

XVI General Conference

St. Petersburg, 27–30 October 2021

Interactive Workshops

As of 13.05.21

27.10 or 28.10.2021

No	Coordinators	Topic
1.	Satu Heikkinen, Jyväskylä Elva, Växjö, Aarhus, Kiel, SPCC	<p>How cities can improve their resilience through digital means?</p> <p>Digital technologies make cities more resilient and sustainable. Furthermore, collaborative digital ecosystems are even more flexible and adaptable to tackle any issue effectively. What are then the driving motors of cities' digital transformation? How to view cities as a digital ecosystems? How can cities make a concrete contribution to the digital green transition process? This workshop will present the key observations and conclusions of the digital resilient cities seminar organized by Smart and Prospering Commission in June 2021. In addition above mentioned questions are discussed and examples from UBC cities e.g. Växjö (DIACCES project about innovative public procurement processes) and Elva (information, feedback, events calendar mobile app) will be presented in the workshop.</p>
2.	Jūratė Mitkevičiūtė, Palanga Dmitrijs Zverevs, Riga, YCC	<p>Promoting youth citizenship and inclusion: the role of intra- and interinstitutional cooperation</p> <p>As young people are both a driving force for society's development and an age group that needs special support to reach their full potential, "resilience" is a concept we speak a lot about when planning, implementing, and evaluating youth policy.</p> <p>In the workshop we plan to focus on different aspects of inclusion, youth participation and cooperation between the stakeholders that are crucial for the cities to be able to reach out to every young person and provide the support they need.</p>

		<p>During the workshop the participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss the concept of resilience (from the youth perspective); • share good practice examples and local context; • identify “key success factors” for ensuring sustainability of interventions and initiatives. <p>A separate slot for sharing their story will be provided for the city of Klaipeda – European Youth Capital 2021. Input from the Youth Conference (held prior to the UBC General Conference) will be incorporated into the workshop. Young people will be involved into the workshop both as participants and speakers, as well as in the preparation phase.</p> <p>A some of the planned speakers and participants will be able to join only online, the workshop will be held either in a hybrid version or fully online.</p>
3.	<p>Matti Mäkelä, TF Youth Employment and Well-Being 27.10.2021</p>	<p>VET Goes Hybrid: Developing Resilient, Equitable and Attractive Solutions to Vocational Education and Training</p> <p>The future availability of a professional work force is one of the key questions regarding the competitiveness of the BSR. The aim of this workshop is to provide a platform for sharing best practices in making vocational education a more desirable educational path for young people, while still ensuring resilient and equal opportunities for all.</p> <p><i>365/12 – Vocational College That Never Sleeps</i> (funded by the ESF) presented the idea of 365/12 model where studying and learning can happen anywhere at any time, regardless of time and place. The participants will hear from both experts and young people themselves how to enable individual learning paths and e.g. hybrid solutions in vocational education and training.</p> <p>All participants (target groups: decision makers, school management, teachers, guidance personnel, young people) will take part in discussion session, which concentrate on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to enable and develop hybrid solutions? • How to enable learning regardless of time and space? • How to guarantee resilient and equal opportunities to all students? • How to react to changes in the labor market and guarantee our current workforce the opportunity to upgrade their skills in a flexible manner?
4.	<p>Iveta Ūelpe, Jūrmala Ruta Stepanovaite, Kaunas, CCC</p>	<p>Culture as platform for involving city residents and regional partners in tackling the challenges and creating the future.</p>

