion. In this respect it is important to establish the UBC Energy Commission as one forum and a power broker within the EU policy making structure, defending the municipal perspective. The UBC's emerging representation office in Brussels can be a vital contact point for policy makers interested in these



Mr Stefan Windh and Mr Bengt Karlsson, Headmaster of NOVA, Oskarshamn, presenting the idea of new commission to the UBC Board in Kaunas

and other related matters. The future brings a whole lot of options with great potential combined with various renewable energy technologies that can form a new blend of energy sources for our cities and communities. We need to address these issues since we know that our way of life will demand more energy in the future. We better start right now to explore our regions energy mix and the future infrastructure in order to facilitate both growth and environmental sustainability.

Oskarshamn is seeking other member cities to join us in the effort to establish the UBC Energy Commission. We are prepared to host the secretariat and to provide the administrative backbone. We will add our research and cooperation from our local cluster of diversified energy industry. This will be combined with the power of the UBC infrastructure to make the new Energy Commission a success and a valuable resource in the development of our communities.

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SECURITY OF SUPPLIES



by Mr Dariusz Sassak

Climate conditions of the city of Gdansk result in demand for heat in a period of 7 month in a year. Main district heating system is operated by GPEC, company responsible for transmission and distribution of heat to customers. Until today GPEC has also operated a few local heat plants which supply decentralized district heating systems with heat. The reason why those systems have not been connected to the main system was the lay-out of the city: with the afforested hilly area in the central-west part of the city.

One of the local heat plants, which since 1975 has been fuelled with hard coal, in 2003-2004 was converted into combined heat & power plant based on natural gas. GPEC decided to convert this facility into a new technology because of poor energy efficiency, high exhaust gases pollution and necessity to retrofit old, unreliable installation. The plant is in direct vicinity to the protected forestry

The modernization comprised: installation of two similar natural gas fired combined heat and power gas engines, installation of two gas & oil water boilers, heat storage system for stabilizing of power production in CHP mode, fully redundant control system, decommissioning of all parts of previous installation of coal based heat plant.

area, so environmental protection was one of the most important issues.

The feasibility study for modernization of this coal-fired plant had been prepared by GPEC together with independent consultants, proving the project to be viable. GPEC took part in the World Bank program Coal to Gas conversion. The project was technically and economically designed and then approved by the consultants of the World Bank. On account of the program GPEC received additional funds - 50%

of investment costs as a grant from Global Environmental Facility Found. Further 13% were a preferential loan form local environmental protection fund. New facility was commissioned in June 2004. The most important advantages are: high efficiency, low pollution, flexibility and reliability. New combined

heat & power plant has 10,6 MW of thermal power and 2,0 MW of electrical power. It supplies heat to residential customers, with ordered power on the level of 8,3 MW. Total electrical power



For the last few years GPEC has been transforming itself towards the service oriented company.

production is transmitted to the grid of local electricity operator KE ENERGIA as electricity.

Development of new decentralized CHP Plants for aim of security and reliability of heat and power supply is significant by GPEC strategy. Furthermore, the EU supports such scheme by the directive 2004/8/EC which promotes combined heat and power production. Implementing of such a project corresponds with European objectives.

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ACTION PLAN ON ENERGY SAVINGS



by Mr Lars Højensgård

In 1997 the Kolding City Council initiated an action plan on energy savings in owned and rented buildings. The aim was to fulfil the governmental aim of reducing energy use with 15% and CO₂ emissions with 20% before the end of 2005 vs. 1988.

Kolding City Council signed the Aalborg Charter in 1994 and laid down in the action plan the aim of reducing the use of electricity with 13 %, energy for heating with 16,5 %, water with 20 % before the end of 2005 (measured in kWh resp. M³/m²) compared to 1988. The upstart included an analysis of energy and water use of the buildings (monitored since 1990).

Out of this study and based on knowledge on possible reductions of energy- and water use, a plan was laid down including mainly:

1. engaging of energy coordinators
2. establishing of "energy guidance group" consisting of a member of each department.
3. action on change of user behaviour: For each building an "energy responsible person" was chosen (and trained) to inform and teach colleagues on good energy behaviour.
4. raising of app. 2.7 million Euro loan.

Every year the energy guidance group discusses the plan of energy reducing activities proposed by the energy coordinators. These include calculated energy savings, investments and pay back time. At first the plans were concentrated on a short pay back times, easy execution and visibility. For instance changing of light bulbs into low energy light bulbs,

Success in numbers (in 2005 vs. 1988)

Energy used for heating reduced with: 27,3 % (aim: 16,5 %)

Use of electricity reduced with: 16,9 % (aim: 13 %)

Use of water reduced with: 58 % (aim: 20 %).

The overall interest of the money spent is in average 28 % each year.

water reducing techniques, changing of refrigerators and freezers to A-models. Later efforts concentrated on more "heavy" actions as changing of inefficient lighting to efficient day light, actions on ventilation systems etc. Additionally web-based, user interfaced IT-energy surveillance program was developed

by technical services in cooperation with IT-company (first in DK), building meters connected to pioneering web based surveillance automatics.

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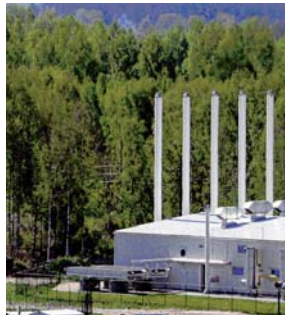
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



by Ms Maija Rubina

The district heating (around 80% of total consumption) and a technically outworn heat supply system with low economic performance in the beginning of 90s was widely developed in Latvia. Trying to adopt to market economy and higher tariffs many consumers sought for autonomous heating and refused from district heating. As a result, district heating turned out to be in a crisis in the middle of 90s and the decision had to be taken – to maintain district heating by modernization or to support its decentralization.

The 10 years conception of the Riga City Council (1997) envisaged to keep district heating as the main way of heat supply and considerable work in modernization of heat supply system. Fundamental ideas of the European Energetic Charter form the framework of the concept: modernization of



Riga Biogas Cogeneration Station

the system, development of cogeneration and energy efficiency. The large scale work began – JSC "Rīgas siltums" with a mixed shareholders' structure was founded in 1996. In 1997 all consumers were equipped with heat meters at the lead-ins of buildings therefore allowing to start having a proper system of settlements. Individual Supply Points (ISP) of buildings were readjusted and JSC "Rīgas siltums" undertook service responsibilities for the ISP as additional function. The next step was liquidation of 185 Central Supply Points (CSP) and installation of modern bloktype ISPs in the buildings which decreased the consumption by 15-30%. At the moment 6541 ISPs (81%) are modernized or newly installed. Heating mains (38%) are renovated or overhauled. Liquidation of the CSPs and four-pipe distribution network allowed to decrease thermal loss by up to 14,58% in the 2004/2005 heating season. This is

very significant for Latvia because Riga provides 52% of the district heating supply.

The main producer of thermal energy (70%) in the city is JSC "Latvenergo". At the moment already 85% of thermal energy in the city is produced in a highly efficient cogeneration process. The tariff is the lowest among the cities of the Baltic countries.

A new conception of heat supply development for the years 2006 - 2016 has been worked out emphasising necessity of fuel diversification in Riga, improvement of energy efficiency in buildings and limitation of new boiler installations in the centre of the city where the feasible limitations of NO₂ are exceeded already now. Riga is developing its own Energy Agency as well.

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HISTORY AND MODERNITY SIDE BY SIDE



by Mr Vytautas Valutis

One of the oldest Lithuanian energy companies SC Klaipeda Energy is the largest producer and supplier of centralized heat in Western Lithuania. Constructed in 1929, it was the first coal heated power plant of the city. It still stands on a hundred years old oak poles.

In two decades after 1960, the city grew rapidly and reached the population of 200.000. With the growth of the city, energy demand was also increasing. A rational and economical utilization of nature and energy resources, with strict compliance of environmental requirements, is one of the most significant objectives of the company.

In 2006 SC Klaipeda Energy became the first Lithuanian heat producer to be awarded management quality certificate ISO 9001 and environment protection management certificate ISO 4001.

The main fuel to produce centralized heat is natural gas (about 95%), the reserve fuel is crude oil. The amount

of the used crude oil decreases every year, and the pollution of environment with "the greenhouse gas" carbon and sulphur dioxide, is falling down significantly.

In 2005, over 3 mln EUR was invested into modernization of the company from its own means. During the coming five years 15,5 mln. EUR worth investment is planned for modernization of heating economy. Part of the means for investment projects will come from the EU Structural Funds. At the moment the implementation of the project "Renewal of heating networks introducing modern technologies in Klaipeda city" was initiated. Using the company's own financial sources and the means of Structural Funds, SC Klaipeda Energy will reconstruct 9,6 km of old heating pipelines in 2006 -2007. Having completed this project, the company will save expenses on fuel, electricity, water, liquidation of accidents. Rational

management of heating economy, and the growing awareness of customers, that a centralized heating is the cheapest and ecologically most reliable, give fruit.

The prognoses are very advantageous to Klaipeda - cargo turnover in the port of Klaipeda increases, new foreign companies come to Klaipeda Free Economic Zone – the demand for energy will be growing. And this is the best news for the leaders and clients of SC Klaipeda Energy.

For the formula of success is simple – the more clients – the cheaper heat for you.



The chimney of SC Klaipeda Energy

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COEXISTENCE WITH THE NATURE



by Ms Joanna Socha

The issue of energy, its generation in harmony with natural environment is a matter of concern to Koszalin municipal authorities. The most important and at the same time, the most efficient company in the city involved in thermal power employment and processing, as well as a good example of harmonious coexistence with the environment, is the Municipal Thermal Power Company (MTPC) in Koszalin.

The strategic investment decisions being taken up in the company are constantly accompanied by the awareness of their influence on the



The heat is being delivered through a network of pre-insulated pipelines

city's and region's ecological balance. Consistently implemented by MTPC's long-term pro-ecologic activity policy has brought measurable benefits. Dozens of local boiler stations giving off smoke to city's atmosphere have

Ecological production of thermal power by Municipal Thermal Power Company allows the local authorities to promote Koszalin as the "Green City".

disappeared. Their function was taken over by central heating stations with chimneys giving off smoke at over 120 m level. Purified and de-dusted flue gas is being dispersed at a vast area not causing any noticeable negative effects. Full and strict control of coal burning process allows the company to operate without being compelled to pay penalties for pollutant emission.

The main MTPC's product – the heat, is being delivered to the customers through a network of pre-insulated pipelines. Heat production and distribution is centrally controlled with application of a unique telemetric system that allows for immediate reaction to any irregularities and standard deviations. Application of modern technologies cuts losses and this results in lower coal consumption, therefore, cuts down emission of hazardous gases to the atmosphere.

Consequently, the company enjoys a quantity surplus of carbon dioxide emission right granted to it. A natural consequence of the above-mentioned projects is obtaining by MTPC an integrated permit for environmental pollution. The company has obtained it at the beginning of

this year as first in Koszalin and one of the first companies in the region. It was awarded concurrently with the Quality Management (ISO 9001) and Environmental Protection (ISO 14001) certificates. The achievements of the MTPC in the field of ecology confirm that company's activity serves well the air and water protection. This is a result of deliberate long-term action that had been formulated and entered in company's mission: "Friendly and ecological heat at the place and time as expected by customers".

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by Mr Sergei Muiznieks

In Estonia, first power plants of general purpose, as well as first industrial power plants were built at the end of the 19th century, and in the beginning of the 20th century. Until the October Communist Revolution in 1917, development of power engineering in the Narva had been associated with such industrial enterprises as the Kreenholm Manufactory, the Narva Flax Mill, and the Narva Clothing Factory. These enterprises used power acquired from the waterfalls of the Narva River. At that time, gaslight was used for illumination. Electric energy was first used in 1898-1900, mostly for lighting purposes. Utilisation of electric energy has become more common since 1912. Electricity was first provided to inhabitants of Narva in 1918. Construction of local supply networks began in 1920, on the basis of industrial power plants.

THE CITY OF POWER ENGINEERING

The Balti Power Plant is one of the largest oil-shale burning power stations in the world. The station was built in 1959-1965. It is currently included into the common power system of the Baltic States. The Balti Power Plant is the only centralised source of thermal energy and heating for the city of Narva. It also provides numerous industrial enterprises with technological steam.

