

REPORTS AND ACTION PLANS OF THE UBC COMMISSIONS

1. Commission on Business Cooperation
2. Commission on Communication
3. Commission on Culture
4. Commission on Education
5. Commission on Environment
6. Commission on Health and Social Affairs
7. Commission on Sport
8. Commission on Tourism
9. Commission on Transportation
10. Commission on Urban Planning
11. Women's Network

COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

The Commission on Business Cooperation was established during the General Conference of the UBC in Gdansk in September 1997. It aims at increasing the exchange of experiences and information among the UBC member cities. Promoting contacts among business communities is also an important goal. In addition to serving the mutual cooperation among the member cities the Commission acts as an opinion maker towards the European Union. The Commission arranges one meeting per year and currently unites about 23 member cities.

The first Annual Meeting of the Commission took place in Stockholm on March 13-14, 1998. These were the goals and organisational matters that were discussed during the meeting.

The second Annual Meeting of the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation was held in Gdansk and Gdynia (Poland) on 12-13 February 1999. Both cities chair the Commission in 1999. The Gdynia co-chairman is Mr M. Brzeski, Deputy Mayor of Gdynia, and the Gdansk co-chairman is Mr Z. Czepulkowski, Deputy Mayor of Gdansk.

The meeting raised great interest since 56 participants attended it from 22 cities from 7 countries – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Poland. During two days in Gdansk and Gdynia, the representatives of the local authorities, trade offices and other institutions promoting business made presentations on topics concerned with business cooperation. The participants approved the plan to publish a UBC statistical leaflet (“*UBC Facts & Figures*” or alike) to promote and inform on the organisation.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

The last meeting of the Commission was concluded with the invitation for the third Annual Meeting in the City of Kolding, Denmark in 2000. The meeting in a year 2001 will be held in Liepaja, Latvia. One of the main tasks of our office will be working out the programmes of cooperation and mutual help in the development of small and medium enterprises in the UBC member cities.

The Commission from the beginning of its existence exchanges the experiences in the sphere of local market protection against aggressive competition and monopoly of international companies. The project is to be discussed during seminars, conferences and annual meetings. Also, it is important to us to find out how to get chances for the disabled people as far as their professional activity is concerned.

Action plan for 2000-2001:

I quarter 2000 - Arrangement of Commission meeting. Purpose - exchange of information on the most important economic events: fairs, exhibitions, partneriats etc being held in cities of Commission members.

I quarter 2000 - Specifying all economic events taking place around The Baltic Sea. Collecting information concerning all fairs and exhibitions around The Baltic Sea by printing a special brochure.

I and II quarter 2000 - Preparing programmes of cooperation and supporting the development of Small and Medium Enterprises. Taking into consideration the experience of developed countries and basing on government economic guidance for small and medium size enterprises.

II quarter 2000 - Arranging the cooperation between High Schools and Research Institutes in the member cities of the UBC Commission. Exchange of experiences, acquainting the developing cities with high technology.

III - IV quarter 2000 - Exchange of experiences on protection of local market against monopoly of big international companies. Seminars and conferences of local economic governments and local business to increase the competitiveness and share in export of small and medium size enterprises.

2000 - 2001 - Stimulating and supporting current activity of local economic governments. Arranging and promoting contacts among the local economic government's representatives.

2000 - 2001 - Forming the required employment structure in cities - members of the UBC Commission. Exchange of experiences and people (lectures, visits etc) within the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation.

2000 - 2001 - Applying for EU supporting funds for local economy development. Determining of common priorities, directions of development and economic cooperation of cities - members of the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation.

2000 - 2001 - Uniforming of cooperation procedures among the UBC commissions. Carrying out the model of common presentation and promotion of the Baltic Sea region in EU countries.

Maciej Brzeski
Co-Chairman of the Commission
City of Gdynia

Zbigniew Czepulkowski
Co-Chairman of the Commission
City of Gdansk

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATION

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 – APRIL 1999

The work and future role of the Commission

The Commission on Communication was initially started to handle the problems of the lack of telecommunication facilities and similar services in the Baltic Sea Region. Different solutions were tested but there was a problem to find one common solution. This was finally solved when Internet came as THE solution. The Commission has since provided UBC with the server and a webmaster in Kalmar. This has been done with different degrees of success but is at the moment working fine.

From the discussion of the UBC home pages the scope was widened to take into account the connections to other major organisations in our area. The project "Baltic Sea Alliance (BSA)" started two years ago and with a lot of efforts from the three partners (UBC, BSSSC and BCCA) we have now found a solution that we all can agree on. A prospect is worked out at the moment where UBC takes responsibility for the server, the domain address and the development of the home page. BSSSC are developing a "Partner Search Forum" and BCCA are working with the material for a marketing campaign.

The Commission has also been involved in some training courses concerning the home page and use of Internet. There is an obvious need for further work in this field.

A special forum for people interested in the UBC was created three years ago in Tampere. This was called the "Task Force" and has been an excellent introduction to UBC for new members, The Task Force was later seen as related to the Commission on Communication, as the chairman, Sonja Hilavuo, became a member of the commission.

As the chairman of the commission I have also been involved in the work on the new strategy and various other issues like VASAB (Visions And Strategies Around the Baltic Sea), Interreg II C and ESDP (European Spatial Development Perspective).

However, we do not find that there is a clear role for the commission in the future. We would rather propose that the tasks of the Commission are distributed to other parts of the UBC and the Commission is then terminated.

If the General Conference follows our proposal on the Commission on Communication we make the following suggestions for the further work:

1. Strategic questions will be handled by the President and the persons he/she will appoint
2. Among such questions are the implementation of the strategy, ESDP and Interreg II C.
3. The webmaster function could be located in the Secretariat and at the same time be the contact person with BSA.
4. The Task Force could be changed into a "Contact Persons Forum". We think it is necessary to give those persons more status and a clear role in their home administrations. The name Task Force could of course be kept and thus given a clear status.
5. There is an obvious need for a group in informatics. We suggest that persons interested in informatics could start an "Informatics Network", and that this network will be given support by the UBC in their first year. How to build and use Databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and similar tasks would be of great interest.

This document has been discussed at the Commission meeting in Riga 19-20 April and was fully supported.

Lars Malmberg
Chairman of the Commission
City of Kalmar

Viktors Buls
Co-chairman of the Commission
City of Riga

UBC DRAWING COMPETITION - FINAL REPORT

In October 1998 the Union of the Baltic Cities announced the art competition entitled "The Children of the Baltic". The idea of the competition was put forward during the second Task Force meeting in Kalmar and it was specified by the members of the Public Relations Team during the third Task Force meeting in Szczecin.

The aim of the competition was to promote the idea, structure and activity of our organisation among inhabitants of our cities, especially among the youngest generation. The competition raised much interest among member cities and the primarily aims were achieved.

Both City Hall of Gdynia and Gdansk organised the great final of the UBC international drawing competition which took place on 28 January 1999 in the Theatre Hall of the former Students Club in Gdansk, Poland. 236 works from 25 cities (Kuressaare, Narva, Sillamae, Tartu, Viljandi, Tampere, Butzow, Kiel, Rostock, Cesis, Liepaja, Riga, Ventspils, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Panevezys, Siauliai, Vilnius, Gdansk, Gdynia, Malmo, Vastervik, Vaxjo, Baltijsk, Kaliningrad) from 8 countries were sent to the competition. The countries participating were Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Sweden and Russia.

We invited 21 jury members, among them the representatives of the diplomatic corps residing in Tri-City (Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark), the municipal authorities of Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia, international culture organisations (Russian Centre of Culture and Science, Danish Culture Institute) and the renown artists. The jury awarded and chose 8 prizes and 2 distinctions. The jury was surprised by maturity of the children's works, the variety of artistic techniques, rich rendering of the competition theme.

The works we obtained are the beginning of new projects such as travelling exhibitions in the cities around the Baltic, virtual art gallery at UBC internet home page and publications of posters, calendars, post cards, etc. Some of them have been saved to be distributed as gifts among the official guests of the UBC Secretariat.

