

MINUTES OF THE 83RD MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

St.Petersburg, Russia, 24 April 2019

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.

The Executive Board meeting was opened by Per Bødker Andersen, President of the Union of the Baltic Cities. Mr Andersen expressed his gratitude to the hosts for inviting the UBC Executive Board to hold its 83rd meeting in the City of St. Petersburg. The Board adopted the agenda, attached to the minutes. Lina Duobaite, Kaunas and Vyacheslav G. Kalganov, St. Petersburg, were elected to check the minutes together with the President.

2. Welcome by Evgeny D. Grigoriev, Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg.

Evgeny D. Grigoriev, Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg, warmly welcomed the participants. He reminded that St. Petersburg was one of the founding cities of UBC and the previous meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held in St. Petersburg in 2006 in the Government Office at Smolny. A lot has changed since then and to emphasize this fact the present meeting took place in the new administration and business centre Nevskaya Ratusha (Nevskij Town Hall).

Mr Grigoriev informed that St. Petersburg was granted for the third time the award as World's Leading Cultural City Destination 2018. In 2018 the city hosted 8,2 million people, including 3,9 million tourists from abroad, a lot of them from neighbouring countries. There was an increasing number of passenger flow, almost 1 million tourists came by the sea.

Evgeny Grigoriev emphasized that the UBC Executive Board meeting was devoted in considerable part to the interaction in the field of youth issues and environmental protection. These issues are interconnected, but also connect the members of UBC. UBC members are united by the Baltic Sea which is very important for all of us in terms of economic, environmental, transport issues.

Mr Grigoriev expressed hope that this meeting would open a new page in interaction and relations between St. Petersburg and the Baltic Sea countries and cities and would be a solid foundation for mutual work.

President Andersen thanked for the warm welcome and stressed, that we can learn from each other, as we do it within UBC by exchanging good experiences.

3. Application for membership from Municipality of Jonava, Lithuania. City presentation.

Eugenijus Sabutis, Deputy Mayor of Jonava, made presentation about the municipality, attached to the minutes.

Jonava is the 9th largest city in Lithuania, it is located 30 km from the city of Kaunas, the second largest city in Lithuania. Established in 1750, the municipality has currently 42.000 inhabitants, 61% of them are in working age. Jonava is an industrial city, with AB ACHEMA, leading producer of nitrogen fertilizers and chemical products in Lithuania and Baltic states.

One of the challenges in the city is to make Jonava a livable city. To meet this challenge, several investments have been made: e.g. bicycle network, over 19 km long, connecting city centre and the residential neighbourhoods; sports arena, a modern and versatile sports and entertainment complex with a capacity of 2000 seats. Modern traffic safety measures are being installed, infrastructure is being renovated and improved.

Establishing a free economic zone in the region is in the plans for the future.

Decision:

The Board decided to accept Jonava as a member of UBC and wished Jonava successful cooperation with other UBC member cities.

4. Application to become a UBC partner from Dierre/Smartdoor.

Dierre/Smartdoor company submitted an application to become a Partner of UBC.

Dierre company is a global leader in the production of security doors. SmartDoor innovations offer keys in a smartfon – a new safety solution.

<http://www.smartdoor.pl/idea-smart-door>

<http://dierre.pl/o-nas/>

Decision:

The Board accepted the new Partner and wished Dierre/Smartdoor a fruitful cooperation with UBC.

5. Mini-seminar on youth issues and the environment.

In conjunction with the Executive Board meeting in St.Petersburg a mini-seminar was organised to present 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 S. Kazina, Head, and Elizaveta S. Merinova, Manager, Friends of the Baltic Program

Dmitry Ioffe, Founder of Clean Games

Risto Veivo, Co-chair of UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

Carsten Adamsen, Chair of UBC Youthful Cities Commission

Matti Mäkelä, Chair of UBC Task Force on Youth Employment & Well-being

Vodokanal St. Petersburg

State Unitary Enterprise ‘Vodokanal St. Petersburg’ supplies potable water to the population of 5,2 million people and to tens of thousands of city companies and organizations as well as to the city fountains and public toilets. This enterprise is the largest water consumer in the Baltic Sea basin. City of St. Petersburg represented by authorized state bodies is the owner of ‘Vodokanal St. Petersburg’ assets. The mission is the improvement of water supply and wastewater disposal services, formation of water consumption culture and preservation of the Baltic Sea basin.

Vodokanal is also focused on awareness-building and educational activities, which are carried out in the Information and Training Center, which comprises of Museum complex ‘The Universe of Water’, Youth Environmental Center, Learning Center. The Board was invited for study tour at the center on the next day.

