

# XII UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE

Mariehamn, Åland, 1 - 4 October 2013



## FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Combating youth unemployment and marginalization

[www.mariehamn.ax/ubc](http://www.mariehamn.ax/ubc)

# Welcome to the XII UBC General Conference

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



the Baltic Sea Region is in motion. Regional co-operation on the Top of Europe is today broader and deeper than ever before.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its comprehensive Action Program have undoubtedly contributed to this.

But the key reason for closer cooperation around the Baltic Sea Region has always been that our destinies and future are intertwined to each other. We can only succeed together. It was so in the Hanseatic times – and it is so today too!

Regionalization and urbanization are two key processes in our societies. The Union of the Baltic Cities and its more than hundred member cities represent both of these trends. Cities, acting in cooperation, have an increasingly important role to play in the future.

The Mariehamn General Conference (1-4 October) will give us the opportunity to discuss recent developments and to plan for the future.

Our special theme for the open Urban Forum on 2 October is “Investing in the Young Generation”.

We invite City Mayors, representatives of regional and European organizations, trade unions, employers organizations, companies and – most important – youth participants to discuss concrete measures how to ensure the employment of young people as a necessary preamble for our future.

Marginalization and drop-out of youngsters is a serious problem in all our societies, and aggravated by hard economic times. Its urgency has been recognized. Now it is time to move from words into action!

The General Conference, on 3 October, will provide us the opportunity to chart our way into the future, so that the UBC will continue to serve its member cities and their citizens as effectively as possible. The unique environment of Mariehamn, the Capital of the autonomous region of the Åland Islands, will provide the best possible setting for our discussions.

I hope to see you in Mariehamn!

Per Bødker Andersen  
President, Union of the Baltic Cities

## Our “mini metropolis” awaits you

Dear Delegates and Friends,



it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to Mariehamn and the XII UBC General Conference.

Due to Mariehamns geographical position, together with the Åland Island region, it has always been dependent on the Baltic Sea and surrounding area for inspiration and

commercial development.

The diversity within the Baltic Region has mirrored itself in our town giving it the flavour of a mini metropolis where in principle something appealing to all tastes and walks of life can be found.

Our diversification, especially within the commercial sector, has helped to alleviate many of the difficulties being experienced in a number of European countries through one-sided development and investment.

Today we have a much lower unemployment rate than many of our neighbours but we are by no means complacent.

Together with the local government we are closely monitoring the situation, especially regarding youth unemployment with a view to maintaining the comparatively low unemployment numbers to which we have become accustomed.

The UBC Conference will hopefully allow us all the opportunity to develop both old and new contacts and at the same time give us the insight and understanding we require to meet the approaching challenges we face to secure both wellbeing and employment for the youth of today and tomorrow.

I hope that your time here with us in Mariehamn will be well used to these ends and offer you all my full support as we prepare the Baltic Sea Region for what lies ahead.

Outwith the conference confines I hope that you will have the opportunity to experience what the town and surrounding area have to offer and that the resulting memories you take with you will inspire you to visit us again in the not to distant future.

Edgar Vickström  
Mayor, Town of Mariehamn



# Conference programme

## TUESDAY, 1 October

17.30 – 19.00	68 <sup>th</sup> UBC Executive Board meeting at Town Hall
19.30	Get-together dinner

## WEDNESDAY, 2 October

09.00 – 09.30	Registration at Alandica Culture & Congress Centre
09.30 – 10.10	Opening Session – Welcome
10.10 – 10.50	Plenary Session
10.50 – 11.10	Coffee break
11.10 – 12.30	Plenary Session
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.10	Plenary Session
15.10 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.30	Plenary Session
19.30	Dinner

## THURSDAY, 3 October

09.00 – 10.00	Commission meetings
10.00 – 12.30	Parallel Workshops, including coffee break
12.30 – 13.00	Reports from the workshops

13.00 – 14.30  
14.30 – 18.30

Lunch
General Assembly
• Report on UBC Activities
• Report on UBC Strategy
• Amendments in the Statute
• Auditor's Report
• Board of Audit Report
• Coffee break
• Absolving the Presidium, Board, Secretary
• Membership Fees 2014-2015
• Elections for the next period:
- Executive Board
- President
- Vice-Presidents
- Board of Audit
• Appointment of the auditor
• Venue of the XIII UBC General Conference in autumn 2015
19.30 Dinner

## FRIDAY, 4 October

09.00-12.00	Guided sightseeing tour
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## Speakers and workshops

