



Baltic Cities Bulletin

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Cities' Response to the Climate Change

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by Indrek Aija

Baltic Cities Bulletin

Dear UBC Friends,

It is not a nightmare, it is a fact - our cities have to face the extreme weather events like intense bursts of rainfall, floods, landslides, storms and heat waves more often than ever. The statistical analysis has shown that the risk of such events has already increased considerably due to man-made climate change. They are no more rare single cases. Occurring regularly, they are becoming an alarming trend.



"Europe will not be spared", says the European Commission starting the Europe-wide consultation on preventing the climate change consequences and adapting to the new conditions. Presumably none of the ambitious targets of the EU's environmental policies concerning this burning issue will be achieved without the involvement of the local authorities. The UBC responded to the EC suggesting that the climate protection needs not only the intergovernmental settlements, but also the commitment of the municipalities and its inhabitants.

The negative effects of the climate change are multi-dimensional and reach not only ecosystem but also physical infrastructure. Economic sectors – from agriculture, forestry and fisheries to tourism – will also suffer directly. Intense rainfalls and melting ice will make many Baltic cities, harbours and other developments along rivers more vulnerable to flooding.

What exactly can we do to prevent or reduce the consequences of the climate change? This issue of the Bulletin clearly shows the double challenge the cities and its inhabitants must face: to anticipate and prevent the negative effects of the climate change and to cope with living in the changing environment. A large number of our members is aware that what we are experiencing now are only the first dangerous symptoms of the irreversible process of the global warming. The climate change strategies, regulations, researches, projects and new risk management policies are being implemented. The most tangible results have been obtained in such areas as public transport, renewable energy sector or energy savings. Moreover, the consequent policies aimed at the significant cuts in the greenhouse gas emissions in industry as well as in individual households have already borne fruits in several cities.

The UBC called its members for action adopting unanimously the Resolution on Climate Change during the IX General Conference in Pärnu. Surely, we cannot stop this process but at least we shall try to minimize its harmful effects.

With Baltic greetings,

Per Bødker Andersen
President of UBC

Kolding, April 2008



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Extreme weather conditions have been occurring more frequently. Espoo after the winterstorm in 2005.



The IX UBC General Conference in Pärnu succeeded. The next GC will be held in Kristiansand.



"Challenge of eCitizen" project completed. Participants of the final seminar met in Vaasa.



Dances and music of Žilvinas will delight the fans of the traditional music. This year Klaipėda Folk Dance and Song Company celebrates the 60th Anniversary.

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I. CITIES' RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE

Where are the practical actions in the Baltic Sea Region

FORERUNNERS NEEDED IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

by Stefan Windh & Eva Hjalmered and Guldbrand Skjönberg & Björn Grönholm, UBC Energy Commission and UBC Commission on Environment

There is an ever increasing number of news reporting on extraordinary weather conditions, dangerous situations and other upcoming problems and challenges related to the climate change. It has become one of the biggest threats to our society and we obviously stand at a crossroad when taking strategic decisions for the future. Based on research evidence all of us will in one way or another be influenced or already have been influenced by climate change.

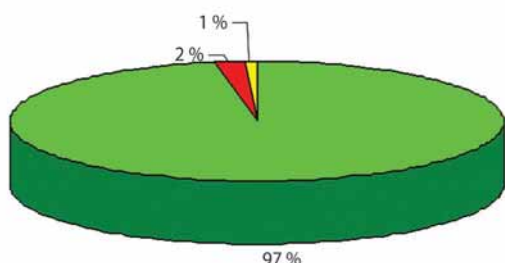
Many cities are already facing problems and increasing expenses due to the climate change related phenomenon. We easily focus on long term effects of them, like huge rise of the level of the Baltic Sea and much warmer climate but forget short term and usually often hidden phenomena of extreme weather conditions. It is predicted that several cities in the Baltic Sea Region are likely to be severely affected by the climate change effects like flooding, storms, problems in infrastructure and water supply and many other challenges.

challenge seriously”? We also know that many countries and cities have expressed concerns of having the capacity to combat the climate change related effects efficiently or even being able to reach national or EU level goals.

The European Union has proceeded from years of planning into taking actions against combating climate change. The goals of the European Union on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020 are tough and will clearly challenge a clear majority of our cities and local societies, as many of these changes need to be taken at the local level in order to reach these goals. According to the European Commission emphasis will be put on energy efficiency and renewable energy, clean technology, solidarity and the energy market to name some of the planned focuses for combating climate change and solving the huge challenges for our societies. On the other hand, the European Commission is also aiming to allocate different additional resources on research, piloting actions and development work. Never before has the EU been so favourable towards energy efficiency and renewable resources.



Are you ready to alter your lifestyle in order to reduce greenhouse emissions ?



Future of the Baltic Sea

What will happen in the future with the state of our Baltic Sea? We can foresee less salt in the water and warmer water directly influencing fish stocks and biodiversity of the sea. Constantly reoccurring question is “Do we really take this

Climate Change highlighted at IX UBC General Conference

During the IX UBC General Conference in Pärnu, Estonia, in September 2007 the Climate Change was approached in three ways. First, all participants of the conference were approached by door poll questions concerning awareness and attitudes about the climate change. A clear majority of the poll respondents stated that they were ready to act and take real actions for reducing climate change effects.

Secondly, the UBC Commissions on Environment and Energy arranged a workshop about Cities' response to the climate change. The workshop had a broad participation which confirms the fact that the issue is a huge concern



for many cities. What is known and became evident is that the UBC cities will be affected by climate change in many different ways. It is not only environmental problems and challenges that will occur but also social and in particular economic influence and challenges for UBC cities. At the workshop a series of speakers addressed challenges of the climate change. Thirdly, the UBC Climate Change Resolution was adopted, where cities were urged to become frontrunners in combating the climate change.

At the workshop on climate change the Deputy Mayor of Pärnu, Simmo Saar, presented the situation and challenges Pärnu has already faced. The City of Pärnu has suffered from many storms and the effects of these storms have usually been unexpected by both the local authorities and citizens. According to forecasts the Bay of Pärnu is predicted to rise 1 meter in the future. Therefore, local and regional planners in Pärnu are advised to keep the rise of the Baltic in mind in town planning. Other actions taken by Pärnu so far are

heavy storm warning system and communication between parties involved in the process of solving crisis situations.

The importance of taking long term strategic decisions and in particular emphasized already existing new and efficient technologies for achieving savings of energy and resources were stressed too. Energy production in cities is strongly developed and energy producers contribute to improved cleaner energy production and consumption habits. Transport is causing

a lot of greenhouse emissions and a huge and challenging task for our cities. Some of these challenges are congestion, air pollution, dependency on oil, urban sprawl, obesity, unattractive cities, noise pollution and unsafe environment. Transport causes 26% of the global CO₂ emissions, and these emissions are unfortunately growing. Technical solutions alone will not be able to solve the problems, soft measures are also needed. Therefore, pressure on policy makers is growing. The Baltic Sea Region is full of good examples and motivation and experiences for innovative solutions and decisions.

The climate change challenges do not only address mitigation related actions, but also how cities and municipalities around the Baltic Sea Region will manage changes needed. Some cities have already developed adaptation plans, and more are needed. The importance of using the resources and experience we have available within the UBC were stressed at the conference. We must therefore act together and develop common projects concerning improved adaptation plans for UBC cities.

Voting on the UBC Resolution on Climate Change. Full text is available at www.ubc.net



UBC Resolution calls for action

A UBC Resolution on Climate Change was accepted at the IX UBC General Conference in Pärnu 2007. This resolution recognizes the importance of cities and local authorities as key players in the Baltic Sea Region in planning and implementing relevant actions to reduce harm and unwished effects of climate change.

It is a firm position of the UBC that it is possible to combine welfare for our citizens and economic progress for our local companies with better energy efficiency and reduced emissions. Progress and welfare are not in contradiction to each other. Actions taken by cities and local authorities are based on international agreements, as well as prioritized goals for the local society, such as welfare of inhabitants and cultural heritage, security of supply, attraction of businesses, sustainable development, healthy environment etc. All these are important elements for cities to account for in an increasingly globalised and competitive world.

We UBC cities realize the need and possibilities of cooperation and playing a pro-active and concrete role in facing the challenges of Climate Change. In addition to this we need to take radical actions! We should not wait any more! We must rely on our knowledge and abilities to solve existing and upcoming challenges and problems. We must utilize our combined potential - the technology, experiences and solutions that already exist in our city network!

We UBC cities must perform and maintain our own responsibilities and duties like public organizations and our duties as a forerunner for enterprises, organizations and citizens. We must inform and educate our citizens about our own responsibilities and how to act in order to reduce the impact on the future climate.

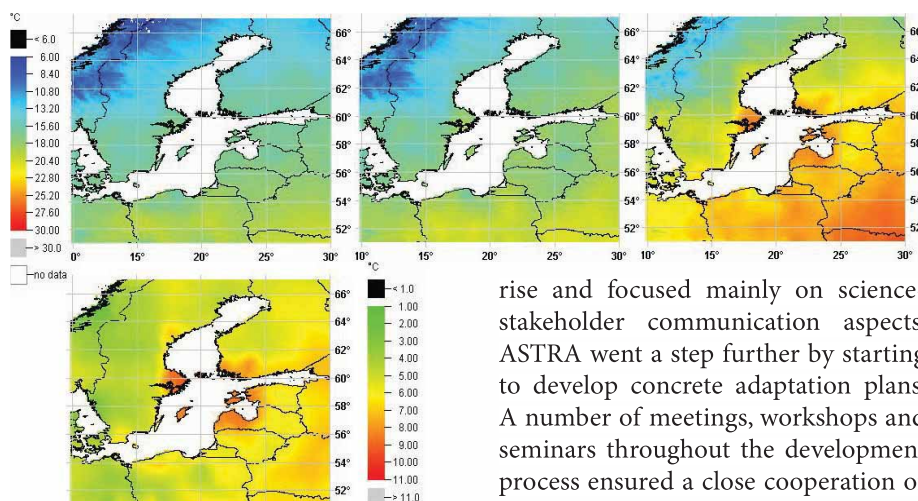
We foresee responsibility, a courageous city leadership with a clear message, strong will and desire to be a frontrunner with concrete actions for combating Climate Change. We need a Climate Change related forerunner for the Baltic Sea Region! Who is ready to take on this role?



by Philipp Schmidt-Thomé and Johannes Klein

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

According to the recent statement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the climate change is no longer avoidable. Therefore, it underlines the need for appropriate and timely adaptation measures. Spatial planning is identified as playing a key role in climate change adaptation. Two projects co-financed by the INTERREG IIB programme have addressed climate change adaptation in the BSR. "Towards climate change adaptation strategies in the BSR" is the title of the publication that summarizes the results of the project "Developing Policies & Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the BSR" (ASTRA). This pan-Baltic climate change adaptation strategy was developed under the lead of the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) in cooperation with several local and regional authorities and research. Preliminary cost-benefit analyses were also discussed with the aim of estimating the costs of



Mean temperature for the summer seasons (June, July, August) for 2001, 2050 and 2099 (upper panel) and the difference 2099/2001 (lower left panel). Source: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, based on CRU/ATEAM data

adaptation versus non-adaptation. The stakeholder communication during the ASTRA project has built on the results of the "Sea level change affecting the spatial development of the BSR" (SEAREG) project, in particular the Decision Support Frame (DSF). While, the SEAREG project had concentrated on estimating the impacts of sea level

rise and focused mainly on science-stakeholder communication aspects, ASTRA went a step further by starting to develop concrete adaptation plans. A number of meetings, workshops and seminars throughout the development process ensured a close cooperation of researchers and practitioners. Several cities have taken ASTRA results into account in the future land use planning: Pärnu (Estonia), Espoo and Kokkola (Finland), Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Gdansk (Poland).

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NEW CHALLENGES OF THE POLISH CITIES

by Maciej Lorek

In the present EU Policy the priority of limitation of the CO₂ emission is a decisive and so far the only stimulus in the fight against the climate warming.

The EU introduced the policy of charges and limits for the CO₂ emission. As a result, the year-long costs of the energy sector in Poland increased in 2007 0.5 mln EUR /year, with perspective of the growth in the next 20 years up to 2,8 mln EUR/year, or even more, but this depends on the market price for the limits of the CO₂ emission. Meanwhile, it seems that the production of the excessive heat produced in the energetic process, and unused by people, has the equally essential impact on the climate change. It shall be stressed, that it is the coal power stations, producing the cheapest energy, that most effectively utilize the limitation of the heat emission by using it in combination.

The pressure in the fight against the climate warming is focused exclusively on limitation of the CO₂ emission. However, it is advised that the EU



Photo: archives of the Marketing Division, Grupa Lotos S.A.

countries shall pay more attention on the priority of reducing the heat emission, produced by the nuclear power stations. Not meaningless is also the growth of consumption, which contributes to the increase of the power-consuming production.

The growth of demand on electric energy, in the expert valuation, is 4% yearly in our country, and this, in a short

20 year perspective, will give us the growth of the country energy demand at about 80%. Poland stands before the basic challenge of diversification of the energy delivery, liquidation of the coal power industry, and creation of the wind and nuclear power industry. It is indispensable to explain the society the need of new energy centres (new power stations, solid waste incineration plants), to determine reasonably energetic priorities, like limitation of the heat wastes and not CO₂ emission. Defending the local society interests, the local authorities shall negotiate conditions of energy investments, shall have a possibility of receiving additional economic and environmental advantages on the areas of investments, promote wind power industry.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

by Tadas Metelionis, Vilija Guzyte and Algirdas Vaitiekunas

Kaunas is involved in a number of projects with the aim to prevent the negative effects of the climate change and to cope with the living in the changing environment.