The remaining part of funds was used to publish 1,500 copies of the poster titled "The Baltic Sea in Children's Art" featuring three of the participating pictures with a sea theme. The posters have been sent to the 25 cities which took part in the competition and they will be presented to other UBC member cities at conferences.

The collection of pictures was also presented at a stationary exhibition at the City Hall of Gdynia from 21st May until 3rd June 1999 and enjoyed a massive appeal among both the staff and the inhabitants of Gdynia.

At present you can admire the awarded works exhibited online in our Virtual Gallery at the UBC home page <http://www.ubc.net/gallery/drawcomp/index.html>. At this location you will find the list of competition participants and jury members, and first and foremost- the pictures, which display the works diversity, maturity of their execution and the profound involvement on the children's and teachers' or instructors' part to all of the site's visitors. By means of such a gallery we would like to thank all children for their participation in the competition.

Ewa Depka
Project Co-ordinator
City of Gdynia

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

Baltic Ikonopress - contemporary art exhibition of the Baltic Countries, Szczecin, October 1997

Baltic Ikonopress is the Art Exhibition of Works recommended by the Baltic Coast Countries art magazines patronised by the Director of the Polish Sculpture Centre in Oronsco Mr Lech Karwowski.

The exhibition took place in the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle and Contemporary Art Gallery in the National Museum in Szczecin.

V UBC Festival of Art and Culture - Gdynia, October 1997

The Festival of Chamber Music for soloists, ensembles and chamber choirs.

Festival was held on:

4-5th of October choir meeting

11-12th ancient music ensembles

18-19th soloists, trios, quarters, quintets
25-26th chamber ensembles

International Choir Festival in Szczecin - the Second Baltic Feast of Choir, Szczecin, May 1998

Within the programme of the Festival, on which 32 choirs were invited, there was held a Choir Forum organised under the auspices of the CoC of the UBC. The leading theme of discussion was "Choir Music in the UBC Cities - their problems and possibilities". Representatives of singing/choir associations from the countries around the Baltic Sea were discussed about situation of singing societies in their countries; improvement of collaboration and network between choirs, regional co-operation.

Off-theatre Days, Klaipeda, August 1998

Klaipeda invited 50 actors and producers from small troupes of alternative theatres from UBC towns. All guests have shown their performances in the town and during the first 10 days together with Lithuanian performers they were stage a joint performance in various places of the city.

The 3rd Session of the Commission on Culture, 27 - 29 May 1999, Kalmar, Sweden

The important matters discussed during the Session included the possibilities for development of on-going projects, involvement of the new CoC members in organisation of recent and future projects, improvement on collaboration and network between the cities. Several interesting proposals were presented during the Session, which were related to art: education, cultural and historical heritage of the Baltic Region, web pages about art. And culture in internet, and so on. During the Session, the Committee of CoC was elected with the representatives from 5 cities: Bergen, Helsinki, Klaipeda, Szczecin, and Visby. The role of the Committee is to develop the future structure, status and the ways of functioning of CoC. The next meeting of the Committee of CoC is scheduled for 2-3 October in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

MARE ARTICUM – the Baltic art magazine

MARE ARTICUM as the original idea of the Commission on Culture of the UBC appeared in the beginning of 1996. In the end of November 1996 the City of Szczecin organised the first organisational meeting which resulted in establishment of the editorial board of the magazine. During the following years MARE ARTICUM developed the net of associated editors which now consists of 14 persons representing the nine Baltic countries. In 1997 MARE ARTICUM organised two meetings in Szczecin which resulted in the publication of the issue of the magazine in September 1997. Since then the three numbers of the magazine appeared presenting the Baltic art scene and the most interesting phenomena in the contemporary art of the Baltic. In 1998- 99 MARE ARTICUM editorial board organised public promotions of the magazine in the following cities: Gdansk, St. Petersburg, Visby, Riga. MARE ARTICUM was also invited to held a seminar on "The question of the Baltic Identity" in May 1998 in Stockholm within the programme Stockholm 98 the European Capital of Culture.

ACTION PLAN 2000 - 2001

N.E.W.S. /North-East-West-South/- the contemporary art exhibition

MARE ARTICUM editorial board serves also as an important factor in the artistic exchange in the Baltic Area. The biggest international project organised and co-ordinated by MARE ARTICUM is the Baltic contemporary art exhibition N.E.W.S. 1999-2000 under the auspices of the Commission on Culture of the UBC which will be primary shown in Szczecin in October 1999 and then in Riga in May 2000 and Visby in July 2000. The exhibition will present the important phenomena in the visual arts of the 90-ties and will be accompanied by the course of seminars (Visby September 1999,

Szczecin October 1999, Riga May 2000, Bornholm June 2000) discussing the role and function of art in the end of the 20th century. N.E.W.S. 2001 - will be organised by editorial board of Mare Articum. Everybody willing to participate should contact CoC secretariat.

October 1999, Klaipeda, Meeting of the CoC Committee - representatives of 5 cities elected during 3rd Session in Kalmar to work out new organisation, structure of the CoC Board and secretariat; rules of election of the Board, chairman and vice chairman.

The new Committee of CoC consists of following persons:

Mr Slawomir Szafranski, Szczecin,

Mr Olov Gibson, Visby,

Mr Bjorn Holmvik, Bergen,

Ms Nijole Lauzikiene, Klaipeda

Mr Yrjo Larmola, Helsinki.

IV Session of the UBC Commission on Culture on the leading theme “Artistic Education in the Countries Around the Baltic Sea” is supposed to be organised within International Choir Festival in Szczecin, 9-11 June 2000. During the Session a new chairman, vice chairman and leading cities of the CoC should be elected.

V Session of the UBC Commission on Culture, Helsinki, 2001

Slawomir Szafranski

Chairman of the Commission

City of Szczecin

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

ACTIVITY REPORT JUNE 1998 - AUGUST 1999

Being a relatively new Commission, the Commission on Education has so far concentrated its work on building up a secretariat-function in the City of Kardla, Estonia. The 1st session, the constitutional meeting, in Norrtalje also laid the foundation for the initial work of the secretariat, therefore the 1st session in Norrtalje is outlined underneath.

The main activities have been.

- Constitutional meeting in Norrtalje, 27-28 November 1998
- Building up a secretariat
- Preparation for the second session with the Commission, in Stockholm, 24th of September, 1999

1st session of the Commission on Education

The first meeting with the UBC Commission on Education was held in Norrtalje, Sweden, November 27-28, 1998. Professor Kurt Pettersson, Chairman of the City Board of education in Norrtalje, was elected chairman of the Commission. The Mayor of Kardla, Ivo Eesmaa, was elected vice Chairman. The Commission also decided that the secretariat should be located in Kardla, Estonia.

More than 20 cities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden attended this first meeting with the new Commission. The participants represented various organisations and levels within the field of education.

The workshops of the meeting were organised in three themes; namely: Exchange of pupils, students and teachers; Adult education and Information on educational targets. The workshops resulted in a proposal-session on how collaboration within the Commission should continue. The Commission suggested that more information is needed on the UBC-countries' education systems, preferably through a web page on the UBC-site. The web-site should also contain information on the aims and problems in each country with regard to education. More meetings were also suggested, where not only politicians and managers of educational institutions participate, but also experts, teachers and students in different fields, in order to formulate specific aims of collaboration within the Commission.

Another proposal focused upon creating a web page on the UBC-site for all those interested in adult education and vocational training. The participants of the workshop also suggested a cross-border collaboration on the dissemination of EU-information in order to improve the competence in the accession countries.

Furthermore, the participants expressed an interest in developing an information system with names of responsible persons in each participating city. Another suggestion was to create a database of „good ideas,, to publish on the UBC web-site. The workshop also set up an aim to stimulate one, at least or more schools in each city to take initiatives to collaborate with other schools within the network.

After the workshops some of the participants shared their experiences from working with EU-programmes and projects. The most common experience was the importance of choosing the right partners. That is, partners that you can communicate with and partners who value the importance of the collaboration. The network of the UBC Commission on Education will be of great importance in order to develop an active collaboration in EU-projects. The first meeting laid the foundation for a fruitful, continuous collaboration between the Baltic Sea cities.