### INVITED SPEAKERS, to be confirmed

- Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland
- Per Bødker Andersen, President, UBC
- Petri Carlsson, Chairman of Mariehamn Executive Board
- Camilla Gunell, Head of the Government of Åland
- Andrius Kupčinskas, Mayor of Kaunas
- Susanne Gaschke, Mayor of Kiel
- Gunars Ansins, Vice-Mayor of Liepāja
- Kent Andersson, Chairman of City Council, Malmö
- Roland Methling, Mayor of Rostock
- Leena Kostianen, Vice-Mayor of Tampere
- Marie-Louise Rönmark, Mayor of Umeå
- Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, President, Committee of the Regions
- Representatives of Baltic Sea youth
- Chairman of CSO of the Council of the Baltic Sea States
- Paweł Orłowski, Vice-Minister of Regional Development, Republic of Poland
- Michael Ralph, Adviser to the Director General Walter Deffaa, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
- Christian Weinberger, Senior Adviser SMEs & Entrepreneurship, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
- Uwe Polkaehn, President, Confederation of German Trade Unions DGB-Nord

- Nina Oding, Head of the Research Department of the Leontief Centre, St. Petersburg
- Pirjo Väänänen, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions – SAK
- Representative of BSR industry sector

### WORKSHOPS

- How to prevent and fight unemployment among youth  
Coordination: Commission on Business  
Support: Commission on Education
- Youth empowerment and non-formal education with gender perspective  
Coordination: Åland Peace Institute
- Green growth for UBC cities  
Coordination: Commission on Environment
- Regional INTERREG IV Programmes for the BSR  
Coordination: Central Baltic & South Baltic Technical Secretariats

Commission on Youth Issues will also contribute to the above workshops.

For more information about the workshops visit [www.mariehamn.ax/ubc](http://www.mariehamn.ax/ubc)



# Youth Conference

The Baltic Youth Project will bring 60 young people together from the Baltic Sea countries. During six working days they will exchange their experience on living conditions, youth policy and influence in countries and cities around the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Youth Project is a youth exchange project mainly involving participants from local youth councils. It will prepare the participants for meeting with politicians at the general assembly of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

The young people will arrive a couple of days before the adults and plan a wide range of activities in order to influence the politicians and in order to make the meeting and dialogue fun and interesting for the young delegates.

There will be flashmobs, forum theatre, possibly a football match in addition to discussing e.g. youth mobility as a way of increasing learning possibilities, employment and entrepreneurship.

## Recommendations for travel

Mariehamn is easily reached by several daily connections from Finland, Sweden and Estonia. Choose between a scenic journey by ferry or a quicker one by air.

We recommend [www.visitaland.com](http://www.visitaland.com) for more information about how to book your travel to Mariehamn.

### BY AIR

You can change flights in Stockholm, Helsinki or Turku. The flight with NextJet is only half an hour from Stockholm Arlanda or Turku Airport. The flight with Flybe is less than an hour from Helsinki Vantaa.

[www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)  
[www.nextjet.com](http://www.nextjet.com)

### BY SEA

The Viking Line and TallinkSilja shipping lines offer several daily departures for Åland from Stockholm and Kapellskär, as well as from Turku and Helsinki. If you are travelling from Estonia you would opt for Tallink from Tallinn directly to Mariehamn or Viking Line via Helsinki.

[www.tallink.com](http://www.tallink.com)  
[www.tallinksilja.com](http://www.tallinksilja.com)  
[www.vikingline.com](http://www.vikingline.com)

Viking Line offers UBC participants options for travel at discounted prices. Read more about the special offer at [www.mariehamn.ax/ubc](http://www.mariehamn.ax/ubc)

## Registration and contact information

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

Alandica Culture and Congress Centre

Phone +358 18 24570  
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[ritva.simolin@alandica.ax](mailto:ritva.simolin@alandica.ax)  
Homepage [www.alandica.ax](http://www.alandica.ax)  
Registration [www.mariehamn.ax/ubc](http://www.mariehamn.ax/ubc)

All communication from the congress team will be electronical, to the e-mail address you provide in the registration form.

### LOCAL ORGANIZER AND HOST

Town of Mariehamn  
Central Administration Office

E-mail [info@mariehamn.ax](mailto:info@mariehamn.ax)  
Homepage [www.mariehamn.ax](http://www.mariehamn.ax)

### UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES SECRETARIAT

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