Since 2005, Kaunas is part of SESAC project – Sustainable Energy Systems in Advanced Cities. The project, uniting 19 partners from many European countries, will finish in 2010, and its main aim is to analyze the experience and best practice of project partners in activities related to sustainable development. Kaunas also takes part in the international project “Energie-Cites” to search for new experience and best practice that have already been explored by other partners.

The aim is to promote the achievements of Kaunas all over Europe, to gain help in the preparation of

projects, to participate in projects co-financed by the European Commission, to get updated information on various



programmes. Kaunas is the only city in Lithuania and the Baltic States that is a real member of this association, actively participating in various seminars, conferences, meetings.

Additionally, Kaunas takes part in the European Energy Award EEA* project seeking to use energy in an effective way and increasing the usage of renewable energy sources.

The expected results from this project are the effective planning and implementation of energy means, the distribution of successful results. In 2005, Kaunas was officially granted the European Energy Award.

Through the BUSTRIP project children in Kaunas create a School Travel Plan promoting a safer journey to school. The city began working with two suburb schools to help improve the students' journey to school. The School Travel Plan project yielded many achievements including a grant for a school exchange programme between Kaunas and Spyken School in Lund, Sweden.

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KARLSKRONA BECOMES CLIMATE SMART

by Johnny Lilja

To make Karlskrona climate smart is a complex process which works inwards in the city council and outwards. For this work, the Executive Board of Karlskrona has a parliamentary group for projects that work with climate and energy questions. The goal is to be independent of oil for heating, to make buildings more

energy efficient and to change the transports for better sustainability. You will make this through setting clear environmental goals, in an energy plan and influence the procurement and putting demands on “green food” for old people's homes and schools. Less dependence of oil and a change to renewable energy sources take place through further expanding the district heating and the awareness

will built up a construction which will have the capacity to supply the city with electricity. The heat from the production will be cooled off in the district heating system.

Karlskrona is trying a new concept to make the city as free of cars as possible changing car parks into recreational areas. The municipality cooperates also with Region Blekinge to achieve the climate goals i.e. to decrease the green house effects.

A sustainable municipality is the next challenge. In cooperation with the Swedish authority for Energy Karlskrona will run a program where the change over in energy is the key factor. The development work is done in cooperation with the Swedish Authority for Energy, other municipalities and the Blekinge Institute of Technology with the Back casting model as the starting point.

rising. To make buildings more energy efficient Karlskrona works with different projects and partners, e.g. “Energy Trophy” and the National Environmental Protection Boards “KLIMP”.

In the cooperation with the Swedish authority for Energy Karlskrona runs a program called Prio Ett, which has the goal to secure the energy situation in case of disturbances in power supply. Within this program the municipality

Enhancing planning for local energy systems by backcasting from sustainability principles

Ann S. Cassidy, Delphine Le Page, Sean W. Spender

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OBJECTIVE
Envisioning a sustainable and effectively implemented local energy plan

METHODS
Strategic planning, using 'backcasting from sustainability principles'

CONCLUSIONS
Indicate strategic and critical insights for decision-makers

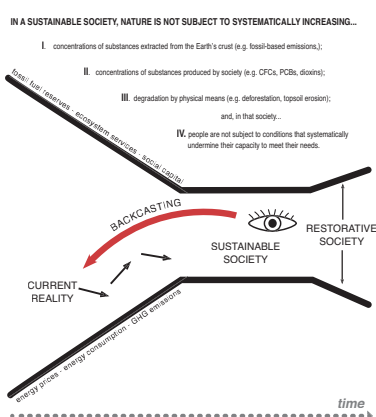
SYSTEM
community within the biosphere

SUCCESS
principle-based sustainable energy system

STRATEGY
backcasting from sustainability principles

ACTIONS
e.g. district heating, investing in energy efficiency

TOOLS
e.g. ISO 14001



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by Annica Myrén

Municipalities increasingly wish to focus on reduction of the energy consumption and centre on renewable energy sources to achieve reductions in the CO₂-emissions. Kolding wants to go further and be the leading energy municipality in Denmark within the above areas by year 2021.

Therefore, Kolding has formed Energy Kolding, the superior initiative, which intercepts, develops, organises and effects



Photo: Peter Kjær

ENERGY KOLDING

innovative ideas and projects within the topical areas. Citizens, private and public companies, organisations and research and development institutions collaborate to reduce the energy consumption.

Furthermore, Energy Kolding works as a catalyst for the establishment of Energy Park Kolding, which will function as a development park for energy technology, including renewable energy, and ensure regional business development within the energy technology area. Energy Kolding is divided into 5 effort areas: Citizens, Municipality, Transport, Building and Business. Each area includes a number of projects, which ensure energy savings, reduction of CO₂-emissions and aim towards energy efficient solutions. The projects include a solar cell plant in a village society, sustainable transport planning, 100%

GOALS FOR ENERGY KOLDING

- Kolding will develop into the leading municipality in Denmark in energy savings, efficient energy utilization and employment of renewable energy.
- CO₂-emissions will be reduced by 75% in 2021 compared to 1990 metered per inhabitant.
- The share of renewable energy will amount to a min. of 30% of the total energy consumption in 2021.
- A development park within the area renewable energy will be established in Kolding.

green electricity in Kolding, low energy building and many more. The Energy Commission Kolding, the governing body, consists of the leading Danish companies within R&D in energy technology, representatives of the city, business, the citizens and research and education institutions.

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by Simmo Saar

The winds that caused extensive damage in Pärnu at the beginning of 2005 killed at least 14 people in Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain. Most of the flood damages in Estonia occurred in Pärnu where water levels reached almost three metres above average (275 cm). The city centre, and its beachfront area became submerged. More than 200 people were evacuated from the area. The storm destroyed 775 buildings, directly affecting the lives of 5,097 people. The businesses in the Pärnu County estimated that their direct storm damages amounted to EEK 93 million. This amount does not include the income loss that the businesses faced. The fishery, agriculture and tourism sectors suffered most.

The following issues were addressed after the storm:

- Is Estonia's crisis management and notification of residents sufficient?
- Do people know what they are insured against?
- Can such events recur and are they related to global warming?

In this context, the ASTRA (Develop-



ing Policies & Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme) project was launched. Its main objective was to assess regional impacts of the ongoing global change in climate and to develop strategies and policies for climate change adaptation. The results of the studies stated that by the end of the century, water level in the Bay of Pärnu shall rise by about 1m and the area's temperature by 2-3°C,

and precipitation by about 10 %.

Living in a potential crisis area calls for changes in both improving preparedness for solving emergencies and urban planning. For instance, developers are advised to consider in the detailed plan the potential rise in water level. For better notification of the general public, an autonomous warning system (PAUH) comprising five separately located audio devices is planned to set up. PAUH can operate using emergency batteries and, thus, is not connected to the power supply. Communication between parties taking part in the process of solving crisis situations has also improved – city government, National Defence League, Defence Forces, rescue centre, hospital, Red Cross and the police have specified their plans of action during joint meetings. The working groups will work jointly to find solutions for evacuation problems and create a system of autonomous evacuation points.

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ATTACKING THE CLIMATE CHANGE

by Pekka Salminen

It has become clear that climate stability is one of the main issues when we talk about sustainable development. Because it is one of the main values in the Turku Strategy, it obliges the city also to fight against the climate change.

In the city organisation each department has listed the actions to be taken to cut the greenhouse gas emissions. Good results have been reached through implementation of the sustainable energy policy. Turku has signed the voluntary energy saving



Turku is investing in renewable energy production - bio heating plant uses woodchips in energy production.

agreement with the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry. This has led to decline of the energy consumption in the buildings owned by the city. Turku has also committed that at least 4% of its electricity consumption to be covered by the wind power.

The city owned Energy Company has invested heavily in the renewable energy production. Bio heating plant covers now 20% of the district heating demand. The aim is to double the bio heating capacity within few years. Also the use of methane from the city landfill to district heating has been one of the recent investments. The new investment is a heat pump in the wastewater treatment plant. Starting from 2009 the pump will produce emission free heat for the yearly need of about 4000 detached houses. Realistic goal for the year 2020 is that 50-70 % of the district heat is produced by renewable energy sources. Almost 90% of the inhabitants use now a district heating.

Turku plays an active role also in the work of SW Finland Energy Agency which is coordinating energy saving projects and campaigns, as well as promoting renewable energy produc-

Old energy plant in the city centre gives food for thought for passers-by



tion in the region. Development of the greenhouse gas emissions are reported in the sustainable development report of the city. Emissions of the whole community are measured every fourth year using the model developed by the Finnish Environment Institute. Emissions caused by the city organisation are measured annually. Development trend in the 1st decade of this century has been positive.

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by Boris Komovnikov

The TACIS project "Reduction of the quantity of greenhouse gas, which is formed at the testing ground of the City of Kaliningrad" was implemented by the municipal enterprise "Ecological Centre EKAT-Kaliningrad" in association with Kalmar (Sweden), the establishment Sustainable South-Eastern Sweden and the Kaliningrad branch of "Mariyskiy NPZ". Within the

The data on the wells is presented in the following table:

Well	Test 1 (% CH ₄)	Test 2 (% CH ₄)
1	72,3	74,1
2	68,3	69,2
3	79,9	81,2
4	69,7	69,7
5	68,3	64,3

framework of the project the following activities were fulfilled:

- The preliminary theoretical estimations were carried out by the Swedish experts in order to plan the practical work;
- The Kaliningrad dump was investigated; the biogas examples were taken and its components were studied;
- Preparation of the report on the costs of biogas elimination and utilization, reduction of its negative impact on environment and the technical recommendation concerning the project realization;

Five test wells were drilled within the testing ground territory in order to take the examples of biogas from both of them. By carrying out the laboratory researches the level of methyl hydride contained in the wells was figured (from 64% to 81%).

The total biogas volume is estimated to 11 millions

square meters per year. In order to obtain the information on the waste decay level and the impact on environment the well filtrate probes were taken. The results of the leached water (filtrate) laboratory researches revealed the active process of biogas formation.

The theoretical estimations showed that about 11 millions square meters of biogas are formed yearly at the Kaliningrad dump. This number is equal to 7 energy megavolt. Biogas quality and quantity allow to use it as a material for heat and electric energy production.

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BIOGAS AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY



by Krzysztof Michalski

Szczecin is currently going through the rapid transformation and in the new economic reality it has actually changed its profile from a port-industrial city to regional service provider and academic centre, with strong maritime traditions. The process will be strengthened even more through locating technological parks within the agglomeration. At the same time, the city is implementing new regulations aiming at mitigating the climate changes. Despite some noticeable changes in the Polish regulations and recent media campaigns, the awareness of climate changes and their negative impact on our daily lives is still low. Among numerous social endeavours, the city educates the youngest and supports pro-ecological organizations and their publications. The most spectacular event here is the Day of the Earth. For many years Szczecin

Eco-SZCZECIN

has best been known as „the green city” or the „garden city”. That is why while planning its development, one considers the necessity of reducing burdensome transport. The Inner City

In the sphere of city governance one important group of undertaken actions is re-organization of the municipal transport system, favouring public transport and tramways in particular. A Speed Tramway Project valued at ca. 150 mln EUR, and re-organization of traffic management system – MIESZKO System, allowing for the so called „green wave effect” for the rail traffic, are among the major projects.

Ring is under construction to allow reducing the inner city traffic and shortening the time necessary to travel through the city and will improve the traffic flow. Introducing of the so called buffer car parks together with the three paid parking zones, closing down some of the streets, will result in the reduced emission of pollution and warm gases. The city will also gain more public spaces in the city centre.

Szczecin also works on bettering thermal conditions of the council housing. The city, together with the

tenants, co-finances the programme of smaller improvements related to improving the technical condition of buildings, including their heating.

The city successively eliminates stoves by promoting more effective gas heating or district heating system. In new buildings, according to the local master plans, no coal stoves are allowed any more, although they are still cheapest in the Polish market. However, heating pumps or other renewable energy systems are allowed. Due to landscape restrictions one does not allow wind power stations. Under the municipal environmental policy, the city managed to minimize a number of permits for locating here hazardous or arduous industry branches.

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by Pär Wallin

To reach the goal of fossil fuel free community by 2030, Kalmar needs help from local inhabitants. To decrease greenhouse gas emissions citizens must contribute by changing their habits and choosing climate-smart goods and services. The Municipality has recently started projects to help the citizens. The Climate Pilot project is about coaching 12 households to make smart choices as concerns energy, transportation and consumption of goods and services. In

CLIMATE PILOTS IN KALMAR

August 2007 an assessment resulting in “greenhouse gas profile” of existing patterns of consumption for 12 households was conducted. There were given 12 objectives intended to help them to improve their household profile and decrease emissions generated by the goods and services they consume. The households have varying backgrounds, some have had an interest in environmental concerns and others have not. They are families with children, retired, singles, people in rural and urban areas, self-employed or employed. What they have in common is that they are all

motivated to change their lifestyles. The greenhouse gas profile is based on a database of 320 of the most common goods and services. In the so called “life-cycle assessment”, emissions are shown in kilograms per crown spent. This database is not exact but it provides adequate information for evaluation purposes. The first assessment of the greenhouse gas profile

revealed the lowest emissions as being 2,7 tons annually per person and household as compared to the highest emissions at 11 tons. The first challenge was to decrease emissions caused by food. The Climate Pilots were assembled at a restaurant school and given advice by a chef on what to buy, how to get to the shops and finally how to cook in a climate-smart way. They were given a vegetarian cook book, cooking guidelines and the opportunity to consult experts. Cooperating with a local food chain they were given discounts on ecological products. The next few challenges dealt with effective energy use, eco-driving etc. After 12 months and 12 challenges a new assessment showed much lower emissions. The results confirm the success and value of the project. Climate Pilots have become now positive role models for others.