Secretariat

During the 10 months since the 1st session of the Commission on Education a secretariat has been established in Kardla, Estonia. The new secretariat will be responsible for the coordination of the Commission on Education network and for planning the various sessions and actions to be taken within the network. The secretariat will handle the Commission on Education-network soon after the 2nd session of the UBC Commission on Education.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

2nd session of the Commission on Education

The 2nd session of the Commission will be located in Stockholm, 24th of September, in connection to the UBC 5th General Conference. The items on the agenda for the 2nd session are based on the requests expressed during the 1st session, and include information about various EU-programmes aimed at strengthening cooperation between educational organisations, including exchange of students and teachers. Also included is a discussion on the outline of the web-site: decision upon the initial and most important information to publish and how the information should be presented and by whom.

During the course of the upcoming year the Commission on Education will organise the network of contact persons in the member countries in order for exchange of students and teachers to be realised. Furthermore, a web-site will be developed and maintained. Finally, the Commission on Education will work with the development of a system for exchange of students and teachers between the member countries' schools.

Kurt Pettersson
Chairman of the Commission
City of Norrtälje

Ivo Eesmaa
Vice-Chairman of the Commission
City of Kardla

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

Baltic 21 - Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (1997-1999)

Baltic 21 is an initiative for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region taken by the Prime Ministers in 1996. It includes goals and an action programme for sustainable development and is worked out jointly by a partnership of national governments, regional networks of cities, international governmental organisations, the business community, environmental NGOs and international financial institutions. Baltic 21 emphasises the environmental dimension of sustainable development and its bearing on economic and social aspects. On 22-23 June 1998, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Baltic Sea States and the EU (Commission) adopted the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region at the meeting of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Nyborg, Denmark. Baltic 21 is the first intergovernmental Action Programme on regional sustainable development since the UN Summit declaration in Rio 1992. Throughout the process, the UBC has played an active role. Mikko Jokinen from Turku and Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall have been our representatives in the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group, which steered the preparations of the program and now co-ordinates its implementation. In the final document the UBC is defined as one of the implementing organisations of the whole programme with a lead party responsibility over Joint Action 4: City Co-operation and Sustainable Development in Cities and Communities. Work on this joint action has already been started, and in September 1998, the UBC together with other partners organised a large international conference, in which one of the main topics was the local level implementation of Baltic 21 (see below).

Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference (1998)

On 3-5 September 1998, 400 people from 27 countries all over the world gathered to Turku for the first regional conference of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. Most of the participants were from the Baltic Sea Region and almost half of all participants came from Russia, the Baltic States and Poland. The conference focused on the implementation of Baltic 21 at the local level, contributed to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign and brought into focus the health aspect in local sustainable development. The conference also adopted a statement (the Turku Statement) on co-operation and common goals for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region and the whole Europe. The Commission on Environment Secretariat organised the conference in co-operation with other partners. The Conference was mainly funded by the EU (DG XI), the City of Turku and The Finnish Ministry of the Environment.

Local Agenda 21 Work within the UBC (1998-1999)

In 1998, the Commission on Environment conducted a Local Agenda 21 Survey in UBC member cities in co-operation with the Department of Public Administration of Abo Akademi University, and funded by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. This survey produced basic knowledge about the stage of the Local Agenda 21 work in all the UBC member cities, and this information has been used in the planning of UBC Local Agenda 21 work. The most encouraging result is maybe that most of UBC members are already very active in this field. In 1998 and 1999, UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program was developed in three meetings dedicated to this purpose, and to exchange of experiences. The first meeting was organised already 27-28 February 1998 in Nacka, Sweden, the second 16

January 1999 in Lubeck, Germany, and the third 21 June 1999 in Sillamae, Estonia. Altogether almost 80 persons participated in these meetings. On the basis of the results of the meetings, the Commission on Environment Secretariat prepared a Local Agenda 21 Action Plan proposal for the UBC. As a part of this work, an e-mailing list was also established for facilitating the discussion.

Municipal Environmental Auditing (1997-1999)

The Commission on Environment developed in a two-year pilot-project (1996-1997) a model for municipal environmental auditing in the Baltic cities (MEA). The model was first tested in the pilot audit in Tallinn. This project was financed by the LIFE Program of the EU, the World Bank, the Finnish and Estonian Ministries of the Environment, and the participating cities. Since 1997, the model has been available to be used in all interested cities. All the necessary manuals, formulas and other tools are translated into English, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and Russian, and they are available from the commission secretariat. The Commission on Environment co-ordinates the audits and also helps the member cities to find funding. In 1998, funding was received from the Nordic Minister Council towards further MEAs. This funding enabled the Commission to start two new MEAs in co-operation with the UBC member cities of Klaipeda and Panevezys in Lithuania and later in 1999 two more will be started. In addition to these and the pilot MEA in Tallinn (finished 1997), the city of Parnu in Estonia has conducted MEA, as well as the Environmental Departments of the cities of Turku and Pori. However, in order to reach the overall goal of running at least one MEA in each of the Baltic States, Russia and Poland, further funding will have to be sought.

Archipelago Sea and Sustainable Harbour Policy Project (1997-1998)

This project started in August 1997 and ended in June 1998. The goal was to build basis for harmonising the environmental policies of the harbours of the participating cities of Turku, Mariehamn and Stockholm. The project was funded by the EU Interreg II A Skargarden Structural Fund. In the project, a survey was carried out about the solid waste management, waste water management and the emissions to air of the passenger car ferry traffic between the participating cities. On the basis of the survey the partners (cities and harbours) created an action programme to reduce regular passenger car ferry traffic -related environmental impact in the Archipelago Sea. The final seminar of the project was arranged in Mariehamn 2 June 1998. The most important outcome of the project is maybe the consensus between the stakeholders (cities, ports and shipping companies) on the need for regular co-operation in order to strengthen environmental management as well as maintain reliable environmental statistics concerning the ferry traffic.

Programme on Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development (1997-1998)

In 1996-1998, the Commission on Environment carried out a training program consisting of five events, where approx. 400 environmental specialists and decision-makers were trained. The programme was supported financially by the Nordic Minister Council. The events organised focused on the following topics: Physical Planning and the Environment, Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management, and Treatment of Contaminated Soils. A seminar on contaminated soils was arranged in co-operation with ECAT-Lithuania in Birstonas, Lithuania, 20-22 February 1998. Altogether 110 persons representing cities, universities, companies and various organisations took part in the event. During the seminar different methods for cleaning contaminated soils were presented and discussed.

SAIL-Project (1998-1999)

Spreading Awareness to foster the Implementation of Local Agenda 21 around the Baltic Sea (SAIL) Project is carried out in co-operation between the UBC, the cities of Lahti, St. Petersburg, Tartu and Jurmala, ECAT Lithuania and ICLEI. The goal is to create a basic set of Local Agenda 21 briefing materials in Estonian, Latvia, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian, and to consolidate the work on LA 21 in these countries. During 1999, the SAIL-Project arranged several workshops on LA 21 in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The project is funded from the Phare/Tacis CBC Project Facility Office in the framework of BSPF (Baltic Small Project Facility).

HELCOM PITF (1997-1999)

The UBC has a position of an observer organisation in the Programme Implementation Task Force of the Helsinki Commission. The UBC was presented at the meetings by Dr. Juha Kaaria from the Environmental Office of the City of Turku. One of the PITF meetings in 1998 was organised in Turku in May, and the secretariat made a contribution in the arrangements.

Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award

Since 1997, the UBC Commission on Environment has been discussing about the possibility to establish an environmental award scheme within the UBC. As a result of these discussions, the commission decided in its meeting in Lubeck, 15 January 1999, to run the Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award scheme for the first time in 1999. Continuation of the scheme after 1999 should, however, be decided on the basis of the experiences gathered from the first scheme. The Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award 1999 will be given as a honorary award (trophy) to one of the UBC member cities. The intention with this award is to encourage member cities to develop their administration and services in innovative ways for the good of the whole municipality and its citizens.