The Eesti Power Plant is the largest oil shale-fuelled power plant in the world. Local low-thermal-value oil shale is being used. Construction of the Eesti Power Plant began in July 1963. The boiler units installed at Eesti Power Plant are purposely designed for oil shale burning. The location of a power plant is also conditioned by environmental conditions and availability of the required amount of water.

Oil shale is one of the most important mineral products found in Estonia. By outside appearance it resembles brownish,

flaky stone. Oil shale contains significant amount of non-combustible material, i.e. ash. Absolutely dry oil shale can be lit with a match. That is the reason why oil shale is referred to as "burning rock" in Estonian.

The joint-stock company AS Narva Elektriijaamad (Narva Power Plants) was founded in 1999 on the basis of Balti and Eesti Power Plants, both owned by "Eesti Energia" – 100 per cent state-owned company, engaged in power production, transmission, distribution and sales as well as other power-related services. These two power plants were merged to increase the cost efficiency.

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THE SOLARLOKAL CAMPAIGN IN KIEL



by Mr Jens Rasmussen

Kiel has signed up to the federal information campaign SolarLokal and has become the most northerly municipality which joined the publicity campaign for environmentally friendly solar power. SolarLokal is sponsored by the registered German Association for Environmental Assistance (Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.) and the public company SolarWorld AG.

By taking part in SolarLokal, the city is continuing its long-standing commitment to the protection of the climate. The inhabitants of Kiel are to be more acutely aware of the ecological and economic advantages of solar electricity. Solar power installations are not only a profitable investment from a personal financial perspective, but they also protect the climate and offer new and sustainable areas of activity for the local trade.

In the area of electricity generation covered by the Stadtwerke Kiel AG, there are currently more than 200 established photo-voltaic installations

linked to the national grid and equipped with electricity meters to measure the amount they feed in. Together they have a capacity of more than 780 kilowatts peak (kWp). In Kiel the average annual production of environmentally friendly solar electricity amounts to 815 kWh per kWp. People wishing to operate a solar power station themselves need a south-facing roof surface.

In accordance with concessional rates agreed between Stadtwerke Kiel AG and Kiel, the Stadtwerke company is offering a payment to cover costs of all electricity fed into the grid from systems within the municipal boundaries of up to 5kWp: anyone operating such system will receive a fixed-rate, one-off subsidy upon completion of the installation. In addition, any electricity fed into the national grid will be paid for in accordance with the provisions of the German laws governing the production of renewable energies (EEG.). Operators of roof installations, for instance, will receive

contractually guaranteed payments which will remain constant for a period of 20 years, to a value which currently stands at 51.8 euro cents per kWh for the first 30 kWp of installed capacity. In the case of larger roof installations the payments are reduced for that part of the total capacity which exceeds 30 kWp. Via



The solar power system in Kiel

the "Solar Power Generation" programme of the Reconstruction Loan Corporation (KfW), there are also loans available to private individuals at advantageous rates of interest for the installation of solar power systems, so that systems can be operated economically and thus not only serve to protect the environment, but also bring financial benefits.

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by Mr Hans van de Sanden

STBS Housing Association in Szczecin, Poland completed a demonstration project for energy-efficient refurbishment. Co-financed by the EC, the project, as part of a larger pan-European Regenlink Project, linking energy-efficient regeneration schemes, was developed and implemented by local housing associations in Amsterdam, Dublin, Goteborg, London, Madrid, Paris and Szczecin.

At the start of this project the energy audits were a new phenomenon in Poland in 2002-2003. The investment was financed by tenants, owner-occupiers and STBS (the housing association). Both the city and the European Commission contributed financially.

In Szczecin the following measures

ENERGY AUDITS

were taken in refurbishing a low-income inner-city block (Block 36) of pre-war council houses: insulation of outside walls, replacement of double windows with single windows, of high insulation double glazing U value 1.1 W/K*m2, roof insulation as part of measures to convert previous unused attic space into dwellings, replacement of coal stoves with new heating systems: connection to district heating system or installation of individual gas heating boilers, installation of solar collectors for domestic hot water supply.

A survey made among 80 tenants interviewed showed a high satisfaction with the project results: 85% of occupants claimed they were pleased with the flats, 75% felt that their standard and comfort of living had improved, 73.3% were aware of project's being environment-friendly.

The selection of measures was based on energy audits made for each building. Some qualified for low-interest "termomodernisation" loans. Income from sale of empty attics – for creating new flats – was directly reinvested in the project. The most complicated aspect of the project was the decision making process in the condominiums. Splintered ownership

as a result of the tenants' right to buy their dwelling makes that each building has its condominium. All owners have to agree on the scope and financing of refurbishment activities.

Monitoring showed impressive savings on energy and harmful emissions. CO2 emissions dropped by 44,4% (378,6 t/year), while gross heat consumption decreased by 47,2%. Environmental progress comes not only from energy saving itself but also even more from the change of heat source. All earlier coal stoves were eliminated in this project. Rather simple technologies in the project are easily repeatable. The staff has built up extensive experience in discussing these complicated matters with residents and in the condominium meetings.

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SAVING ENERGY AT NÆSTVED



by Mr Soeren Revsbaek

In the good old days, before the oil-crises of the 1970's, not many people in Denmark cared about energy. Energy was cheap. In recent times, however, consumption of energy, and more importantly, rise of energy prices is very much in focus.

Næstved is handling the question of energy in two ways: 1. Production of energy, mainly heating and electricity. 2. Saving energy in the public administration, i.e. houses and institutions.

Regarding production of energy, all household-waste is incinerated at the "Fasan" plant at Næstved. A total of 105.000 tonnes waste is collected and burned every year. In this way waste is transformed into heating for approx. 11.000 houses in the town of Næstved. Apart from producing heating a total of 250.000 MWh electricity is produced at

the nearby electric power station, also using heat from burning of household waste. The plant is built and run by the municipalities in the local area.

Saving energy is quite another matter. As the largest quantities of energy are used in private households, the municipality can only advise people how to use energy in an economic way. This is done i.e. by showing how to reduce use of electricity, heating and water. Good advice is sent by mail to every household, and of course made public through newspapers.

When it comes to buildings owned and operated by the municipality itself, every year a budget and an account is made, not only regarding the financial figures, but also the consumption of calories and electricity. Almost every school and kindergarted has a central

energy registration system.

Last, but not least, it should be mentioned that there is a new development area at Næstved that will be reserved exclusively for building of "zero-energy" houses. These are houses,

where you do not have the heating turned on, as long as the outside temperature is above 0 degrees centigrade. In these houses the yearly consumption of energy is approx. 3.000 kWh, which is only a third of the normal consumption. This is achieved by using passive solar heating and insulation.

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by Ms Renate Bremer

Alternative, low-priced energy will determine the future, even in branches like construction of new buildings. In 1998, the Hanseatic City of Rostock already prohibited the use of solid or liquid combustibles for heating flats. What could become more obvious for sunny Mecklenburg-Vor Pommern than the production of heat in order to provide the service water? Undoubtedly, the use of the power of the sun. "WIRO-Wohnen in Rostock" Ltd. realised the dream of the city creating a new buildings in 2000. The annual



Helios: eye-catching architecture and innovative solutions

need of heat is supplied up to the half by solar or geothermal energy. 108 flats with a living area of 53 to 93m² were built in the form of apartment buildings. The three-floor houses were constructed in north and south direction and consist

180 FLATS WITH THE SUNNY HEAT

of traditional masonry with an increased amount of insulation. Several materials were assembled of long-lasting and low-maintenance building materials. The green roof terraces keep the dust emission low, implying a better climate for the whole building and its environment. An aeration system intensifies the exchange of air with speed of 50 m³/h.

At once the external design of the housing area catches one's attention and maybe that is why they call it "Helios" – like the sun-god. Suncollector units on the top of houses form the roofs of all 11 buildings to one unit. And with a shading calculation of 38 degrees, the optimal shape was found for them. Below the 982 m² roof area, a system of tubes meanders through the ground. The tubes contain a heat carrier medium transported under glass and warmed up by the sun. In order

to balance seasonal fluctuations of the solar radiation, the housing area has an ingenious system of heat retention. It consists of a special heat storing unit and a subterranean storage, which are built up outside. In addition, this system has a natural groundwater conductor. With the use of solar energy it becomes possible to cover more than 60% of the whole annual need of heat. The rest will be covered by a conventional heating system with an ultra-modern heat-rating technique.

This principle leads also to reduced emission and less environmental pollution. The project was supported by the German Federal Ministry of Research and Mecklenburg-Vor Pommern. The construction costs per m² of living area were about 869 EUR and for the solar system of 138 EUR per m².

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ECOLOGICAL WARMTH



by Ms Agata Zaluska

The growing interest in ecological renewable sources of energy can be observed in Elbląg. More and more people are taking up cultivation of willow and poplar. The demand for heating using biomass is increasing in the local market. Despite huge supply of coal, the use of renewable energy is preferred nowadays. It results from ecological factors, especially threats connected with the climate changes. That is why energy plants are becoming spread not only in Elbląg surroundings but also in the whole Warmia and Mazury Region. Farmers claim the cultivation is profitable as the number of consumers in Elbląg is constantly growing.



This is still not very common view in the Polish landscape

Many countries use water, wind and biomass energy. The latter is often applied for industrial purposes. Waste material from plants is used in paper production, wood processing and food industries. In Poland water energy is expensive owing to the influence of huge hydroelectric power stations on water relations and ecology in Polish lowland rivers. Also wind power may be too expensive for investors and consumers. Considering the above, one should assume that the effects in these fields of energy production will not be comparable with these in Norway or in Denmark. Much more far-reaching for us may be energy from biomass combustion. So far biomass has included forest, agriculture and industrial waste. Now biomass produced also from special plant species

is becoming more and more significant. It results from legal changes, amendments in energy types classification and EU support for this kind of planting. On the other hand it is caused by the increasing number of consumers who want to heat their houses and companies with ecological and cheap fuel.

The subject has become popular among huge plants, e.g. Elektrociepłownia Elbląg (power plant) which has been doing a research for the last few years. Their engagement in biomass energy is inscribed in the sustainable development of the company, integrated with the social needs of its development. The company's executives believe that the favourable economic conditions for this type of production will open soon.

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by Mr Bo Lundquist

Pupils of Bergkvara School in the county of Kalmar are writing a schoolbook about wind power. Project "S-Vindel med Barnkraft" is collaboration with the Regional Council in Kalmar County for pupils, 10 to 12 years old, at Bergkvara School. The 18 pupils have followed the development of the offshore wind power expansion at Utgrunden, situated a few kilometers from the school by Kalmarsund, a part of the Baltic Sea. - By the project, which lasts through school year 2005-06, we have been given the opportunity to develop a training guide on wind power for children of ages 6-9, say the two teachers responsible at the school, Carina Gyllerfelt and Kristina Fransén. - This we have done through fact finding, writing material, creating paintings, photography and uncovering interesting information. Everything to be able to offer a book that is fantasy filled and contains informative facts on wind power.

To collect information for the book the children have arranged two seminars at

PUPILS ABOUT WIND POWER

Bergkvara Wind Power Exhibition. - We have invited our schoolmates to listen to the lecturers - a pupil says. - They have told us about different types of energy, how wind forms, research around birds and wind power, plants and life around the wind farm in the Baltic Sea, history of wind power, how to create fantasy filled teaching material and how they do when researching different areas.

The pupils have carried out study visits in order to be able to understand the coherence they are going to write texts about. Thus they increase their understanding on how wind power works. They have visited the research station Utblicken and the wind farm Utgrunden in Kalmarsund, a wind power unite on land, a service station for wind power in Bergkvara harbor, a transformer station for the electricity grid and a

printing office. The pupils will also pay a visit by the graphic arts designer, who will do the layout work on their book.

- With our project we want to increase other children's knowledge and curiosity. The aim of the book is also to inform, develop thoughts and create awareness about a better and durable community. At the same time we want to give the pupils the opportunity to learn how to work in project

forms and to fulfill their responsibilities in the group.



