



Commission on Education

Activity report October 2009 to May 2010 and planned activities June 2010 to December 2010

Activity report October 2009 to May 2010 Nature school network – meeting in Riga 17 december 2009

After welcoming words from Mare Aasma, Vice-Chairman of UBC Commission on Education, there was an information about the Erken Laboratory and the Färsna Farm by Karin Beronius, Uppsala university and Susanne Jansson, Norrtälje Nature conservation foundation. The Nordplus application for the nature schools network – terms and draft application was gone through by Karin Beronius, Uppsala university, Erken Laboratory.

At the UBC (Union of Baltic Cities), commission on education meeting in Tallinn April 3, 2009 the board decided to start working on a way of creating a network of nature schools in the Baltic region. To establish the network we plan to arrange three, one week long, pedagogical courses for teachers during three years. In connection to the courses, course material, in the shape of a pedagogical handbook, will be constructed and also distributed to the different partner institutions and participants. The courses and the material will be on three different themes:

- a.) Outdoor teaching
- b.) Humans and nature, where nature is represented by 3 different biotopes – i) water, ii) the forest and iii) acre land
- c.) Pedagogies in teaching climatic effects

The Erken Laboratory has a broad experience in arranging courses, especially with participants from the Baltic region. Recent years the field station has focused on pedagogical courses and especially on outdoor teaching. Färsna Farm is a newly established Nature School, situated 7 km from the Erken Laboratory. The courses will be held both at the Erken Laboratory, where the teachers and lecturers will be staying, and Färsna Farm. The course material will have different editors depending on focus of the course.

Each partner will select and send three teachers from their country, school or region to attend each course module. They will also provide one lecturer during the three year period (depending on focus and applicability for the different modules) and the lecturer will send in the written material from the course to the editor for that pedagogical handbook.

Thereafter Kadri Randmaa from Kärddla Town Government presented the draft project “Interactive Baltic Sea program for children”.

Board meeting of the UBC Commission on Education in Stockholm, 16 march 2010

On the agenda there were 3 topics: activities 2010, budget 2010 and other questions. Participants were chairman Kurt Pettersson, Norrtälje, vice chairman Mare Aasma, Kärddla, Anders Olander, Norrtälje, Kadri Randma, Kärddla and head of commission secretariat Anneli Veevo, Kärddla.



Research for education in UBC

The goal of the research is to have information about the education system in UBC countries. UBC Commission on Education is the first place where people will ask about education in UBC cities and countries. It is elementary to have such information. The Research comprises an overview about 1) European Union and nation-state policy of education (commission will collect juridical documents, law etc for the policy); 2) school systems: which steps pupils come through, when pupils have to do selections/choices. Syllabuses of education institutions in every country are needed as well as to establish contacts with UBC cities; 3) analysis and report. The report will be uploaded to UBC webpage. The research will be finalized to the end of August 2010 and Annely Veevo, Kärđla is the responsible person.

Environmental project for youth

Development of an environmental project "Interactive Baltic Sea Program for Youth" led by Kadri Randma, Kärđla. This program consists of five parts *coast survey *informative text reading *tests, quizzes *essays *drawing. She has started to write informative texts. This is one of the most important parts of that program to be completed in the beginning of June. After that starts the composition of tests and quizzes to be completed in the middle of August 2010. Then we will start to build up a computer system. It consists of all five parts (teachers can also add there good essays which children have written and drawings they have painted). The computer system will be ready in the beginning of November 2010. During November this computer system will be tested in different countries, which have joined the youth program, and if anything needs to be changed it will be possible. If everything will go as planned, then this program will be working in January 2011.

Nature school network

Network of nature schools and centers applied for support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The deadline was 1 March and reply will come in the end of May. In the application there are 5 partners from different countries and coordinator is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje. The suggested plan is as follows:

Year	Month	Activity	Outcome	Responsible partner
2009	December	Preparation meeting in Riga	Application and list of project partners	Erken Laboratory
2010	March	Application deadline	Final application	Erken Laboratory
	April-May	Preparations for course, selection of teachers and lecturers		Färsna Farm
	August	Teacher course		Erken laboratory and Färsna farm
	November	Course material handbook – theory behind outdoor teaching	Pedagogical handbook	Färsna farm



2011	April-May	Preparations for course, selection of teachers and lecturers		Färsna Farm and Erken Laboratory
	June	Report and evaluation		Erken Laboratory
	August	Teacher course		Erken laboratory and Färsna farm
	November	Course material handbook – ways of working in different fields of nature a) vatten, b) skog, c) hagmark	Pedagogical handbook	Erken laboratory and Färsna farm
2012	April-May	Preparations for course, selection of teachers and lecturers		Erken Laboratory
	June	Report and evaluation		Erken Laboratory
	August	Teacher course		Erken laboratory and Färsna farm
	November	Course material handbook – how to teach climatic effects	Pedagogical handbook – printing and distribution	Erken laboratory
2013	June	Report and evaluation		Erken Laboratory

Activity plan June-December 2010

Erken Laboratory Research School in Sweden

The research school will have 16 participants from different countries around the Baltic Sea, which will come to the Erken Laboratory for one month (June-July) in the summer of 2010. Responsible person is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje

Summer university for teachers

The summer university for 24 young teachers in natural sciences will be held at the Erken Laboratory during two weeks in August 2010 with the topic “Lakes as pedagogical tools in education”. Responsible person is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje.

Promote young entrepreneurs

UBC has made proposals concerning the Baltic Sea Strategy in year 2008-2009. European Commission has made an action plan for the strategy where there are many different flagship projects to support the strategy. On the General Conference in Kristiansand last September, it



was called for proposals for flagship projects where UBC could participate. Commissions and cities made around 30 proposals and UBC Board decided on four projects for UBC. Annely Veevo, Kärđla made five proposals from the Commission on Education and Kärđla town and the Board of UBC decided to go forward with “Promote young entrepreneurs”. A.Veevo has taken a contact with Denmark Ministry of Education who is coordinating the flagship project. More information will be given on a meeting in Denmark on May 20.

Vocational education

Anders Olander, Norrtälje is working on creating a network for vocational education, similar to the network for nature schools and centers. Last year a group of people prepared a joint project but it could not be finalized due to different interests and vocational education systems. A.Olander will send out information to UBC cities and look for contacts in order to have a meeting during the annual meeting of the commission in September in Tallinn. The aim is to apply for support in the Leonardo program.

Annual meeting in Tallinn

On September 27 and 28 2010 the Commission on Education will have its annual meeting in Tallinn. We will make an overview of educational research, nature school network, the environmental project and the flagship project “Promote young entrepreneurs”. The annual meeting will last for two days: first day is for young entrepreneurs and network of vocational education; second day for network of nature schools and centers and running projects.

Norr Malma 2009-04-30

Kurt Pettersson
Chairman of the Commission
City of Norrtälje