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin (1997-1999)

In Autumn 1997, two issues were published (in 1997 altogether four), in 1998 two issues, as well as in 1999. All editions have received a good amount of environmental articles and news from the member cities. The editorials have been submitted mainly by ministers of the environment. The bulletin has made a considerable contribution to exchange of experiences, spreading of information and to discussion on environmental co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Meetings

During the period, the commission met in Gdansk at the General Conference 1997, and in Lubeck, 15 January 1999 (postponed annual meeting of 1998). Mr Carl Nielsen, Aarhus, was repeatedly elected as Chairman, and Mr Mikko Jokinen, Turku, as Vice-chairman. The Commission remained its secretariat in the City of Turku.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2000-2001

Implementation of Baltic 21

The UBC, represented by the Commission on Environment, will continue its active role in the Baltic 21 process. Baltic 21 (adopted 1998) is the first intergovernmental Action Programme on regional sustainable development since the UN Summit declaration in Rio 1992. It is a common effort of national governments, regional networks of cities, international governmental organisations, the business community, environmental NGOs and international financial institutions. The UBC will actively participate in the co-ordinating work of the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group, carry out the Lead Party responsibility over Joint Action 4, City Co-operation and Sustainable Development Issues in Cities and Communities, and also make a considerable input in the sectorally divided implementation and working groups.

HELCOM PITF

The UBC will continue as an observer organisation in the Programme Implementation Task Force of the Helsinki Commission and as a co-lead party in the area of Legal and Institutional Framework. The UBC will not primarily strive to gather new responsibilities within the PITF, but rather to make more input and advantage for the existing ones.

Local Agenda 21 Work

The Commission on Environment will be responsible for the practical co-ordination, preparation work, facilitation and reporting of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action program 2000-2002 (if approved by the General Conference). The implementation of this action program will be one of the most important goals of the commission in 2000-2001. The work of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group will be continued, and co-operation with other commissions in this work will be further increased. In the field of Local Agenda 21 one of the most prominent activities in 1999 was the SAIL Project (Spreading Awareness to foster the Implementation of Local Agenda 21 around the Baltic Sea). The Project will arrange five local/regional meetings for mayors and other high rank municipal servants in all the target areas in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in early 2000.

Municipal Environmental Auditing

The Commission on Environment has received finance from the Nordic Minister Council for running new MEAs. This funding will enable the Commission to run two new MEAs in Lithuania in co-operation with ECAT-Lithuania and participating cities. However, in order to reach the overall goal of running at least one MEA in each of the Baltic States, Russia and Poland, further funding will be applied. The running of MEAs is also possible by mutual co-operation of member cities. One of the intentions with the MEA model of the UBC is to provide one practical tool that can be used in twin city co-operation.

Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award

The Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award scheme was run for the first time in 1999. Continuation of the scheme will be decided on the basis of the experiences gathered from the first scheme. The intention with this award is to encourage member cities to develop their administration and services in innovative ways for the good of the whole municipality and its citizens.

New Projects

The Commission will constantly search for new project ideas based on the needs of the member cities and the possibilities of good implementation. Examples of such new project ideas and needs are the problems with the emissions from ships at the harbours in many member cities, the new possibilities and challenges of co-operation between cities and universities, and the need of training in the field of EU environmental legislation in many member cities. The Local Agenda 21 Action Program contains many new project ideas, and the commission will facilitate the implementation of as many of these as possible.

Information Work

The commission will continue to publish the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin both in print and in the Internet as part of UBC homepages. According to the latest UBC LA 21 Survey, the bulletin is the most well known activity of the commission in the member cities. All member cities are welcome to send material for the bulletin and interesting articles will be searched also from other sources of interest. The bulletin is, however, not a very fast information channel, and it cannot become such. Therefore its development has to be based on improving the quality of the contents, and other channels of information have to be used and developed for quick communication, e.g., internet and mailing lists.

Meetings and Workshops

The Commission on Environment will meet annually. In addition to this, the commission secretariat will also facilitate and prepare the meetings of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group two to three times a year. Workshops and seminars on up-to-date topics will be organised according to the interest of member cities and the financial resources available.

Resources

The resources of the commission secretariat may also in the forthcoming years be quite limited. Therefore it will be most important to build the activities strongly also on the basis of the resources of the member cities. These resources are large, but they are widespread. Already now most of the

activities rely to a great deal on these resources, but still their efficient mobilisation is a continuous challenge. The commission must facilitate and run such activities that the members find interesting and necessary.

Carl Nielsen
Co-Chairman of the Commission
City of Aarhus

Mikko Jokinen
Co-Chairman of the Commission
City of Turku

Risto Veivo
Environmental Coordinator
City of Turku

COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

I. UBC - Social and Health Bulletin / 3 editions since 1998

The first UBC Social and Health Bulletin edited by the Commission in May 1998 and since then another two editions were published. It was distributed by mail to all UBC member cities and institutions working together with UBC and the EU and to the UBC homepage administrator. It includes policies and activities of the Commission, further discussion about a UBC Social Charter, reports, experiences, information and topics e.g.:

Evaluation of the Health Questionnaire and Establishing of a Database

In 1997 we distributed a questionnaire in order to create a network on social and health issues. Information has been collected in a database which will be useful for our further work, esp. for project design and partner search. It was additionally published as a separate brochure in March 1999 and distributed to all member cities.

Introduction of a Social Market Place

Advertisements of equipment and goods cities and institutions in need have been published and all cities were asked to help and to become active themselves.

Help coordination

All UBC members have been asked by the president to help Russian cities after the financial crisis. And many cities responded with great enthusiasm and success. We appreciated the feedback and could write about direct actions for help.

Information to EU Programmes, Projects, Events, reports about attended Conferences, introduction of Social Institutions

II. Project Activities - Different projects ideas and applications for funding by EU Programmes have been elaborated. The Commission's Office is very active in UBC-wide partner search for different projects.

Labour Market

II.1 International Project of the Labour Offices "ROLAST", 1998-1999

Communities of Storstrom (D), Landskrona (S), Rostock (G) together with Labour Offices of the cities have been involved in a project on comparison of systems dealing with unemployment, the adult education and the connection of them both with the business sector. Lists of so called bottleneck professions have been elaborated by each partner and distributed to the labour offices in the other partner regions in order to mobilise such labour to work in the other countries. Next step was to

organise and offer help for certain professional groups (training, language, accommodation, etc.) in all participating cities. The jobs are offered in databases of the labour offices. Another aim of the project was to create according to demands of the industry new job-profiles. The UBC commission was actively involved in networking and reporting.

II.2 PACTE Project „Baltic Cities“, October 1997

The Final Project Brochure has been printed and distributed to the EU Office and partner organisations and offered to UBC member cities. Main subject of the project was comparison of job creation and procurement measures of city's labour promotion departments in cooperation with labour offices in (F) Helsinki, (S) Kalmar, (D) Storstroems Amt, (G) Rostock and Lubeck.

II.3 ECOS / Ouverture Project “Baltic Cities Tourism“, 1998-2001

Transnational project on strategies and instruments of city tourism marketing. Partners are Gdynia, Vilnius, Tallinn, Kalmar, Karlskrona, Tourism Region Syd (DK) and Rostock. The project modules are the following: Establishment of a Marketing Point for Baltic Cities' Tourism, Creation of a Baltic Event Calendar (as periodical hardcopy and internet versions, covering a three-months period), starting the Baltic Tourism Academy with a seven-seminars course (one in each partner city, theory and practical experiences, creation of a Baltic City Tourism Network of 10 nations around the Baltic Sea, a Baltic Cities' Conference on Strategies and Instruments of Baltic Cities' Tourism Marketing including a market place. The total project volume is of ECU 1,25 million, and it will cover a two-year period. The main applicant (Rostock) and the UBC Office defended the project in Brussels in 1998. The EU DG XVI accepted the project in 1999. The project is expected to start officially at the end of 1999.