The pupils and their teachers honoured as Caretakers of the Air 2006 by the Regional County for their project on wind power

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RENEWABLE ENERGY IN KOTKA



by Mr Pekka Sihvonen

The town of Kotka in Finland has done remarkable investment on welfare of town population and companies by rearranging its energy business activities in 2003. Kotka sold the electricity activities and now Kotka Energy Ltd, which is 100 % owned by the town, concentrates on combined heat and



The Biofuel Power Plant in Kotka

power production (CHP) by renewable and recycled energy sources and natural gas. The turnover of the company was 21 MEUR in 2005. Sale of district heat was 365 GWh, process steam 140 GWh and electricity 152 GWh in 2005. In 2003 Kotka Energy built a Biofuel Power Plant of 65 MW in Hovinsaari, Kotka. The total investment cost of the plant was 25 MEUR. Because the plant is situated nearby the downtown, special attention was paid to the procession of combustion gases which are decontaminated at first by electric filter and then by flue gas scrubber. Ash, particles and dust are removed by electric filter (resolution 99,82 %, particles). Gaseous impurities are removed by flue gas scrubber so that the total resolution for entire plant is 99,94 %. The Biofuel Boiler Plant

burns wood fuels as bark, saw dust, wood chips, wood residues and recycled wood. In addition to these milled peat and REF1 are burned. Kotka Energy is also planning to assemble a new modern municipal waste incineration plant in order to produce industrial steam, electricity and district heat in CHP-process. The environmental permission has been admitted by the public authority for this project. Construction will start in 2006 and the plant will be in operation in 2008.

Combustion gases are decontaminated at first by electric filter and then by flue gas scrubber. Ash, particles and dust are removed by electric filter (resolution 99,82 %, particles). Gaseous impurities are removed by flue gas scrubber.

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by Mr Bertil Klintbom

ECO - PROGRAMME FOR GOTLAND

On 14 October 1996 the Municipal Council of Gotland passed the Eco-programme for Gotland. Accordingly, the municipality's goal is that the island should become a Zero-Emission Zone. Also 'Gotland is to become a ecologically sustainable society within the course of a generation'. The programme includes conditions for achieving these overall aims. As far as energy is concerned, the aim is to implement a programme by 2025 whereby energy will be produced from renewable sources on Gotland to match 100% of the islands energy consumption. We also intend to reduce our annual needs to 3800 GWh through energy efficiency measures, while during the same time increasing the islands population and improving our living standard.

Among the aims of the programme there are:

- "Gotlandic dependence upon fossil carbon

resources shall decrease to a level compatible with long term climate stability. Fossil fuels shall be replaced with renewable energy."

- "Gotlandic renewable energy shall be developed until it suffices for all the necessary functions of society."
- "Buildings shall be designed in such a way that the need for energy supply for heat and light be minimised. The Gotlandic renewable energy shall suffice for all household needs."
- "Equipment shall be selected so as to minimise the need for energy supply for technical purposes."

To achieve the goals, the biomass fuelled district heating has been extended. The island's most energy demanding



The Library in Visby uses the solar energy and sea water based cooling

industry has made large energy savings. A widespread energy efficiency programme has been carried out also in the municipality's building stock. In Visby this has lead to the

reduction of the energy consumption in municipal buildings app. by 20%. The new Visby central library has been designed to use solar energy and sea-water based cooling and has achieved a reduction of energy use of 50% compared to local standard. Also, on other municipal buildings and sports facilities the solar panels (PV and thermal) have been installed. Furthermore, the windpower covers now nearly 20% of electricity demand on Gotland. In addition to that, RME fuel is available across the island and new cars in the municipal fleets can run on biodiesel or ethanol.

There are still some remaining barriers to overcome, e.g. public resistance from summer house owners, a weak electricity grid on suitable windpower locations or lack of awareness of the regional benefits of local RES production within certain sectors.

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FOSSIL FUEL FREE VÄXJÖ

In 1996 the Växjö City Council concluded that the climate problem is the most important global environmental issue, which, however, has to be solved on the local level. Therefore the council unanimously decided that Växjö should become a Fossil Fuel Free City with the intermediate goal of decreasing per capita emissions of Fossil CO₂ down to 2.3 tonnes per year, which

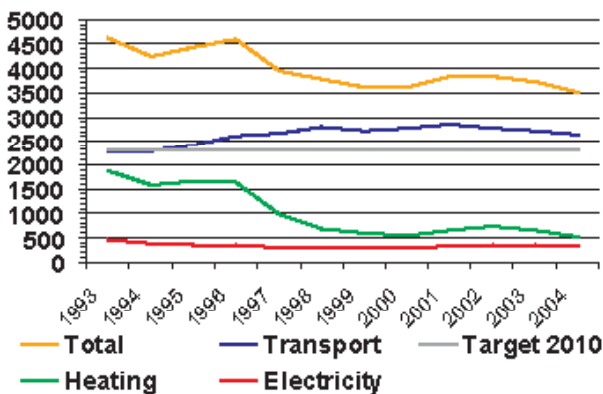
is about one quarter of EU15's average emissions.

Starting in 1980 from an estimated value of 6.0 - 6.5 tonnes of fossil CO₂ per capita per year, the 2004 value was 3,46 tonnes. Positive results of all small and big efforts in this area soon triggered a multitude of international technical visits in Växjö, once-per week on average. The city invited Växjö Energy Ltd, Växjö University, the Regional Energy Office and several manufacturers to participate in the presentations and soon the

from the city all aspects of forestry and the use of bio-energy - can be studied on small and large scales".

However, in spite of all the success in the heating and power areas much remains to be done in the transport area. Växjö has managed to slightly lower the emissions from transports by introducing all sorts of environmentally friendly vehicles and mixing 5 % Ethanol in all petrol sold - well knowing that Ethanol is a short time solution.

In 1996 the municipality, Växjö Energy Ltd and Växjö University initiated a number of bio-DME (Di-Methyl-Ether) projects. The results of the Växjö efforts are not only the heating sector based 90 % on biomass or total energy consumption based 50 % on renewable energy sources, but also creation of new jobs and export business.



Fossil carbon dioxide emissions per capita in Växjö (kg CO₂)

co-operation was formalised in a cluster with the brand name BioEnergy Småland - Expo Växjö.

"Many of our visitors already have the Know-How, but we have the Show-How. We believe that seeing is believing". Therefore a very important step in a new project is a technical visit in Växjö. Within an hour

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by Mr Sven-Olof Petersson

REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON OIL

Energy issues are going to be increasingly significant for the environment in the future, as well as the economy and labour market. Karlskrona and other Swedish municipalities give advices to the consumers how to change the way of using energy, especially for heating. The options include replacing heating with fuel oil or electricity to heat pumps or boilers fired with biofuels, such as chips or pellets made of forest-based raw materials.

Karlskrona possesses already an extensive district heating network in its central areas. The district heating system is based on raw materials harvested from the forest and is currently being expanded. The municipality is also discussing a combined heat and power plant for which wood chips would be the main fuel.

The municipality has also invested in reducing dependency on oil for transports by introducing ethanol.

Karlskrona has now about thirty vehicles that run on ethanol, E85, and it intends to increase the number of clean vehicles in the municipal fleet. A large percentage of them will probably run on ethanol but other types of clean vehicles are being studied as well. This effort means that the municipality is already working actively



Karlskrona has invested in reducing dependency on oil for transport by introducing ethanol.

to improve the environment and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Karlskrona is now taking another step in the energy effort and establishing a special position to coordinate efforts concerning energy issues between the municipality and other actors. The latter may be consumers as well as private

and public organisations. The idea is to optimise investment by having several actors jointly carrying out a project to change their energy consumption. The goals are to reduce dependency on oil and efficiently utilise various forms of state subsidies for energy transition and to reduce the greenhouse effect.

The Karlskrona's authorities will continue to provide energy advice to consumers. The municipality also sees opportunities for more effective participation in the regional partnerships with other municipalities and regions in efforts related to energy and the greenhouse effect. Karlskrona sees this initiative as a proactive investment in developing the municipality, improving the environment and reducing dependency on oil.

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ENERGY PROCUREMENTS OF TURKU ENERGIA



by Mr Risto Vaittinen

Turku Energia is an energy supply company owned by the City of Turku. Turku Energia procures, sells and transfers electricity and heat mainly in the region of Turku. It develops, builds and maintains energy production plants and transfer and distribution networks. In 2005, the turnover of Turku Energia was €148 million.

One of the values of Turku Energia is environmental friendliness: "Turku Energia bears its responsibility for the environmental impacts of the energy supply, production, transfer and other activities. The company is a pioneering developer and introducer of environmentally friendly technologies." Today, the remote heat procurements of Turku Energia are largely based on a combined production of electricity and



Waste burning plant

heat from fossil fuels. In 2005, some 70% of the district heat was produced at Fortum Oyj's Naantali plant from fossil fuels, mainly coal. The company is planning to replace coal by natural gas, the purchases of which are currently being negotiated.

Turku Energia is systematically striving at increasing its own carbon dioxide free production of district heat. In addition to the biothermal plant of Oriketo, part of the district heat is produced from gas collected from the landfill. In addition, a heat pump plant is being constructed in connection with the sewage treatment plant of Kakola, in which the heat contained in sewage will be utilised in the production of district heat and district cooling. According to the present interpretation, production from the current incinerator plant is not considered in the emission trade scheme.

The district heat production not covered by the emission trade scheme today comprises some 25% of total purchases. By 2012, the share of

Purchase of district heat by Turku Energia:

	2005	2012
Fossil fuels	% 75	55
Biofuels	% 20	35
Incineration	% 5	10

production not covered by emission trade may rise to 40-50% of total procurements, in case the new incinerator plant, wood fuel plant of Oriketo and the expansion project of the heat pump plants of Kakola are implemented. We will then be able to say that Turku Energia has for its part contributed to the Kyoto commitments and reached the objective of 1990 emission levels.

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by Ms Carinne Lancereau

ÖREBRO The municipality of Örebro is producing biogas since many years. The gas is a mix of gas produced from our sewage works, and of landfill gas which is coming from two landfills of waste disposal (one of them has not been in use for 20 years). At the sewage works, the thickened sludge is pumped into a digestion tank

A LONG PERSPECTIVE THINKING

or compressed biogas). Since 2005, we have a biogas filling station in Örebro. This gas is delivered to the station by a truck from a production plant situated at 140 kilometres from Örebro. It was planned that before 2007 there will be one more biogas filling station in the city. Thus, all gas produced will come from the local production and delivered through pipelines.

The sewage works have a reserve capacity today which makes it possible to produce 700.000 m³ CBG. In 2006, a new treatment plant is constructed to be able to clean the gas produced through anaerobic decomposition of organic waste to a good quality for vehicles. The project is a partnership between the municipality and the Swedish Biogas company which will deliver extra biologic waste to our sewage works and will have the property of the filling stations.

The City Council has taken the decision to renew the fleet (cars, service vehicles and lorries) with vehicles which are

running with gas (per year it will be one lorry, 60 cars and 15 service vehicles). The intention is to work with a long perspective which is both economically and environmentally justified, where biogas in 2010 will replace at least 4 % of all fossil fuel to our vehicles. Incentives of all kinds are planned to inspire companies and private persons to buy gas vehicles. The price for CBG is going to be fixed in five years and is today much cheaper than petrol or diesel. In 3-4 years the goal is to start a bus traffic which will also use biogas from local production. The idea will start a good partnership with the agriculture sector to get more raw material.

The intention is to work with a long perspective which is both economically and environmentally justified, where biogas in 2010 will replace at least 4 % of all fossil fuel to our vehicles.

and the decomposition of the organic materials in the sludge takes place without any oxygen being added. The gas is led via a gas pipe to the University hospital boiler plant and two other industries to replace oil. The University hospital uses as well the gas as heating production. To reach the environmental goals set up by the municipality, we are going now to produce biogas which can be used in our municipal vehicles (CBG

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ENERGY PROJECTS IN KAUNAS



by Mr Algirdas Vatiekūnas

In order to acquire new up-to-date experience in the energy sector and to transfer the experience Kaunas City participates in many international projects.