		<p>Today's urban development is inseparable from the involvement of urban residents in the planning and decision-making process. Recognizing that cities are home to different cultures and communities, we need to more actively foster platforms where decision-makers and citizens can meet for co-creation and dialogue. In recent years, there have been a number of methods/cases of co-creation presented all over Europe. Do (how) these methods work? What can we learn from them? Or maybe we need to look for new or hybrid solutions?</p> <p>During 2021 the UBC CCC together with the city of Jūrmala presents a series of 4 events with an aim to review the aspects/methods of cultural mapping of cities, co-creation, involvement of citizens in public service development processes and to prepare a small-scale feasibility study of UBC city members' needs for urban development, use of culture (strategy) as a tool for co-creation and cooperation between cities all around the Baltic Sea Region. The expected result of the meetings is a joint project of the UBC member cities, the outline for which will be presented during the XVI UBC General Conference, St. Petersburg, October 2021 in the form of a workshop and a public discussion.</p>
5.	Paulina Szewczyk, Gdynia, PCC	<p>The Resilient Baltic Sea Cities</p> <p>We are going to continue 'The Resilient Baltic Sea Cities' theme with the special focus to the influence of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the city planning.</p> <p>During the Planning Cities Commission Webinar: "The impact of coronavirus on the city planning. Experiences of the Baltic Cities" held on 19 November 2020 Cities planners presented already their thoughts and reflections how COVID-19 pandemic has influenced urban planning and construction, and also how it changed the habits of citizens.</p> <p>The pandemic continues and we are reviewing all our assumptions. Every day we have to challenge a data-driven approach and we search for tools to help us create different scenarios and plans for our future and the futures of our cities.</p> <p>No-one knows exactly how long the coronavirus pandemic will be with us. But we are sure it is one more reason to plan and design to increase cities' capacities for resilience.</p> <p>The workshop will give a chance to exchange the experiences with the representatives of city authorities, city planners, architects and other professionals committed to improving the quality of life in the Baltic Sea despite all the challenges and risks we are facing now.</p> <p>It is planned to have a presentation/presentations of the UBC member cities experiences followed by a lively discussion and some comprehensive independent scientific view provided as well.</p>

6.	SustainableCC	<p>UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Action Programme 2022 – 2030</p> <p>The idea of the workshop would be to present the new Action Programme and on the same time also invite experts from other organizations to comments on the new Action Programme and how our Action Programme is in line with other strategies and Action Programmes.</p> <p>Preliminary workshop agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the workshop. 2. State of the Art related to Sustainability - Globally, in the EU and the Baltic Sea Region 3. Presentation of the new UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Action Programme 2022 – 2030 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What will we focus on as a BSR city network? b. How will we meet the needs and reach our goals? c. How would we build the cooperation and partnerships? 4. Comments from invited experts (for example CBSS, HELCOM, VASAB, BSSC, 5. Comments and discussion by UBC member cities 6. Recommendations from the workshop
7.	UBC Antenna 27.10.2021	<p>Use Umbrella 2.0 to speak about EUSBSR</p> <p>The workshop serves as an occasion to raise awareness on the current hot topics in the Baltic Sea Region within the context of the EUSBSR. The workshop aims to promote Umbrella 2.0 as well as to inspire Member Cities to engage more in the shaping and implementation of the EU strategy.</p> <p>Europe is preparing for the upcoming programming period 2021-2027, and the perception is that we need to go all in the same direction. This event strives to inform on the policies and strategies in order to facilitate better involvement of cities in the process.</p>
8.	Kaspars Varpins, Liepāja, SafeCC	<p>Environment concerns in first responders work</p> <p>This workshop will concentrate on how the first responders work can influence the environment concerns. UBC Safe Cities Commission would like to begin the discussion in the Baltic Sea Region on how in the everyday work the first responders and emergency services can leave better impact on the environment. As our discussion will</p>

