UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
83RD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
St.Petersburg 24 April 2019

AGENDA as of 19.04

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 Governor of St.Petersburg, presentation of the city.

3. Application for membership from Municipality of Jonava, Lithuania. City presentation. The Board to accept the new member.

4. Application to become a UBC partner from Dierre/Smartdoor.
   The Board to accept the new partner.

5. Mini-seminar on youth issues and the environment.
   Activities of St.Petersburg and UBC in the fields of:
   - Youth involvement and support
   - Environment and climate protection

Speakers:
Olga Rublevskaya, Director of the Department for Analysis and Technological Development of Water Supply and Drainage Systems of the State Unitary Enterprise Vodokanal of St. Petersburg.
Anna Kazina, Head, Elizaveta Merinova, Manager, Friends of the Baltic Program
Carsten Adamsen, Chair of UBC Youthful Cities Commission
Matti Mäkelä, Chair of UBC Task Force on Youth Employment & Well-being
Dmitry Ioffe, Founder of Clean Games
Risto Veivo, Co-chair of UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

6. Preparations to XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, 15-18 October 2019.

16 October, 13.30 – 15.00

Plenary session 1 – 'Inclusive Cities' , welcome speeches, main presentations
Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC (confirmed)
Visvaldas Matijošaitis, Mayor of Kaunas
High Level Representative of the Republic of Lithuania (name tbd)
Finnish EU Presidency (decision in summer)
Youth representative (name tbd)
Markku Markkula, 1st Vice President of the Committee of the Regions (confirmed)
Council of the Baltic Sea States (confirmed, name tbd)
Paula Lehtomäki, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers (invited)
Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Affairs at DG Employment for Social Affairs and Inclusion (confirmed)
Normunds Popens, Deputy Director-General at DG for Regional and Urban Policy (invited)

15.30 – 17.00
Plenary session 2 - Parallel session "Culture as catalyst for cities development", experiences of European Capitals of Culture
Virginija Vitkienė, Director, Kaunas 2020 (confirmed)
Saara Malila, Director of Communication at the City of Turku, former Communications Manager at Turku2011 Foundation (confirmed)
Graziella Vella, Research Coordinator at Valletta 2018 Foundation (confirmed)
Rossella Tarantino, Development and Relations Manager, Matera 2019 (confirmed)
Irena Kregar Šegota, Development and Strategic Partnerships Director, Rijeka 2020 (confirmed)
Krzysztof Maj, General Director w European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016 (confirmed)
Fredrik Lindegren, Director of Culture, Umeå, former Artistic Director for Umeå2014 (confirmed)
Parallel session "EUSBSR 10th Anniversary" (?)

Proposals of workshops :
1. Digitalization empowering citizens participation, Elva, S&PCC
2. Youth safety , SafeCC
3. A local example of interaction with citizens and young people at schools, Visby (no details)
4. How youth voice could be transferred to the municipality and be heard, Klaipeda
5. The impact of open youth centers on the local community, Gargzdai
6. How to empower the citizens' involvement and participation, EmPaci project
7. Baltic Sea House - Inclusive Society, Aarhus
8. CASCADE project workshop, SustCC & SafeCC
9. Gender equality and/or LGBT questions , Klaipeda, UBC WG on Gender Equality
10. STEAM – Science and Technology Path for Every Child and Youngster, TF on Youth Employment & Well-being
11. How to make vocational education more inclusive, accessible and attractive? TF on Youth Employment & Well-being
12. Engaging citizens to live climate friendly, Ducky
13. City strategy and how using a participatory process in creating it increases ownership and makes it a workable tool, Kotka
14. Proposal of workshop by INTA, https://inta-aivn.org, details mid-April

Details of the workshops proposals in the attached file.

Proposal:
The Board to take note about preparations to the General Conference in Kaunas.
The Board to authorise the TF to select/combine workshops for the General Conference.

7. 10th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Gdańsk, 11-13 June 2019. Horizontal Action Capacity.

