



2012-11-16

UBC Sekretariat

Report from the Gender equality commission

1. Number of Member Cities participating in the meetings, projects and other work of the Commission. **(List of member cities (including names of their key representatives) with short description of the participation activities)**

Secretariat of the commission

Umeå, Sweden

Aurora Lindberg, head of department of development

Linda Gustafsson, gender equality officer

Panevezys, Lithuania

Asta Puodziuniene, Economy and Property Management Department

Kristiansand, Norway

Toril Hogstad

Helsinki, Finland

Paavo Salonen

Gdansk, Poland

Malgorzata Tarasiewicz (Network of east-west women)

Örebro, Sweden

Johanna Ek

Kalmar, Sweden

Ann-sofie Lagercrantz

Each participant in the Gender Commission has a big responsibility to formulate what are the important issues in this area and raise awareness in their own cities. Being part of a Baltic Sea network is very important for the legitimacy for questions concerning gender equality.

2. Number and relevance of meetings, events and other activities organized by the Commission. Meetings, events and other activities organized by the Commission **(List of meetings, events and other activities organized by the Commission with short description of the main achievements of these events; relevant participation lists)**

In 2012 the Gender equality commission will have two meetings. One took place in Helsinki, Finland in April and the other one will take place in Brussels, Belgium in November.

Umeå Kommun

Postadress
Besöksadress
Tel växel nat
Tel växel int

Handläggare
Tel direkt
Tel mobil
Fax nat
Fax int

Mejl
Webbaddress
Org nummer
Bankgironr
Plusgironr

A tool for change has been to have seminars in the cities where we have the meeting to raise awareness locally on the issue of gender equality and to initiate cooperation with the cities where we have the meetings and to share best practice and have an exchange of experience. During the meeting in Helsinki a seminar on gender responsive budgeting and gender budgeting was held at Helsinki city hall where several interested politicians from the Gender Equality committee from the city of Helsinki took part as well as representatives from Finland's ministry of social affairs and health. Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets and incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process. The key objective of gender responsive budgeting is to increase gender equality. We also visited the National ministry of social affairs and health to talk about the work of the Gender equality commission.

In November the meeting in Brussels will be held together with the "BSR Local Platform on Social Development project" The focus of the meeting will be to discuss future joint projects.

Since awareness-raising within the field of gender equality is an important task for the gender equality commissions the posters and the report: Women and men in the UBC area have been important tools.

To promote projects within the area is also an important tool and the meeting in Brussels has a focus on that and how the gender equality commission can play a role in strengthening the social aspects of the Baltic sea strategy for the coming program period.

In May of 2013 the Gender equality commission will have a joint meeting together with the UBC planning commission in Umeå with focus on "Planning the inclusive city"

3. Financial and human resource contributions by Member Cities for the work and activities of the Commission (**Detailed amount of funding with short description of funding purpose presented city by city; List of contributions in human resources with short description of purpose presented city by city; Number of paid staff of the Commission Secretariat**)

Amount spent by the commission lead city (*not UBC money*) for the commission secretariat in 2012:

- telecommunication, mailing, office materials	500 euro
- staff remuneration (percent of time devoted to the UBC work)	
Linda Gustafsson (7 %)	3000 euro
Aurora Moberg (5 %)	3 662 euro
– premises	2200 euro
In total:	9362 euro

The Gender equality commission has no staff funded by money from the UBC.

The municipality of Örebro has one person in charge of the coordination of activities within the UBC network.

The human resources for the work within the Gender Commission are concentrated on one person who is an expert in this area and who has now the possibility to join the meetings organized by the Commission under the conditions that the items are relevant for the own work.

We have not yet been part of any project with external funds (EU funds) to work with the Commission or within the Gender issues.

The municipality of Kristiansand:

Total amount of € 3050 for remunerations and cost for travel etc.

The municipality of Helsinki has not given an amount but pays for cost for travel, remunerations, hotels etc.

The city of Panevezys and the representative for Gdansk (NEWW) pays for their remunerations.