In 2005, the project "Reduction of Experience Differences of Energy Sector Management at the City Level in Kaliningrad oblast, Lithuania and Italy" according to the TACIS CBC programme. The aim was to contribute to the initiatives carried out by the European Union reducing air pollution due to fuel burning, using energy in Baltic cities more effectively. The partners of the project were Kaliningrad City, Kaunas and Modern Energy Agency (Italy).

The feasibility study for the implementation of energy effectiveness (saving) in Kaliningrad was prepared and submitted using new management methods and advanced technologies for the regulation of heat

supply in buildings. The aim of this study was to evaluate possible effect of adaptation of European Union energy policy reducing the air pollution and effectively using the heat energy.

This year another project SENET within the INTERREG programme will be completed. Scandinavian countries, Baltic states, Poland, Germany and Austria participate in

- The targets of the project:
 - to review how strategies of rational usage of energy are formed and implemented;
 - to encourage energy saving mechanisms and promote them;
 - to improve the effective implementation of energy production technologies in cities;
 - to prepare and implement a pilot project for Kaliningrad providing multi-flat buildings with modern technical equipment allowing to regulate and save heat energy in buildings;
 - to propose improvements for modernization of energy sector.

this project. The main aims of the project are: distribution of experience of Scandinavian and Western European countries and international cooperation seeking rational and sustainable energy consumption.

Another project is ESCOBALT within PHARE, with the aim to make a study where technical-economic parameters of the district heating systems and modernization plans in Finland (Helsinki) and

Lithuania (Kaunas) will be compared in detail.

Last year Kaunas joined another big international project started "Balanced Energy Systems in Advanced Cities".



European energy award for Kaunas

This project is implemented following the 6th Common Research Technological Development and pilot activities programme (CONCERTO) of the European Commission. The experience gained in this project will be analyzed and used in creation of sustainable energy management guidelines for the governments and municipalities in Europe.

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by Mr Daniel Nilsson

Making today's pilot projects in renewable energy tomorrow's mainstream projects is one of the targets with the SECURE project that recently started. The European Intelligent Energy project SECURE led by Malmö does also include the cities of Tallinn, Hilleröd and Dublin together with private partners. The SECURE project is focusing on creating long term sustainable energy action plans for the participating communities.



SECURE project strives to increase knowledge on energy use and climate change.

SECURE ENERGY

Knowledge gathered in the cities will be spread not only to other cities but also to citizens through for example climate awareness raising campaigns.

One of the concepts that will be explored in SECURE is the carbon dioxide neutral company strategy. By offering the companies guidance and calculation

of their greenhouse gas emissions the companies will improve their energy efficiency and compensate for the emissions that are impossible to avoid. Another part of the project that runs until 2007 is to spread knowledge from

successful renewable energy and energy efficient projects in Europe.

To reach the sustainable development within the energy perspective SECURE strives to engage the inhabitants of European cities and increase their knowledge on energy use and climate change. The private partners in SECURE are CODEMA, CENERGIA, IVL and Respect Europe.

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OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



by Mr Boris Chubarenko
Mr Vadim Sivkov
Mr Viktor Koshelev

Coupled projects INTERREG IIIB Seagull Project and TACIS Seagull RC Project "Russian component of the development strategy for Euroregion Baltic" successfully ended with a Draft of the Joint Development Transnational Program for the Euroregion Baltic in 2005. This Euroregion geographically unites the members of UBC – Kalmar, Karlskrona, Ronne, Gdańsk-Gdynia, Kaliningrad, Baltijsk, Klaipeda, Liēpaia, as well as surrounding rural areas. This draft in a part of environment and energy

For the City of Baltijsk, which is permanently growing in terms of local economy and population, but, on other hand, is a very attractive recreation area, the development of ecological wind energy will result in measurable positive economic, ecological and social effects.

sector declares the challenged aim to make the Euroregion Baltic and its cities front-runners in the implementation of EU environment and energy policies. The focus should be on bio-energy and

wind-power.

The ERB partners in Kaliningrad Oblast will widely support a new project "Perspectives of Offshore Wind Energy Development in Marine Areas of Lithuania, Poland and Russia (POWER)" initiatively submitted by following scientific institutions: Maritime Institute in Gdańsk (Poland), Atlantic Branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia) and Coastal Research and Planning Institute of the Klaipeda University (Lithuania). This

project was supported by TACIS-INTERREG IIIA program and shall start soon. Some attempts were made in 2004 by the relevant authorities to

analyse possibilities of development of an offshore wind mill park in the Baltic Sea near the coast of the City of Baltijsk and in the Vistula Lagoon area. Economic assessment produced a negative result.



The offshore based wind mill park was estimated as more expensive than the land-based one. But, the technology is currently improving and difference in proportions in economic values of land, water and energy

between the EU and Russia is becoming less and less. Therefore, the prospects for effective development of wind energy production in the Baltic Sea coastal zones of three neighbouring countries Lithuania, Russia and Poland still exist.

Renewable energy sources, including wind, is an important component of sustainable development of local municipalities in the region.

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by Mr Ain Valdmann

Tourists or businessmen arriving in Tallinn either by ship or plane in the dark are pleasantly surprised by the good lighting of the city. The positive result arises from the fact that by now practically all the streets and roads, parks and verdant areas, church towers and many other architectural objects have received proper lighting. Last year, Russalka, the memorial to the shipwreck in 1893, was provided a new, historically suitable lighting solution.

Visitors do not, however, notice that KH Energia-Konsult Ltd, the company responsible for the maintenance of

Tallinn street lighting, exchanged already 5 years ago all the mercurial lamps of Tallinn streets and roads that used to

TALLINN STREET LIGHTING

make up 30% of the total sum of the city's luminaries, for more economical, high pressure sodium lamps. The company replaced the conventional, local control system based on photo sensors, with a complex control system covering the whole city. Besides cost saving the latter system brought along also principal changes both in the outdoor lighting work and organization of labour. The control system:



Russalka, the memorial to the shipwreck in 1893 with new lighting

reverse order;

2) gives the street lighting operator information about the conditions of all

1) switches on and off the street lighting of the whole city on the basis of a signal from a central photo sensor; switching on starts in the city centre and moves outwards, switching off takes place in the

control-and switching devices, feeders and output lines, thus controlling voltage in more than 30 positions; 3) protects all switchboards and devices and given output lines from vandalism or other kinds of unauthorized action; in case of every unauthorized action a sound signal is given and it is instantly displayed at the operator's monitor; 4) enables authorized personnel to conduct control of devices and switches with the help of a registered mobile phone from whatever location.

The implementation of the unique control, monitoring, and safety system of street lighting has considerably improved the situation of Tallinn street lighting, saved a noticeably amount of money and reduced maintenance expenses.

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II. UBC TODAY

45TH UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN KAUNAS

The Union of the Baltic Cities strives to be clearly heard in Brussels as one voice of 100 cities and the whole Baltic Sea region. European policy of the UBC has dominated the 45th UBC Executive Board Meeting. 38 participants including Board members and invited guests gathered on 10-12 February in Kaunas, Lithuania, upon the invitation of the Mayor, Mr Arvydas Garbaravičius.

According to the decision of the previous Board Meeting at Chojnice, Poland, the UBC has continued lobbying on the future EU Cohesion Policy 3rd objective – the European Territorial Cooperation, which is not suitable for the Baltic Sea cooperation in terms of proposed 150 km limit for cross-maritime-border cooperation and areas of common actions. As a result, UBC proposed to sign the 2nd joint statement of Baltic Sea organisations on the European Territorial Cooperation. The statement was signed by UBC, B7 and BSSSC in March 2006. The Board decided to send it to the EU institutions and to the Baltic Sea states' governments. Additionally, in the autumn 2005, the Baltic organisations signed the common general paper on the EU Cohesion Policy 2007-2013.

Moreover, the working group on UBC's further development recommended finalising the issue of UBC representation in Brussels. Although most of member cities have their representatives in Brussels, they are not coordinated to speak on behalf of the Union. The Stockholm Region Office confirmed its readiness to function as a UBC's official antenna in Brussels. Thus, the UBC would have an opportunity to be closer to the European policy.

As far as the inside

work of UBC is concerned, the Board discussed the idea of establishing a new commission – on energy. The representatives of the author of this proposal – city of Oskarshamn – Mr Stefan Windh and Mr Bengt Karlsson, presented the background for the initiative. The main objectives of the proposed commission will be i.a. renewable energy, exchanging best practices, education. The Board authorised Oskarshamn to send out the proposal to the UBC member cities.

Additionally, the UBC maritime logistics policy paper and results of the work of the UBC Logistics Task Force were presented at the meeting. The Board decided to send out the draft policy paper to the member cities for comments. The Board agreed that UBC should take part in discussion on the



The 45th Board Meeting was dominated by European policy matters

European maritime policy.

The Board also authorised the President to sign the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The memorandum of understanding includes several types of actions. On one hand UNITAR would assist our member cities in human resources development. On

the other hand the experience of UBC member cities could be used in other countries. Furthermore, the Board decided to adopt the statement against trafficking submitted by Mrs Marie-Louise Rönmark, the Mayor of Umeå, as the trafficking of women and children is nowadays an increasingly important problem. The UBC during its 45th Board Meeting welcomed also a new member – the city of Järvenpää,

Finland. Last but not least, the UBC Action Plan 2006-2007 and budget for 2006 were adopted. The Board decided to hold its 46th meeting in Kronshtadt/St.Petersburg on 10-11 June 2006. The Board also decided to hold its autumn session in Gdynia.

More information on the 45th Board Meeting, as well as the full text of the 2nd Joint Statement are available on www.ubc.net

UBC with other Baltic organisations, namely: B7 Baltic Islands Network and BSSSC signed the second statement on the new European Cohesion Policy 3rd objective – the European Territorial Cooperation. The statement was sent to the European Commission and to the governments of the Baltic Sea countries.

The proposed limit of 150 km for cross border maritime cooperation and thematic areas of the transnational strand are the main points the signatories of the statement oppose to. These proposals are regarded as harmful for the development of the Baltic Sea Region and counter-productive as far as the ideas of the EU Cohesion Policy are concerned.

Referring to the response of the Commission to the first joint statement which suggested the possibilities of cooperation within the transnational strand (present Interreg IIIB), the Baltic organisations focus on the proposed thematic areas which are not satisfying for municipal and regional fields of responsibility. Whereas the cooperation areas of the crossborder strand were suitable for the local competences, the main responsibility of the thematic areas stated in the transnational part of the programme lies first of all at the national level and in some cases at the regional one.

Thus, the municipal cooperation, so essential as far as the principle of subsidiarity is concerned, may be significantly harmed and constrained.

The signatories of the 2nd joint statement therefore still oppose the proposed limit of 150 km for crossborder cooperation. They also stipulate that the theme areas of transnational cooperation should be increased to comprise essential municipal and regional development issues, namely: development of entrepreneurship/SME, tourism, culture, environment, transport, energy, water and sewage treatment, solid waste management, urban planning, human resource development (training).



UBC AGAINST TRAFFICKING

According to the United Nations reports, approximately 4 million women and children have been annually trafficked and used for sexual exploitation and prostitution. Being opposed to the trade with people, the UBC Executive Board during its 45th Meeting held in Kaunas signed the Statement against trafficking upon the initiative of the city of Umeå. The Statement defines trafficking as a trade of human beings for sexual exploitation closely connected with national prostitution. As this is an illegal business, it is not possible

"Trafficking and prostitution are violations of women's and children's human rights. Neither prostitution nor trafficking is about sexuality. It's about money, it's about controlling and it's about men using and buying women and their bodies".

to give the exact data reflecting the real situation but the number of trafficked women and children is increasing.

Traffickers use some tactics including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force to control their victims. The recruitment is usually the same - women are promised good and well-paid jobs in other countries or provinces,

and, due to lack of perspectives or bad financial condition at home, they agree to migrate. Through agents and brokers who arrange the travel and job placements, women are escorted to their destinations and delivered to the employers.

Bearing in mind the fact that all people are born free and have the same value and human rights, the document emphasizes the necessity of undertaking actions against trafficking. The trade with women and children is not only an affront to human dignity but also an infringement of international human rights regulations.

The UBC Statement stipulates

TOWARDS THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Over 20 cities' delegations and experts took part in the joint meeting of UBC Commission on Information Society and the Steering Committee of the Project "Challenge of eCitizen-Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities". The meeting was successfully organized by the city of Tartu, Estonia, on 30 March - 1 April 2006.

