

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
78TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
Kristiansand, 16 February 2017

AGENDA (as of 02.02.2017)

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
2. Welcome by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand, short presentation of the city.
3. Application for membership from the city of Tauragė, Lithuania.
4. Information from the Task Force on Strategy and General Conference 2017.

The Board in Rostock, March 2016, authorised the Presidium to create a Task Force to discuss the implementation of the UBC Strategy. Presidium created the Task Force. The Board in Kaunas, June 2016, authorised the Task Force to deal also with preparations to the XIV General Conference to be held in Växjö in 2017. The Task Force met in Växjö on 13-14 October 2016. The Task Force to meet on the eve of the EBM in Kristiansand.

- 4.1 XIV UBC General Conference in Växjö, 24-27 October 2017.
The draft programme proposal is attached.
- 4.2 UBC Strategy implementation. Proposal from the Board of Audit on inquiry to member cities on UBC priorities and activities. The proposal from the Board of Audit is attached.
5. TF on Youth Employment and Well-Being: road map for 2017 and co-operation with the EUSBSR PA Education Flagships

A new agenda for the Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being was set at UBC Board meeting in June 2016 in Kaunas, Lithuania. The agenda includes the following measures: cooperation inside the UBC, joint projects, follow-up survey on the implementation of the programme, workshops and seminars.

UBC cities have developed new forms of co-operation with the Baltic Sea Flagship projects and also started to plan new projects together. Good examples are Mentoring and Support for the Refugee Youngsters projects, which include partners from Finland, Sweden, Poland and Latvia.

The Task Force is interested in cooperation within the EUSBSR PA Education flagship process called 'School to Work'. Its goals are parallel to the goals set in Kaunas.

Flagship is coordinated by Salar (Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions), Stockholm. It is divided into two Knowledge Platforms (Neets and Early School Leaving). City of Turku's Education Division has decided to cooperate with this Flagship and coordinate the Platform Early School Leaving.

The City of Turku together with SALAR submitted a project proposal to ESF to get funding for the cooperation and coordination of the Flagship and Knowledge Platform.

Knowledge platform's main idea is to support projects and other development work among the main target group youth at risk of dropping out from education and labour market. Measures are divided under two titles: Support and Development.

More information about School to Work project is attached.

Proposal:

Together it would be much easier to arrange workshops and seminars, do the follow-up surveys about the youth employment and well-being, start new projects and cooperate more intensively within the ongoing projects. This cooperation could also support the work of the Task Force on Refugees and Youthful Cities Commission.

6. EUSBSR Horizontal Action 'Capacity', activity report and discussion on how to engage cities, regions and other stakeholders in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Proposal:

The Executive Board discusses the report of HA Capacity and decides on possible further action.

7. Interventions from the Commissions concerning UBC strategy and activities.
Executive Board discussion with leaders on questions important for the Commissions.
8. Financial statement 2016, budget 2017.
9. Information from Communication Manager.
10. Project "Between the Baltic and the Black Sea - cities as engines of interregional cooperation" - progress report on project development.

At the 77th UBC Executive Board meeting, Stockholm, 10 November 2016, Adam Balcer, Project manager in WiseEuropa Institute, on behalf of the city of Gdańsk, presented the proposal of cooperation between UBC and Eastern partnership / Black Sea Cities.

An expert platform was proposed to be established which would provide professional expertise and insights into a variety of issues (ie. culture, history, ecology, economy, energy, local administration, society) for the Baltic and Eastern partnership / Black Sea cities. The platform would gather experts and municipal officials from both regions specializing in various fields and organize thematic seminars. The main outcome of these meetings would be analysis and ready-to-use expertise published regularly (in form of reports, case studies, guidebooks, feasibility studies, etc). The project working title is "Between Baltic Sea and the Black Sea - cities as engines of interregional cooperation".

Project initiators intend to apply to various institutions for the financial support i.e. Swedish Institute, Swedish International Institute of Local Democracy, the EU programmes.

The Board stressed the importance to strengthen democratic processes, economy, environment etc. in the cities of Eastern Partnership / Black Sea countries for the benefit and stability of the

Baltic Sea Region and Europe as a whole. Due to limited resources UBC cannot effort to support the project financially but is ready to assist in project promotion and dissemination.

11. Next 79th UBC Executive Board meeting.
In connection with the 8th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the BSR, Berlin, 13-14 June 2017 ? Other proposals ?

12. Any other business.

12.1 UBC's cooperation with CDP.

CDP, the global climate change disclosure non-profit, and UBC, have agreed on a two-year memorandum of understanding to involve more cities in the development and reporting of target-oriented climate actions.

UBC and CDP aim to increase the number of BSR cities using systematic reporting of their climate change related actions. Currently, over 500 cities, 100 states and regions, and more than 5800 companies use CDP's system to report, share and take action on climate change every year. The proposed co-operation UBC CDP would produce a state of the art report on strategic Climate work and Leadership in BSR cities, completed for the XIV UBC General Conference 2017.

The MoU was signed by the UBC President at the 77th Executive Board meeting in Stockholm on 10.11.2016.

12.2 Baltic Sea Future Forum 6-7.3.2017

12.3 Shore Power and the Cruise Industry.

Making shore power available for cruise ships will result in significant reductions in emissions. However, there are some major challenges to overcome before shore power will be a mainstream technology in the cruise industry. First and foremost the challenges are related to a lack of international standards and regulations. Small ports such as the Port of Kristiansand have minimal influence on the cruise industry, so common set of framework and regulations directed towards the industry is required. The overarching goal is to reduce emissions from the cruise industry, and to force the industry to make the necessary investments and adjustments to allow their ships to connect to shore power at any port call in Northern Europe.

More information is attached.

Proposal:

The Executive Board of Union of the Baltic Cities underlines the importance of green energy and reduced emissions within the cruise industry. The Board recommends the development of international regulations and framework concerning the implementation of shore power to cruise ships within the Baltic Sea, English Channel, North Sea and the Norwegian Sea.

The attachments are available here:

<http://ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/78th-executive-board-meeting-kristiansand-15>