



# Baltic Cities

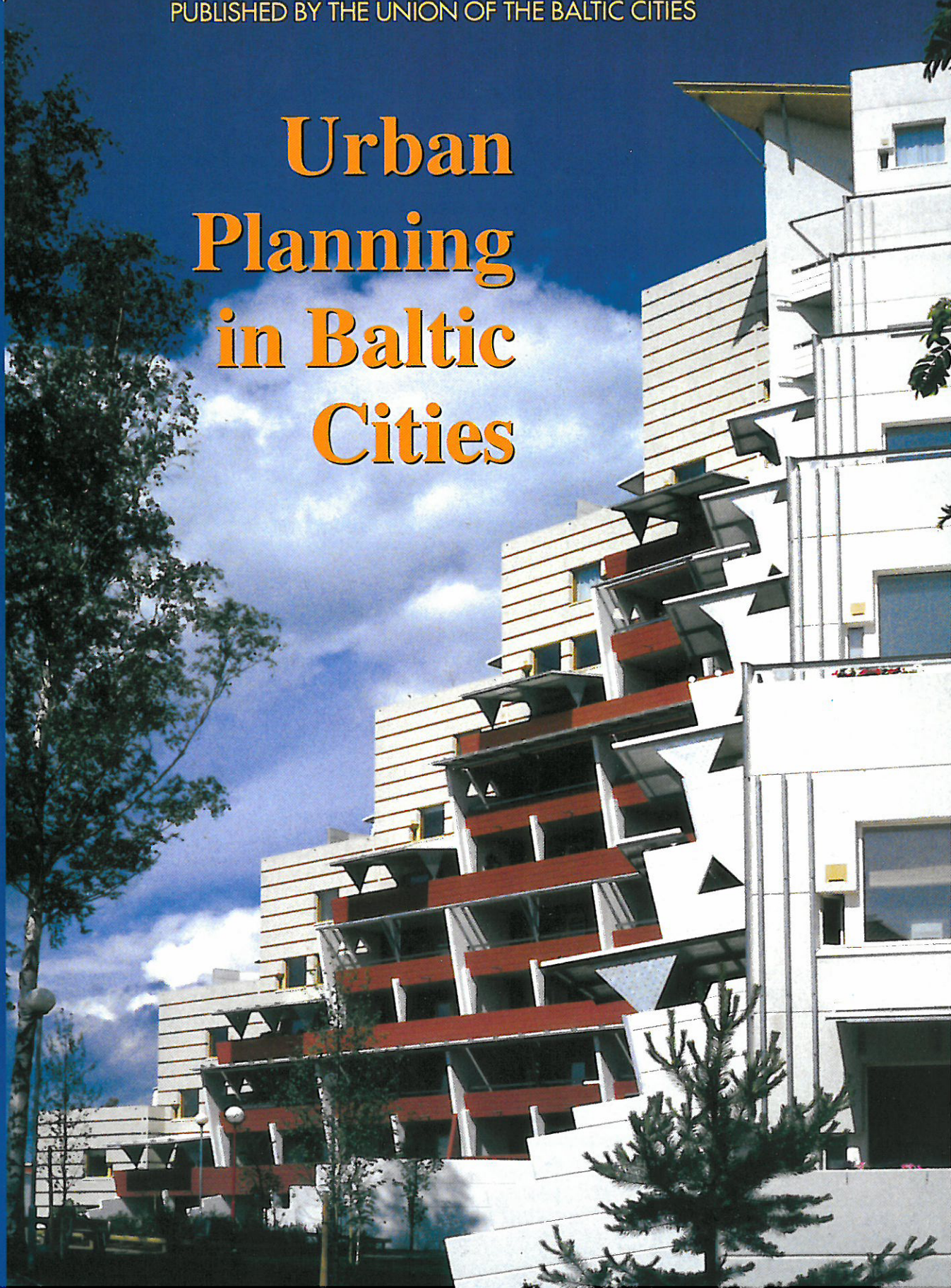
Bulletin

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## Urban Planning in Baltic Cities

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*Helsinki*  
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# Baltic Cities Bulletin



Dear Friends,

Summer in the Baltic Sea Region is very special – the nordic light, the green landscape, the friendly sea. But also the winter has very high qualities, which we could experience in the Kemi Board Meeting. We had our first Board meeting on board of an icebreaker, breaking one-meter thick ice during the discussions.