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LÜBECK AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

by Thorsten Geissler

For years, it appeared Lübeck was immune to problems associated with climate change. However, recently the city has experienced increases in temperature, storms, heavy rainfalls, and even heat waves. Lübeck knows that as a city it cannot stop global warming. Therefore, city administrators have focused on mitigating the consequences of climate change e.g. by energy-saving measures. Furthermore, Lübeck has become a member of several organizations promoting a permanent dialogue and exchange of concepts between local, regional, and national governments, as well as the European Union.

In 1992, Lübeck joined the Climate Alliance, a network of more than 1300 European municipalities. Its goal is to protect the world's climate. Lübeck has benefited immensely from the expertise of the Climate Alliance in developing projects for local climate protection. The Lübeck City Council passed a bylaw in 2007 which obliges all departments of the city administration to consider and mitigate the consequences of climate

change in local planning.

One of the public relations projects initiated by the Climate Alliance was the Ice Block Bet, aimed at educating the public about the benefits of thermal insulation. Five ice blocks were put in an insulated house in the heart of the city. After ten weeks 72.3 % of the ice still existed.

Lübeck has combated climate change also in other ways. The city gives homeowners, landlords and tenants the opportunity to evaluate heat consumption. Everybody can receive recommendations from local experts on how to save energy, reduce costs, and CO₂ emissions. Lübeck has also given subsidies to promote environmentally-friendly living. It has been involved in combating climate change on a multinational level. The INTERREG Project "e-Tream" is one example of this involvement.

Lübeck has identified precautionary climate protection as a primary goal. By 2010, half of the electric power produced in the land of Schleswig-Holstein will be derived from wind.

"The problems have been identified. Now it's time to act".

Mr Thorsten Geissler, Lübeck's Senator for Environment, Security and Public Order



In accordance with the objectives of Climate Alliance, Lübeck hopes to see 50% less greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In addition to that, the township aims at seeing a significant further reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, through the use of effective traffic management plans, solar panels on public buildings, energy-management policies and flood control methods.

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INITIATIVES TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE

by Zita Tverkutė

Daily rational actions of experts and decision makers of local authorities in planning and implementing programmes aiming at reduction of climate changes are of great importance nowadays.

Panevėžys has the approved Action Plan for the Reduction of Climate Changes for 2006-2013. The strategic aspects of the above mentioned document are as follows:

- increase of green areas by 50 %,
- promotion of bio-transport and the expansion of cycling paths (from 80 km in 2006 to 200 km until 2013),
- decrease of bio-waste in landfills by 98% till 2009 and by 100% till 2013,
- construction of a regional household waste landfill fulfilling the requirements of EU up to 2009,
- closing and re-cultivation of 186 regional small landfills which do not

correspond the rules of EU,

- construction of incineration system of household waste and decrease in the amounts of methane (having the hugest impact on climate changes) up to 90%,
- sorting and recycling of waste and decreasing the areas of landfills (constantly),
- renovation programme of old blocks of flats, saving of energy production and use, reduction of air pollution of energy companies (constantly),
- promotion of use of bio-fuel in public transportation (up to 70% till 2013),
- promotion of use of bio-fuel in boiler houses using renewable energy resources (waste of wood processing, straw),
- education of inhabitants about the use of renewable energy (solar batteries at home, use of water and wind energy),
- promotion of local companies in

applying modern technologies decreasing the use of energy (via tax system, environmental standards in companies),

- trainings, seminars for heads of companies, local politicians, decision makers on decrease of effects of climate changes and challenges in case of climate changes,
- contests for companies, schools, hospitals on best solutions in escaping climate changes),
- publication of annual magazine about the actions in decreasing climate changes, monthly informational stand in the city centre and 2 advertising information displays,
- European Mobile Weeks and CAR FREE DAYS.

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TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE JYVÄSKYLÄ

by Mervi Saukko

Jyväskylä is attaining the commitment of the staff towards Environmental Management System (EMS). This is evaluated through questionnaires for personnel. Another important step has been taken in centralizing purchases and city contracts taking into use the green products and services.

Building the EMS for the city has taken nearly ten years. After the environmental impacts of the city's operational activities

were identified, programs were drawn up to reduce them. In 2008 the city council will approve an updated environmental policy program.

In the field of centralised purchases and city contracts green products and services (green electricity, carpets, eco-cassettes) have been taken into use. In certain product groups there is also a possibility to choose green products (cleaning products, household papers).

The climate change is the environmental priority topic for the year

2008. For example, in construction services (architects, building surveyors) the knowledge of low energy houses can be improved, as well as the knowledge of energy saving techniques and effective use of energy.

In educational services the "Puhuhuhta" elementary school received Environmental Certificate of Schools and Educational Establishments last year. Our goal is to have more schools equipped with the Green Flag -label and environmental certificates in the future. In 2008, environmental groups are working in every sector of the city.



Photo: Kalevi Korhonen

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by So Hie Kim-Hellström

THE GREENEST CITY IN EUROPE

For years Växjö was described as the city by the lake where the roads meet. Until some decades ago, the lakes were severely polluted, but after massive restoration work, Växjö has now integrated the lakes in the townscape again.

Växjö is an internationally recognized frontrunner in the fight against climate change and has undertaken an ambitious programme designed to protect and enhance its local environment. Växjö will make a shift from fossil fuels to bioenergy in the heating and transport sectors. Access to many forests is the basis for the climate politics of Växjö, the municipality is actually situated in the middle of the woodshed – the source of bioenergy. Politicians, NGOs, businesses and inhabitants have been successfully participating with wide knowledge about environment and the ability to see solutions instead of problems. To ensure environmental improvement and efficient work, we use the environmental management system ecoBUDGET. Through the system we can control the

environmental resources in the municipality and follow up goals in the Environmental Programme.

"Fossil Fuel Free Växjö" is an overall community programme that takes an integrated and cooperative approach to achieving its objectives. It involves a wide array of activities aimed at generating more energy and heat from renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency in all areas and achieving sustainable patterns of mobility. Växjö has decreased the emissions of fossil CO₂ by 30 % per inhabitant from 1993 to 2006. The Fossil Fuel Free-programme has given the the city

a lot of recognition.

Växjö was in February 2007 given the award within the "Sustainable Energy for Europe Campaign", a campaign initiated by the European Commission.

Later in September the city was given another award "The best environmental practice in Baltic Cities Award 2007". Actions have been performed and will be performed in large scale and small scale. Many different stakeholders are involved in the work – the city administration, energy companies, housing companies, transport companies, NGO's, university and private persons. -Växjö is now called the Greenest City in Europe by international media, in more than 500 international articles, radio programmes and television features during last months. We are proud of this but it's also a commitment to fulfil- says Charlotta Svanberg, new UBC Executive Board member.



We are proud of being the Greenest City in Europe but it's also a commitment to fulfil - says Charlotta Svanberg, new member of the UBC Executive Board.
Photo: Martina Wärenfeldt

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GREEN ROOFS IN MALMÖ

by Louise Lundberg &
Trevor Graham

Flooding and extreme storm events are expected to follow climate change. In Augustenborg, a unique system of open storm water management and green roofs has been built to deal with this. Instead of leading the stormwater to the municipal treatment plants, it is managed locally. First, extensive green roofs take care of 50% of the rain that falls on them annually. Second, any remaining stormwater is lead into an open system. Water is allowed to evaporate from the ponds, canals and plant meadows. Augustenborg takes care of 70-80% of its stormwater this way. The green roofs have also several properties that save energy. Both the building and the city as a whole stay cooler in the summer – something which becomes even more important with the changing climate. A similar system has been built up also in the Western Harbour and a number of other smaller and less urban stormwater systems are in operation



Malmö is also aiming at becoming a SolarCity. This solar panel installation heats the local swimming and sport arena Kockum Fritid in Malmö. Photo: Tor Fossum, City of Malmö

elsewhere in the city. A former hospital site is currently under re-development where all stormwater will be managed on-site to avoid overloading the nearby river. The work is currently in the planning stages in another part of the city to address run-off from an industrial estate.

Malmö is beginning to consider other impacts of climate change with the support of a national research team. Issues such as the impact of heat waves on the elderly population, or gender

inequalities in the impact of climate change provide additional challenges that the city will need to consider in more detail. The use of urban greenery in the form of green facades, green roofs, street trees and other urban trees is expected to provide one important way of coping with extreme heat events.

The Scandinavian Green Roof Institute has been established to develop new ideas in the field of green roofs and green facades and facilitate the development of a green roof market in Scandinavia. SGRI also manages the Augustenborg Botanical Roof Garden, and organises study tours of the housing area, now called the EcoCity Augustenborg.

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NEW SOLAR POWER PLANT IN HORSSENS

by Jannik Stanley Nielsen

The third largest solar powerplant in the world is situated in Horsens in Denmark.

An absolutely unique facility - this is how the new solar power plant can be described. 641 solar panels put together create the third largest solar power plant in the world. The new energy-saving facility is not only good for the environment - it also saves money of customers.

Each customer saves about 700 DKK (110 USD) a year, and at the same time the CO₂-load is reduced with about 3,2 tons a year per consumer. That is a very fine result, regarding the former Danish Minister of Environmental Issues, Flemming Hansens' objective of reducing the CO₂-load no less than 1 ton a year. All together the new solar power plant saves the environment from 4.500 tons of CO₂ a year.

The solar power plant produces approximately 4 million kWh hot water

per year and covers approximately 10% of the total use of heating for all customers in the city Braedstrup.

Energinet.dk, which is responsible for the electric system in Denmark, has backed the project with 3,5 million DKK (500.000 USD) and has also calculated that the combination of sun and combined heat and power (CHP) has a stabilizing effect on the electric system.

Former Minister of Environmental Issues, Flemming Hansen, had only good things to say, when the facilities opened in August 2007.

"I'm very pleased to launch a project with huge environmental advantages. And, it also defies the old story of Denmark as a country, where the sun never shines", said Flemming Hansen.



And now the citizens of Braedstrup, close to Horsens and the neighborhood, can look forward to cheap and non-polluting heating.

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SUNDSVALLS
KOMMUN

THE SHIFT TO A BIOENERGY SOCIETY

by Bertil Carlsson

The region's leading players in the bioenergy field have reached agreement on project collaboration within the scope of bioenergy. This project collaboration will strengthen the region's opportunities to obtain a higher yield of biomass.

The collaboration comprises of the following projects:

- Comprehensive analysis of a future bioenergy society
- Deciduous & Coniferous Forest, adapted management
- Forest bi-products, logistics and technologies
- BTL, gasification of biomass and purification of synthetic gas

The purpose of the collaboration is to reinforce the impact of the individual projects and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the entire system chain from "Forest to product". It is therefore of vital importance that the conditions for the collaboration can

be implemented in their entirety.

A comprehensive analysis will be the shared resource. It will compile project results to form a single unit and a chain where the component projects form the links. The project's outcomes will acquire added-value when they are placed in a wider concept. Other projects will separately and regularly report their results to "Comprehensive analysis".

Data from the collaborating projects is to be compiled to form a general picture that illustrates the complete bioenergy system from forest to boiler/gasifier. The analysis is to identify both strengths and weaknesses in the system. The project will have great significance for the final outcome and for the end results of the individual projects involved in the collaboration.

The project is divided into two segments: "System analysis" and "People-Environment in a bioenergy society". The System analysis segment will use the information and conclusions from the other projects in "Energy Platform Mellannorland". The material will be analysed and processed to ultimately summarise the results of the involved projects and place them in a wider context. The starting point for the work is a broad perspective that takes into consideration the technical, economic and financial aspects. The analysis will provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities in connection with society's transition from fossil fuels to biofuels.

The People-Environment in a bioenergy society



The Inner Harbour of Sundsvall. Photo: www.ffagency.com

segment will deal with the humanistic issues that arise in the shift to a bioenergy society. This change-over will unavoidably lead to changes in the forest industry. New management systems and changes in the forest's composition of species will alter the landscape. It is of vital importance to study, early on, how the public and forest owners will view and accept this change. We know that major changes in the countryside are met with varying degrees of acceptance by different individuals and groups. Society's heterogeneity with respect to, for example, gender, place of resident, education etc. therefore becomes an important factor to be considered in the study, as is the relationship with the forest. Also, within the scope of the study, the change in forest use and its impact on the natural environment will be compared with other types of impact on the surroundings (e.g. wind power stations, mini-hydroelectric plants along rivers and streams) and the effects that continued use of fossil fuels can be anticipated to result in. Qualitative and quantitative methodologies will be combined and empirically be based on interviews and a questionnaire-based survey.

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Sundsvall SCA Ortviken. Photo: www.ffagency.com



UNITED AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

by Rasa Povilanskiene

From October 2005 till December 2007, Klaipėda participated in INTERREG IIIB project "Developing Policies and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the BSR". Last autumn the project publication "Climate Change - Adaptation to its Impact in the Lithuanian Coastal Zone" was published. It introduces major results of the project. The most fragile environmental, economic and social spheres, where climate change

impact will be chiefly manifested, as the seashore, forests, human health, tourism and recreation, the infrastructure of residential areas and industry, have been described in the book.

Just like in the majority of coastal cities, floods cause danger to Klaipėda due to rising water level in the Baltic Sea, and also because of abundant highly intense precipitation, and an amplified flow of rivers. The Vilnius University prepared maps of potentially endangered territories in the city. The University also proposed measures to minimize the potential harm:

- While planning the city infrastructure development and building construction, the increased danger of certain city quarters must be taken into consideration. Parks, recreation zones, etc. should be established in the potentially overflowed territories
- The rising sea level must be also taken into consideration. In the endangered zones, it is necessary to reconstruct (to reinforce and heighten) quays and

embankments.

- To reconstruct and reform the city sewage system in potentially overflowed territories.
- To avoid danger relating to pollution of wells, to guarantee a centralized water supply in potentially overflowed areas.
- To create the warning system.

