



Inquiry from the UBC Secretariat SUMMARY

How to make UBC even more efficient and useful for its members?

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:

How to make UBC even more efficient and useful for its members?

- Is your city open to investments and startups? If so in which sectors?
- Are companies in your city looking for new markets / partners in the Baltic Sea region ? Do you have an investment agency?
- Do you wish your cultural (philharmonic, opera, etc.) institutions, sport and education institutions, to establish exchange with counterparts in other UBC member cities?
- 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?
- What expectations towards UBC does your city have?



43 cities
responded
Around 50
posts have
been
published on
www and FB



Is your city open to investments and startups? If so in which sectors?

- the cities are open for investments and startups;
- most common sectors: industry, tourism & wellness, energy, ICT, maritime and logistics businesses, sustainability, circular economy, creative businesses;

Are companies in your city looking for new markets / partners in the Baltic Sea region? Do you have an investment agency?

- the companies are usually open for cooperation in new markets and with new partners from BSR;
- the cities provide support to the companies through: investments/start-ups agencies, science parks, special economic zones, business incubators, chambers of commerce, local grant programmes for companies;





Do you wish your cultural, sport and education institutions to establish exchange with counterparts in other UBC member cities?

- most of the cities are interested in exchange, especially in the fields of culture, youth or sport;
- staff/teachers exchange would be beneficial (e.g libraries, art schools and other cultural institutions);
- question of funding;

Do you need or can you offer expertise?

- in general the cities have a lot to offer and are eager to share their knowledge and experiences and learn from others;
- the most popular fields mentioned: civic participation, youth involvement, city planning, safety, integration, sports, gender equality, social services, entrepreneurship;



What expectations towards UBC does your city have?



- to be a platform for collaboration and development of cities around the Baltic Sea;
- a forum to find partners for projects and to share best practices, and also an agent that spread the cities' innovative solutions;
- to be in active dialogue with its member cities, to support and facilitate development of the city and its areas;
- to bring tangible results from cooperation;
- projects initiation, support, development;
- representation towards European institutions;
- to encourage member cities to be more involved in its activities;

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.

More information:

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