<http://www.vodokanal.spb.ru/en/>

Friends of the Baltic

Friends of the Baltic is an autonomous non-profit environmental organization established in 1997. The organization is also a member of the International Coalition Clean Baltic.

At present over 300 members and supporters participate in Friends of the Baltic. The organization operates in the field of environmental education by e.g. involvement of young people in environmental activities; observation and protection of rivers and the Baltic coast; promoting sustainable development, environmentally friendly consumption; addressing climate change and sustainable energy.

Friends of the Baltic, together with partners, hold an annual regional all-Russian competition of energy efficiency projects “Energy and Habitat”, for schoolchildren and teachers.

www.baltfriends.ru

Clean Games

The ‘Clean Games’ is an environmental youth project of the interregional social organization ‘Games of the future’, in which team competitions are held to collect and sort litter in places of mass recreation. The winners get the prizes from the sponsors.

The events are attended by 100-200 people: students, representatives of youth volunteer associations, senior schoolchildren, young families, local residents, etc. During one game participants collect from 2 to 5 tons of litter. Most of the sorted litter is sent for recycling. The participants get experience in waste management and waste sorting in the form of a fun game.

<https://cleangames.ru/about>

Sustainable Cities Commission

<http://ubc.net/commissions/sustainable-cities>

Youthful Cities Commission

<http://ubc.net/commissions/youthful-cities>

Task Force on Youth Employment & Well-being

<http://ubc.net/commissions/ubc-task-force-youth-employment-and-well-being-0>

The Board thanked all speakers for interesting interventions and invited member cities to take a contact with respective partners in order to exchange experiences and know-how.

All presentations are attached to the minutes.

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

Mantas Jurgutis, Vice-President of UBC, Kaunas, informed the Board that preparations to the General Conference are at final stage. All technical aspects concerning the conference are solved, like the public procurements, hotel bookings. The conference website is already launched at <http://ubc.kaunas.lt/> and the registration will start soon.

Mr Jurgutis reminded that the City of Kaunas will be the European Capital of Culture in 2022. Thus it was decided to invite the managers/directors of former Capitals of Culture to share with UBC cities the experiences and benefits of big cultural events. We will be able to see presentations from Turku, Valletta, Matera, Rijeka, Wrocław and Umeå.

Vice-President Jurgutis thanked the Task Force preparing the General Conference programme for the fruitful work and warmly invited all member cities to visit Kaunas in October.

Plenary sessions and workshops to be held at the General Conference:

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)

Per Schöldberg, Member of the Swedish Parliament (confirmed)

Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Affairs at DG Employment for Social Affairs and Inclusion (confirmed)

Normunds Popenis, Deputy Director-General at DG for Regional and Urban Policy (confirmed)

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, Kiel

2. Youth safety , SafeCC

3. A local example of interaction with citizens and young people at schools, Visby
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 of the workshops proposals in the attached file.

The Board took note of preparations to the General Conference in Kaunas.

The Board authorised 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.

The Board Strongly emphasized 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

Alda Nikodemusa, Head of Secretariat, made a presentation about VASAB and the forthcoming conference in Riga.

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.

UBC will be represented at the conference by Mara Liepa, Riga, Member of the Steering Committee of UBC Planning Cities Commission.

The Board supported the conference and encouraged UBC member cities to take active part in the event.

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

Working group on Gender Equality delivered a project proposal on gender equality within Baltic Sea Cities. The project proposal was introduced by Roger Kaliff, Chairman of the City Council, Kalmar.

The aim of the project is to increase the capacity for a more strategic engagement in gender equality among UBC member municipalities in order to improve the opportunities for economic growth and sustainable development within core areas such as planning, health and social security, prosperity and job opportunities, safety and security.

The UBC Commissions and some pilot UBC cities, e.g. 10 cities in 10 countries are to be involved in the project. The methodology developed in connection with CEMRs “European Charter for Equality of Woman and Men in Local Life”, modified for UBC needs, would be used.

Project activities would include among others: mapping out the main gaps, workshops for analysing the situation, training during study visits and meetings with forerunners, reports, disseminating conference for all UBC member cities and commissions. The financing would be from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Swedish Institute or Nordic Gender Equality Fund resources.

Decision:

The Board supported the project and encouraged member cities to participate.

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

At the Board meeting in Kristiansand, February 2017, Jørgen Kristiansen, Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand, 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 in Kristiansand 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.