The recommendations on how to adapt to the climate change will allow the municipality to pay decent attention to future threats by creating and upgrading long-term city development strategies, expanding communications networks, improving the state of health of the citizens and vacationers, protecting beach areas, forests, dunes, etc.

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The project's results were introduced and discussed with various interest groups.



by Helle Tolmoff

Tartu is known as the university and science centre of Estonia, but it differs from other Estonian cities with its unique natural environment. It is not very common that new habitations of protected plants grow on the territory of a city with 100.000 inhabitants, including the rarest plants. The reason for this is the old valley of river Emajõgi, which makes the local water regime suitable for plants of various species.

"Preserving the unique environment of our city and maintaining and expanding the green areas is one of the priorities of the City Government," says Urmas Kruuse, the mayor of Tartu. "City planning and development is carried out with the perspective that our citizens would still have a healthy living environment in the future."

The city planners of Tartu have to face unique challenges and skilfully unite the development of the city

with preserving the nature, so that neither of them would suffer. Thus, they have reached a unique idea in Estonia to create small protectorates of protected plants inside the planned living quarters. "We have ordered the expertise of conservationists for several areas currently under planning in order to clarify in which limits and under which conditions buildings can be established in the habitat of protected plants," says Indrek Ranniku, the head of Tartu city planning service.

Architects taking part in the European competition had to take into account the habitats of protected plants. Yuri Gerrits (Belgium) and Martin Birgel (Germany) left a large greenery in the middle of the houses.



Tartu is open to the international ideas to enrich its city environment. Last year, the city offered its sites to the European competition of young European architects. As a new habitation of protected plants was found, an eight-hectare spot of land had to remain untouched. In the works presented, a large greenery was left in the middle of dense housing. The French architects who won the competition proposed a concept of modern living quarters preserving the existing nature, where the parking spaces as well as other human activity has been centralized under the houses.

Thanks to the specific environment of Tartu, the city planners constantly work closely with the national environmental service located in Tartu, sharing the common goal – to keep the nature and thus human-friendly city environment of Tartu.

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STEPS TO MITIGATE THE CLIMATE CHANGE

by Johanna Saarola &
Mervi Virtanen

Growing unusual weather conditions like pouring rains, floods and mild winters are true in Northern countries nowadays. Climate change is a reality and public sector has to take responsibility for mitigation and adaptation actions. Already in 1997 Lahti joined the Climate Protection campaign for Municipalities, coordinated by ICLEI.

The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the region are energy production, traffic and waste management. In Lahti energy is produced at Kymijärvi power plant in a joint production process - electricity and heat are produced at the same time. Gasification of recovered fuel (REF) reduces CO₂ emissions about 10 %. Still 84% of energy is produced by fossil fuels.

Lahti has made a commitment to long-term energy conservation through the Energy Conservation Agreement with the Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry. The means to save energy are carrying out energy au-

ditions in the properties, drawing up energy conservation plan and implementing cost-effective conservation measures.

Lahti Environmental Policy 2006-2009 was approved by Lahti City Council on 13 March 2006. According to this policy, in 2015 greenhouse gas emissions in the Lahti Region will remain at the same level as in 1990 and specific consumption of electricity in properties owned by the city (kWh/m³) in 2015 will be 10% lower than at present (in 2005). Lahti Climate Strategy will be drawn up by the end of 2008.

The citizens of Lahti have awakened to understand climate change through the last untypical mild winters. They are concerned about the skiing possibilities and the organising of the famous Lahti Ski Games in the future.



Photo: Lahti Regional Development Company

The city considers the promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and effects of climate change very important. Lahti has improved the awareness of citizens by many campaigns, exhibitions, expert days and seminars organised by Lahti Region Environmental Service. Further resources have been gathered from different development

projects which have been funded by the EU. These projects have made the development of the sustainable development centre possible where people can get information on energy and environmental issues.

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by Elin Dalaryd

THE CLIMATE MUNICIPALITY

The future climate change may have severe consequences for Kristianstad, especially through flooding. Major parts of the municipality lie very low but the constant threat of floods has made the municipality well prepared for an increased flood frequency in the future. Also, the municipality is leading when it comes to mitigating climate change.

Kristianstad is situated in a flood-prone, low-lying wetland area and it is partly protected by levees. Sweden's lowest point is situated near the city centre, 2.41 meters below sea level. Precipitation in Sweden is expected to increase by 10-20 % in the future and extended rain periods will occur more frequently. However, Kristianstad's position has resulted in a well developed work when it comes to flood protection. The municipality is mapping risks, making forecasts and taking measures to reduce the risk of floods. Strengthening the city protection is extensive and costly, the project is estimated to cost 20 million €. New levees and pumping stations are being constructed and old ones are being reconstructed.

Kristianstad also wants to be a forerunner when it comes to mitigating climate change. A climate strategy was adopted in 2005 and in 1999 the executive committee of the municipality declare its will to become a Fossil Fuel Free Municipality.

The measure that has resulted in the largest CO₂-reduction is district heating. New areas are continuously added to the system and the proportion of bio fuel in the combined heat and power plant is now 98%. Outside district heating areas the municipality has converted 43 boilers in public buildings from oil to pellets. At the municipal biogas plant organic waste from households is co-digested with waste from the food industry and manure. One part of the biogas is upgraded to vehicle fuel and all 22 buses in the city run on biogas. The measures taken in the municipality since 1990 has up to 2007 reduced the yearly release of CO₂ by 134 000 tonnes, compared to a situation where no measures had been taken.

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The City Bus and Biogas plant.
Photo: Lars Carlsson.



II. UBC TODAY

IX UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PÄRNU

“Global warming, upkeep and development of cultural traditions and more active involvement of the youth in social life are important topics where we have a role to play and which shape our present and future”, said Mart Viisitamm, Mayor of Pärnu, welcoming the guests of the IX UBC General Conference. Over 270 participants met in Pärnu on 26-29 September to discuss those burning issues.

The plenary session abounded

with interesting speeches and presentations. Ambassador Valdis Krastins, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Latvia and Mr Alan Lloyd, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Congress of Local & Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, emphasised the need for close cooperation in order to succeed in making the Baltic Sea a region of sustainable communities. Mr Xosé António Sánchez Bugallo, President of the Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities focused on the mutual advantages of the exchange of experience between UBC and CAAC. Mr Uno Aldegren, President of RELEX Commission, presented the work of the Committee of the Regions and two opinions: “Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius - The way ahead for 2020 and beyond” and the Energy Package.

Finally, Mr Michel Sudarskis, Secretary General of International Urban Development Association INTA, delivered a compelling speech on the role of the culture in society, concluding that “the debate, on the occasion of the IX UBC

General Conference, takes place at a time

The conference started with the Concert of Carl Orff's “Carmina Burana”, Thursday, 29 September



when the public enthusiasm for the past is increasingly evident, not least in the strong media focus on heritage and history”.

The following workshops were held concurrently after the plenary session: Cities' response to the climate change, introduced by prof. Björn G. Karlsson, University of Linköping, Culture as driving force for municipal development, introduced by Ms Marie-Louise Rönmark, 1st Vice-President of the UBC, Mayor of Umeå and Involvement of youth in democracy and in the life of the society, introduced by Charlotte Gustafsson, Chairperson of the Commission on Youth Issues, Kalmar.

As usual, the second day of the Conference was devoted to the UBC's internal matters such as reports, elections, finances, etc.



ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

The General Conference elected for a two-year period:

Mr Per Boedker Andersen, Mayor of Kolding, as President
Ms Marie-Louise Rönmark, Mayor of Umeå, as first Vice-President
Ms Urve Tiidus, Mayor of Kuressaare, as Vice-President
Mr Jarkko Virtanen, Vice-Mayor of Turku, as Vice-President

The following cities were elected as **UBC Executive Board** members for the next two-year period:

Naestved (Denmark), Kärdla (Estonia), Kemi (Finland), Rostock (Germany), Liepāja (Latvia), Panevezys (Lithuania), Kristiansand (Norway), Gdansk (Poland), St. Petersburg (Russia), Växjö (Sweden)





THE UBC BOARD MET IN BRUSSELS

The 51st meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held in Brussels on 8 February 2008 in the premises of the Committee of the Regions. The Board members participated as observers in the Committee's 73rd Plenary Session. Mr Uno Aldegren, Chairman of Relx, informed the Board about creation of "Interregional Group Baltic" within the Committee of the Regions. The task of this group is to lobby for BSR interests. He also added that the European Commission was

considering a special "Baltic Sea Programme/ Strategy" which was to be announced at the end of 2008.

Among the political issues discussed in Brussels there was the UBC's input to the EC Blue Paper 'An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union'. Mr Mikko Lohikoski, Turku, reminded that in the first half of 2007, UBC took position on the EU maritime policy and

UBC Policy Priorities for 2008-2009

- Monitoring and influencing EU policies which have an impact on local authorities; contributing to the process of creating a new Baltic Sea Strategy of the EU.
- Promoting sustainable development, renewable energy, energy saving, climate change, eco-friendly urban transport.
- Contributing to the process of shaping the European Maritime Policy.
- Culture as driving force for municipal development.
- Securing gender equality perspective in cities policies.
- Involvement of youth in democracy and the life of society.
- Cooperation with other Baltic and European organisations.



passed comments on Green Paper on European Maritime Policy to the European Commission. On the basis of wide consultation, the EC published on 10 October 2007 a paper entitled "An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union" (Blue Book). The UBC is working now on its comments to the Blue Book. The Board decided to establish the Task Force with Turku as its chair to follow development in this field. Moreover, the climate change problems were discussed. Together with CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, UBC responded to the EC Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe – options for EU action", emphasizing the key role of local authorities when dealing with the effects of the climate change. The UBC contribution to the EC Green Paper on Urban Transport (Mobility) promoting the

Sustainable Urban Transport Planning was another important issue in the agenda of the Board meeting.

The Secretary General Pawel Zaboklicki presented the draft of the UBC Action Plan for 2008-2009. The policy priorities of the Union are listed in the blue frame. The Board approved the Action Plan. Mr Zaboklicki presented also the budget for 2008 which was approved. The participants were acquainted with the results of the questionnaire on the UBC further development. According to Mr Lohikoski, they are creating a good basis for the further development of the priorities and structures of the Union. It was decided to continue the mandate of the Working Group.

The Board decided to accept Halmstad as a new member of the UBC.

Ms Urve Tiidus, Vice-President of the Union, Mayor of Kuressaare, invited the Board to Kuressaare in June 2008.

THE BALTIC SEA REGION FUNDING PROGRAMMES LAUNCHED

THE BALTIC SEA REGION PROGRAMME

1st call for projects:
25 February - 30 May

Joint Technical Secretariat Rostock

Grubenstrasse 20,
18055 Rostock, Germany
Phone: +49 381 45484 5281
Fax: +49 381 45484 5282
E-mail: info@eu.baltic.net

Joint Technical Secretariat Riga

Elizabetes iela 19
1010 Riga, Latvia
Tel: +371 735 7368
Fax: +371 735 7372

www.eu.baltic.net

THE SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME (CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION)

1st call for projects:
26 March - 30 April

Further information:

Territorial Cooperation Department
Ministry of Regional Development of Poland
Wspólna 2/4
00-926 Warsaw
tel. +48 22 501 51 69
fax +48 22 501 51 56
www.interreg.gov.pl

The Joint Technical Secretariat will be located in Gdańsk.

CENTRAL BALTIC PROGRAMME (CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION)

Joint Technical Secretariat
(Turku, Finland)

Head of Secretariat Mr. Philipp Schwartz
Tel. +358 2 2100 967
GSM +358 40 352 5625
philipp.schwartz@centralbaltic.eu

Managing Authority

(Regional Council of Southwest Finland)
Programme Director Ms. Tarja Nuotio
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Coming soon: www.centralbaltic.eu



EUROPE GETS A NEW INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY

The European Commission published, on 10 October 2007, a paper entitled "An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union", also known as the Blue Book, and a working document discussing the Blue Book in greater detail, in the form of an Action Plan for the period of 2007-2009.

The European Heads of State and Government, in their conclusions of the European Council on 14 December 2007, welcomed the Commissions' proposals, thus giving the birth of a new integrated European maritime policy. This policy is of great importance for the UBC and its member cities, linked by the Baltic Sea. Therefore, UBC has been active during the consultation process.

UBC formulated its position and passed the comments last year on the previous discussion paper – the "Green Paper on European Maritime Policy" – to the European Commission. UBC has also participated in a number of international conferences of the European Maritime Policy. Several member cities had been active on this issue, including Turku,

which had organised in July 2006 the first BSR – related conference on the Green Paper, with the participation of Commissioner Joe Borg. Turku also organised in June 2007, in St. Petersburg, a seminar on this subject, with high-ranking representatives from Russia, Finland and the European Commission.

The new European Maritime Policy is in many ways very significant for the UBC and its members. The integrated approach to the issues linked to the Baltic Sea is a must to ensure that the values of sustainable development and need for economic prosperity can be balanced.

Members have a keen interest to follow the development of an integrated approach to the issues of governance: local and regional, national and European. UBC and its cities should be active in the forthcoming process to formulate national integrated maritime policies, and to ensure that main non-EU partners in our region, especially the Russian Federation and Norway, are part of the process.

Another important dimension is to raise public awareness of the maritime sector and of the need for integrated maritime policy. Among new initiatives is the proposal to observe annually a European Maritime Day on 20 May. It is hoped that many UBC cities will observe this date.

The UBC Executive Board, in its recent Brussels meeting, decided to include the European Maritime Policy as one of its political priorities in the Action Plan 2008-2009. It was also proposed that an in-house Task Force should be established under the UBC Board to follow development in this field and formulate proposals for the UBC and its cities. The Task Force, to be coordinated by Turku, will be open to all member cities, which will be contacted shortly.

