



UNION OF BALTIC CITIES
**„REDISCOVERING WATER IN THE CITY: PUBLIC REALM
STRATEGIES ON THE WATERFRONT“**
PLANNING CITIES COMMISSION SESSION

OCTOBER 16-19, 2016

KLAIPĖDA, LITHUANIA

CULTURE FACTORY (BANGŲ STR. 5A, KLAIPĖDA)

[HTTP://WWW.KULTUROSFABRIKAS.LT/EN/](http://www.kulturosfabrikas.lt/en/)

General information about the city and events: <http://www.klaipedainfo.lt/en/>

Hotels: https://www.tripadvisor.com/SmartDeals-g274949-Klaipeda_Klaipeda_County-Hotel-Deals.html

We recommend: Memel Hotel (in front of the venue place) <http://memelhotel.lt/en>

How to get to Klaipėda:

By Air:

<http://www.palanga-airport.lt/en>

<http://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/>

<http://www.riga-airport.com/>

By Ferry:

<http://www.dfsseaways.lt/>

By Bus:

<http://www.ollex.lt/en>

<http://www.eurolines.lt/en/>

CONTACT PERSON: VIKTORIJA JAKUBAUSKYTĖ - ANDRIULIENĖ

VIKTORIJA.JAKUBAUSKYTE@KLAIPEDA.LT

TEL.: +370 46 41 00 53; MOBILE: +370 663 73747

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE TOPIC

Klaipėda is a diverse city with a rich multicultural history and the only seaport in Lithuania. Among other regions of Lithuania Klaipėda distinguishes itself with maritime business tradition, a unique natural landscape and the fact, that it is a major Lithuanian transport junction connecting central Europe and Scandinavia. The exceptional geographical location (the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon adjacency), also steadily improving economic situation (seaport cargo is approx. 40 million tons per year, successful operations of Klaipėda business companies and Free economic zone) are the main engines of the city development. In 2015 “Forbes” magazine, released in Latvia, nominated Klaipėda as the best business region in the Baltic States.

Nevertheless, in the last decades the city population is decreasing due to natural demographic changes, which have been exacerbated by the suburbanization (moving to suburban areas), inner (to other regions of the country, especially to the capital Vilnius) and international migration. This trend leads to the main priority of Klaipėda city development – maintaining and recovering population and attracting new citizens to the city. Since it is not possible to control demographic processes directly, municipality has the main objectives to stabilize the city demographic development and increase the attractiveness of the city by creating a high-quality urban environment, reconstructing and developing the public spaces, promoting attractive housing construction in the central part of Klaipėda city.

In relation to these important issues, we suggest to discuss the topics such as development of the city’s urban and recreational public spaces on the waterfront. In particular analyzing two situations:

- Danė river approaches in the central part of the city and Baltic Sea coastal strip at Melnragė I settlement. The first situation is in the intensely urbanized area in the heart of the most valuable historical parts of the city (the old town and the new town), featuring the variety of service facilities and public spaces. Complex development of this part of the city is complicated due to the conversion territories marked in the city’s master plan, which are still intensively used for the production.
- The second situation, opposite to the first one, is located in the natural context and conveys the tasks of sustainable development of abundant visited recreation areas. In this case, the vitality of the depends not only on its qualitative installation, but also on the broader perception of anthropogenic context (Klaipėda port entrance channel, Melnragės settlement), as well as associated shore and environmental Baltic Sea coast management issues.

POSSIBLE SPEAKERS:

1. Huub Droogh - Urban planner/Chairman in RDH Architekci Urbanosci Sp. Z.o. o. Lenkijoje)
2. Simonas Gentvilas – member of Klaipėda City Council, Chairperson of the City development and strategic planning Committee.