		<p>be the first steps on this specific topic, the main aim is to discuss the main topics and concerns on which to concentrate further. So this workshop will be hands-on discussion where all participants will be welcomed to share their ideas and thoughts.</p>
9.	<p>Elina Rubule, Valmiera & Wolfgang Schmidt, Kiel, SPCC</p>	<p>Business resilience in the cities: innovative support tools</p> <p>During the times of worldwide crisis that is making its enormous impact on all areas of our lives, including work and our everyday habits, it is essential to provide business, the main artery of the city's development, all the support it needs to be resilient, sustainable and keep growing. As long as the business thrives in the city, the city thrives.</p> <p>This workshop proposes a discussion on various support mechanisms that the city's administration might implement for the business sector to remain strong and developing. The topic will mostly focus on medium-sized and microcities' cases. Undoubtedly, the city's individual approach to each business is critical; however, a complex approach to the entire business sector is even more important in a crisis. Although the personal proximity and an individual approach of administrative representatives towards businesses might be what distinguishes microcities from large cities, we believe that the key results, impact and essence of the support mechanisms might be relevant to all UBC member cities, too.</p> <p>The discussion will take place in three parts. During the introduction, the definition of urban business resilience will be defined. The introduction will be followed by the main part of the discussion, which will occur in three subgroups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investment attraction strategies, 2. Cooperation and coordination of cooperation among education, science and industry. 3. Brain-drain, talent attraction and remigration, including cross-border cooperation. <p>In the concluding part of the seminar, we propose to emphasize the role of UBC, a network for exchanging experiences and tackling challenges together, in facing the challenges of Covid-19 and the consequences of the economic downturn in the cities.</p> <p>90-minute seminar agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (~25min) Introduction to the topic by moderator and panellists <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Workshop agenda b. Discussion on business resilience <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Key challenges for business resilience in the city? ii. What characterizes business resilience in the city?

		<p>iii. What should the city and the city administration become to ensure business resilience?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. (~5min) Splitting into three subgroups. Each group will have its own moderator and panellists. 3. (~20min) Discussion within the groups - Challenges and lessons learned <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. 1st group: Investment attraction strategies (incl. East vs. West perspective) d. 2nd group: Cooperation and coordination of cooperation among education, science and industry e. 3rd group: Brain-drain, youth and talent attraction and remigration, including cross-border cooperation (incl. East vs. West perspective) 4. (~15min) Getting back to the initial group. Short presentations of the key conclusions within the discussion subgroups. A representative (most likely the moderator) from each subgroup briefly presents the key challenges and conclusions identified, as well as the essential lessons learned. 5. (~10min) UBC vision on its role as a platform for cities that face the challenges of Covid-19 and the consequences of the economic downturn in the cities. 6. (~10min) Q & A 7. (~5min) Conclusion of the workshop by the moderator.
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28.10.2021

10.	UBC Antenna	<p>Advocacy and lobby at the EU level</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to provide basic insight on how EU advocacy and lobby at the EU institutions works and how the Member Cities could benefit from it. Specifically, it will provide concrete information on ABC's of EU legislative process, differences between lobbying and advocacy and, finally, important updates from key institutions operating from the Brussels' bubble in the 2021-27 timeframe, as well as generating some ideas for the UBC Antenna work in future.</p>
11.	UBC Antenna	<p>EU grants' session / PBA - Partnership Building activity</p> <p>The workshop aims towards straightening the cooperation within the UBC Network by providing space for the cities to present project initiatives and look for partnerships. Furthermore, the key aspects of InterReg BSR,</p>

		Horizon Europe, ESF+, RDF and Erasmus + programmes will be presented in order to create a common understanding of the opportunities for cities and UBC itself for the programming period of 2021-27.
12.	Matti Mäkelä, TF Youth Employment and Well-Being	<p>Resilient cities through attractive education – STEAM education tackling global challenge</p> <p>Today, the world is facing unprecedented challenges such as the climate crisis, economic changes, pandemics, and social conflict. Finding solutions to these complex problems requires scientific and technical innovations and resilient education. To be a major global player in this process, the Baltic Sea Region needs more STEAM education to help youngsters to find their paths into the world of science and technology.</p> <p>An attractive and inclusive STEAM education program is about creating new forms of cooperation for all levels of education, universities, and companies at both the national and international levels. STEAM education provides opportunities and expertise to our future engineers, mathematicians, scientists, and visionaries who will solve our global challenges.</p> <p>In the workshop the participants will hear examples and share their best practices in the most inclusive and innovative STEAM education solutions. We will also give the stage to youngsters who can share their experiences and future views of the STEAM education. The target group for this workshop includes decision makers, school management, teachers, guidance personnel, and young people.</p>

City of St. Petersburg considers proposing two additional workshops.