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EU-WIDE DEBATE ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE

The extreme weather events like intense bursts of rainfall, floods, landslides, storms and heat waves have been occurring more often than ever. The climate change process is happening. "This is just a taste of what is to come" – warns the European Commission adopting an initial policy paper on climate change. The Green Paper "Adapting to climate change in Europe – Options for EU action" emphasizes the dual challenge to be faced – necessity of substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and the need to adapt to the changing climate conditions. The EC document sets out the possible ways for the EU to act and presents a four-action approach at the Community level:

- * The first covers early action in areas from agriculture to trade that are backed by EU policies and available Community funds.

- * The second recommends integration of adaptation into existing EU external actions, in particular its promotion in developing countries.

- * The third calls for intensified climate

research, in particular on the impacts of global warming, and technological innovation

- * The fourth is about involving all segments of society, business and the public in the further development of adaptation strategies.

The EU-wide debate has been launched to decide how to go forward on the issue. The UBC took part in the consultations and responded to the Green Paper generally acclaiming the initiative. The Union, however, believes that the local authorities are at the forefront when dealing with the consequences of climate change, therefore, it appeals for the local perspective in the EU approach. The UBC urges the Commission to recognize the importance of local and regional authorities and existing regional groupings in developing and delivering climate change adaptation measures, and to recognize the need to provide them with the powers to enable them to develop adaptation strategies. The UBC also proposed that EU should support the local authorities

and regions in how they can inform, educate and support their citizens.

As regards the EC proposals, the Union agrees that a swift transition to a low-carbon economy needs to be the top priority on the political agenda. The UBC suggests including the energy production and distribution grids in rural and sub-urban areas in the action plan. Taking the fragile marine environment of the Baltic Sea into account, the UBC calls for more firm actions to reduce the pollutants from waste water treatment plants.

The UBC is aware that the adaptation process is complex, since the severity of the impacts will vary considerably from region to region. Therefore, it agrees with the Commission's opinion that a "one-size-fits-all" is a non-appropriate approach. The EU needs to recognize the external dimension and build alliances with partners around the world.

Full text of the UBC response is
available at www.ubc.net



THE CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES NEW APPROACHES

Responding to the climate change challenge is a relatively new task for cities. It is interconnected with most issues and sectors of city development and it has a huge impact on the quality of life of citizens and on the potentials of our economies. As the world is changing rapidly, traditional long and medium term planning approaches seem to be insufficient to tackle the climate change issue. What benefits can a management approach bring?

The project Managing Urban Europe-25 (MUE-25), coordinated by the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat, has developed a model for local and regional sustainability, which is applicable to all cities and regions in the EU27. Twenty-five European cities and regions participated to jointly develop and implement the model. The model of an integrated management system (IMS) is a response and a method on how to implement the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment which was adopted in January 2006. The MUE-25 model of an IMS was also taken up in the recently published guidance in relation to the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment.

Integrated management system as a strategic framework

The IMS is a way of addressing rising challenges of cities and regions more efficiently and proactively. New research, data and challenges need to be put on the agenda of cities. It is easy to get lost and difficult to find a way forward. The IMS gives a frame for being able to support frequent reconsideration of plans, actions, performance and achievements. It has a cyclic management approach, which allows for timely corrections of measures when new information and data suggest doing so. In theory it is fairly easy – a city only has to follow five basic steps.

1. Baseline review – checking the current situation.
2. Target Setting – setting targets for the future.
3. Political Commitment – ratifying the targets with a council decision.

MUE-25 gathered 25 European countries

At a final event of MUE-25 on February 12-13, 2008 in Berlin, the effectiveness and replication potentials of the IMS model were discussed with key persons on urban issues. The event gathered 150 persons from 25 European countries, including representatives from local governments, regional authorities, national governments, European Commission and EU Parliament. What is evident from the event is that the integrated approach is today widely referred to in overarching EU policies and strategies as a tool for cities and regions to address their challenges be it environmental, social or economic issues. From the discussions and presentations came a supportive voice for moving on and for encouraging more cities and regions to apply an IMS.



Gisela Kallenbach, Vice President, Urban Intergroup, European Parliament, emphasized the importance of an integrated approach for the structural funds at the MUE-25 final event.

Photo: Linda Talve

4. Implementation & Monitoring.
5. Evaluation & Reporting – evaluating the results of the year and take new decisions for next year.

Furthermore, there are two elements that are applied all along the 5 steps but that are the actual engine of the IMS i.e.

- Organisational Set-up - the way the responsibilities are defined and how the system is coordinated.
- Communication and Involvement.

The IMS follows an annual process and is closely linked to the annual budget process. This process is based on the widely accepted management approach the Plan-Do-Check-Act and also on existing environmental management systems such as ISO 14001, EMAS and ecoBUDGET. It has its roots in the Aalborg Commitments.

City of Växjö as an example

At the recent UBC General Conference, Växjö was announced as the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2007. It was stated that Fossil Fuel Free Växjö is a climate strategy including goals and actions for Växjö to become a fossil fuel free city. By 2010, CO₂ emissions shall be reduced by 50% per capita compared to 1993. By 2005 a reduction of 24 percent has been accomplished. What are the success factors behind this accomplishment? One thing is not coming out from the description - the way that Växjö work

towards achieving their goals. They are working with a management system which is very clearly linked to the budget process and which enables them to have a coordinating and follow up mechanism which provides a holistic view of targets, actions, stakeholders, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Previously, their management system was focusing on environmental issues only. During MUE-25 Växjö is now including other areas such as health, youth issues, gender equality, integration, etc. into the same process.

A tool for cities climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts

As MUE-25 is now being finalised the project can give guidance to further cities and regions that want to work more effectively and proactively with the sustainability challenges including the climate change issue. An introduction to the IMS is available in 9 languages at www.mue25.net. An online tool with more in-depth guidance and city examples can be found on www.localmanagement.eu

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SHAPING THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Active discussion is vital to finding practical solutions to tackle with the current challenges. This was reached in the UBC Commission on Environment (EnvCom) meeting in February 2008 in Tampere, Finland. The meeting's aim was to discuss the "Visions of future in the Baltic Sea Region". It gathered over 60 participants representing 25 UBC cities, 12 different co-operation organizations and five UBC commissions. This gave an excellent platform to start the discussion for the

next action programme of UBC.

The current UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme, coordinated by the UBC EnvCom, runs till the next UBC General Conference in 2009, and therefore it is time to look ahead.

The current thematic focus areas might need to be re-addressed to some extent in the future. These are: good governance and sustainable urban management, sustainable use of energy and resources, good living environment and nature protection, sustainable economy and transport, social integration and health. The participants identified that the three biggest challenges in the future for our cities are: climate change, state of the Baltic Sea and energy supply and efficiency. It was also stressed that it is vital to enable the BSR to become more sustainable through reducing the growing consumption and by guaranteeing skilled working force. In the meeting the

visions of BSR were addressed broadly, from the recent history and oncoming development trends. The meeting used interactive methods which resulted in wide discussions about the different aspects for the next action programme.

A large process involving the entire UBC is essential for creating the programme. In the future more cooperation is needed between the different UBC Commissions, as they are the real implementing bodies. The UBC EnvCom will further develop the results of the meeting and bring the proposals/ideas to the UBC Executive Board for further discussions.

The next Commission on Environment meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia on 30-31 October 2008. You are all very welcome to join the meeting.



The meeting in Tampere gathered the largest number of participants so far. Photo: Stella Aaltonen

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EU ACTION PLAN ON URBAN TRANSPORT

Urban transport has an important role in creating growth and employment in Europe. It has also a large impact on the environment and the climate change and the problems and the capability to change these negative trends with the local governments. Therefore the European Commission introduced the Green Paper on urban mobility to address these. The Green Paper "Towards a new culture for urban mobility" was released on the 25 September 2007 by the European Commission after an extensive consultation period with a vast number of stakeholders in Europe.

As a follow up on the Green Paper the Commission has issued a consultation that will lead up to an Action Plan for urban mobility. The consultation is open to everyone and it will close in the end of March 2008 (see the web address below). UBC will compile an input to the consultation building on the experiences from the Commission on Transport, the experiences from the BUSTRIP project and its member cities. This builds on an informal meeting that

was held between the BUSTRIP project and the DG Transport and Energy's unit on Clean Urban Transport, the unit responsible for the Green Paper process.

At the informal meeting in DG Transport and Energy, the concrete results from the BUSTRIP and its sister project PILOT were presented. Challenges and successes that the cities experience in working with Sustainable Urban Transport Plans (SUTP) were presented by the project teams from UBC, Chalmers and POLIS organisation. The SUTP concept enables the city to work in an integrated and cooperative way with mobility challenges.

The key points presented by the two projects were that Sustainable Urban Transport Plans are a good framework when taking a comprehensive grip on the urban transport challenges. It ensures that the city will not have any reverse effects due to the fact that the transport solutions are treated separately from the rest of the city's planning and administration. The

concept also enables cities to work with the stakeholders that are the ones making the mobility choices. The two projects suggested that the SUTP concept should be included in the action plan and it could also be a prerequisite for funding administrated by the DG Tren.

A common statement for the UBC to the Green Paper follow up process is under development. We strongly encourage that UBC members feed in their experiences and ideas for what should be part of the European Agenda for Urban Transport. What support and facilitation do cities need? What are the challenges for cities?

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YOUTH IN ACTION

During three intensive and interesting days in September 2007 the Commission on Youth Issues and the EU project Different History Common Future organized the third UBC youth conference, entitled "Under the Surface", in Pärnu, Estonia. More than 100 young people, civil servants and politicians from ten UBC countries participated in the conference.

The conference consisted of lectures, workshops and social activities. During the conference participants had the opportunity to "dive under the surface" and discuss issues such as tolerance, intercultural learning, power and youth influence, NGOs and learn more about the opportunities for European Voluntary Services.

During the youth conference the participants had also the opportunity

to take part in development of local micro-projects. The idea behind micro-project is to let the youth participants come up with ideas and to apply for money for doing a micro-project on the local level.



The conference took place alongside the UBC General Conference, during which the common workshop "Youth involvement in democracy and the life of society" was organised. Politicians

and civil servants participating in the General Conference had the opportunity to meet and to talk with the youth representatives.

The results of the conference will be published in the "Book of Possibilities"

as a continuation to the "Book of Demands" from the Vilnius conference. The "Book of Possibilities" will contain different methods, tools for municipalities, organizations and young people on how to get involved and how to influence the development of the society.

During the conference the Deputy Mayor of City of Kalmar, Ms. Birgitta Elfström handed over the chair of the Commission on Youth Issues

to Tallinn and Deputy Mayor Ms. Kaia Jäppinen. Kalmar will still have the vice chair and the secretariat of the Commission.

DIFFERENT HISTORY – COMMON FUTURE

The EU project Different History – Common Future now enters into its second year with new opportunities and new possibilities. During 2008 the project together with the Commission on Youth Issues will organize its second tolerance trip which will take place in Latvia in September. The overall objective of the tolerance trip is to encourage young people to reflect upon European topics including European citizenship and to involve them in the discussion on the construction, intercultural tolerance and the history and future development of the European Union. The tolerance trip will be open to young people, youth workers, leaders and civil servants from UBC cities. In connection with the tolerance trip we will also develop guidelines to use as a support for carry out your local tolerance trip.

In 2008 Different History – Common Future will also organize its second NGOs meeting. The meeting will take place in Kolding, Denmark and

it will be open for all UBC cities. The NGOs meeting will consist of different workshops that will focus on how to increase the engagement and encouragement for young people to become an active part in ideally working organizations and to take part in the social-political life exercise active citizenship.

To support all the NGOs and organizations around the Baltic Sea we will also develop the guidelines on how to encourage youth engagement, how to get organized and how to cooperate with other youth organizations.

If you want to get more information on what will happen on your local level connected to the project, contact local project manager.

INVITATION

The Commission on Youth Issues and the Deputy Mayor and the chair of the Commission Kaia Jäppinen would like to invite you all to take part in the next Commission's meeting **in Tallinn on 12-14 June 2008.**

It will be the first meeting organized by Tallinn since it took over the Chair of the Commission.

The meeting will be arranged in cooperation with the EU project Different History – Common Future and the main theme and focus of the commission meeting this time will be on European Voluntary Service (EVS). The meeting will give the participants interesting lectures, workshops, info stands and field trips to some of Tallinn's EVS projects where we will get the opportunity to meet volunteers in their work.

For more information and agenda see:

www.ubc-youth.org

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IN THE PUBLIC LIGHT

Light Emitting Diodes, LED-lamps, bring the promise of access to new bright light source with extreme energy efficiency and a long life span. A standard light bulb converts the energy into 95% heat. The LED-lamp does the opposite. It can theoretically convert 95% of the energy into light and only 5% is wasted into heat. Another good side effect is that you don't have to replace lamp bulbs as often. A LED-lamp has an active lifespan of 50 - 100000 hours. LEDs also generate great performance in cold climate. LEDs have no problems turning on in cold weather and are one of the most reliable lighting sources in any outdoor condition. Unlike many conventional lighting technologies LEDs contain no mercury or heavy metals. Not only are LEDs better for the environment during their operational life, but also the disposal of LEDs will not further pollute our world's landfills with hazardous waste. Since production of electric power is the most important contributor to the global warming, this



new energy saving LED technology can make a huge difference. According to UN, private and public lightning constitutes 20% of the world's energy consumption and 40-60% of a typical municipalities spending on electricity. Saving electric energy is the most efficient way to reduce the green house gases and at the same time reduce cost for homes, business and public institutions. This is a win-win situation. The public sector will have to take the lead and demonstrate how this can be done. The UBC Energy Commission is therefore launching two projects in order to speed up the process.

1. PowerLED project is looking for 2-3 UBC member cities, together with its utility company that is providing street lightning services to the citizens. You have to be prepared to test LED street lighting systems in a small scale. The project will be divided into work packages for different public environments where the technology will be tested and the results will be communicated.