The successful implementation of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and its objectives depends on the broadest possible mobilization and participation of stakeholders in all respective countries. Strong bottom-up participation and sense of "ownership" by various stakeholders - both in policy shaping and practical implementation - significantly contribute to the success of the Strategy. The macro-regional strategies, and their emphasis on participatory multi-level governance can also be of special importance now, when the European Union is striving to reconnect better with its citizens and to chart its way forward.

Therefore, the Horizontal Action Capacity (HAC) and its coordinators, charged with the task of involvement, participation and capacity building of the EUSBSR stakeholders organize the Participation Day on 11 June 2019 back-to-back with the 10th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Gdańsk, Poland. UBC is one of 3 coordinators of HAC.

Proposal:
The Board to strongly emphasize participation of UBC member cities in the Participation Day as well as the Annual Forum of EUSBSR as it is of great importance that our views and concerns are taken into account now when the EUSBSR Action Plan is under review.

8. Proposal of cooperation from VASAB re. conference in Riga, 4 June 2019.
Alda Nikodemusa, Head of Secretariat, Baltic Sea Region Spatial Planning Initiative VASAB

Latvian chairmanship in VASAB (intergovernmental multilateral co-operation of the Baltic Sea Region countries in spatial planning and development) is organizing it`s concluding Conference on Competitiveness of Small and Medium Cities. The conference will take place on 4 June 2019 in Riga.

The idea of the conference is to look on the cities and towns from the perspective of their role, challenges, potentials and good practices to strengthen and contribute the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region and thus providing substantial input to the joint competitiveness of Europe.

The introductory part will be devoted to the general assessment of –How Europe is competing with other macro-areas on a global scale? Then the performance of the Baltic Sea Region, highlighting its strengths and good practices of cities and towns as well as the faced challenges to foster development will be presented.

The conference will include a panel discussion (s) on the issues presented as well as debate about the future prospects of small and medium cities beyond year 2020.

The Conference is targeted to the politicians, policy advisers, experts, practitioners and other relevant audience engaged in fostering sustainable development of cities.

Proposal:
The Board to support the conference.

9. WG on Gender Equality project proposal, Roger Kaliff, Kalmar.

Project aim: “To increase the capacity for a more strategic engagement in gender equality among UBC member municipalities and its commissions”.

10. Shore Power and the Cruise Industry – update from Jørgen Kristiansen, Kristiansand.

At the Board meeting in Kristiansand, February 2017, Jørgen Kristiansen presented Port of Kristiansand initiative aimed at reducing cruise ships emissions in European ports.

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.

The Board underlined the importance of green energy and reduced emissions within the cruise industry. The Board recommended 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.

11. The Baltic Sea House initiative from Aarhus.

The Baltic Sea House project aims at creating a strong common regional identity that will form a basis for dynamic co-operation and safeguard the future. Its objective is to go beyond the borders and to find common regional resources, potentials and knowledge by creating a new strategic network of local meeting places. Their purpose is to serve a shared agenda of sustainable development for culture, business, energy and environment. This Baltic network will promote and facilitate regional collaborations and will consist of het stakeholders, e.g. construction companies, local government agencies, business, educational institutions, committed to sustainable development.

The Baltic Sea Houses will be placed on strategic locations on the Baltic Sea shore. For each national site, a local organisation will schedule events. It will be rooted in a local community and exchange knowledge and experience with other partners from the BSR.

It will be an iconic architectural space for communicating ideas, initiating debate and facilitating education through a variety of events. The floating amphitheatre will visit the individual, strategically positioned Baltic Sea Houses in a planned sequence of related events.

Proposal:
UBC to support the initiative.

12. Anti-radicalisation BOX project.

The project aims to support local actors, including non-profit organisations, police departments and educational institutions by enhancing their competences, skills and knowledge to prevent and counter violent radicalisation amongst young people. Also, promotion of positive relationships between young people coming from different backgrounds both in school and “free time” environments.