Women

II.4 Application for DAPHNE-UBC-EU Project „Prevention of trafficking in girls and women“

If the project will be granted it will start in 2000 and last for 12 months. Partners are Association: Women help Women (G), Rostock, UBC/ Commission on Health and Social Affairs/ Women's Network and Association: Kvinnoforum (S), Stockholm and NGOs in Member Cities in Poland, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia dealing with prevention and health care. The aim of the project is to produce an information material for women and girls and an extensive one for city leaders, social workers in cities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia in the respective languages.

Seniors

II.5 Book about the Social State of Elderly Citizens around the Baltic Sea, 1999

Our call for a partnership within UBC was made via UBC mailing list to reach all member cities. Finally 17 UBC member cities from 8 countries decided to participate. The book will be published with financial means of the regional funds of the international Year of Senior Citizens. Not only the editing of a book will be the aim but also further common project activities, building up of senior partnerships and exchange of best practices.

Youth (pupils and students)

II.6 Youth Exchange between Turku (F) and Rostock (G) August-September 1998

We presented the UBC and esp. the work of our Commission to a number of self-aid groups working very actively in Rostock. A self-aid group for asthmatic and allergy sick young people asked for help to organise an exchange of youth between Rostock and Turku. 30 children from each city visited each other. All of them had interesting days and gained knowledge and experiences, and relaxed in another climate what enhanced their health conditions.

II.7 Support for students searching traineeships abroad

III. Health Policy

Agreement about collaboration between UBC and WHO, Copenhagen, November 1998

Participants: WHO Regional Centre Europe, Copenhagen - Healthy Cities Project Coordinator and WHO Coordinator for the Baltic Region, the WHO Subregional Centre Baltic, Turku and UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs, Rostock. UBC gave explanations about the organisation, statute, structure, aims, current projects, network and media possibilities. WHO offered to provide political commitment and support to cities' health policy, sustainable campaigns, Healthy Cities Programmes, information about main policies, events and common projects for the Bulletins and is ready to provide experiences in form of lectures, seminars or written statements as well as training and capacity building. Already in this Bulletin you can find a contribution to discussions about the UBC Social Charter. Both sides expressed their wish and willingness for future cooperation.

IV. UBC Activities

IV.1 UBC Task Force Meeting - One representative of the Commission was attending the meetings and contributing with statements about project practice, project proposals and partner search.

IV.2 UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group Meetings, January and July 1999

It is a great responsibility for our Commission to participate active in the overall goal of this working group. Very often only environmental aspects of the LA21 are considered while thinking about the tasks of LA. We strongly support the working group with contributions about the social aspects of LA 21, the role of labour market situations, mobility of inhabitants, involvement of citizens, gender equality, healthy cities and many other subjects.

V. Participation in International Conferences and Meetings

V.1 Crime Prevention and Urban Insecurity in Europe, in Newcastle, May 1998

The opportunity has been used to get in contact with international organisations dealing with crime prevention and with already working project groups. This issue will be an important task of the Commission's future work. As a result a project application has been submitted 1999 by the council for crime prevention in Northumbria and UBC for a project against domestic violence.

V.2 Local Agenda 21 Baltic Conference in Turku, September 1998

One representative of the Commission was attending the meeting and contributing with a statement about the state of the Local Agenda 21 work and the WHO Healthy Cities Project in Rostock. A discussion was led about the connection of those two crosscutting policies within the city administration and all interested groups of citizens of the society. Our special concern is to implement social and health topics into the Agenda work.

V.3. Women Managing EU Projects in Vienna, December 1998

On behalf of the UBC Women's Network one member of the UBC Office Rostock took part in this conference being the only participant from the Baltic region. An explicate information about EU funds was given. Possibilities of funding project in order to further/establish gender equality were discussed. Information about the c. in the UBC Bulletin on Health and Social Affairs 1/1999.

V.4 Role for Universities in Labour Market Development, Turku, November 1998

Representatives of the educational sector, i.e. of the Baltic University Programme, the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs, of the business sector, i.e. the Baltic Chamber of Commerce Association, and the EU DGV, Employment came together in order to find ways how to match these three spheres for propulsion the labour market. Ideas were born like how to develop the cooperation between cities and their universities, locally and in the Baltic region, and how to initiate an education project to increase knowledge in the cities and prepare people to find jobs in new fields like e.g. sustainable resource management.

V.5 Working Together in Europe 1999 Conference in Sundsvall, May 1999

The aim of the conference has been to explore the problem of drugs in the workplace and to test different national models for dealing with the problem. Participants came from different GD from the EU and app.160 cities. It was stated that drugs pose a growing problem in the workplace with adverse consequences similar to those of alcohol: lower working capacity, increased accident risks, higher absenteeism and reduced overall efficiency. Knowledge of drugs, drug users and treatment options and attitudes are therefore primary target of projects for city administrations.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

Structure and Network

One of the main tasks has to be there-organisation of the work of the Commission. Much more emphasis has to be put towards a work together with other cities in a strong network. We have to define the structure of the Commission and to share responsibilities. So far all initiatives came from the office in Rostock and the main job was done there as well. We lack support of other cities and their enthusiasm, ideas and creativity.

Continuation of the Publication of the Bulletin on Health and Social Affairs

The Bulletin is after its third edition on the right way to become a medium for UBC member cities. We are really exited to receive articles from many cities for our next edition in October. It is planned to reorganise the contents e.g. to devote the editions to special topics and to dedicate a considerable space to present the activities of the cities, maybe organised by nations or by targets. It should be discussed to lay the production, layout, edition work into more competent hands within the UBC, in order to enhance the quality.

Project Activities

The Commission's office staff will be busy with realisation of applied and funded projects described in our Commission's report. Project ideas will be collected and applications will be made to EU funding programmes as usual. But, projects should not only be generated by the Commission's office in Rostock. Hopefully, project ideas and initiatives will come from other cities interested in cooperation in fields of health and social affairs.

Cooperation with other Entities of the UBC

The cooperation with the LA21 working group, which is on the right way, will be developed further. LA21 is important for the social and health development of our cities. The UBC Women's Network has developed into an important cooperation partner for the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. In future there will be common activities. The cooperation with the UBC project manager is good and should be maintained as such. A good collaboration also happened with the former PR Task Force of the UBC. The Commission will be ready for cooperation with all other Commissions and is distributing all received materials to experts in city departments and institutions.

Political Activities

The relations to WHO and other EU initiatives should be strengthened. The discussion within UBC about a 'Social Charter of the UBC' should be joined with the initiatives of the working group for the development of UBC Local Agenda 21.

Ms Karin Wohlgemuth / Ms Petra Hamann
Secretariat of the Commission on Health & Social Affairs
City of Rostock

COMMISSION ON SPORT

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

The UBC Commission on Sport was established in September 1995 by the two cities: Gdynia and Karlskrona to stimulate and strengthen the relations between young participants in various individual and collective kinds of sport organised all around the Baltic Sea, which favours spreading information about the UBC activities in general. The Commission has its secretariat in Gdynia which is financed by the City. The first Chairman of the Commission was Mr Zdzislaw Urla; the Vice-Chairman of the Commission was and still is Mr Bjorn Fries- the Deputy Mayor of Karlskrona. The Commission arranges one meeting per year.

On 21 March 1997 the Annual Meeting run by the Chairman of the UBC Commission on Sport was organised in Cetniewo. It was proposed that the Commission on Sport would meet once a year but the working group should meet earlier to prepare the programme of the Commission's meeting. Five new cities joined the UBC Commission on Sport. These were: Baltijsk (Russia), Elblag (Poland), Kaliningrad (Russia), Panevezys (Lithuania) and Siauliai (Lithuania).

The Working Group in Karlskrona held on 4 March 1998 decided that the next Annual Meeting of the Commission would take place in Siauliai on 5 May 1998. In Siauliai the next two cities: Narva (Estonia) and Palanga (Lithuania) joined the UBC Commission on Sport. During the meeting Mr Urla discussed the rules of organisation and participation in sport events organised within the UBC Commission on Sport and the ways of communication among the member cities. He initiated the discussion about the membership of the cities that are not active in the works of the Commission. The Commission accepted the exclusion of non-active members.

From 1999 the UBC Commission on Sport is chaired by Mr Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz, member of the City Council of Gdynia and a gold Olympic medallist in pole vault from Moscow 1980.