2. PowerEdge project is looking for 2-3 UBC member cities that are interested in energy efficiency in SMEs and industry. We will during the project provide training, and evaluate a method that can save 30-60% of the electricity bill for your local business. This will reduce CO₂ emissions and make the industry more competitive and cost efficient.

THE POWER EDGE PROGRAMME INVITATION

Today we face a strong public and political demand on energy savings. The UBC Energy Commission has developed a method to train key personnel in energy efficiency in order to save energy, with a focus on electricity. The participants will achieve both the knowledge and the motivation to develop and adopt plans for a more rational use of energy. We are glad to invite you to participate in the UBC Energy Commission's Power Edge Programme that aims to reduce the use of electrical energy.

The main objectives:

1. to reduce the local use of electricity with up to 20-40 % and additionally reduce the emissions of CO₂,
2. to reduce the cost of energy,
3. to improve the competitiveness and strengthen the local industries and business by more efficient use of electrical energy.

Expected results:

The objective of this programme is to

train and educate key personnel in the participating cities. At the end of this programme the participants will have achieved both the capacity and the motivation to develop and implement effective energy savings plans.

Methods for savings in electrical energy in cities, and in schools and office buildings as well as private enterprises, industries and offices will be developed and implemented at a local level.

The key personnel will create a network that will keep on exchanging experiences and improving their skills in using new methods for energy saving. The Commission will develop and provide computer-based software solutions that will be used to facilitate and monitor the implementation and evaluation on energy efficiency. A group of scientists will closely follow the project and work on research for finding and evaluating new and improved methods for the savings of

MEETING IN KOTKA

In late November 2007 the Commission's meeting was held. Several topics were on the agenda, among other things discussion about the General Conference in Pärnu and our EU-projects. An important question raised at the meeting was the carbon footprint and how we in our work and efforts within the UBC can reduce our carbon footprint. The board of the Energy Commission will seek new ways to meet, via Internet etc, and will aim at decreasing the use of paper. If you want to know more about the work of the Energy Commission, please visit www.ubcenergy.org.

electric energy. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any inquiries regarding the Commission or our Programmes.

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CHALLENGE OF eCITIZEN FINALIZED

"Challenge of eCitizen – Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities", 2005–2007. In the end of the project, there was time to discuss whether the challenge of eCitizen had been answered. How were eGovernment actions promoted? What were the concrete results of the project? What challenges does the future offer in the field of eGovernment? These questions were discussed in the final seminar of eCitizen in Vaasa, Finland on 21–23 November 2007. Representatives from 10 partner cities from the BSR and beyond took part in the event. For participants outside the project partnership, the seminar with an exhibition offered a chance to familiarize with the results of the eCitizen project in its four thematic areas: eManagement, eServices, eParticipation and awareness raising. Furthermore, it provided an excellent

chance to discuss the questions still facing eGovernment development with project partners and other experts. Keynote speakers from the Finnish Ministry of Finance and the Finnish Ministry of the Interior discussed the relation of productivity with eGovernment, and how citizen-centric approach to municipal eServices is supported with national level actions in Finland. The concrete results of eCitizen, its well-established cooperation as well as new challenges in cities' eGovernment development have encouraged the partnership to start planning a new phase in interregional collaboration on eGovernment actions - eCitizen 2.0. The objectives and activities of the follow-up project were discussed in the first preparatory seminar of eCitizen 2.0 in Brussels on 11 December 2007.

Potential financing programmes were introduced, as well as the eParticipation



eCitizen partners discussing eCitizen 2.0

initiative of the EU. The programme also included presentations of the role and activities of the IS Commission, the current trends in eGovernment development in St. Petersburg, and the results of the project.

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SUSTAINABILITY IN URBAN PLANNING

Recent seminar of the Commission on Urban Planning in Kotka, Finland in October 2007 discussed the theme "Sustainability and Attractiveness in Urban Planning" by studying the City Identity. The Commission sees sustainability as a complex question which can be influenced by the different means of urban planning.

The lectures of researchers from the Helsinki University of Technology, were about the city identity building and branding and about cities inhabitants' experiences of good urban life. It was stated that a city's image and atmosphere is made by its inhabitants

while planners' and administration's task is to create opportunities for urban life and culture. A city's history should be the basic foundation on which the identity will be built. In Kotka the strong history of maritime city with rich culture of forestry, paper mills, harbour life and international connections is the starting point. Kotka was also seen as a city of parks and green nature, with omnipresent sea.

The seminar workshops had two themes, one about developing the original Kotka Port to the Harbour of Culture, and another about developing a suburban area Karhula and its neighbouring commercial area Jumalniemi. Four different workgroups worked intensively with these questions producing good proposals for future planning.

In Kotka a special project called "Visual Cities" was announced. It is led by Mr Lars-Göran Boström from Umeå, and it aims to find new methods of presenting urban plans to the public by using 3D-visualizing

The Commission on Urban Planning will have its next seminar in Aarhus, Denmark on 23–26 April. The seminar theme is Future City Life and it will concentrate on different aspects of making new city development projects attractive and sustainable for future city inhabitants. Aarhus is moving its harbour activities further away from the city centre and a whole new urban area with housing, jobs, services and culture will be built on the sea shore. The seminar participants will have a chance to listen to the presentations of top Danish architects and urban planners.



computer programmes and the internet. There are approx. 10 partners in the project. The Visual Cities Project enables urban planners around the BSR – and possibly even further – to present their ideas in an easy-to-understand way and wake conversation with city inhabitants.

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Visiting the Sunila pulp factory and housing area was very interesting for the seminar participants.



ALWAYS ACTIVE CAMPAIGN

As the European society has been getting older and older, the problem of ageing has become a crucial issue in the past years. With the ageing process progressing, physical fitness and functional capacity of Europeans naturally decrease. Additionally, they become more physically restricted and thus tend to easily withdraw from social life and isolate themselves.

In order to counteract the social exclusion originating from advanced age as well as to prevent consequent physical mobility restrictions, the UBC Commission on Sport intends to launch a Social Campaign entitled "Always Active". The objective of the campaign is to promote an active lifestyle as a factor enhancing health and functional capacity as well as to stress the importance of healthy ageing process. It should be stressed here that the above mentioned targets are in line with the priorities of the World Health Organisation.

Within the "Always Active" Social Campaign, the commission intends to realise the following activities:

Grant Session

It is the tradition to award annual grants for the organisation of sporting events. In 2008 the Commission continues to promote sport as a health-enhancing factor which simultaneously counteracts social exclusion and isolation. Yet, this year the Commission intends to emphasize the necessity of being physically active at all stages of life. In the 2008 Grant Session entitled "Sport for All Generations" the Commission will pay special attention to sports projects which integrate all generations in their attempts to keep physically and mentally active and fit.

International Conference "Always Active"

It is the Commission on Sport intention to promote a positive relationship between physical activity and health which is crucial for functional capacity as well as mobile independence of elderly people. In order to meet the a/m target the Commission plans to organise an international conference which will be addressed mainly to people involved in work with elderly people and organisations established to encourage these people to keep active.

Scheduled to take place in Gdynia in the autumn 2008, the conference will be divided into two thematic blocks. The first one will be devoted to the presentation of the importance of healthy ageing as well as programmes available to promote this issue. The second part of the conference will consist in presenting best practices of UBC member cities aimed at encouraging elderly people to remain physically active even in their advanced age and retirement years.

International Multidisciplinary Competition "Always Active"

Within the "Always Active" Social Campaign, the Commission intends to organise International Multidisciplinary Competition "Always Active" which will be addressed to elderly people (+55) living in the UBC member cities. The objective of the competition is to encourage them to be creative despite their retirement years and advanced age. Additionally, the Commission would like to show the works of elderly people as well as their artistic and creative potential.

The competition will be held in the following categories: (1) art (embroidery and weaving miniature) and (2) tourism (preparation of a small tourist guide that would present attractions of a particular UBC member city).

Participants should submit their works via a local organization involved in the work for elderly people. The organizations whose representatives have won in each category (embroidery, weaving miniature and tourism) will be awarded 1000 EUR each. The Commission on Sport will also award prizes (album books etc.) for individuals who have won the first three places in each category.

The best works sent in for the art competition will be displayed in exhibition which may then be presented in other UBC member cities. Additionally, these works will be presented in a special gallery created on the commission's website. As for the best tourist routes submitted for the tourist part of the competition, they will be included in the 2009 engagement calendar "Travel Around the Baltic" which will serve both as a calendar as well as tourist guide to the most interesting corners of the Baltic Sea Region.

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON TOURISM

UBC Commission on Tourism held its working meeting on Friday, **April 4 2008, in Gdansk.**

As usual the meeting started a day before with welcome dinner.

The main workshop was composed of two seminars: "Challenges & opportunities of tourism in BSR" and "Towards sustainable tourism in BSR". There was also the "South Baltic 2007-2013" programme presented and discussed. The visitors were discussing about tourism development. The projects BSR – Perfect Tourism Zone, AGORA 2.0 and Regiobike projects were presented.

In addition, the participants had also the possibility of visiting the UBC Secretariat in Gdansk as well as the old city centre.

A smart organisation and the attractivity of Gdansk and its surroundings made this meeting unforgettable and fruitful for everybody.

Further information:

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ROAD SAFETY CONTEST

Nowadays the traffic in many cities is so intense that the problem of road safety has become one of the most important issues. In spite of numerous preventive measures the number of casualties of road accidents is still high. Unfortunately, also children are found among the victims. It is very often lack or insufficient knowledge of the road safety rules which is the cause of an accident.



In order to address this important subject the UBC Commission on Transportation organised in November 2007 a competition entitled "Road Safety Contest". The TransCom wanted to award interesting projects aimed at raising children's awareness of road safety issues, improving knowledge of road signs and the ability to foresee dangers on the road and assess difficult situations. The contest was addressed to primary schools from the Baltic Sea Region. The competition task consisted in presenting the most interesting, complex and original project on road safety education for children aged 7-12.

Member cities could submit different kinds of projects, including campaigns promoting road safety among pupils, road safety lessons, development of teaching methods and teaching aids, courses for child pedestrians, cycle trainings for children, etc.

Project proposals were sent from 10 cities of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia. The international jury chose three best projects from Chojnice (Poland), Gdynia (Poland) and Klaipeda (Lithuania) which were awarded 1000 euro each. The initiatives awarded are scheduled for the school year 2007/2008.

The Road Safety Programme implemented by Primary School No. 3 from Chojnice includes road safety lessons conducted by police officers, bicycle lessons and excursions, conducting bicycle driving license exams, art and sports activities, road safety contest for all primary schools from Chojnice county, and other activities. Education and pre-

vention project "Live safely" carried out by Primary School No. 21 from Gdynia includes among others preparing mock-ups of pupils' way to school, educational sessions with police officers, tests, quiz-games and knowledge tournaments, children's staging and drama projects regarding road safety, visiting dangerous places in the city area, designing a reflection mark. The project on Road Safety submitted by Klaipeda's "Gilijos" Primary School encompasses after-school activities for children, teaching road signs and road safety rules, explaining the importance of using reflectors in the dark, organising drawing, poster and essay competition, meetings with police officers, watching road safety instructional films, etc.

Further information:

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COMMISSION ON CULTURE IN 2008

Rostock was hosting the meeting of the board of the Commission on Culture on 14-15 March. The agenda of the meeting consisted of several topics that had to be planned and organized in 2008. The board met the leading officers of the cultural life of Rostock: Head of the Cultural Department Ms. Martina Bade, general intendant of the Volkstheater Rostock Mr. Steffen Piontek and project leader Mr. Thomas Werner.

The board consists of members from Russia (St. Petersburg), Latvia (Tukums), Denmark (Naestved), Sweden (Umeå), Norway (Bergen) and Finland (Vaasa). The board members are going to organize national CoC meetings in 2008. There has already been one in Latvia and the city of Jyväskylä is going to host the national meeting in Finland on 7 April. The board would appreciate if someone in the countries that are not represented in the board (Estonia, Lithuania, Germany, Poland) could take an initiative to organize a national meeting. More detailed information on organizing the national meetings can

be asked from the chairperson of the commission.

The announcement of the UBC Cultural Prize has been sent out to the cities in January. The theme of the Cultural Prize of 2008 is "New Footsteps of Youth Culture" and it will be given to a cultural organization that has proved to be especially successful and interesting. The deadline to submit the application form is 31 August. The Cultural Prize will be awarded during the next open working session in Bergen on 27-29 November. The theme of the working session will be announced later.

The CoC is supporting Festival Im Stadthafen on 18-20 April 2008 in Rostock and the Choir Festival on 14-18 May in Vaasa by giving the festivals the right to use the name of UBC Commission on Culture.

Further information:

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COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY MEETS IN TALLINN

The next meeting of the Commission on Gender Equality will take place in **Tallinn on 17-18 April 2008.**

There will be many interesting topics to discuss and tasks to work with during these two days. One of the issues is that the Commission is going to arrange a conference in Tallinn in September, concerning the topic of prostitution and human trafficking. More on the program, venue and times, etc. is available at www.ubc.net.

The members of Eastern cities can apply for travel/accommodation costs refund.

Greetings, and hope to see you in Tallinn!

Further information:

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YOUNGSTERS NEED GUIDANCE

On 9 October 2007 the Commission on Education held a conference "What kind of guidance need the youngsters?" in Kärddla. Vice-chairman of the commission, Mr Ivo Eesmaa, was a moderator of the meeting. Around 100 participants were participating in the conference, including the youngsters.

The Mayor of Kärddla, Mr Anton Kaljula, welcomed the participants in Kärddla. Mr Kurt Pettersson, the Chairman of the commission, opened the conference, which consisted of 4 parts: policy, expectations of youngsters,

expectations of enterprisers and expectations of universities.