All the municipalities contribute with persons working within the UBC Gender equality commission with gender equality issues within their own municipality, preparing meeting, contributing to reports, giving best practice etc.

4. Outside funding for projects and other activities of the commission
(Detailed amount of funding by source, with short description of the project/activity)

Together with the “BSR Local platform on social development project” the Gender equality commission will update the report “Women and men in the UBC” for the General conference in 2013 and prepare joint project applications for the new program period. A project assistant is hired since 26th of November 2012. The project assistant is funded by the Swedish agency for economic and regional growth (for 2012: 5000 euro)

5. Joint activities with other UBC Commissions and other organizations
(List of joint activities with short description including the role of the Commission, for example as main organizer or participant)

In June of 2012 the Gender equality commission took part in the Health and social affairs commissions meeting in Vaasa, Finland to present the work of the gender equality commission and to increase cooperation between the commissions and also between the Gender equality commission and other member cities. A number of cities were interested in the work of the

Gender equality commission and also the cooperation with the BSR Local platform project to try to increase the impact of the work of the Gender equality commission, among other things, towards the Baltic sea strategy and to promote new projects within the region for the next program period. In October of 2012 the Gender equality commission took part in the Executive board meeting in Koszalin, Poland to present current and future work of the Gender equality commission.

The Gender equality Commission asked to take part in the Tourism Commission meeting held in Koszalin in the beginning of October but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled.

In addition to these meetings the Gender equality commission gets presented at different conferences etc. each year in the member cities.

Örebro has been involved in some meetings that four Commissions (Urban Planning, Environment, Transport and Energy) had organised together during last spring 2012 and it has been really efficient and appreciated from the participants.

Because of the new organisation in our municipality, we see the possibility to have joint conferences or activities really positive.

Sustainable Development is about the three perspectives working together and it is relevant to mix them in the UBC meetings as well.

6. Major results and achievements of the Commission's activities and its contribution to the implementation of UBC Strategy 2010-2015
(Description of the major achievements and results, including publicity; Analysis about the Commissions contribution to the implementation of the UBC strategy)

Working with gender equality is essential to achieve a democratic European Baltic sea region. Since the IX General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities, held in Kristiansand, Norway, the Commission on Gender Equality has continued its work to promote and enhance Gender Equality work around the Baltic sea.

Gender equality is promoted by developing cooperative structures for networking and the exchange of experiences and practical knowledge. The Commission has researched experiences of gender equality work in the member cities. The Commission has throughout this period worked with networks within the area of gender equality and been active in meetings and conferences. The Commission has also established contact with the European Institute of Gender Equality in Vilnius, Lithuania. The working meetings have been very interesting and a new working method has been established.

The report Gender equality in the UBC, was presented and distributed at the IX General Congress and then to all cities in the UBC. This was the

Commission's main work during the period of October 2009- March 2010. The report offers a framework that provides the basis for the development of gender equal societies. The report shows the conditions for social change to happen, and can be used as a way for cities to adapt to, and support, the objectives of gender equality. The report also presents examples of good practices of gender equality work from some of the member cities, and by using examples from different countries it allows for flexibility and creativity in fulfilling the objectives of gender equality.

The main focus of the commission's work has been to initiate cooperation between the commission and the cities where we have the meetings. This work has been very interesting and will be continued. Three cities, so far, have tried this way, Panevezys in Lithuania, Gdansk in Poland and Helsinki in Finland. The meetings were very interesting. The Panevezys meeting was an exchange of knowledge and discussion on gender equality with political representation and municipality officials. The Commission also shared best practise from around the region. The Gdansk meeting presented a report on the situation in Gdansk, initiated by the Commission and in collaboration with the University of Gdansk. There was great interest from media and the meeting was reported by radio, TV and daily press. Participation came from politicians, municipality officials, civil society and NGO's. There was a very interesting discussion and raising many important issues. The meeting was also visited by a representative from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). The Declaration of Gender Equality from CEMR was one of the topics discussed. The meeting in Helsinki had a seminar on gender responsive budgeting and gender budgeting was held at Helsinki city hall where several interested politicians from the Gender Equality committee from the city of Helsinki took part as well as representatives from Finland's ministry of social affairs and health. Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets and incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process. The key objective of gender responsive budgeting is to increase gender equality.