This project aims to create spaces for this exchange and build synergies and long-term cooperation, thus increasing successful countering of violent radicalisation of youth. During the project we will upscale and test the “Unix application” (https://www.uniks.com), and introduce the “anti-radicalisation box”, a platform dedicated to continuous capacity building and a good practice source for CSOs, educational institutions and policy makers.

The Main Objectives:
-Map effective practices in ITC and training & education in order to empower local actors within the field;
-Upscale and test the UNIX app, best policy and mentoring practices verified by Police departments local CSOs, and educational institutions dealing with violent radicalisation;
-Create policy responses, recommendations and structures for effective cooperation between police, schools, CSOs and social services on local level, transferable to other EU countries;
-Create European community of practice to enable synergies, exchange of information and enhance long term capacity building of local actors;

The Expected Results:
-Local actor capacity enhancement of prevent/counter radicalisation services and support structures
offered to all relevant actors;
- Increased cooperation between local actors in different states aiming to develop common prevention projects building on complementary capacities and knowledge.

Project Outputs:
There are 8 work packages including sets of activities that lead to specific project outcomes.
The project actions consist of, e.g. kick-off and partner meetings, research, producing reports and toolkits, upscaling and piloting the UNIX app, training, creating A-R Box, workshops, dissemination and promotional activities (e.g. website, social media, etc).
The project aims reaching out at least 2400 practitioners in capacity building and dissemination activities and at least 40 000 stakeholders in the online activities.

The project was submitted under the Call for proposals on preventing and countering violent radicalisation of the EU Internal Security Fund on 19 March 2019.
The project has 6 partners from 5 countries, including Liepaja Municipal Police and UBC.

Budget
Total budget: 712 617, 86 Eur
EU grant: 641 356,07 Eur
UBC budget: 71 807, 70 Eur
UBC contribution: 7180,77 Eur

Proposal:
To assign 7180,77 Eur as UBC contribution in case of project approval by EU Internal Security Fund.

13. EmPaci: Empowering participatory budgeting in the Baltic Sea region.

A majority of the BSR areas is characterized by a low population density, i.e. a large spatial fragmentation of living areas of the inhabitants. This leads to challenges for public authorities and councils when it comes to involving all citizens into joint projects and to discuss relevant issues with all citizen groups. Instruments are needed here that enable and encourage the entire citizenry to take part in decisions of their municipality (e.g.) decisions regarding expenditures and revenues in the local budget. The project EmPaci focusses on Participatory Budgeting (PB), a means of direct participation of citizens in the preparation and adoption of local budgets - one approach to the challenge described above. It is based on the understanding that many BSR

municipalities do not have capabilities to set up PB these days. Administrations/councils and citizens lack knowledge about what PB is and are often not ready to use PB tool patterns.

The main output is building capacities and knowledge as well as strengthening relations between municipalities and citizens by providing ready to use guidelines, training programs and tools to implement PB. This creates the foundation of more BSR municipalities to realize PBs and to foster citizen participation against the background of large spatial fragmentation of the BSR citizenry.

The project is complemented by training program that finally focuses on building municipal trainers who disseminate the PB idea among BSR municipalities.

The project budget is EUR 1.9 million. The lead partner is the University of Rostock. There are 14 partners in the project. UBC is the Associated Partner.

https://projects.interreg-baltic.eu/projects/empaci-191.html

The Kick off-Meeting was held on 27 - 28 March at Rostock University. UBC was represented by Karin Wohlgemuth.

The leaders applied for organising a workshop “How to empower the citizens’ involvement and participation?” within the framework of the project at the UBC General Conference in Kaunas.

Proposal:
To approve application to hold the workshop at the GC in Kaunas.

14. Budget 2019.

The Board to take note of financial report 2018 (attached) and to confirm the budget 2019 accepted by the Presidium (attached).

15. Any other business.

The documents (attachments) are available at:
http://ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/83rd-executive-board-meeting-st-petersburg-23