Mr Edgar Slümmer (Estonian Youthwork Center) spoke about the EU policy concerning the youth and guidance. He said there was no EU policy in a classical way but there was only White Paper: A New Impetus for European Youth. Ms Üllý Enn from European Youth Estonian Office spoke about attracting young unemployed through non-formal study. Mr Kurt Pettersson as a representative of the

Uppsala University spoke about expectations that the university has towards the youngsters after high school. He brought out examples from youth research school in Norrtälje. Students from Rodengymnasium in Norrtälje, Ms Annika Barnard and Mr Hogir Aslan, spoke about youngsters expectations before they start to work.

Mr Enn Veevo (M&P

UBC Commission on Education organised an Annual Meeting on **3 April 2008 in Stockholm**. The participants discussed about cooperation with other commissions (invited Björn Grönholm from UBC Commission on Environment and Stefan Windh from UBC Commission on Energy). After lunch there were discussion about activities in 2008 and elections of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of UBC Commission on Education.

More information on the meeting results:

Kairi Priit, Secretary of Commission on Education, e-mail: kairi.priit@kardla.ee, phone: +372463 6095.



Nurst, Estonia), Ms Anu Pielberg (OÜ Hiiu Autotrans, Estonia) and Ms Liina Simm (Personnel Firma Fontes) represented the entrepreneurs. A. Pielberg spoke about "Does Young worker meet expectations of employer?" and L. Simm about expectations of employers in generally.

Further information:

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UBC-EU NETWORK MET IN ROSTOCK

On 3-4 December the UBC-EU Network held its first meeting since Rostock took the responsibility for this Network in summer 2007. The conference took place in the city hall of Rostock and had been organized and realized by European Integration Center (EIZ) Rostock, which coordinates the activities. Several guests from all over the Baltic Sea Region joined the meeting.

The meeting was meant as an open workshop to discuss the work of the network and plan new projects. The first day was dedicated to the discussions and the presentation of the possible actions. In the evening Mr. Arno Pöker, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Denmark, hosted a Late Date Dinner and talks. The second day witnessed concrete planning of further work and a presentation of the project "Baltic Model United Nations".

Regarding the fact that the BSR still has got a lack of representation and perception in the European

institutions, networks and regions, the conference decided to put the promotion of the UBC and its activities on top of the agenda. The aim of further actions should be better promotion of UBC members and the UBC itself in Europe. In that way the members and the network will gain more perception, which could lead to an enhanced benefit from EU-supported Programs, new contacts with other networks and regions in the European Union and to better recognition of each UBC city with special regard to tourism and economy.



To put this plans into action, the conference decided to prepare a participation of UBC members in the "Open Days" in Brussels in 2009. With topics like Maritime Policy or the Baltic Sea Strategy of the EU and Best-Practice-Projects of the UBC Commissions the work of the UBC could be placed in a favourable light.

This proposal was forwarded to the UBC Board in February 2008, but the decision was to keep it open until the next Board meeting. Other topics will be discussed at the next network meeting on 10-11 April 2008 in Rostock. For suggestions and requests to this project and the work of the UBC-EU network, please contact the Network coordinator EIZ.

Further information:

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Rostock (EIZ)

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www.eiz-rostock.de



III. NEWS FROM MEMBER CITIES

VILNIUS - THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE

European Capital of Culture is the most successful initiative of the European Union in the field of culture. By the decision of the European Commission, Vilnius was designated the title and responsibilities of European Capital of Culture 2009, along with Linz, Austria. This title will now enable Vilnius to present to the world its



distinguishable cultural identity.

Vilnius European Capital of Culture 2009 project will be run under the CULTURE live programme.

The programme featuring such themes as European Arts, (Re)Discovery of Culture, Live History and Humanity has been designed to reveal the distinct identity of our culture and create innovative European culture. CULTURE live is a living culture which is in constant change and development. It is open to anyone who wants to create, participate and have fun. It is expected to mould a new experience in European culture, which would allow each citizen to contribute his/her ideas and initiatives to the development of the Capital of

Culture programme. All those willing to join the programme are welcome to propose their ideas.

The programme will engage people from all backgrounds and age groups, leaving no one out. The oldest and the youngest, the residents and the visitors alike will have the opportunity to get infected with the cultural virus. Both professional artists of all fields and the public will take part in creating culture. The different projects will take place not only in 2009, but also in 2008.

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LIEPĀJA IS LOOKING FOR ITS CULTURAL VALUES

As the third largest city in Latvia, Liepāja has actively started to prepare for competition of acquiring status of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) in 2014 by looking for its unique cultural values which could attract the interest of local and European inhabitants. Today the readiness to compete for the status of ECOC have expressed several cities in Latvia, namely Liepāja, Riga, Cēsis, Sigulda, Jūrmala, Daugavpils, Rēzekne, etc. According to the rules of competition, cities located in Latvia have to submit their applications by November 7, 2008. Therefore, the most of the cities have already accepted their participation in this contest. Also, in Liepāja the process has started, explaining the idea of European Capital of Culture to the local society, organizing motivation campaigns, involving society in various cultural events, studying previous experiences, etc. The idea of participating in this contest have come from people connected with culture and non-governmental institutions years ago by creating the so called bottom-up process. Also, the private sector and mass media representatives have stated their readi-

ness for this project. Several public persons have made their prognosis of chances for Liepāja, eliciting its advantages and disadvantages.

Silva Golde, Deputy Mayor of Liepāja City Council said, "this brave ambition, even if it does not succeed, gains more than loses. The high-minded goal inspires, creates success and develops self confidence. So, why not Liepāja with its bright and longstanding cultural traditions and future challenges?". Daniels Pavļuts, expert of the culture management stated that one of the most significant aspects to become the European Capital of Culture was how much this project was welcomed in the city. The city prepares for this contest very seriously and timely. Various resources are consolidated for this goal. So far the status of the European Capital of Culture have acquired cities which are neither largest, nor metropolises in their countries – Kirk, Lille, Stavanger, Sibiu, Liverpool, etc. Ineta Stadgale, poetess, admitted that she had always felt Liepāja as the Capital of Culture. "But this is not because of number of museums and concert halls, she said, but due



French organist Naji Hakim captured by the beauty and power of the world's largest unreconstructed mechanical organ at Liepāja Church of Holy Trinity during the VI International Liepāja Organ Music festival.

to the special artistry and creativity, which inspire for living, working, creating, celebrating and enjoying".

Since the mid 80s the Council of EU assigns one of the European cities as the European Capital of Culture for one year. Since enlargement of EU this status is assigned for two cities at the same time.

Further information:

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Public Relations Manager

Liepāja City Culture Department

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KRISTIANSTAD GOES ON A CLIMATE DIET

Kristianstad municipality has just launched a new project "On a Climate Diet". Twelve households will get advice and support on how to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions during ten months. Within this period they will hopefully also save some money and improve their health. These households are expected to act as models that show that a sustainable lifestyle is attractive.

It is not always so easy to know what you can do as an individual to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The participants in the project "On a Climate Diet" will get help to do this and their experiences will be communicated so that others can follow.

– There are several good reasons to join this project: trying a sustainable lifestyle that gives you a richer life, getting a clean environmental conscience, saving money, and improving your health, says Elin Dalaryd at Kristianstad



Photo: Stephanie Glotzbach

municipality, who runs the project. We have chosen twelve quite different households for this project. The number of persons in the households ranges from 1 to 5, the ages range from 25 to 75 and they live both in apartments and detached houses, both in the city and in the countryside, etc. What they have in common is that they want to learn more about how they can contribute

to combating climate changes, Elin Dalaryd continues.

The project starts with each household making a greenhouse gas profile. After that they set up goals for their reduction and then the "dieting" starts. Every month the participants will receive approximately 10 tasks within a specific theme. The themes are, for example: food, transportation, electricity, heating and consumption. A task can be to turn out the lights in empty rooms, try to bike to work or replace two meat dishes a week with a vegetarian alternative. The households that fulfil the required number of tasks participates in a lottery of climate related prizes at the end of the project.

Further information:

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KALININGRAD TURNS OFF THE LIGHTS

For the second year the partner of Kaliningrad - city of Forli (Italy) participates in the national campaign, aimed at diminishing the energy consumption called "M'illumino di meno" ("less illumination"). The action supported by the Italian mass media includes the realization of the wide information campaign, as well as promotion of the "Energy saving days" which took place on 15 February, 2008. The main objectives are to spread the ideas of energy saving, renewable energy and CO₂ reduction.

On the Energy Saving Day the administration of Forli is appealing to the inhabitants with the request to reduce their private energy consumption from 6.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. During this period the symbolic action on turning off the lights at the most significant monuments and squares of Italy was held. The Municipality of Forli also turned off the light at the main square of the

city (Piazza Saffi) and at the famous Victory Monument (Monumento della Vittoria). Different enterprises, institutions and public organizations are involved in this measure.

Despite the national character of this undertaking the Italian colleagues invited the City District "The City of Kaliningrad" to join the action as the energy saving issue is of great importance for the whole mankind. In this connection, the Forli Municipality asked for assistance in promotion of this idea.

The Kaliningrad inhabitants were asked by the administration of the city district to join the action on 15 February (6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.) and to reduce the energy use both at home and in the office. This measure will undoubtedly contribute to the popularisation of the energy saving idea, as well as strengthening of the cooperation with the City of Forli.

The City District "The City of

On 15 February Kaliningrad plunged into the darkness....

Fortunately, it was not connected with the power supply cuts but with the conscious action promoting energy savings.

Energy Saving Day is proposed to be celebrated among the UBC cities.

Kaliningrad" supports this action and urges all the UBC member cities to join this project.

Kaliningrad is currently engaged in environmental activities – the international projects and information campaigns are being implemented, the energy saving equipment is being installed.

Further information:

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Department

Administration of the City District

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SZCZECIN-BERLIN CORRIDOR

The cities of Szczecin and Berlin strive at founding their polycentric relationship based on complementarity. In this way they could both contribute to a better European territorial balance which might be realised over time.

The basic aim behind creating the Szczecin-Berlin Corridor of multi-level and multi-dimensional cooperation is to restore the historic relationship between the two cities, in the context of the enlarged EU, and to maximize the benefits of the EU membership. Szczecin is presently searching for a new European role and welcomes opportunities for its future development. This is why the proximity of Berlin has a special significance for Szczecin, as it is at present one of the most rapidly developing European metropolitan areas.

If Szczecin takes advantages of its assets it could become a complementary centre for the German capital in respect

of many urban functions. Existing and planned activities and development, including infrastructure, are being analysed, as well as other possibilities for cooperation between Berlin and Szczecin. These actions are the first step to restoring the centuries old interaction of these metropolitan areas, based on the EU standards. In the framework of the Corridor, relationships will also be considered with the Saxon Triangle, the southern Baltic, adjoining Polish regions and the European NS transportation corridor. The basic approach is to explore various scenarios for future relationship between Berlin and Szczecin and the spatial planning implications in the two-city corridor. The partners will continue their discussion to create a Steering Committee to be responsible for coordinating Expert Group meetings and tasks, as well as working out the details of the Berlin-Szczecin

Corridor Concept, started earlier in 2007 under the framework of the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX).

Both cities concentrated on the rail and air connections, sustainable development, complementarity and functional connectivity.

Szczecin is particularly interested in continuing the launched activities and dialogue with the city of Berlin. 'The Concept of Long-term Berlin-Szczecin Corridor' is to be the basis for such continuation. As both cities expressed their interest and willingness for cooperation, it has positive prospects for the future.

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MARITIME HANSEATIC TRADITIONS

Rostock invites to the 18 Hanse Sail from 7 to 10 August 2008. The fascinating windjammer encounter comes up with a pure galaxy of reputable sailing vessels. The stars like the "Kruzenshtern", "Mircea" and "Dar Młodzieży" are only some of the famousness making this maritime festival attractions. A genuine highlight of this year's Hanse Sail is the attendance of the sail training ship "Gorch Fock", celebrating its 50th anniversary during festivities.

Other ship celebrities of the 18th Hanse Sail Rostock are replicas of the well-known "Kieler Hansekogge", "Lisa v. Lübeck", "Roland v. Bremen", "Ukena v. Bremen" and "Wissemara". The ships represent German cogs of the Hanseatic League and are part of a fleet of a medieval merchant ships gathering in Lübeck, the starting point for the third cog tour. The voyage of the cogs from Lübeck via Wismar to Rostock is to remind of two important alliances between the three cities which can be considered as essential bricks for the formation of the powerful Hanseatic League. More than 200 barques, schooners, brigs and a vivid mix of traditional sailing ships from inland and

abroad amend the four-day maritime spectacle and welcome to linger.

Experience the haunting scenery of this charming feast by participating at amazing sailing trips, by spectating exciting regattas and by going in for crazy water sports. Let yourself be enchanted by joining the impressing "Hafensinfonie" [harbour symphony] or by watching the breathtaking fireworks on the Sail Saturday. Relish the vital Hanse Sail market with its great music performances, its entertainment and its wonderful culinary surprises. The Hanse Sail - member of the Baltic Sail Association - offers a wide range of amusement, but also a platform for sailors and for Baltic States. One of them is yearly appointed as the official partner country of the Hanse Sail Rostock. In 2008 this will be Latvia.

Another important event to keep in mind is the celebratory baptism of the "AIDAbella", a new star of the Rostock's own shipping company AIDA Cruises, on 23 April. Warnemünde -Rostock's



own seaside resort - has some more "pearls" ready in the coming season. Among them one can find thrilling regattas during the 71st Warnemünde Week from 5 to 13 July, the lifesaving world champion ship "Rescue 2008" (21.-29. July), as well as the mooring of round 100 imposing cruise ships throughout the year.

Further information:

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KLAIPEDA FOR THE SENSES...

