

**Union of the Baltic Cities**  
**Learning Cities Commission**  
**25.10.2024, Riga**  
**Meeting minutes**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The chair opened the meeting at 9.09.

**2. Minutes from the Tartu meeting**

**3. UBC Education Conference: feedback**

Feedback has been positive – from both the participants and organizers. It was decided that presentations will be sent out to the participants.

There will also be an article about the Education Conference in the next UBC Bulletin.

**4. Ongoing projects**

**G-STEAM**

- Erasmus+, 36 months, 400 000€
- WP2: STEAM practice in schools
- WP3: Teacher competence building (universities)
- WP4: Building local STEAM ecosystems
- WP5: G-STEAM handbook

**Towards Sustainable Green STEAM Ecosystems**

The G-STEAM project promotes young learners' interest and builds teachers' competence in science, technology, and green skills by increasing both the quantity and quality of STEAM in schools. To ensure that future-oriented, sustainability-based green STEAM is deeply entrenched in the education landscape to fulfil local economic and societal needs, the project establishes local Green STEAM ecosystems in partner regions with the help of regional authorities, education providers, businesses, and other stakeholders.

**The project is divided into three sections:**

**1. STEAM practice in schools (The What):** Developing green STEAM teaching practices, methods, and materials.

**2. Teacher competence building in STEAM (The How):** The development of green STEAM teacher training modules for in-service and pre-service training.

**3. Building local STEAM ecosystems (The Why):** Developing local collaborative platforms for schools, regions, businesses, and other stakeholders to keep STEAM locally relevant.

**Expected outputs:** A mature network of four functioning Green STEAM ecosystems in the Baltic Sea Region will be strengthened with a significant expansion of STEAM in participating schools and regions, as well as increased teacher capacity in sustainable STEAM through specific Green STEAM training. The Green STEAM Handbook will include the best teaching practices, a green teaching model, and a guide to entrenching STEAM through local ecosystem building.



**5. New project initiatives**

1. Valmiera/Liepaja: Cooperation partnerships in adult education

Contact person: Liene Dembovska, liene.dembovska@valmierasnovads.lv

2. Riga: Creating the STEAM ecosystem in the Baltic Sea Region

Contact person: Ilze Spunde: ilze.spunde@riga.lv

Update: Groundwork for the project has been made and it's progressing well. Application will be sent out in the next Interreg application period.

### *3. Kaunas: Ukrainian Universities Alliance for Higher Education in Turbulent Times (U-ALL)*

Gunnar Anderzon: Initiative from the NGO in Ireland working with the youngsters getting a foothold in the labour market. NEET business. S2W was contacted if they were interested in cooperation/partnership. Currently this matter is taking its first steps.

School as a platform idea has been introduced (Anu Parantainen, city of Turku).

### **6. LCC activities: Fall 2024 and Spring 2025**

Action point was started with recapping the activities done during 2024; multiple online meetings, multiple webinars on education systems, study visit in Tartu and now the education conference. Webinars on education systems will continue, Estonia to be contacted first.

Discussion were had on attracting more cities to the Learning Cities Commission (Germany was mentioned in particular). Also, the format of the next education conference; could the conference be organized as a longer event to assure enough time for the participants. Maybe even separate the conference from the study visit (or to have 2-day conference + one day for the study visit).

How to engage the NGOs and other stakeholders beside the municipalities in the future for the conference. Next time discussions on the study visits could be had within the commission before setting up the program. Participants to be able to choose the study visit location and focus on that one. An idea was given to organize a round table after the study visit.

1,5-day conference + half day focus on study visits?

### **7. Location of the next Commission meeting and study visit**

Mäkelä will start discussions with the Germans, and if the next meeting could be had there.

### **8. AOB**

Youthful Cities Commission; more info coming out in the next UBC Bulletin.

One of the key concerns is the youth participation. Youth event B2B with the general conference. Next conference city and its topic is yet to be determined.

Next steps: Youthful Cities Commission to organize an online matchmaking event for those who are working with these topics.

### **9. Closing the meeting**

The chair closed the meeting at 10.57.