Many different internet and mobile-based services for citizens, business and local officials have been launched in the Baltic Sea cities. The participants presented their experience and best practices connected with the information society. Additionally, new ideas for future projects were proposed.

The discussion during the plenary session concerned the topics presented by the invited experts:

- e-governance and digital development. World trends. (Mr Ivar Tallo, Director,



Ms Marie Louise Rönmark, Mayor of the city of Umeå proposed to sign the statement

therefore to recognize the trafficking as a serious problem to be solved both at political and social level as the trafficked women and children made to prostitute are the victims of crime and deserve support from the society.

The UBC which promotes gender equality and human rights committed the member cities to work for women's and men's right to have influence on their own lives and to increase of the awareness of the society.

Further information:
Full text of the statement against trafficking is available on www.ubc.net

- E-Governance Academy, Tallinn)
- document management system as the basis of the electronic services: paperless city government in Tartu (Mr Kalev Pullonen, Chief Specialist of IT Development, Tartu City Government)



ISCom meeting participants

- Internet voting in Estonia (Mrs Epp Maaten, Councillor of the Elections Department, Chancellery of the Riigikogu, Tallinn)
- development of mobile phone based services for citizens

- in Tartu (Mr. Rain Rannu, Partner, Marketing and Business Development, Mobi Solutions Ltd, Tartu).

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NEWS FROM GENDER EQUALITY NETWORK

Former UBC Women's Network now goes under the title Gender Equality Network. It decided to change the name to include men in the work. Our task has not changed: we are still out combating prejudices, stereotypes and cultural patriarchal attitudes that in a gender-based power structure undermine women as independent autonomous actors.

The Network thus invites both men and women to participate in all the activities! Joining forces of respect and tolerance eliminating stereotypes, prejudice, violence, prostitution and trafficking is crucial to advance towards good societies. Directly linked to gender equality issues in the communities is to raise the awareness on EU legislation on equality and non-discrimination, strive towards equal pay for equal work and equal representation in all sectors of decision-making. It is important also to ensure that the specific activities on gender equality in the communities are funded.

The new UBC Presidium, elected in the autumn, became from a gender point of view well balanced (2 female Vice Presidents). Let's hope that UBC can also present proudly a Board with more female Mayors quite soon!

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COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING MET IN RIGA

The main theme of the seminar organised in Riga on 27-29 April was: "Sustainability in an urban planning context". Dr Susannah Hagan from the University of East London, in her lecture focused on city development and ecological, economic and social sustainability, related to regional conditions. What does it mean? How could we work towards sustainable cities, and why should we?

Later during the workshops participants were studying a local planning project and discussing the questions: Can such a project be regarded as an example that will contribute to a sustainable future for the Riga City and the surrounding region? Which aspects are to be considered and what tools can be used in an urban planning situation, when doing such an analysis? Can there be improvements to be made in the project to enhance a sustainable development in Riga? How to match a

UNESCO listed cultural heritage with a nearby modern high-rise architecture? Mr Chris Watts, Director of Beyond Green, gave a lecture on looking closer to what (social, economic, ecological) sustainability means, or could mean, when working with urban planning. He

presented examples and experiences from actual city development projects. This seminar followed the ABC-project. It dealt with the important question of the future cooperation within the UBC Commission on Urban Planning. The network of planners from 27 cities in 8 BSR countries established through the ABC-project has a big value, well worth to maintain. It also holds a potential for further development. Unfortunately the application to INTERREG IIIB for financial support to develop this

cooperation into the planned project Baltic Academy of City Planners (BaltAcad) was not approved. It is

ABC - Alliance of Baltic Cities is a project run by the UBC Commission on Urban Planning and supported by BSR Interreg III B with 255.957 EUR. The project has involved city planners and architects from 27 cities.

This cooperation has resulted in contacts between partners, proposals on how to deal with city planning problems, a number of Small Scale investments.

therefore necessary to discuss which activities the Commission should be taken by instead for the coming years.

The Commission must also find possible ways to finance them. This seminar has laid the foundation for such further future cooperation.

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TURKU WELCOMES THE BUSINESS COMMISSION

The City of Turku in Southwest Finland will host the annual Business Commission meeting in June. Invitations to the BizCom -network have been sent out and registrations are expected by 5 May.

Last year the meeting was successfully hosted by Tallinn and in 2007 the honour will be Narva's. The two-day meeting in Turku will be chaired by the newly appointed Director of Turku Area Development Centre, Mr Kalle Euro. The TAD Centre is a business development centre aiming to create an environment that promotes dynamic entrepreneurial activities in Turku Region.

Turku is the largest biocluster in Finland and the official programme includes introduction and visit to the Turku Science Park and some of the start-up companies in the BioIncubator. Interesting research results about innovation environment and competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region will be presented. A closer look will be taken to the renewal of EU Structural Fund and Turku region's new model for public business services. Participating cities will also have the opportunity to give presentations about issues of mutual



Turku tops as Finnish host for international conferences. The UBC member cities also met in Turku last autumn at the General Conference.

interest. The white nights of midsummer together with the beautiful archipelago of Turku will give a wonderful setting for sightseeing and an evening cruise.

Prior to the UBC meeting guests are welcome to take part in the events of the European Day of Entrepreneur (EDE) on 14 June. The EDE is an event organised in many European cities initiated by Eurocities in 2002. It aims at promoting

entrepreneurship within the European Union. In 2005, Turku's EDE had achieved international renown and was attended by entrepreneurs and decision-makers from Russia, Poland, Germany, the Baltic countries and Denmark. This time, at an international afternoon forum, Turku will introduce its plans to develop the event into Baltic Sea Region -wide co-operation. The EDE closes with an evening party at a fascinating environment with live music and buffet. More information available at www.edeturku.fi.

For further information about the programme of the meeting, accommodation and registration (by 5 May) please contact Ms Maarit Tontti, maarit.tontti@turku.fi

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EDUCATION THROUGH LIFE

Commission on Education had an Annual Meeting on 27 January 2006 in Tallinn in School Kullo. 28 participants from Latvia, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Estonia were present at the meeting.

The Director of Tallinn School of Extracurricular Activities "Kullo", Mr Urmas Uska, welcomed the Commission on Education. Mr Kurt Pettersson, Chairman of the Commission opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

In year 2006 there are a lot of opportunities for the Commission. Meetings, the teachers' workshop and research school in Norrtälje, the conference in Tallinn, a photo competition and a practical training

for students have been planned for this year.

The 65th anniversary of Extracurricular Activities in Estonia was also discussed during the meeting. It was celebrated in April with an international conference and gala concert in Tallinn. The name of conference was "Non-Formal Education – Asset for Youth and Society".

Registration in the photo competition "My Friend in my City" is still open. The photo competition will take place per internet and the target group is 13 - 16 years old youth.

"How to inspire the members to co-operate" was also the important theme of the meeting in Tallinn. The Commission is focusing on mutual

understanding between young people from different cultures around the Baltic Sea, on dissemination new information and on strengthening development of democracy in Europe by fostering the idea of the life long learning. The participants gave some good ideas to improve the commission work to make presentation about co-operation in other commissions and networks, to disseminate information through contact persons, to have a database in the UBC website where member cities could log in and have information about commission's work, to intensify co-operation between schools and take part in different projects.



Commission on Education meeting in Tallinn

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CoC ABOUT MUSEUMS IN ST. PETERSBURG

The UBC Commission on Culture traditionally initiates one Session with focus on a special cultural theme each year. Professional lecturers and leaders from various cultural institutions and organizations in the cities of the Baltic Sea Region are always invited.

The session in 2005 was organized and successfully realized in St. Petersburg on 7 - 9 December under the leadership of Olga Cherkasova, director of the Museum of N.K. Rerih in Izvara

and member of the Board of the Commission on Culture, with support from the St. Petersburg Government. The 77 participants listened to 26 lecturers who made speeches on various subjects related to the theme. For example: "Tukums City Museum in the context of city development", "Museums as centres of planetary thinking" and "Museums and Theatre in the format of a socio-cultural program". The participants also visited the Hermitage and other cultural

institutions and were given wonderful experience of the rich and qualitative cultural life of St. Petersburg. The result was that a great amount of knowledge was exchanged and enriched by new contacts for future cooperation. It also gave the opportunity to inform the inhabitants of St. Petersburg through a directly transmitted radio interview about the UBC and the Commission on Culture. One of several new ideas was to establish the Baltic Museum Forum. It was also announced that the Session in 2006 will be organized by the city of Vaasa on 23-26 November on the theme "Cultural Festivals as Strengtheners of Local Identity".

During the session in St. Petersburg, the Board decided to move the Secretariat of the Commission on Culture from Szczecin to Visby for the period 2006-2007. The next Board meeting was planned to be organised on 21 - 23 April 2006 in Umeå.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND THE INVITATION TO THE CoC WORKING SESSION

The UBC Commission on Culture (CoC) would like to invite you to discuss cultural festivals as strengtheners of local identity in the 9th CoC working session to be held in Vaasa on 24-26 November 2006. The main subjects to be discussed are: **image, identity, specific features of cultural festivals, economics, global and local.**

The following key-speakers have already been invited to give a speech in the session:

Senior curator Gun Westholm (County museum of Gotland) has since the very beginning in 1984 been involved in the organization of The Medieval Week. She is also one of the organizers of Gotland –the Viking Island, which is a new festival that started 2005.

PhD Timo Cantell works as a professor in the department of the arts management in Sibelius Academy, Helsinki. He is a sociologist and his research has been focused on the meeting points of culture and urban planning and economical and social impacts of festivals.

PhD Yrjö Heinonen is a researcher who has studied the Tango-festival in Seinäjoki, Finland. The main topics in his research are the image of the cultural festival and the community, identity and local in relation to global.

We are calling for papers from researchers and festival workers from the UBC cities by 22nd June. Each speaker will be given 30 min in total: 20 min for oral presentation and 10 min for discussion. The working language is English.

For more information and to send the papers contact Ms Tarja Hautamäki, Vaasan kaupunki, P.O. Box 3, 65101 Vaasa, Finland; phone: +358 6 3252700; tarja.hautamaki@vaasa.fi

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READY, STEADY.... GO!

The UBC Commission on Tourism invites the inhabitants of UBC member cities to take part in the tourist undertaking under the name "Fotosuch und Quizfahrt 2006" which is a kind of contest or rally.



Everyone interested can join the play any time. The competition ends on 15 October 2006.

The organizer of the event is the German automobile club ACE (the Auto Club Europa) from Uckermark Region. The Polish partner of the undertaking is the association called "Speed" seated in Koszalin. The UBC Commission on

Tourism supports this initiative and provides the organizational help.

The first edition of this undertaking took place in 2005, and a major success. In 2007 the organizers plan to include also the region of south Sweden to the 3rd edition of the contest.

The official date of the beginning of the rally is 1 March 2006. However everyone who is interested can join the play any time until 15 October 2006. Every person, who is ready to travel and has knowledge acquisition about the trans-border region over the Oder and the Baltic can become a participant. The most important aim is to feel the history and culture of people living in the above-mentioned region. The essential condition of the participation is ordering the so called "Book of the participant", which provides the information about the places which have to be found on the way and where the gained points are recorded.

You can gain points for the answers on

questions concerning visited places.

The winning depends on the score. Price awarding will take place on 17 November 2006, and the distribution of prizes on 25 November 2006 in Szczecin. Every participant will receive the memorial medal but the best persons/teams will receive additional material prizes.

This project, as well as other activities of the CoT were discussed at the Commission's meeting held in Koszalin, Poland, on 5 May. The participants focused on the problem with tourism in the Baltic Sea Region after the summer season. The Commission adopted the action plan for 2006.

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CITIES ON THE MOVE

Physical activity naturally intensifies in spring and summer when nice weather encourages people to do various sports. As autumn and winter approach, people become less active. They tend to forget that lack of sunshine or cold weather do not prevent them from doing indoor sport activities and winter sports.