The Commission has been working on a campaign with the main idea to raise awareness and create an interest to start discussing these issues. This campaign material will be launched during 2011 and distributed to all member cities.

The Commission has been involved and contributed to the UBC Bulletin with specific theme on gender equality. Articles were written on gender budgeting, gender mainstreaming, specific projects working as best practice.

The Commission also wrote an application within the area of labour market and creative industries, especially focusing on women's possibilities and career opportunities within these fields. The projects name was Gender Equal Labour Market (GELM) and application was within the URBACT-programme. Unfortunately, the project did not manage to gain financing, but the ideas have been used within another project which one of the cities in the UBC took part in dealing with these issues.

The Commission on Gender Equality has expressed opinions and statements on the Baltic Sea Strategy, the UBC Strategy and the UBC Social Charter. Furthermore, the Commission has followed projects regarding labour market, trafficking issues in order to gain best practise and spread ideas around the UBC cities.

The Gender equality commission has taken initiatives to present a EUSBSR flagship project on trafficking (2010)

7. Future plans for the development of the Commission's work **(Description of the Commissions future plans with concrete initiatives, funding etc.)**

The commission will continue to cover the EUSBSR from a gender equality perspective.

The commission aims to create a joint project with connection to the EUSBSR.

The commission will also follow the initiative from WINNET to create a EUSBSR flagship project about gender, innovation, labour market issues and IT.

The commission will work to strengthen the status of the commission by investigate possibilities to link the work to other international organizations working with gender equality.

8. Plan of Action and budget for the coming year (2013).

Action plan 2012-2013

The general goal of the commission on Gender Equality is to achieve gender equality with a specific focus on:

- Labour market issues
- Social planning, urban planning and planning work
- Combating prostitution and trafficking
- Combating domestic violence
- Gender budgeting

The goals of the Commission on Gender Equality are as follows:

- To disseminate knowledge about issues of gender equality. The commission will further the awareness-raising within the field of gender equality and the strategy of gender mainstreaming. The commission will disseminate knowledge about the work which is being done in the UBC-area by spreading examples of good practices. The main tool for this work is the report on gender equality and new campaign material.

- To spread campaign material and find ways to inspire the cities to promote gender equality as an important parameter for a city's growth and the well-being of its inhabitants.
- The Commission will continue to collect examples of good practices. Experience-based knowledge accumulated through exchanges within the UBC-network can inspire member-cities to move forward and apply knowledge in practice.
- Promoting municipalities to apply the examples of good practices to move forward in the work for gender equality and to promote mutual exchange of experiences of good practices within the UBC.
- Strengthening the cooperation with other commissions. Developing further cooperation with the Commission on Health and Social Affairs. The goal for this period is also to take part in at least two other Commission meetings and present the issues of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within their specific field.
- During the next two years update knowledge inspired by the previous report.

Budget 2013

1. Annual meeting for Commission

Meeting 2013 for Commission.

Specification:

2000 Euro for support part of travel costs and part of accommodation costs for members from the countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia.

1000 Euro for costs to have the meeting i.e. costs for experts, conference venue/meeting/transport

2. Commission secretariat

Secretarial function for the Gender Commission, such as preparing meetings, contacts, information etc.

Estimated budget 3000 Euro for secretariat, travel, promotion materials etc.

3. Campaign on gender equality in UBC area. The campaign shall run over a couple of years. Update and print the "Women and men in the UBC".

Estimated budget 2500 euro

4. Strengthening the work with other UBC Commissions and taking part in the UBC General conference in 2013.

Estimated budget: 2000 euro for travel, promotion materials etc.

Total estimated budget: 10500 euro