Currently about 17 UBC member cities participate in the work of the Commission on Sport.

This year the UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting took place on 18-20 June in Gdynia. Representatives of the following cities from 3 countries participated in the meeting:

1. Lithuania: Panevezys, Siauliai, Vilnius,
2. Russia: Kaliningrad, St. Petersburg,
3. Poland: Gdansk, Gdynia, Szczecin.

During the meeting the cities presented their calendars of international sport events. Some of them were proposed to be supported financially by the Commission and held under the UBC auspices. It was decided that the below mentioned events would receive the Commission support and they finally did. These events entered the official calendar of the UBC sport events:

1. UBC I Sport Games (23-25.07.99, Klaipeda, Lithuania)
2. Baltic Sail (13-15.08.99, Gdansk, Poland)
3. International Small Football Tournament (14-15.08.99, Vilnius, Lithuania)
4. International Football Triathlon (27.08.99, Panevezys, Lithuania)
5. Baltic Autumn (19-21.11.99, Kaliningrad, Russia)

The meeting programme included a presentation on the other sources of financing the sport events, such as European programmes. Such knowledge makes it possible to look for and benefit from many funds while organising the international games.

It was proposed during the meeting that the Commission on Sport leaflet would be published. The idea met with approval and the leaflet has already been published.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

The city of Panevezys declared to be the Host City for the UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting 2000.

The Commission on Sport approaches a number of sport-related issues, comprising both individual and team disciplines. The special attention is paid to integration of UBC youth through sport events. The Commission is going to create and improve a network for international cooperation and to promote the exchange of experience and information about sport clubs and events.

Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz
Chairman of the Commission
City of Gdynia

COMMISSION ON TOURISM

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 – FEBRUARY 1999

In the described period the Commission on Tourism has done just a few steps towards a progress.

1. The commission together with UBC project manager Mr Juhan Janusson has discussed some coming SME-projects. Investigate how to find grants/fundings to finance projects. Discuss co-operation between universities and city administrations how to find grants/fundings to finance projects. So far no success has been achieved.
2. Universities in some member cities have worked together in Estonia and carried out feasibility studies. The commission is still trying to build up co-operations with other educational organisations. So far no success and we have to discuss if there are any demands at all for a type of education like this. The commission has very strong backup from Karin Wohlgemuth, UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs in Rostock.
3. The commission has together with organisations from Denmark and Germany finished the project in the Kaliningrad area.
4. Rezekne together with 2 other member cities has send in an EU-project application during January 1999. The commission will continue to work with Karin Wohlgemuth, UBC Commission on Social Affairs in Rostock.

5. Kalmar City is establishing a secretariat for the Commission on Tourism. During two meetings the coming staff have been talking how to organise the work. February 15 two former students were interviewed.

6. Kalmar City is going to invite interested member cities to participate in a meeting during the spring (maybe very early summer).

Leif A. Nilsson

(ex) Chairman of the Commission on Tourism

PS. Since the middle of June 1999 the Commission is chaired by Mr Kyrre Dahl, Kalmar.

ACTION PLAN 2000 – 2001

1. To elect a new Board for the Commission on Tourism during 1999.
2. To establish a secretariat for the Commission in Kalmar in 1999.
3. To clarify the area of responsibility against Baltic Tourism Commission (BTC).
4. To make a schedule for meetings both for the board and the Commission for the coming years.
5. To initiate a co-operation with UBC Commission on Culture. The two Commissions plan to have joint meetings and work out a proposal to co-operation project initiated for the period 2000-2003.
6. Trainee activities will be initiated during 2 000.
An exchange program for persons working within the tourism industry, giving the participants opportunities to learn from other organisations and countries.
7. The Commissions member cities: Rostock, Nykobing, Vilnius, Riga, Karlskrona, Tallinn, is taking part in the project called "Baltic City Tourism", an Ecos Ouverture programme, which objective is to establish a stronger co-operation in the tourism marketing sector, and within this context to establish and /or develop marketing instruments like:

The Baltic Tourism Academy - open possibilities of education for Baltic people in matter of city tourism marketing

The Baltic Event Calendar - common project and marketing centre

The Baltic Point - common project and marketing centre

The Baltic City Tourism Network - Accelerates & simplifies exchange of information

The Baltic City Tourism Conference and Market Place - Forum for discussion and recommendation on common marketing strategies.

This project was initiated by the commission in 1996 and is supposed to be a platform of experience for the Commissions work in the future.

Kyrre Dahl

Chairman of the Commission

City of Kalmar

COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

The future studies on the short sea shipping in the Baltic Sea and the city transport were included by the Commission in September 1997 to the programme of two working groups led by the cities of Bergen-Gdansk and Kaliningrad-Gdansk. The first problem on short sea shipping was recommended by the Executive Board Meeting, Stockholm 25th January 1997 and the second one was submitted by the Cities of the Baltic Republic.

The studies on the Baltic coastal and short sea shipping were based on the conference papers presented by the Chairman of the Commission at the International Liner Shipping Conference in Helsinki and in Hamburg 12-13 April 1997.

Analysing the problem of the coastal shipping in the Baltic Sea the attention was focused on the well developed and organised Swedish shipping companies very effective and innovative operating along the coastal line of about 2000 km from Ystad to the Gulf of Bothnia.

Also in other Baltic Countries were observed positive trends leading to the development of the short sea shipping based on the new technologies and new types of self-loading and unloading vessels using also ro-ro and lo-lo technologies. In many Baltic ports the highly automated terminals are in operation loading and discharging unitised cargo. But to some of the Baltic ports the assistance is advisable needed.

The shipping and port experts of the Commission on Transportation representing Universities, Maritime Institutes and shipping companies of Finland, Germany, Poland, Russia and Sweden are ready to act as consultants presenting experiences and knowledge.

Having in mind that the effective transit traffic between Baltic Countries connected with multimodal sea - land transportation systems demands partners representing similar level of transportation services the closer cooperation between UBC City Members is advisable needed.

The problems of short sea shipping and ports were continued according to the submitted previously Action Plan 1998-1999. Many Member Cities of the UBC like Finland (Kotka, Turku), Germany (Wismar), Latvia (Rezekne, Ventspils), Lithuania (Kaunas, Panevezys, Vilnius), Sweden (Ystad) declared their readiness to work in the Commission on Transportation.

The problem of the short sea shipping and port's operation was also discussed at the international seminar sponsored by our Commission organised by the University of Turku and Centre of Maritime Studies, 14-15th June 1999 Turku, Finland. The conference under heading "Ports and short sea shipping – a Baltic Seminar" assembled specialists from Finland, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden. The Commission on Transportation was represented by Doc. Dr Juhani Vainio, director of the Centre for Maritime studies of the University of Turku and Prof. Karl – Heinz Breitzmann of the Institute for Transport and Logistics of the University of Rostock, who presented the conference paper on "Baltic Short Sea Shipping – Structure, Tendencies, and Future Challenges".

The second important problem connected with the modernisation of the multimodal transportation system in Baltic Europe studies by the UBC Commission on Transportation was the organisation of logistics and distribution centres in the Baltic Sea Region. The logistic centres are already well

developed in the Western Europe activating trade and multimodal transportation systems. The basic functions of these centres are transport, handling, storage, sorting, labelling, repacking, renting of commercial area, consulting etc. The centres possess an easy access to the highways, railways, realising intermodal transport as well as sea - land transport corridors.

The economic development of the Baltic Countries brings increasing trade exchange which results in accelerated cargo flow. In order to secure the right economic development an effective transport system within the region is needed, linking the land transportation net with the air and sea modes of transport.

The activities of the commission focused on problems of the logistic centres were inaugurated in May 1998. In November 1998 UBC Commission on Transportation together with the Maritime Institute of Gdansk organised "International Conference on Logistics and Distribution Centres in the Baltic Sea region", Gdansk, 20th November 1998. The printed Report of the Conference was mailed to all UBC Members and distributed during the Executive Board Meeting in Pori, 5-6 March 1999. The study on the localisation of logistic centres will be finished at the 1st January 2000.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

In 2000 the implementation of methodology and further studies connected with the short sea shipping and ferry services in the Baltic Sea will be continued. The organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences related with sea - land transit chains organisation of port services and shipping should take place in 2000 and 2001. Analytical research on short sea shipping will be concentrated on services between ports of the Baltic Cities and neighbouring countries of the Northern Sea and English Channel.