With a view of changing this approach, the UBC Commission on Sport dedicated its 2006 "Cities on the Move" grants to the promotion of active living all year round. From the submitted applications, the Commission selected those projects which were aimed at encouraging people (especially having a sedentary lifestyle) of all age groups to be active all year round and to develop active living habits. Another important

criterion was the propagation of a positive attitude towards physical activity as well as the promotion of urban health and social sustainability. Finally, the UBC Commission on Sport awarded initiatives focused on raising awareness and building capacity for having an active lifestyle through sport.

5.000 EUR were allocated for the realisation of the following five projects (1.000 EUR each):

1. "Winter Sport Delights" organised in Šiauliai in Lithuania from January 1 to February 26, 2006
2. "Fit as a Fiddle" organised in Haapsalu in Estonia on February 12, 2006
3. "Keila Rull 2006" organised in Keila in Estonia on October 7, 2006
4. "Active and Healthy Afternoon for the Office Workers" organised in Tartu in Estonia on October 10, 2006
5. "Integration with help of sport and youth club" organised in Karlskrona in Sweden from November 4 to November 6, 2006

Cities and Urban Health in the Baltic Region, the Association is involved in the promotion of a healthy and



Active Living at Haapsalu (Estonia)

active lifestyle. Another element of this cooperation was the organisation of the UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting "Active Living", which was held in Gdynia on 5 May 2006. The idea of "Active Living" was the main subject of this year's meeting. The meeting consisted of two thematic blocks. The first one was devoted to multifunctional sports arenas, while the other dealt with best practices connected with active living programmes – "Cities on the Move".

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EVS UNITES YOUTH IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Imagine a network of young people and local communities stretching across the Baltic Sea; a network where the youth from our countries can learn to know each other, and from each other, and can develop friendship. Imagine a network where the youth are offered new learning opportunities; language, intercultural experiences, personal development and professional skills. Sounds great, doesn't it? This was the vision presented by Mr Vegard Hölaas, Director at the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, at the General conference in Turku in 2005. All this can



be possible through a new project called "EVS in the Baltic Sea region". The project is initiated by Kumulus, a resource centre for local and regional youth policy in the County of Kalmar, in cooperation with UBC Commission on Youth Issues.

centre will for example offer training courses focusing on how to develop and run a successful EVS project. It can also offer support to local organisations in the implementation of projects.

The city of Liēpaja, Latvia, is one of the cities participating in the project. "This project will open new ways for UBC member cities to learn from each other. The learning will be through young people living in the cities. Involvement in this project will open wider horizons for young people around the Baltic Sea" - says Vilis Bruveris, the Head of Liēpaja Youth Centre.

The EVS centre will be based in the city of Kalmar. There will also be a working group with participants from each participating country. The project is financed by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, the County of Kalmar and Kumulus.

Commission meeting in Tallin 12-14 May 2006

The Commission on Youth Issues will hold its second commission meeting in 2006 in Tallinn on 12-14 May. The meeting is open to all UBC member cities. The meeting will continue from where the Commission ended at the meeting in Kalmar in February with an Action plan for 2006-07. The meeting will also include topics such as planning for a new youth conference in Pärnu in 2007 and the Commission's information strategy and common values.

For full programme and registration to the meeting please email the Commission coordinator Charlotte Gustafsson, City of Kalmar, phone: +46 480 450166, e-mail: charlotte.gustafsson@kalmar.se.

The aim of the project is to use European Voluntary Service (EVS) as a tool for cooperation between young people and cities in the UBC. Through EVS, local projects, organisations and communities can establish contacts in other countries - contacts on a personal and professional level that can contribute to their development. The new project aims to establish a centre for the coordination of EVS projects in the Baltic Sea Region. The

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NEWS FROM COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

Since 21 October 2005 the Commission on Transportation has been chaired by Mr Marcin Wołek from Gdynia and the chairmanship has been shared with Örebro, Carinne Lancereau being the Deputy Chairperson. The new leadership decided to continue to pursue the main goals set by Traffic and Public Authority of the City of Göteborg leading the Commission in 2001-2005, which are: public transport, transport conditions for cyclists and pedestrians, mobility management, sustainable transport habits. The Commission is interested in developing different transnational projects. Under the Swedish chairmanship, the Commission together with the Commission on Environment (leader) was successful with the application for BUSTRIP project (Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport and Implementation Planning) the aim of which is to develop and improve Sustainable Urban Transport Plans in the partner cities as well as to start

implementation of pilot project. The Commission is a member of project's steering group. A peer review method is used to develop transport plans. Between 3 and 7 April 2006 the first peer review took place in Gdynia. Experts from cities in the BSR came to this city to hold talks with city's representatives in order to verify the directions of transport policy pursued by Gdynia.

In addition to continuing the cooperation within BUSTRIP project, the Commission intends to launch new projects that will be financed by INTERREG III B, available from 2007.

At the end of September 2006 the Commission plans to organise the Annual Meeting along with a seminar entitled

"Integration of Transport Systems in the Baltic Europe". The meeting and the

seminar are meant to be combined with an international economic forum taking part in Gdynia each year. In order to learn the opinions of member cities and to find out what projects they are interested in, the Commission has sent out a questionnaire. On the basis of the results gathered the

Commission on Transportation will be able to better plan future actions.

- New goals of the Commission**
- developing the website as an information platform for all members of the Commission on Transportation and those interested in transport issues
- strengthening the network of cooperating cities
- involving other organisations in the network
- cooperating with other UBC Commissions, especially the UBC Commission on Environment and the Commission on Tourism.

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BUSTRIP STARTS PEER REVIEWS IN GDYNIA

The city of Gdynia kick-started an exciting and challenging urban transport project on 3 April as it welcomed an international team of sustainable transport experts. Gdynia is part of the BUSTRIP project that is testing new ideas and developing new tools for European cities as they struggle with the need to improve living standards whilst managing the ever increasing impacts of transport.

Gdynia is the first out of the 12 partner cities that will receive a peer review that will assist them in understanding their current progress towards Sustainable Urban Transport. They will use this to prepare their SUTP and revise existing plans; from this they will implement pilot actions that will make tangible progress.

BUSTRIP will produce a SUTP toolbox of techniques, collecting all the learning experiences and best practices from the cities. The toolbox will assist European cities to understand SUTP and the opportunities available to move

towards sustainable urban transport. The 12 partner cities in the BUSTRIP project are the first in Europe to start preparing and implementing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans. SUTP's are advocated in the European Commissions' Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (6th Environmental Action Plan). BUSTRIP is uniquely positioned to show European cities how to deliver sustainable transport whilst generating economic growth.

The project is coordinated by UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat. Two other core partners are UBC Commission on Transportation and Chalmers University of Technology (in Göteborg). Twelve local and regional authorities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden take part in BUSTRIP.

BUSTRIP is part-funded by European Union within the BSR INTERREG III

The BUSTRIP project will provide practical solutions and tools for European cities and municipalities to deliver Sustainable Urban Transport. The 12 partner cities in the BUSTRIP project are the first in Europe to start preparing and implementing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans. SUTP's are advocated in the European Commissions' Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (6th Environmental Action Plan). The BUSTRIP project is funded by the INTERREG IIIB and the Finnish Ministry of Environment. Project duration - July 2005 - December 2007.

B Neighbourhood Programme, Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the partner cities. Project budget is 3,1 MEUR.

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GOOD PRACTICE OF BUUF PARTNERS

Sustainable use of energy and resources is one of the important issues of the ongoing project "Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF)". The project is coordinated by a steering group consisting of Baltic University Programme, Royal Institute of Technology, department of Urban Studies, Union of the Baltic Cities and 20 cities from 9 countries around the Baltic Sea.

Among the BUUF partners, cities from Sweden, such as Uppsala, Örebro, Norrtälje and Enköping, show the best practices in utilizing a renewable source of energy for electricity and

The Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF) is a cooperation between cities/towns and universities in the Baltic Sea region to promote sustainable development. In its present phase the BUUF project aims to develop strategies for sustainable development for cities and towns. 20 cities and 15 universities in 9 countries take part in the project. Through the Union of Baltic Cities the results will be available for an additional 100 cities. BUUF project is co-financed by Interreg IIIB

heating. In these cities, the large amount of electricity (about 40-60 %) and heating energy (about 60-80 %) are originated from renewable sources. As a source of renewable energy is mainly used biofuel - sawdust, peat, wood chips, waste and plant biomass. A good example of utilization of plant biomass as biofuel was demonstrated by Ekhöping, where a project was initiated to find out a possibility to make willow beneficial both for farmers and for Energy Company. The goal of the project was to establish 1.000 ha of willow in the region within ten years. With the existing plantations, it would supply the Combined Heat and Power plant with about 30% of the fuel consumption.

Another example of renewable energy source is utilization of waste for producing biogas. Two BUUF partner cities, Örebro and Uppsala, have reported their experience on this issue. In Örebro, all non-composted solid waste is incinerated and used for district heating. In addition, there

are waste water treatment plant and municipal landfill in Örebro that produce 13 GWh and 18 GWh of biogas per year, respectively. The biogas is used for heating and steam production at a hospital and food production. In Uppsala, a biogas project was initiated in 1994, and a biogas plant was built nearby in 1996. The aim of the project was to take care of the different types of organic waste and to use waste as energy source. Implementation of the project was successful and, yearly, 50.000 tons of manure and organic waste received from industries, shops, restaurants are used as fuel.

Swedish BUUF partners have demonstrated a positive experience in such challenging task as extensive use of renewable source of energy.

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SUSTAINMENT IN THE BALTIC CITIES



Cross-sectoral cooperation in local administrations is a major contribution to urban sustainability as pinpointed in the EU Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment, EU 6th Environment Action Programme and 2005 Review of EU Sustainable Development Strategy. This is also one of the main elements in the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004 -2009.

This can be done by strengthening the ability of local authorities to develop their working methods, skills and people to significantly contribute to all dimensions on sustainable development within the same city. To learn and support from each other is one of the aspects in the SUSTAINMENT.

SUSTAINMENT focuses on four main themes in order to build capacities

14 partners: Union of Baltic Cities, Commission on Environment Secretariat as the Lead Partner of the project, Baltic University Programme as leader of Work-package 3 and 12 partner cities from all over the Baltic Sea Region – Kouvola Region Federation of Municipalities, City of Turku, Municipality of Kalmar, City of Malmö, Municipality of Växjö, Municipality of Örebro, City of Gdansk, City of Riga, Municipality of Siauliai, Municipality of Panevezys, City of Kaliningrad and City of Novgorod.

The project is part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) within the BSR INTERREG IIIB Neighborhood Programme, Finnish Ministry of Environment and the partner cities. The project runs from January 2006 to December 2007.

MODEL DEVELOPMENT Indirect broad transnational impact
Activities; Plan the framework of the project. Present overall goals. Build up relevant training programme
Promote discussion and interaction. Present the SMC Model or models

COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

PILOTING IN 12 CITIES; Direct impact on the cities
Activities; Participate in project meetings, evaluate own situation, prepare own project plan; Involve key persons/ departments in discussions, evaluation and goal setting.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS SMC

The Sustainment project process

The SUSTAINMENT project aims to meet the needs and challenges toward a more integrated sustainability process. The intention is to develop current municipal sustainable development processes to the next level by integrating the work more in local cities. The aim is to create models for Sustainability Management Centers (SMC), cross-sectoral policy integration and increased efficiency. In the end, the project provides all European cities with models for integrated sustainability management.

for the creation of SMCs: Sustainable development, Management of the SMC as a strategic office, Governance for sustainability and promoting sustainable development through communication and participation.

These four themes will be profoundly processed in the main activities of the project, ending up into a Competence Development Package. The Competence Development Package will be available in nine BSR languages.

The project consortium consists of

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MEETING AND ROUNDTABLE IN LÜBECK

The meeting of the UBC Commission on Environment was held in Lübeck on 4-6 May. It reported and discussed UBC's environmental and sustainable development activities, European Policy Developments (Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment), Baltic Co-operation Processes, BSR and European Projects, preparations for Baltic contributions at the 5th Pan-European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, Seville, March 2007.

The meeting, during the kick-off roundtable, shaped the new Baltic Cities' Environmental Training Programme for environmental directors and experts.

Knowledge basis for the new program has been created through the Baltic

Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005 and the CAPACITY feasibility study carried out in 2005-2006. The new executive program, to be co-funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Finnish Ministry of the Environment, will be open for all UBC members. It is to be implemented in 2006-2008.

