

UBC Strategy work progress 2/2012-5/2012

Mikko Lohikoski 24.5.2012 Rakvere



Task Force of UBC Development

Proposals of the Task Force for General Conference:

- Planning the next General Conference should start immediately.
 - Forming of a coordination group (consisting for example of Secretariat, host city, Strategy coordinator and other relevant stakeholders if so decided)
- General Secretariat and host city of GC should invite other BSR organizations and stakeholders already now to participate
- General Secretariat and host city of GC should study possibilities of offering interpretation for main languages at least for main parts of the meeting.
- Member cities should start looking after strong commitment of mayors (mayors from each active city are invited to speak/participate)



Task Force of UBC Development

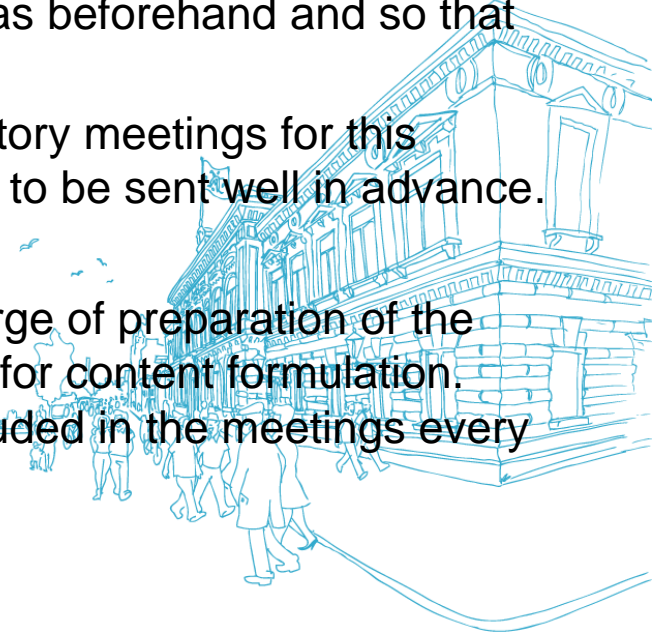
Topics in the General Conference need to be decided well advance. Here some proposals from the Task Force:

- Smart development (new solutions, technology for cities)
- Economic development (borders that hinders us to be a smart region): BSR as an economic macro-region
- Youth unemployment and drop outs (schools); possible speakers: Sauli Niinistö (Finland's new president), Mona Sahlin (Swedish politician), Kåre Willoch (former Norwegian PM) etc.
- A high-level expert group of distinguished participants could be formed by the UBC to prepare a study and concrete proposals on the selected key topic, and key partner organizations like BDF, BaltMet could be asked to nominate their representative(s). Funding should be reserved for the work and facilitator of such a preparatory group.

Task Force of UBC Development

Proposals of the Task Force for Executive Board:

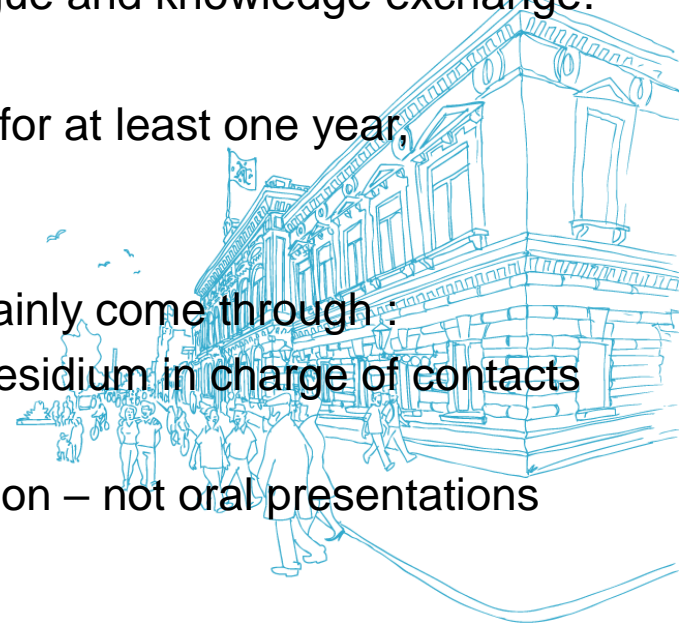
- Enough room for discussion
- More time for meetings (couple of hours is not enough)
- The Presidium (supported by the General Secretariat and the Strategy coordinator) should prepare meeting agendas beforehand and so that they include decision proposals.
- Task Force recommends Presidium preparatory meetings for this purpose. Agendas and draft proposals need to be sent well in advance.
- The President and the Presidium are in charge of preparation of the meeting agendas. More planning is needed for content formulation. Report on key developments should be included in the meetings every time (responsibility of President)



Task Force of UBC Development

Proposals of the Task Force for Executive Board:

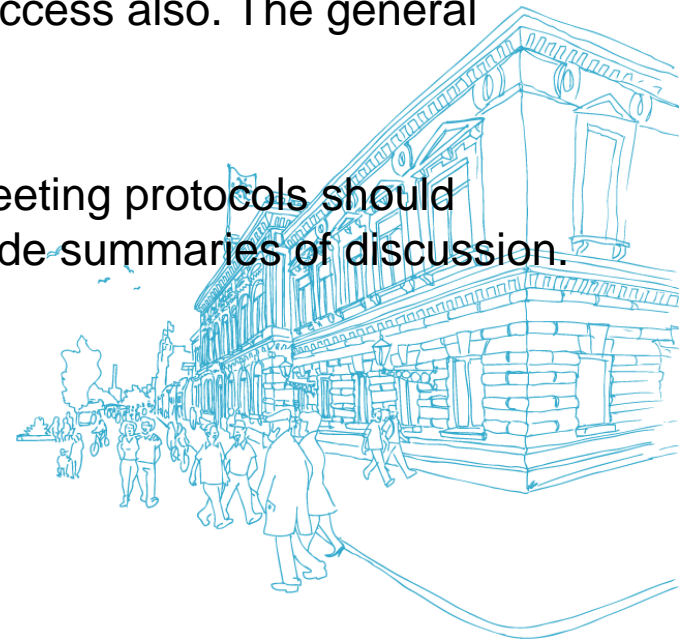
- Open theme seminar/discussion to be included in every Board meeting
 - The host city will choose a theme.
 - The Presidium, assisted by the General Secretariat is responsible also for this part of the meeting and for inviting relevant experts (inc. commissions) to take part to the dialogue and knowledge exchange.
- Timetable for forthcoming Board meetings for at least one year, preferably two years, beforehand.
- Reporting from the commissions should mainly come through :
 1. Dedicated member from the Board/Presidium in charge of contacts to the commission
 2. Written memos/reports from commission – not oral presentations



Task Force of UBC Development

Proposals of the Task Force for Executive Board:

- Board meetings should always include open parts where all member cities, commissions etc. can take part. The meetings can also include closed session, when needed.
- The Board meetings need to have virtual access also. The general Secretariat is invited to study this issue.
- Task Force recommends that the Board meeting protocols should concentrate on decisions, rather than include summaries of discussion.



Communication issues

- First meeting of UBC Communication Task Force organized in Gdansk in April
 - Proposals come later
 - Need to hire special expert
- Joint meeting of two Task Forces in Rostock 3rd – 6th of September
- Proposals by EU offices to increase visibility in Brussels
- BaltMet-cooperation
- “From planning to common action -seminar” in St.Petersburg 21st of March
- “Cities of Tomorrow” -conference in Tbilisi 26th of April



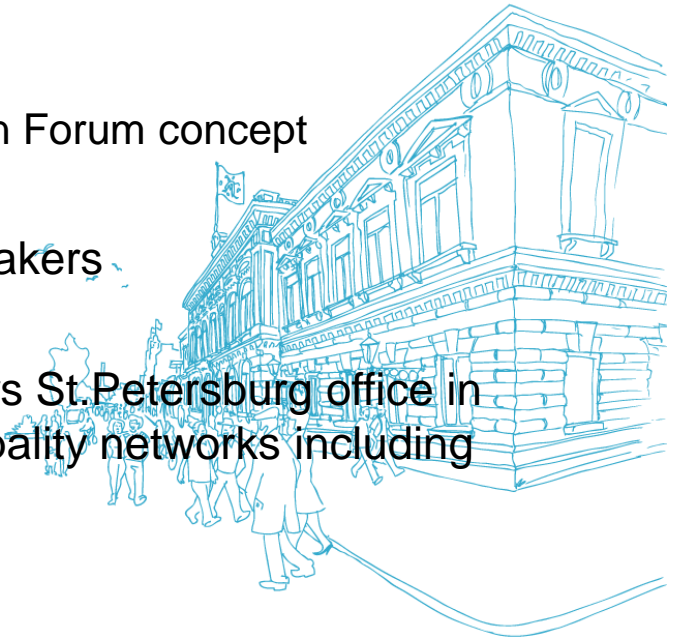
Expert exchange, Urban Forum, Town twinning

- Own town twinning project to gain financial support for Strategy implementation
 - Preparation meeting in Turku 7th of June
 - Citizenship -programme, measure 1.2. “Networks of twinned towns”
 - Planned activities: Urban Forums, expert exchange: study visits, training and workshops

- Cooperation with BDF in planning of the Urban Forum concept
 - “Smart Cities Platform”
 - Annual meeting for political decision-makers

- Cooperation with Nordic Council of Ministers St.Petersburg office in intention to get financial support for municipality networks including Russian stakeholders

- Project to be planned during this year?



New Action Plan for EUSBSR under preparation

- It's time to do proposals!
 - Horizontal actions
 - Review conference in Copenhagen 17.-19.6.
- EUSBSR will affect to new structural funds programs applied for period 2014-2020
- UBC Local Safety Commission to prepare a flagship project?

