

**UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES**  
**81<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
Rostock, 13 March 2018

**AGENDA as of 27.02.2018**

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 of Rostock (tbc), presentation of the city.
3. UBC Conference on Integration "Sharing the European Dream", Rostock, 12-14 March 2018, Rostock – practical information from the organisers.
4. Information from the Commissions/WG concerning planned activities for 2018.
- 4.1 Commissions contribution to the seminars for the EU Strategy for BSR Annual Forum in Tallinn, 4-5 June 2018.  
<https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/9th-annual-forum/seminars>

Youthful Cities Commission is continuing to cooperate with the ERB and BSSSC. Also CBSS decided to join the group. Organisations applied for a seminar at the strategy forum in Tallinn, following joint seminars at the forums in Stockholm (2016) and Berlin (2017). Organisations are applying for Erasmus+ funding to be able to bring together approx. 50 youth from the region for a 36 hour seminar before the forum.

Sustainable Cities Commission will be also involved in the forum seminars.

Proposal:

To encourage member cities to take active part in Tallinn EUSBSR Annual Forum.

5. Supporting Youth Employment and Well-Being: Progress Report

The UBC Board decided in October 2017 to continue the work of the Task Force on youth employment and well-being. Formerly Task Force has suggested that UBC and the member cities should be active in dissemination of the best practices created by member cities and other actors. Moreover, UBC should encourage implementation of the new projects and other forms of joint development between UBC cities.

During the last two years UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being has strengthened a cooperation with the EUBSR (European Union Baltic Sea Region) Flagship School to Work (S2W). The Flagship aims to strengthen transnational cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region in the field of education and works in order to prevent early school leaving and to develop new support methods for vulnerable groups of students/youth, which means that their goals are parallel to the ones of the Task Force.

The cooperation has worked well. BSR Integrate Now, a joint ESF project to support the integration of newly arrived refugees, started in Turku, Stockholm and Malmö on March 2017; in April 2017 Task Force and Flagship arranged a study visit to Hamburg and in November to Turku.

Moreover, in October a Knowledge Platform S2W was opened. This web-site offers a place to share good practices, learn from the others and join study visits, workshops and find partners for new projects.

Activities in 2018:

- S2W-web-site version 2.0 ([www.s2wflagship.eu](http://www.s2wflagship.eu))
- Dissemination and cooperation workshop in Riga 21.2. (themes: youth guarantee, attractiveness of the VET)
- Study visit to Turku from Gävle 5.-6.3.
- Study visit to Gävle 12.-14.3.
- Sharing the European Dream -conference 12.-14.3. (two workshops: Education and Labour market integration)
- Youth guarantee meeting in Brussels 18.-19.4. (arranged by Goethe Institute; planning of the joint seminar and other possible activities)
- Seminar and study visit in Stockholm 18.-19.6. (Themes: NEETs, Early school leavers, Refugees/Immigrants)
- planning of the new joint projects and working methods
- finding new partners
- planning the activities of autumn 2018 (study visits, seminars etc.)

Matti Mäkelä

Chair, UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being

## 6. Inquiry on cities' needs and interests.

Discussions at the XIV UBC General Conference in Växjö proved that the stronger cooperation and exchange between the cities are required. The UBC Secretariat asked the cities to answer five questions to get broader knowledge about cities' needs and interests:

1. Is your city open to investments and startups? If so in which sectors?
2. Are companies in your city looking for new markets / partners in the Baltic Sea region ? Do you have an investment agency?
3. Do you wish your cultural (philharmonic, opera etc) institutions, sport and education institutions, to establish exchange with counterparts in other UBC member cities?
4. Do you need or can you offer expertise in such areas as: civic participation, initiatives for youth, refugees integration, gender equality, sports, environment, city planning, safety issues, entrepreneurship and other?
5. What expectations towards UBC does your city have?

The cities in our region develop dynamically. They support entrepreneurship and start-ups, and are open to investments and collaboration with partners from abroad. The responses also show high interest in cultural, sport and educational exchange.

Special attention is put on youth exchange, it is on the top of agenda in many UBC cities.

UBC cities would gladly share their experiences in many fields. Expertise in sustainable development, civic participation, youth involvement, city planning, etc. can be offered, while good practices in refugees' integration and safety are sought.

Cities had a chance to express their expectations towards the UBC. The responses show the variety of needs. Most often, the respondents want UBC to be a platform for collaboration and development of cities around the Baltic Sea, a forum to find partners for projects and interesting best practices, and also an agent that spreads out the cities' innovative solutions.

The cities and city institutions can send their exchange proposals, partner or investor search queries, etc. to the UBC Secretariat at [info@ubc.net](mailto:info@ubc.net). The proposals are published on the UBC website and FB profile. They can also be sent out to the UBC member cities.

Proposal:

To recommend to member cities to continue to use UBC communication channels (website, facebook, newsletter etc) to promote cooperation and exchange in various fields eg. culture, youth contacts, business development, investments etc

7. 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

Horizontal Action Capacity and Involvement (HA Capacity) was established in 2015 as part of the second revision of the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). UBC together with the Swedish Institute and the Baltic Sea NGO Network are assigned to coordinate the HAC. The Baltic Sea NGO Network appointed the Norden Association in Sweden, and the Union of Baltic Cities appointed the Centrum Balticum Foundation, to fulfil on their behalf obligations as HAC.