The key intention with the roundtable session and working groups at the Lübeck meeting was to involve member cities in the designing and implementing of the training program.

- Report/introduction from the Baltic Cities' Survey 2005 and the CAPACITY study
- Good practice presentations from member cities
- Discussion/mapping of

development needs and challenges
Four working groups discussed the key topics for the new training program: Air Quality, Noise, Solid Waste, and Climate Protection.

Participants also took part in the study visit to the Environmental Exhibitions at the Trade Fair Centre.

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III. NEWS FROM MEMBER CITIES

JÄRVENPÄÄ – THE NEW UBC MEMBER CITY

Järvenpää is located close to the main railroad track (Helsinki-Tampere) and two of the main motorways. The city is an integral part of Central Uusimaa, but at the same time close to the Helsinki Metropolitan Area.

Järvenpää is a modern city with a young and well-educated population. The city is well known for its culture and education, but also for high-tech metal industry. Cultural industry is on the rise.

Järvenpää's vision is to be a viable cultural city. The city pursues the following values in all its operations: taking care of the people, responsibility, economic efficiency and equality. The mission of the Järvenpää city is

Järvenpää in a nutshell

- Founded in 1951, became a city in 1967
- Surface area 39.88 km²
 - of which water surface 2.42 km²
- 37,328 inhabitants (at the end of 2004)
 - 996 inhabitants per km²
- Cost-of-living classification I
- Municipal tax rate percentage 18.25

to enable and ensure the basic well-being of all Järvenpää inhabitants and the functioning of the community in co-operation with the residents, organizations and neighbouring municipalities, and to follow the principles of sustainable development in all operations. Järvenpää is the commercial and administrative centre of Central Uusimaa. The strengths of our business life are the top-of-the-line know-how in metal industry and our growing cultural industry.

Culture is an essential part of the

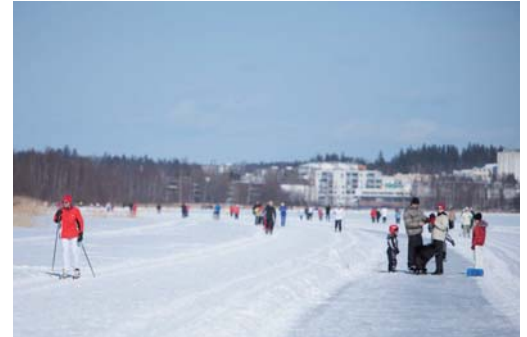
NÆSTVED IS GROWING LARGER

Due to the structural reform of municipalities in Denmark, Næstved is growing from 49.000 inhabitants to 79.000.

The "old" municipality of Næstved will by the first of January 2007 be joined with 4 municipalities of Holmegaard, Fladsaa, Fuglebjerg and Susaa in a merger, that will result in the "new" Næstved.

Næstved will be the 2nd largest municipality on Seeland, outside of Copenhagen and covering an area of 680 square-km.

present-day Järvenpää as well. The city hosts various musical events annually: the Järvenpää Sibelius Weeks in the autumn and Chamber music by Lake Tuusula and Puistoblues in the summer. The pedestrian street Janne, which runs from the railway station towards Lake Tuusula, creates a welcoming setting in summer, but as it is heated, it also offers a lot of events in the



wintertime.

In Vanhankylänniemi there is a cosy park-like recreational area, a travel centre and a beach. Järvenpää interacts actively with its eight twin cities. The twin cities have been chosen based on similarity with Järvenpää (e.g. population number, location near a metropolitan area or a railroad track). Most of the co-operation projects take place in the fields of culture, sports, youth exchange, personnel exchange and business. Järvenpää also

actively participates in many projects having many global partners at local and regional cooperation.

To UBC - Success comes to those who keep on keeping on! Järvenpää is grateful for the approval of the UBC membership and is looking forward to entering into new partnerships in the innovative and important Baltic Sea co-operation.

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MALMÖ AND TALLINN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Within the project Civitas SMILE the cities of Malmö, Sweden, and Tallinn, Estonia, are cooperating to take advantage of each other's experiences.

The Civitas SMILE project is focusing on sustainable transports and urban mobility in six European cities. In Tallinn the main focus will be on improving the public transport, for example by installing a bus priority system. In Malmö several measures will take place within Civitas SMILE. Public transport is one of the focus areas with measures on traffic planning tools, improved security on buses and bus prioritization in all intersections where the buses run in Malmö.

Other measures that will take place in Malmö are mobility management measures promoting sustainable transports towards the public. Some of the mobility management campaigns

will also target local companies and municipal employees. One of the mobility management campaigns that already has taken place focused on new inhabitants of Malmö. Within the Civitas SMILE project Tallinn will follow a few of Malmö's measures closely. The idea, that has been called "the Training Model", aims at letting Tallinn study focus projects on mobility management and public transports in Malmö and afterwards exploiting the knowledge.

In the end of "the Training Model" Tallinn will produce a report where implementation possibilities of the new experiences have been listed.

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COMMON REED AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY

Among other grass plants, common reed (*Phragmites australis*) is considered to be a promising source of renewable energy in Finland and Estonia.

First of all, naturally growing common reed is abundant in the coastal areas of these countries, and it produces sufficient amount of dry biomass (3-15 t/ha). Secondly, since common reed is perennial fast growing plant, supplying with this source of energy can be practically unexhausted. Eventually, provision of



Interreg IIIA Reed strategy -project arranged energy harvesting experiments in Hamina Region coastal areas

reed is relatively cheap and, in addition to direct cutting of plants from the coastal areas, dry reed material could be obtained

as waste of roof manufacture and isolation material made from reed.

By compressing of dry reed biomass, it is possible to form compact briquettes (140 – 170 kg/m³) or pellets (500-700 kg/m³), which are more convenient to handle and to keep in store. Heat production at reed incineration is 13-15 MJ/kg, and such reed briquettes and pellets could be used by small- and middle-sized power plants.

power plants.

To develop the optimal strategy of utilization of reed in the coastal areas and to exchange information and experience between interested parties, the project "Reed strategy in Finland and Estonia" was initiated in March 2005. The project is implemented by Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre

in cooperation with Tallinn University of Technology, Turku University of Applied Sciences, South-East Finland Regional Forest Center and Kotka - Hamina Region of Finland Ltd. The project represents an interdisciplinary approach focusing on different themes, such as bioenergy, water protection, landscape, construction and building. The increased cutting of reed from the coastal areas would have, moreover, a positive impact on water protection and for maintenance of landscape and biodiversity.

The project partners wish to increase both the knowledge of reed management and utilization of reed.

TWO BALTIC CITIES RUNNING AHEAD OF THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE!

The deadline for implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive was 4 January 2006. However, no Member State has finalised the transposition of the directive into national law and the respective ordinances yet.

In contrast, the Display™ Campaign is ready and going on with over 150 European municipalities and thousands of public buildings involved. Some of them are Baltic local authorities such as Valga (EE) and Kaunas (LT).

The city of Kaunas has implemented many measures to improve energy efficiency in public buildings, for example, improvement of the buildings' thermal insulation, installation of thermostatic radiator valves, balancing of the heating systems. Nowadays, they are starting the Display™ Campaign to improve their communication with the building users. The calculation tool has been translated into Lithuanian and it is expected to see some more Lithuanian cities joining the Campaign soon.

The European Display™ Campaign is a voluntary scheme designed by energy experts from 20 European cities. The idea is to engage citizens and make them more conscious of their energy consumption in order to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and achieve financial savings.

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AUTOMOTIVE BIO-FUELS IN VÄXJÖ

There are several low emission vehicles, hybrids and alternative fuels available short-term, such as ethanol, RME, biogas, etc for the reduction of fossil CO₂ emissions from transport, but Växjö and others believe that more efficient fuels must be used.

According to several separate LCA studies bio-DME is the best alternative. It is not hazardous to health: it does not affect the ozone layer, neither does create any particles when burnt (no diesel smoke!) and has excellent emission values including very low NOx. DME will thus drastically improve the inner city environment.

In the early 90s ethanol (E85) vehicles were introduced in Växjö and there were plans for a forest residue based ethanol plant. However, when DME was presented Växjö dropped the ethanol plans and started a project involving the support of the development of DME vehicles and of the bio-DME production processes. The results of the bio-DME efforts so far is that Volvo, in a EU FP5 project with Växjö as partner, has developed a dedicated pilot DME lorry, which is the basis for the production of three second generation DME lorries,

which will be demonstrated in a EU LIFE project in Växjö starting early next year. A second result is that the energy companies in Växjö and neighbouring Värnamo have acquired an 18 MW biomass gasification pilot plant, which has been used to develop a certain heat and power technique. Växjö University is the lead partner in a EU FP6 project, CHRISGAS for the development of the production processes involved in the gasification of biomass into a synthesis gas suitable for the production of vehicle bio-fuels such as DME, F-T diesel, hydrogen, Methanol, Methane, etc.

Växjö's long-term plan includes a 170 000 t/y bio-DME production plant. There are also plans in Sweden for the production of bio-DME from gasified black liquor at a pulp mill south of Växjö.

While Sweden may be pioneering DME in the European Union, there are already DME vehicles running in Japan, Korea, China and Russia.

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WATER FORUM OF THE EUROREGION BALTIC: FROM SEAGULL TO SEAGULL II

The period of 2004-2005 was prosperous for Euroregion Baltic (ERB), which unites the Baltic coast regions from Southern Sweden, Bornholm, Poland, Kaliningrad Oblast, Lithuania and Latvia, and all UBC cities in these regions. These years the ERB INTERREG IIIB Seagull Project (www.eurobalt.org) was accompanied by the Seagull RC Project "Russian component of the development strategy for Euroregion Baltic" under the leadership of UBC partner, the City of Baltijsk (Kaliningrad Oblast), and financing from the EU through the TACIS/2003/063-131 90 project.

Within the environmental section of the Joint Development Transnational Program elaborated during the projects activities, an initiative of the creation of an ERB Water Forum was pushed forward and widely discussed in Klaipeda on 6 October 2005, during a joint session of Seagull experts (from Swedish, Kaliningrad, Polish and Lithuanian partners) and participants of the 2nd European Lagoon Conference.

Water Forum is needed for for trans-national and cross-border cooperation and implementation of modern methods for water management (EU WFD and Russian Water Code) for the benefit of the environment and a sustainable development of the Baltic region.

The real content for the ERB Water Forum and practical steps to implement this idea are discussed now more in detail among the ERB partners and other actors. But important parts will be:

- A yearly conference to connect public, economy, science, policy and decision making about water within the ERB



The city of Baltijsk led the Seagull RC Project "Russian component of the development strategy for Euroregion Baltic"

THE RENEWAL OF VAASA CITY CENTRE AWARDED

The Finnish city centre interest organization Elävä Kaupunkikeskusta has awarded the Vaasa promenade centre as the best city centre renewal in Finland in 2006. The big parking hall under the market place has made the Vaasa city centre very attractive, also in wintertime. The renewal of the city centre has strengthened the role of the inner city as a significant economic region.

The parking hall under the market place makes it possible for the shops' customers to come by car to the inner city. The nice promenade centre with a street heating system, trees and statues harmonize with the market place environment. The street environment is very well designed in detail with e.g. waste-baskets and bicycle stands.

area and discuss common questions, priorities, etc.

- Permanent expert competence with the main target to gather and refine the experiences from implemented actions among the ERB partners, promote the regional competences, mediate contacts and increase cooperation between public administration, science and industry.
- External expert panel to secure the quality of performed activities.
- Special focus on establishment of river basin water management cooperation for cross-border basins and Water User Partnerships with great extent of private, public and academic participation. Practical and education activities will focus at decreasing the outflow

The development of the centre area in Vaasa was started already in the early 1990's, as there were experiments with promenade areas in the centre, and the plan of the parking hall under the market



The nice promenade centre with a street heating system, trees and statues harmonize with the market place environment

place was accepted. Since 1997 the Vaasa business center association has played an active role in the development of the city centre in Vaasa.

The association is marketing the city centre in many ways, e.g. with different kinds of happenings. The real estate and shop owners have also acted in order to develop the city centre in Vaasa.