The problem of transport corridors will be analysed according to the project "The South-East Baltic – Future Transport Pattern and the TEM/TER Development Zone". The project promotes not only the usage of transport corridors, but modes of technologies, which support a sustainable regional development as well. Thus, it's a goal to develop transnational co-operation in spatial and transport planning and to develop environmentally friendly transport systems. The project includes the description of transport of goods in the southern Baltic-options for the future.

The south-eastern part of Sweden and its neighbouring region in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania are new challenges via the dynamic development in the Central and East European countries around the Baltic Sea.

The Commission will be sponsoring studies on co-ordination of planning objectives and forecasts as well as joint programmes for supporting the development of efficient intermodal transport in the Baltic Sea area. Also the studies and project on logistics centres will be implemented into practice.

The future enlargement of the European Union leading to increase trade and investment between Western, Central and Eastern Europe demands a new quality state of transport, warehousing and goods flow management adequate to EU standards and long-terms aims of transport and trade development. The right location of the logistic centres based on elaborated studies will secure the favourable economic effects of the well-operated centres.

In 2000 the seminar is scheduled devoted to the problem of evaluation of economic efficiency of the logistic centres.

The Commission will invite the Technical University of Gdansk and the Tinbergen Institute of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam sponsoring the Programme in Global Transport and logistic as co-organisers of the seminar.

Simultaneously the problems of intermodal, multimodal combined transport and logistic in relation with logistic centres will be analysed in order to solve the practical problems of transportation in the Baltic Countries.

The problems of improvement and enlargement of a transport infrastructure and elaboration of the closer links between different modes of transport in Baltic Europe will be continued in 2001.

Prof. dr hab. Maciej T. Krzyzanowski
Chairman of the Commission
City of Gdansk

COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 – AUGUST 1999

The Executive Board of UBC established on 17 October 1998 in Szczecin the UBC Commission on Urban Planning. It is the 10th commission in the UBC organisation. Preliminary work for the commission started at the 16th meeting of the Executive Board at Hasselby in Stockholm 1997.

The basic work was done by Mr Jussi Kautto, Head of the Development Unit, Helsinki, Finland, with Mr Lars Brattberg and Mr Bjarki Johannesson, planner Ph.D., Malmo, Sweden, and Mr Tomas Sikstrom, Head of the Planning Department, Umea, Sweden. During the preparation we were in contact with Elblag, Poland, and St. Petersburg, Russia. The Steering committee has been comprised:

- Jussi Kautto, Helsinki, chairman
- Lars Brattberg, Malmo, member
- Tomas Sikstrom, Umea, member.

The Network of Urban Planners

The Steering committee made a colourful brochure of the purpose and future activities of this Commission. It was delivered and mailed in March 1999.

The Steering Committee of the Commission on Urban planning asked with its letter of 4th March 1999 which member cities of the UBC are interested in taking part in this co-operation. In August 1999 we had a network of 16 cities and more is coming soon. It includes the network of 22 planners, architects and other professionals. The cities are: Bergen (Norway), Gdynia (Poland), Helsinki (Finland), Horsens (Denmark), Kaunas (Lithuania), Kolding (Denmark), Malmo (Sweden), Mariehamn (Finland), Nykoebing (Denmark), Penevezys (Lithuania), Rostock (Germany), St Petersburg (Russia), Tampere (Finland), Umea (Sweden), Vaasa (Finland), Viljandi (Estonia).

INTA Conference in Lyon France

The Steering Committee gave in February 1999 a recommendation of the persons in different cities in non-EU countries to be sponsored at the 23rd annual conference of the International Urban Association, INTA in Lyon, France, in June 1999. In the answer the persons were from the following

cities: Kaunas, Klaipeda, Panevezys, Vilnius, Gdynia, Gdansk, Elblag, Parnu, St.Petersburg, Tallinn and Tartu.

We also made a suggestion, that the Viikki university and housing development area in Helsinki and the new university development in the old harbour area in Malmo would be taken in to the programme of the conference - without success.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

Best Practice seminar, Malmo 1999

The Steering Committee has prepared a seminar in Malmo for the beginning of December 1999. The basic theme is "Best practice in urban physical planning - What we are planning for the old harbour areas". We are organising a seminar, with 10-15 contributions. Planners, architects, civil engineers will tell in which way their city is developing the harbour areas and in which way they are building a future of their own. In Malmo we have already a good example: the Oresund Bridge. This seminar has been prepared at meetings in Malmo on 24-25 March 1999 and in Umea on 4-5 August 1999. We are seeing economical support to those participants who are non-EU cities. The presentations will be compiled into a publication - a well-printed one. It will be delivered to the member cities of the UBC.

Network of urban planners

In 2000 we intend to enlarge the network of planners, civil engineers architects and other urban professionals in the field of urban physical planning.

Helsinki - Best practice seminar 2000

In the year 2000 Helsinki will be 450 years old and one of the cultural capitals in Europe. It is natural that next year the Steering Committee will organise Best practice seminar in Helsinki. There will be also excursions to the new and old housing developments. In Malmo 1999 the theme of this seminar will be chosen. If it is economically possible , we will organise another seminar in Umea 1999.

Best practice seminar 2001

It is worth to continue the Best practice meetings up to the year 2001. It is possible to arrange one meeting per year. There is much basic work to do before we know enough of all kind of planning and building activities, so that the issues can be more specific.

Economic support

It is necessary that after the Malmo and Helsinki seminars the economic support must be organised. Without basic economic sponsoring it is very difficult to hear the voice of small cities or towns or non EU-cities at the seminars. In 2000 we have to make some kind of application to the EU Commission to get money for the activities.

EU projects

It is possible that the network of this Commission will help cities to find a partner to all kind of EU projects for example so-called Waterfront development projects. It is also possible to arrange some auditing projects where we help each other to understand for example the ideas of international consultants. It depends on individuals and economics.

Other activities

Good information is needed about the UBC member cities. The number of inhabitants, the amount of jobs, prognoses for the future and housing in statistics is needed in this kind of co-operation. Some simple maps or fine master plans will help us to realise, what kind of cities are around the Baltic Sea.

This kind of material will help us to find out the changing situation around the Baltic Sea. From this base it is easier for us to plan our own strategies in order to improve the life in our cities.

Steering group

Working in this Steering Group has been pleasant to all three of us in 1998-1999. We have made a good start. In 2000 or 2001 it is natural that some others will take the responsibility of this kind of activities.

Jussi Kautto
Chairman of the Commission
City of Helsinki

UBC WOMEN'S NETWORK

It's necessary to involve the women in the UBC co-operation. Women's participation and influence of the work at all levels is a democratic need and will strengthen the Union. UBC Women's Network is established to support and ensure this development. The Women's Network is also working with special women's projects together with other female organisations, when it's still an important part of the work to give the women in our member cities more influence in the society. The bases for the Network are contact persons in the UBC member cities.

ACTIVITY REPORT SEPTEMBER 1997 - AUGUST 1999

- UBC Women's Network was represented in the seminar "Women actors around the Baltic Sea" at the Sodertorn University, 5 Dec. 1997.

- The Network was also represented at the planning conference for the project "Local politics and civic influence" in Vilnius, 4-5 March 1998.

This project had a special direction at the situation of women and the young and wanted to illuminate issues around democracy as seen from Swedish and Lithuanian experiences.

All the ten participating cities are UBC members and it was a great opportunity to combine the work within UBC Women's Network with this project.

- During the spring 1998, I visited 12 member cities and informed about UBC and the Women's Network together with the contact person in the city. I met groups of women and had interesting discussions about the possibilities for co-operation that we have within UBC.

In two of the cities, Rezekne in Latvia and Panevezys in Lithuania, the visit was observed in the local mass media, newspapers and TV.