Horizontal Action 'Capacity' supports capacity building and involvement of the EUSBSR key stakeholders.

The Core Group prepared work programme for the period 1 June 2018 – 30 August 2020. The programme is divided into three areas of activities, each of them include specific actions:

- capacity building:

- Organising and funding of development processes (flagships)
- Alignment of policymaking on national level with EUSBSR
- Annual spring meetings with NC's, PAC's and HAC's

- promotion of involvement and participation:

- Co-organize Strategy Forums (Network Village + Speaker's Corner)
- Participation Day (prior to the Strategy Forums)
- Promotion of involvement and participation

- coordination and communication :

- Internal and external coordination
- Implementation of the communication plan

The Core Group were called upon to present the work programme for the Interreg Baltic Sea Programme Secretariat in February 2018. The decision to be made late spring 2018.

Proposal:

To allocate 6540 EUR divided in three parts for 2018, 2019 and 2020 as UBC co-financing.

8. Financial statement 2017, budget 2018.

Proposal:

To take note of the financial statement 2017 and to adopt the budget for 2018.

9. Information from the task force on KPMG evaluation report meeting, Copenhagen, 23 February 2018.

Following the UBC Strategy, at the meeting in Kaunas, 7 June 2016, the Board had a throughout discussion on organization of the UBC work, regulations, procedures and secretariat. The Board stressed that all entities should undergo a periodical evaluation and decided to engage an external consulting company to check the internal procedures within the UBC in order to optimize performance. The President decided to appoint KPMG Finland to perform the evaluation.

The secretariat received the KPMG report on 12 June 2017. The Board meeting in Berlin was held on 15 June 2017. The Board in Berlin held an extensive discussion on the report. The Board decided comments to the report should be sent to the President by 15 August 2017. The second version of KPMG report was delivered to the secretariat on 23 October 2017, on the eve of the Board meeting in Växjö.

The Board Växjö, 24 October 2017, decided to set up a task force to be chaired by the President. The task force members were to be appointed by the President. The task force shall prepare proposals of recommendations to the Board by September 2018. The Board will decide which recommendations to adopt to strengthen the UBC work.

The first meeting of the task force was held in Copenhagen on 23 February 2018.

10. Next UBC Executive Board meetings.

10.1 82<sup>nd</sup> UBC Executive Board meeting.

Proposal:

In conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the BSR, Tallinn, 4-5 June 2018.

<https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/9th-annual-forum>

10.2 83<sup>rd</sup> UBC Executive Board meeting.

Proposal:

The office of Christian Estrosi, Mayor of Nice and President of the Metropole Region Nice has declared the willingness to support a possible EBM in Nice in 2018. For a formal invitation by Mayor Estrosi, a written request of interest from the UBC Presidium was asked for. This letter should include a description of the UBC, an overview of the members of the board and the focal points of the planned visit.

Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur

Established in 2012, as France's first metropolis the Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur is home to 538,000 inhabitants. The Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur is France's number 1 tourist destination after Paris. For some time now, its economy has largely been based on services with high added value. The metropolis has also positioned itself as a key international centre of economic attractiveness, business and decision-making in the Mediterranean area, Europe, and on an international level. Over 800 foreign-owned companies, accounting for more than 13,000 jobs, have located to the Nice basin and the Plaine du Var area.

#### City of Nice

The first city in Europe to have rolled out an array of services based on Mobile Near Field Communication, Nice can count itself among the tight circle of connected 21<sup>st</sup> century cities, and is aiming to become one of the world leaders in digital projects applied regionally: many experiments are currently underway across the area, spearheaded by world leaders (Cisco, IBM, Orange, ErDF, Schneider Electric etc.) around the concept of the smart city, as well as e-health and silver economy.

#### The eco valley

The Plaine du Var's Eco-Vallée is listed as a 'national interest operation', and is set to position the Côte d'Azur as an international leader in the fields of cleantech and sustainable development.

#### Science Park Sophia Antipolis

Sophia Antipolis was founded in 1969 by Senator Pierre Laffitte, and was based on a strong concept: cross-fertilisation between researchers, professors and companies. Having become a world reference in terms of innovation, today the park is home to 2,230 companies who employ 36,300 people representing 63 different nationalities, alongside 4500 researchers and 5500 students. Located 20 km from the Nice international airport, the Sophia Antipolis Park is an exceptional site spread across 2400 hectares, ideally balanced between the sea and the mountains. Two thirds of the science and technology park's surface are green spaces where employees can enjoy running, walking, tennis and sophia-antipolis-logogolf to relax and replenish their energy levels.

The members of the Board would have the opportunity to get to know one of Europe's most dynamic economic and scientific regions and meet relevant stakeholders. Science Park Sophia Antipolis is still considered a role model for the successful cooperation of the region, economy and science.

Smart and Prospering Cities Commission is ready to support organisation of this EBM.

11. Any other business.

The documents are available at:

<http://ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/81st-executive-board-meeting-rostock-13-march>