At the Board meeting in St. Petersburg, Jørgen Kristiansen stressed that there are 320 big cruise ships in the world and each emits the same amount of nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides, as 50 million cars. Many of the cruise ships visit the ports on the Baltic Sea, Riga, St. Petersburg and other.

Mr Kristiansen informed that to minimize the pollution, the Port of Kristiansand in cooperation with the Danish company PowerCon and the local energy company Agder Energi Nett established Europe's largest shore power facility in the port. The project is co-financed by the European Union and the Horizon 2020 SME programme for research and innovation. The investment cost was 4 mln EUR. It started operating last year and then there was only one cruise ship visiting Kristiansand that was able to plug in to the shore power system. This year it will be 14 ships. One cruise ship uses the amount of energy comparable to 2000 standard apartments.

In 2014 a shore power system for ferry terminal, manning the ferries travelling to and from Denmark, was opened in the Port of Kristiansand.

Mr Kristiansen stressed that there is still lack of international regulations and standards. The industry must be pushed to make the necessary investments on the vessels. He underlined that clean energy is the future. Currently in Southern Norway 50% of cars is electric and in ten years petrol driven cars will be illegal.

The Board thanked Mr Kristiansen for this initiative. President Andersen underlined that the initiative was raised by Kristiansand only two years ago and already now several positive developments have occurred.

11. The Baltic Sea House initiative from Aarhus.

Mr Tommy Bruun and Mr Michael Lange, architects from the city of Aarhus, recorded video presentation about the Baltic Sea House project.

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.

Written information about the project is attached to the minutes.

Proposal:

The Board supported the project and looked forward to workshop on Baltic Sea House to be held at the General Conference in Kaunas.

12. Anti-radicalisation BOX project.

Secretary General Paweł Żaboklicki informed about 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

Decision:

The Board decided 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.

Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock, informed the Board about EmPaci project.

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.

Decision:

The Board authorised the GC Task Force to consider the application.

14. Budget 2019.

Secretary General reminded that UBC financial report for 2018 was included in the meeting documents. Paweł Żaboklicki informed that the income was mostly generated by the membership fees and the assets saved in 2017. The main expenditure were: spendings of the commissions, services/maintenance, meetings including UBC Conference on Integration of New Citizens in Rostock, two Executive Board sessions in Rostock and Malmö, communications etc. Five annexes are attached to the report: membership fees, expenditure of UBC commissions, contributions to the secretariats, projects with external funding, cities’ contributions to the UBC events. The financial report is attached to the minutes.

Subsequently Secretary General presented the UBC budget proposal for 2019, accepted by the Presidium. The Executive Board at the meeting in Malmö on 18 October 2018 decided to grant each UBC commission with 10.000 EUR as a start-up money for activities in 2019. At least 60% of the commission budget shall be spent for activities - seminars, projects etc. Up to 40% can be spent by the commission lead city(s) for: secretariat, remunerations (including projects), subcontractors, travel, mailing, office supplies, promotion materials. Changes in the commission budget require President's approval. The budget is attached to the minutes.

President Andersen noted that conference fees for UBC General Conference in Kaunas should also be also reflected in the budget, the Board agreed.

Decision:

The Board took note of financial report 2018 and confirmed the budget for 2019.

15. Any other business.

Pekka Komu, Chairman of Lahti City Board, informed that Lahti has been very ecological oriented since thirty years. On the 1 April 2019 the power plant using coal was closed. Lahti is running for the European Green Capital for the third time. Together with the French cities Lille and Strasbourg, Lahti is at the final stage of the European Green Capital 2021 competition. Mr Komu asked UBC for support, when meeting people, decision makers, using social media. He stressed that Lahti would be happy to find solutions for climate change together with UBC cities and all European countries.

Pekka Komu informed also that Lahti is applying for organizing Ecocity World Summit in 2021. The city was asked by the organizers to apply. The summit is a huge conference, previously held in big cities like Melbourne, San Francisco, Vancouver. Mr Komu said that if Lahti wins, they would like to ask UBC for cooperation in arranging speakers, side events, etc.

The Board agreed that UBC shall support Lahti in those activities and wished the city a success. President Andersen reminded that UBC will have a General Conference in 2021, so it is important to coordinate the dates of the conference and the summit.

The meeting documents (attachments) are available at:

<http://ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/83rd-executive-board-meeting-st-petersburg-23>

Per Bødker Andersen
Chairperson

Paweł Żaboklicki
Secretary

Lina Duobaite
Adjuster

Vyacheslav G. Kalganov
Adjuster