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of nutrients from small and diffuse sources, i.e. farms, farming land, smaller settlements and private households. They will concentrate on a campaign to provide training and advice with the aim of encompassing the entire flow of nutrients from farms and promote environmental adapted farming through support of training activities – in cooperation with farmers' organisations, and others.

All these initiatives now will be supported by SEAGULL II: "Strengthening Institutional Structures and Spatial Development Capacities of Euroregion Baltic" which was supported by the EU this year.

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GDYNIA CELEBRATES ITS 80TH BIRTHDAY

On 10 February 2006 Gdynia celebrated its 80th anniversary of granting city rights. Among many invited guests there were representatives of sister cities of Gdynia: Aalborg (Denmark), Baranovich (Belarus), Kaliningrad (Russia), Karlskrona (Sweden), Kiel (Germany), Klaipėda (Lithuania), Kotka (Finland), Kristiansand (Norway), Kunda (Estonia), Plymouth (UK), Seattle (USA), Syndicat Mixte



Solemn Session of Gdynia City Council

de la Côte d'Opale (France). During their stay in Gdynia the official guests from sister cities participated in the meeting with local authorities, visited the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park in Gdynia as well as the new seat of the Gdynia City Museum and the Polish Navy Museum. Additionally, they participated in the opening of the photo exhibition entitled: "Gdynia – Plymouth 1976 – 2006" organized in the Exhibition Hall of Gdynia City Museum. The exhibition

was prepared on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of twinning link between Gdynia and Plymouth. It displayed photos of Gdynia photographers, Marzena

and Maurycy Smierzchalscy, as well as the photos presenting the history of official contacts between Gdynia and Plymouth. The key ceremony of the celebrations of the 80th Birthday of Gdynia was the solemn Session of

the City Council in the Music Theatre. During the Session the Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski Medals in recognition of outstanding services to Gdynia were awarded. Among the awarded persons was Peter Smith, Chairman of Plymouth-Gdynia Twinning Panel. Mr Smith initiated the cooperation between Plymouth and Gdynia in 1975. During 30 years of his involvement in the twinning link, Mr Smith has been an outstanding ambassador of Gdynia on the British

Isles. The Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski Medal was also awarded to Janusz Śniadek, Chairman of Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarność", inhabitant of Gdynia and shipyard worker and to Przemysław Dyakowski, musician, creator of Sax Club and co-originator of the "Ucho" Club in Gdynia.

During the City Council Session the "Time for Gdynia" prize for the best investment of the year 2005 was also awarded. This prize was given to the company "Vectra" S.A. for the complex of a rehabilitation centre and a hotel and an office building. The main celebrations of the 80th birthday of Gdynia were held in February. However, our city is celebrating all year round, organizing many events for the inhabitants and tourists.

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LITTORAL 2006 IN GDAŃSK

The 8th International Conference LITTORAL 2006 will be organised in Gdańsk on 18-20 September 2006 by Gdańsk University of Technology, EUROCOAST Federation and EUCC – The Coastal Union. The Union of the Baltic Cities is a partner of this conference.

The key topic of LITTORAL 2006 is "Coastal Innovations and Initiatives". There is no doubt that the development of science and technology cannot

proceed in academic circles only. Therefore, the representatives of local authorities from coastal towns, districts and regions are invited to take active part in the conference. LITTORAL provides numerous possibilities for establishing contacts and exchanging experience between academic circles and those who deal with the specific problems in practice.

Among the main topics to be presented and discussed by participants are:

- coastal energy - including on-shore and off-shore wind turbine farms
- coastal information, communications, and data network
- coastal and marine tourism and recreation
- trends and processes in coastal environment
- conservation of coastal culture heritage and landscape values
- integrated coastal zone management and maritime administration

LITTORAL 2006 will also include a small number peer-reviewed workshops. The aim of the workshops is to bring together professionals from academia and industry to exchange ideas, experiences and identify obstacles and propose solutions in littoral domains.

The outcome of the conference will be publications which can become a valuable source for all those who seek new solutions and who devise the concepts of international research projects, whose participants are very often the authorities of towns and regions.

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LITTORAL is a biennial multi-disciplinary international conference which attracts scientists and researchers who are interested in the sea coast-related issues. The previous conferences took place in Aberdeen, Porto, Dubrovnik, Barcelona, Portsmouth, Lisbon, and Marseille. This year's conference is the first to be organised at the Baltic Sea. EUROCOAST Federation – European Coastal Association for Science and Technology – is an association of scientists, engineers and decision-makers within the European Community, providing a network of cooperation and exchange between different disciplines and interests. EUCC – The Coastal Union is dedicated to the integrity and the natural and cultural heritage of the European coasts and to sustainable development.



EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN LIEPĀJA

For the last three years Liepāja has been one of the active cities within the Baltic Sea Region when it comes to European Voluntary Service (EVS). EVS is a part of the European Youth Programme and is open to youth between 18 and 25. It allows a young person to work as a volunteer in another country for up to twelve months.

Currently Liepāja is hosting five volunteers from all over Europe and is expecting two more to come in April. Liepāja Youth Centre, which is the coordinating organisation for all EVS activities in Liepāja, sends out approximately ten volunteers per year. This number is still increasing.

Damien Ridelle from Belgium, who is a volunteer at Liepāja Boarding School, says: "After seeing a documentary about

the Baltic States I was very eager to visit these dynamic countries. Doing EVS in Liepāja is a great opportunity for me to see this city evolving." The Italian

volunteer Andrea Suglia agrees: "The future of Europe lies here!" To improve the quality of its EVS projects, Liepāja Youth centre is involved in a new project called "EVS in the Baltic Sea Region". The aim of this project is

to enlarge cooperation between cities within the BSR. This will be realised by strengthening bonds between

EVS organisations, i.a. through training courses. "EVS in the BSR" is initiated by Kumulus, a resource centre for local and regional youth policy

in Kalmar, in cooperation with UBC Commission on Youth Issues. Liepāja is very active also in other youth programmes. For instance in August

there will be an international youth exchange between Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. The main topic of this exchange will be EU citizenship.

Liepāja is the first city in Latvia which develops the local youth policy. We expect it to be accepted by the Liepāja City Council

this year. In September Liepāja will host the meeting of the Commission on Youth Issues.



EVS volunteers from Spain, Austria and Belgium sharing with local youth their impressions about EVS projects.

PASSPORT OF NARVA

For creation of favourable investment conditions and enlivening the investment climate, two e-projects have been implemented in Narva: "Investment Passport of Narva" (www.investinnarva.ee) with all relevant information for investors, and "The information portal for tourists and travel agencies/tour operators" (<http://tourism.narva.ee>). The purpose of the Investment Passport is to provide relevant information on all investment options and attract foreign investments that in their turn will facilitate the development of the city and create new jobs. Business data on the Narva enterprises, cooperation proposals, interactive maps indicating free plots of land and vacant premises for commercial lease, prices and rates for immovable property – this is by far not a full list of information presented at the investment passport site. Any potential investor can assess the data and the possibilities of establishing and operating a business in Narva. All data is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week at a free access Internet site. For further information please contact: Mrs Maria Terebilina, Narva Municipality, e-mail: maria.terebilina@narva.ee.

The 6th International Competition of Young Pianists, dedicated to the work of Fryderyk Chopin, took place in Narva in the beginning of February. The competition, which was initially created for young musical talents from the countries around the Baltic Sea, has by now considerably reached far beyond the Baltic borders, becoming truly international.

The "Narva Chopiniana – 2006", supported by Narva City Government,

states (including Russia) were joined by their colleagues from Norway, Ukraine, Byelorussia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, China and Japan.

According to the regulations, the competition was held within 3 age categories: younger, up to 12 years old (the 1st Prize awarded to Mikhail Ilyasov from Russia); medium, 13 to 15 years old (the 1st Prize awarded to Ruslan Stroggi from Estonia); older, 16 to 18 years old (the 1st Prize awarded to Michal

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THE COMPETITION CROSSES BORDERS

Ministries of Culture of Estonia and Poland, Embassies of Poland, France, Russia, China in Estonia and numerous private sponsors, has brought together 49 pianists, aged up to 18 years old, from 14 countries.

Young musicians from traditionally participating Baltic Sea

Kozłowski from Poland).

The Grand-Prix of the competition was awarded to 14-years-old Sergey Redkin from St.Petersburg, Russia.

Mr. Raivo Palmaru, Minister of Culture of Estonia said: "To reach anything valuable in life, one needs to make big efforts. Only in that case a person can mould and only in that way does a door to a very special world open for him. Participation in Narva Chopin piano competition gives young musicians an excellent chance for it."

The next International Chopin Competition will take place in Narva by the end of January 2008. Registration of participants will start in May 2007.

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BEYOND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATION

On March 17 in Kronstadt an action called "Beyond the statute of limitation" was held. It was dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Kronstadt's mutiny or so called "Kronstadt's events of 1921" when an armed rebellion against the Soviet leadership broke out. The rebellion was suppressed and thousands of rebels were executed by shooting.

The project was planned as a step to reconciliation of the society. Up to 1994 the official opinion about the events that happened in Kronstadt in 1921 had a single meaning. They were considered as a counter-revolutionary mutiny, prepared by the White Guards, Socialist Revolutionary Party, Mensheviks and anarchists, who were actively supported by some foreign forces. The documents concerning the event were classified as secret.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union many secret documents became available to the public, thus overestimation of the events could begin. On 10 January 1994 by an edict of the president of the Russian Federation all the participants of Kronstadt's events of 1921 were acquitted

and all the repressive measures taken on them afterwards were considered illegal and contradictory to human rights. Moreover, according to the edict, a memorial, dedicated to the participants



A theatre performance by Tatyana Zakipnaya, based on historical events, tried to show the point of view at the mutiny from both sides, to reflect the historical and economic situation at that moment.

of Kronstadt's events of 1921 should be established.

However not all accept the new vision and there are still many different points of view on this event. The action consisted of a theatre performance, based on historical events, in which author, Tatyana

Zakipnaya, tried to show the point of view at the mutiny from both sides, to reflect the historical and economic situation at that moment, tried to explain the ideological trends of that time. The performance was highly rated by all the spectators.

Apart from that, the citizens were able to see an exhibition of photographs and documents illustrating the events and a multimedia undertaking: "Kronstadt's time". Late in the evening a dirge to those who felt a victim to the mutiny was served.

The organisers of the event hope that they succeeded in helping people with different views at the mutiny to make one step towards each other and to understand the causes of this confrontation, which was so important for our city and played a significant role in the history of whole our country.

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UV-DISINFECTION STATIONS IN KRONSTADT

In connection with constantly increasing requirements to the quality of refinement and disinfection of drinking water, the problem of creating modern systems for water refinement becomes more and more important. Kronstadt's water-supply systems in 2006 are going to introduce a new ultraviolet technology of water refinement.

The UV-stations are intended for disinfection of waters, that are taken from open sources – in case of Kronstadt it is the Neva River – and they help to improve the disinfection against chlorination-resistant microorganisms.

UV-stations are made of materials that are in conformity with sanitary and fire-prevention regulations, which are in force on the territory of Russian Federation. The stations use lamps with the wave-length of 250 nano-meters,

which exclude formation of ozone. The construction of UV-stations does not allow the ultraviolet to exceed the bounds of the stations and provides safe conditions of work for the personnel.

The ultraviolet method of disinfection is characterized by:

- high efficiency of disinfection (including disinfection against chlorination-resistant microorganisms, such as viruses)
- complete absence of by-products that can be dangerous for living organisms
- a higher technical and economic showings than reagent disinfection
- a higher safety rate (storing of dangerous reagents is not needed).

The building of UV-stations in Kronstadt is aimed at environmental protection, since the process of chlorination is connected with agglomeration of halogenated carbohydrates in water, which is considered extremely dangerous.

High efficiency of UV-disinfection is proved by the experience of exploitation of such equipment in Saint-Petersburg.

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The 45th UBC Executive Board Meeting held in Kaunas, Lithuania, on 10-12 February 2006

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of 100 cities from all ten Baltic Sea 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 eleven working Commissions on Business Cooperation, Culture, Environment, Education, Health and Social Affairs, Information Society, Sport, Tourism, Transportation, Urban Planning, Youth Issues. 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), the Committee of the Regions 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.