In 2008 Klaipėda Folk Dance and Song Company Zilvinas will celebrate the 60th Anniversary. Zilvinas was established in 1948. The name to the exemplary dance and song company was given in 1969 and it consists of 50 talented folk art enthusiasts and other performers with professional education. At present, the company unites three groups of performers: dancers, instrumentalists and singers.

Every year Zilvinas prepares new programs, and introduces spectators the treasure house of specific culture of Klaipėda region: songs, dances, music, customs. Zilvinas also participates in the city shows, national and international festivals and contests.

The performers have recorded three concert programs in the Lithuanian national TV Station, and one hour concert in the German Radio Deutsche Welle. During its lifetime the company's routes crossed European countries many times.

Zilvinas has been a regular participant in the national Song Festival - Day of Dances in Vilnius since 1950. The

company earned lots of attention: in Eisteddfod Wales (Wales, 1992) folk dance contest, where the company's performance was attended by HM Queen. In 2004 the troupe once again participated in the Welsh contest, and the authentic Klaipėda region program enjoyed great attention. At the International Flowers Festival in Debrecen (Hungary, 2002) the troupe in folklore art category was bestowed with the highest prize. The success also accompanied Zilvinas in the national contests: in 1986 - the contest "Pair behind the pair" the company won the second place; in 2001 - the folk dance performers contest "Kadagys"; the company won the prize of "The Great Laureate". In the "Clog dance 2001" the group was acknowledged as absolutely the best. But the most precious award to Zilvinas is "Aukso paukštė" ("Golden bird") which was awarded to the company for the nomination "The



Best folk dances and songs company" in 2001. Every year, Zilvinas vocal group and its leader Judita Kiaulakyte makes a separate program and participates in the city and national shows. Girls' company is the winner of the national soloists and vocal companies contest "Sidabriniai balsai 2001" ("Silver voices 2001"), where they were titled the best women company in Lithuania and won the main prize. In 2002 the group became the winner of the prize "The Best Vocal Company", with the special prize "Aukso paukštė" ("Golden Bird"). In 2006 the group took part in the international contest of vocal groups in Riga and won the First Degree Diploma. Zilvinas also participated in the international contest "Clog dance 2006" where it was acknowledged as the absolutely best troupe.

"We are Klaipėdians" - dances, songs, music and customs of Klaipėda region and Lithuania Minor are presented on DVD and CD records.

...AND FOR THE BODY

We are pleased to invite you to the **4th International Aerobic Gymnastics Competition "Klaipėda Open 2008" in Klaipėda, Lithuania on 27 -30 November 2008**. The competition will be held in accordance with FIG code of points 2005-2008. The age groups are as follows:

Seniors: year of birth 1990 and older

Youth: 15-17 (year of birth 1991, 1992, 1993)

Juniors: 12-14 (year of birth 1994, 1995, 1996)

Kids: 11 and younger (year of birth 1997 and younger)

There will be no limitation for participating delegations in number of entries in age group and the discipline in categories. All delegations are asked to send at least 1 judge of valid FIG/national breve.

All medalists in each age group and category will be awarded with medals and diplomas. All participants will be awarded with the certificate.

ENTRY DATES

Provisional entry: 1 September 2008

Nominative entry: 1 October 2008

Please send the forms to:

Fax.: +370 37 204515, +370 46 345783

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Further information:

Ms Gitana Puzinienė

Art director

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HALMSTAD'S 700TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Halmstad's new work of art, 0+0=8 by artist Fredrik Wretman, was unveiled on the New Year's Eve. The work is a sculpture in the form of a zero that when reflected in the water forms an eight, symbolising the century to come and a reminder of the fantastic anniversary year as Halmstad celebrated its 700th anniversary.

Halmstad – The Golf Capital of Scandinavia! This was evident when the city staged the 2007 Solheim Cup. Halmstad, with a population of around 90,000, hosted one of the golfing world's biggest tournaments as Europe and America's best women golfers competed on Halmstad Golf Club's north course. An event that over a few days attracted more than 100,000 visitors and was broadcast to more than 500 million TV viewers around the world. Apart from the proud feeling among the people of Halmstad, the Solheim Cup also contributed more than EUR 8,4 million in extra tourist turnover to Halmstad and a PR value at an impressive EUR 5 million, only for five countries.

The people of Halmstad's own cel-



ebrations kicked off with a sunny birthday party and a mediaeval village. Halmstad's history was played out along the river Nissan, from the middle ages to the present day. Perhaps most appreciated of all was the Halmstad's Marine Festival with the Baltic Sail. Halmstad harbour was filled with impressive ships and the highlight of the festival was when the East Indiaman Götheborg arrived in Halmstad after returning home from China. Halmstad's Marine Festival and the Baltic Sail will return 17-20 July 2008 and are an important occasion for Halmstad to show off its maritime legacy and its participation in the development of the

Baltic Region.

Halmstad's location on the west coast opposite Denmark provides a pleasant climate throughout the year. One of the challenges is to lengthen the tourist season and develop year-round tourism. This will be one of the main tasks for the new municipal company Halmstad & Co, which was started in order to manage tourism, events, congresses and experiences. The company

will also now cultivate the Anniversary year's effects around the world. This will include nurturing relationships with hundreds of thousands of tourists who visited Halmstad during the year and encourage them to return and be good ambassadors for Halmstad as a destination.

Further information:

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Market Coordinator

City of Halmstad

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THE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN PÄRNU

On 24 February, the Independence Day is celebrated in the Republic of Estonia. This is the day when the Independence Manifesto was declared in Tallinn 90 years ago. On 23 February, the declaration was announced in Pärnu.

As the Bolsheviks had seized power, Tallinn and Haapsalu was already occupied by the Germans, it was decided that the Manifesto was to be

proclaimed here in Pärnu as quickly as possible. The text of the Manifesto that had reached Pärnu was printed in the early hours of 23 February 1918, and already on the same day copies were distributed all over the city. At 8 in the evening, Hugo Kuusner, envoy of the Diet of Estonia and a native of Pärnu, declared in public the Manifesto of Independence on the balcony of Endla Theatre to the citizens and soldiers of the Estonian battalion.

Monument commemorating the proclamation of the Republic of Estonia in Pärnu

Of 26 projects submitted for the competition organised by Pärnu in 2005 for establishing a monument to commemorate the declaration of independence, the project named "Balcony" was declared the winner. This project envisaged the restoration of a

portal with the historic balcony of Endla Theatre. The monument is a copy of the balcony of the first building in Estonia that was specifically built to a theatre. The authors of the idea and design of the project were architect Mikk Mutso, free-lance actor, playwright and creative writer Mart Aas and artist Kaarel Eelma. Project engineer was Juhan Idnurm. The consultant for history was Doctor of History Juhan Kreem. Language consultation was provided by specialists from the Estonian Institute of Language and Literature and consultation on Braille by specialists from the Estonian Library for the Blind.

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WELCOME TO MALBORK

The Malbork Castle – former capital of Teutonic Order's state – is one of the best known tourist attractions in Poland and Europe. The beauty and uniqueness of its architecture as well as its interesting history are the reasons for which over half a million tourists enter the Malbork Castle Museum every year and more than 700000 tourists visit our town. In 1997 the castle was inscribed on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List.

Presence of such an important monument obligates the town authorities to undertake many ventures connected with tourism. The town center is now being rebuilt. The purpose is to create a zone of high quality tourist services in

the castle's neighbourhood. Therefore, the town is realizing investments which are supposed to improve tourist infrastructure in the town center and surroundings. In two years' time those who have visited the Malbork town before will not recognize its center, for the huge changes are going to be introduced here. A promenade reach in greenery, with a fountain and stylized small architecture, modern four-stars hotel with SPA center, restaurants and cafes - these are only some of the changes we plan to implement.

One of the most important investments in town is renovation of the old building in the town center in order to create a professional center of tourist services

Malbork
Welcome Center
cooperates with the
Malbork Castle



Museum while organizing one of the most important cultural events in Poland – "The Siege of Malbork". A meeting with knights, craftsmen and traders from around the world, old weapons, archery tournaments, old music, knights fights and a night battle with participation of few hundred knights – that's what "The Siege of Malbork" is about. All attractions of the event make over 100000 tourist visit Malbork on the third weekend of July every year. This year we want to invite you to join us during the 9th edition of the event.

Come to Malbork and find out for yourself why it's worth staying here longer...



– Malbork Welcome Center. The MWC is a result of a project co-financed by the EU funds. Three basic parts of the institution are:

1. Center of Tourist Services and Cooperation with the Tourist Branch;
2. The Office of Town's Culture and Tourism Promotion;
3. The Office of Events Marketing;

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THE DAY OF CULTURE

On behalf of the Day of Culture Initiative Group in Lithuania we have the honour to inform you that on 19 July, 2006 the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania declared the 15 April as the Day of Culture.

On 13 April 2007 the Conference Hall of the Seimas housed the conference Will Culture become a State Priority. The Resolution of the Conference addresses:

- State policy on culture should be based on education of the society about the fundamental values of culture. Special emphasis should be made on cultural education of the younger generation.
- Yearly festivities of the Day of Culture in Lithuania should embrace all educational and cultural institutions and organizations. A family status, its moral and material welfare should

be of prime importance since culture is borne in a family.

On 24 November 2007 the Baltic Assembly expressing the importance of creating a special joint area of Baltic Culture adopted a Resolution on the Day of Culture in three Baltic states – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – 15 April.

The roots of the Day of Culture goes back to the events in Europe and American Continents. In 1904 a famous artist and scientist Nicholas Roerich initiated the idea about a special treaty on protection of monuments of culture. In 1929 he proposed the draft of that treaty and appealed to the nations and governments of all countries. The Pact with the Banner of Peace as its symbol (three red circles encircled in white) had to protect values of culture in times of peace as well as in times of war. It

was like a Red Cross for Culture.

On 15 April 1935 in Washington 21 countries of the American continents signed the Treaty on Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments during both the times of war and peace – the Roerich Pact with the Banner of Peace as the symbol of the Pact.

At the time of extreme necessity for cooperation among all nations, we hope that the Day of Culture will be declared worldwide for the sake of Peace through Culture.

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THE NEW JYVÄSKYLÄ

On 18 February, the City Council of Jyväskylä, the Jyväskylä rural district council as well as the Korpilahti local council have decided to form together a new city called Jyväskylä, on 1 January 2009 onwards.

The number of inhabitants in the new Jyväskylä will be 130000 (presently 86000), and the surface area will be 1170 km² (now 137 km²). The new Jyväskylä will be the 7th biggest city in Finland.

The new Jyväskylä is a university city, having activities from research to product development. The points of new technology are nano, energy & environment, ICT, and Forest Industry



Photo: Hannu Vallas

Future. It is also a city devoted to urban planning and culture.

The strategic targets are to improve the national and international competitiveness, to support the well-being of inhabitants, to strengthen the devel-

opment of jobs, and to secure the basic services.

We are willing to increase the positive image and attractiveness of the city. We want to support sustainable development, and increase the safety of the settings and cosy surroundings. We wish the new Jyväskylä be even more attractive for people to live and study here, and for the enterprises to invest in the Jyväskylä region.

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RAKVERE IN THE COVENANT OF MAYORS

The official launch of the Covenant of Mayors took place in Brussels on 29 January. The Covenant of Mayors is a new and ambitious initiative of the European Commission bringing together the mayors of Europe's pioneering cities in their mutual efforts to improve energy efficiency in the urban environment. The Covenant of Mayors is a formal commitment by the cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions beyond the European Union's objectives of 20% by 2020. Rakvere was the only Estonian city that participated in the official launch. Rakvere is first and foremost interested in starting the development plan for the city's street lighting. The implementation of the development plan would among other things mean exchanging streetlamps as well as regulating and making existing

power lines more efficient. The city has also started the evaluation of energy efficiency of the municipal buildings (schools, kindergartens), the final result of which would be a specific action plan for turning the buildings energy efficient.

Rakvere has already got its experience in energy efficiency analysis. Last year the local municipality ordered energy audits for four most common types of apartment buildings. Even this was partly sponsored by European Union – the project was implemented within the frames of the energy saving project ESAM (Energy Strategic Asset Management) of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The audit was carried out by Aare Vabamägi who compiled the recommendations for the energy saving measures for different buildings.

It is now possible to download a pre-programmed calculation sheet from Rakvere's website and calculate the energy costs of a house as well as the measures necessary for its future energy saving.

According to the Mayor of Rakvere, Andres Jaadla, the meetings with European colleagues made it clear that energy efficiency in urban environment

is regarded with utmost seriousness all over Europe. During the meetings with the vice mayor of London, Nicky Gavron and the vice mayor of Helsinki Pekka Sauri, the issue of how both big and small cities could contribute to making the urban environment more efficient, was discussed. European Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, expressed content with the fact that the Baltic cities have joined the initiative of European Commission. He emphasised during his meeting with Mr Jaadla that even small cities can contribute to the pan-European movement of energy efficient cities and that Rakvere may have good experiences and practises worth introducing to other European cities.

The final draft of the Covenant of Mayors will be compiled during the first half of the year 2008. The European Commission offers both political as well as financial support for the cities in their preparation of the necessary documents.

Rakvere is planning to join UBC in 2008.

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CITIES - MEMBERS OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:



The 49th UBC Executive Board Meeting in Jēkabpils, Latvia, 15 June 2007



The 51st UBC Executive Board meeting was held on 8 February 2008 in Brussels in the premises of the Committee of the Regions

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of over 100 cities from all ten Baltic Sea countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Union has based its operational activities on thirteen working Commissions on: Business Cooperation, Culture, Education, Energy, Environment, Gender Equality, Health and Social Affairs, Information Society, Sport, Tourism, Transportation, Urban Planning, Youth Issues and EU Coordinators Network. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), the Committee of the Regions, the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). The Union is also a Special Participant in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The UBC cooperates with numerous Baltic and European organisations.

The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

Please contact the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information
about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.