- The UBC Women's Network was represented in a conference in Klaipeda 18 April 1998 invited by the University of Klaipeda.

- The Network was participating in "International Conference, Gender and human settlements" with 250 participants from 18 countries, in Hameenlinna, Finland, 10-12 June 1998. The conference was organised by Euro-Fem Network in partnership with Finnish ministries, the European Commission, DG XVI, and others.

UBC Women's Network was presented in a workshop, named "Mobilising transnational networks".

- The City of Norrköping invited to "Women Can Trade and Idea Fair", 14-17 May 1998. About 60 women from the Baltic Countries came to the Fair through UBC Women's Network.

Together with other women, also from Ukraine and Belarus, invited by other organisations in Norrköping, there were more than 100 persons in the City Hall, listening to the information about UBC and the Women's Network. Lone Henriksen from the EU Commission DG 5 informed also about the equal opportunities work in her unit.

- The Network was, through Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, represented in an International Conference in Vienna 3-4 Dec. 1998. The name of the conference was "Women Managing EU projects, EU funding for cross-border women's projects".

- At the International Women's Weekend in Narva 4-6 March 1999, UBC Women's Network was presented in a seminar.

Mayor Galina Moldon, the contact person of UBC Women's Network in Narva and also Chairwoman of EENA, the Estonian Association of Business and Professional Women, welcomed to this Fair and Seminar weekend.

- The Swedish contact persons within the Network met in Stockholm 26 May 1999.

- The Women's Network was represented in a Baltic Sea Conference in Västerås, 9-11 September 1999. The conference is arranged by SwebaltQ and Malardalen's Women's Lobby.

- A conference will be held in Reykjavik, 8-10 Oct. 1999, and named Conference on Women and Democracy at the Dawn of the New Millennium. I'll inform about the UBC Women's Network in a workshop at the conference.

ACTION PLAN 2000-2001

UBC Women's Network will participate in different projects, conferences and seminars during the year 2000. Following we are planning today:

The 2nd Baltic Sea Women's Conference in Helsinki 9-11 March 2000.

UBC Women's Network will participate in the 2nd Baltic Sea Women's Conference in Helsinki, 9-11 March 2000. The theme of this conference will be "Gender equality and the future". The First Baltic Sea Women's Conference was held in Lübeck, 6-8 March 1997. UBC Women's Network is one of the organisations participating in the Program Committee for the conference.

Daphne project on prevention of trafficking.

The Commission on Health and Social Affairs has initiated a Daphne project on prevention of trafficking of young women. With "trafficking" means the problem that young women coming from East Europe, including the UBC member cities, are forced to stay in the big cities of Western Europe as prostitutes in conditions that resemble white slave trade. UBC Women's Network will be one of the participants in this project.

"Women in east", an information campaign led by Resursnatet in Norrtälje.

Resursnatet, a Women's Resource Centre in Norrtälje, is planning an information campaign "Women in East", submitted under the calls for proposal "Support for information campaigns aimed at women

and young people in the European Community in 1999". This project will start in 1999, but the main work will be during year 2000. UBC Women's Network will be one of the partners in the campaign.

Gender equality in local Agenda 21.

The cities Lahti, Lubeck and Sundsvall will, from the autumn 1999, work with a project, entitled "Gender equality in local Agenda 21". The EU programme "Equal Opportunities for Women and Men" supports with money. The project aims to develop methods of integrating women's experience and needs into the ongoing Agenda 21 work in the cities. The purpose is to create greater awareness and knowledge within this field among the groups involved in the Agenda 21 planning. The next step will be, if resources will be given, to spread the result to other cities, even non-EU cities, within UBC.

Seminars in 3 countries.

Seminars will be held in 3 countries, where the contact persons from the member cities will participate. Which countries it will depend on the contact persons themselves. It's a need of more information to the women in the cities about the UBC work and how to use the Network. As the UBC Women's Network now is more known within EU, it's also important to know how to use this fact when writing applications to the different EU programmes.

Co-operation with the network Femina Baltica.

UBC Women's Network will start a co-operation with the network Femina Baltica; a project with the aim to build up long-term and large-scale co-operation of women at all levels in societies around the Baltic Sea. We are both working in the same region with the same target groups and with the same goals: support of the democratic development in the Baltic Sea Countries by increasing the gender equality knowledge. A co-operation will strengthen both the networks.

More!

Further activities will be depending on the resources we will get and how active the different member cities are. The strength in a network is depending on how strong each part of it is. All parts have to contribute. It's also important to remind of that the main objective of Women's Network is to get the women in the member cities involved in the whole UBC co-operation. It's necessary to follow the work and see if we have reached this goal. I've noticed today, when looking at our work within the UBC Commissions, that the first steps are taken. But it's still a long way to go to reach the goal.

Hjordis Hoglund
Co-ordinator of UBC Women's Network
City of Sundsvall

BALTIC 21 – AN AGENDA 21 FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Dear Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for inviting me here and giving me the possibility of participating in this meeting. Baltic 21 thinks that the Union of the Baltic Cities conference on “EU Enlargement – the Role of Cities” is very important. EU enlargement is a major issue for the Baltic Sea Region and is important for all three sides of sustainable development – for the environment, for social and security reasons and for the economy of the whole region.

Baltic 21 started in May 1996, when the Prime Ministers had their meeting and decided to create an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region and base the future development in the region on sustainable development. Later on in October 1996, the Ministers of Environment decided to divide the work into 7 economic sectors of crucial importance for sustainable development (agriculture, forests, fishery, industry, energy, transport and tourism). At the same time they established the Senior Officials Group to steer and monitor the process and to negotiate the Agenda 21 for adoption in 1998. During 1997 and 1998 seven sector reports were produced containing an analysis over today’s situation, sector goals for sustainable development, scenarios and an action programme for sustainable development. In June 1998, the Foreign Ministers adopted the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region in Nyborg, Denmark. The document “Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region - Baltic 21” is based on the seven sector reports and contains an overall goal for sustainable development, the sector goals and the highest priority actions in the sectors’ action programmes, as well as a goal and measures for spatial planning. Joint actions involving more sectors than one are also included.

The document stresses the importance of elaboration and implementation of strategies and guidelines for work with sustainable development within the public and private sectors, as well as education and demonstration of sustainable development. Regional harmonisation of legislation and economic policy tools are an important part. In the Baltic 21, the sectors are responsible for implementation of their actions and programmes, including the joint actions and are urged to seed financing via national, international and bilateral channels. As the international financial institutes participate, this should lead to good possibilities of financing Baltic 21 projects.

One important Joint Action is no 4. *City co-operation and sustainable development issues in cities and communities*. We are grateful that the Union of the Baltic Cities has offered to be the Responsible Actor for Joint Action no 4, as they have lots of experience, international contacts and ongoing work regarding sustainable development within the Baltic Sea Region. The Kick-off meeting for this joint action will take place in St. Petersburg, Russia on the 5th of October, with Union of the Baltic Cities as organisers.

The involvement of an organisation consisting of many local actors in the implementation of Local Agenda 21 work will be crucial to the implementation and success of the Baltic 21. Work in municipalities and cities will definitely affect most parts of the Baltic 21 Action Programme and not only the Joint Action no 4. *City co-operation and sustainable development issues in cities and communities*. Local decisions and actions will play an important part in the transition to sustainable development in matters concerning choice of transportation, modes, fuels and also volumes. If local goods can be promoted instead of imported goods, and modern information technology can be used, the need for transporting goods and travelling to work could be greatly decreased. Decisions at the local level regarding procurement of technology, energy use and type, such as replacing non-renewable energy with renewable energy will also be a very important part of the implementation of Baltic 21. Spatial planning is another area where municipalities and cities have an important role to play. Local actions will also affect the development of industries and the tourism of the area.

We look forward to our future co-operation and encourage you to partake in our activities and projects and also to follow our work on e.g. our website <http://www.ee/baltic21>. We must act together to be able to start the transition to sustainable development all over the Baltic Sea Region! Sustainable development is necessary for the future, without it life will not be able to continue in the long run.

Thank you for your attention.

Christine Jakobsson
Secretary General of Baltic 21