Our Secretary General and the UBC EU Co-ordinator went almost directly from the Board meeting in Kemi to Uganda in order to prepare for a co-operation project between UBC and our sister organisation around the Lake Victoria: The Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation, LVRLAC. The lake is located at the equator, and has four seasons: two short periods when it rains a little more and two periods when it rains a little less. The temperature is 21-26 degrees all the year around. At the end of April, I paid a visit to Entebbe, together with UBC Vice President Eugenijus Gentvilas, to sign the co-operation agreement between UBC and LVRLAC. The co-operation, which will be fully financed by Sida, the Swedish International Development Authority, aims at assisting LVRLAC to create concrete activities, specially in the field of environment, and an efficient organisation, including secretariat. One of the reasons to create LVRLAC was an environmental problem in Lake Victoria. They cannot be solved without the participation of the local authority level. The UBC-LVRLAC co-operation will continue for probably three more years. Several UBC member cities will have direct contact with the project in the near future. It can be as targets for study visits or have staff from your city directly involved in activities in the Lake Victoria Region.

UBC has already made many new steps forward in this new millennium. Our strategies have been complemented with an action plan. I get very impressed when reading it. Our activities are numerous, and it is very clear that we are a strong organisation on the move. One of our most important activities is to promote a new EU program on local and regional co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region, to be financed through Interreg III strand B. The UBC Working Group on UBC Interreg III-program have sent an enquiry to all UBC member cities to list project proposals that will suit this new program. It is very important that as many as possible of the UBC member cities participate in the enquiry. UBC is member of a working group, initiated by Eurocities and the Berlin and Hessen Brusses offices, which also works for the creation of an EU program for local and regional co-operation. So I feel confident that we will have at least one new badly needed program for local and regional co-operation, very much though UBC efforts.

We are also enhancing the Baltic Sea Region in Europe in other ways. One important issue is the way transborder project funding is treated – the Baltic Sea Region has great disadvantages there, since the rules punish maritime borders. We must change that attitude.

We are now approaching our member city number 100. The number of members have just trebled since the foundation of UBC in 1991. This is one reason why we are becoming more successful in our political work in Brussels. We are a strong organisation and people have really started to listen to us.

Finally, I wish you all a nice summer.

Anders Engström  
UBC President

Kalmar, June 2000



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*The lower part of the Århus river was covered in thirties and reopened in 1998*



*Projected town of Ørestad - a new gateway to Copenhagen*



*27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held in Kemi, Finland, on 1 April 2000*



*Mr Eugenijus Gentvilas, UBC Vice President receiving the Council of Europe's Flag of Honour for the city of Klaipėda*





# I. URBAN PLANNING IN BALTIC CITIES

## CITY REGENERATING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### Two concepts of strategies

A strategy is historically defined by generals. Transferred to a civil situation you might say that “formal strategic planning is an effort to duplicate what goes on in the mind of a brilliant intuitive manager”. Defined this way, strategies often become something for the distinguished leaders to handle.

However, today it is not possible to define strategies like that. It is instead quite necessary for the whole organisation to take active part when formulating strategic goals. Most people today define strategy as setting of long-term goals, determination of courses of action and allocation of resources to achieve the objectives.

### Adaptation to urban planning

You can use this definition for physical urban planning development strategies:

All good powers must pull in the same direction, having continuous access to the same knowledge about problems and possibilities in the future.

If working with an regeneration project, you must face the society around when dealing with physical planning, economy, social problems and ecological adaptations. You must work in the opposite direction to the generals not from top to the bottom, but upwards from the bottom. You must deal with all good powers like landowners, engaged citizens, enthusiasts, officials, organisations, etc.

Malmö is a member of the EDURC committee of the Euro Cities – Economic Development and Urban Regeneration Committee. A group of sixteen cities have been working for with the project “Development Strategies in Major European Cities”. The project is led by Lyon and it will end with a conference there this year in September 14-15.

The content of this article is mainly a result of that co-operation.

You need to work seriously and continuously with four concepts during the regeneration process: Visions, Participation, Partnership and Important Events. The aim is to reach social consensus on the certain ideas.

### Visions

You must formulate a clear vision for your work. Break up the overall vision into steps, visible for the whole society. Work with the vision during the whole process, sharpen it, and if necessary change it. To your help you might use a group of various professional persons for brainstorming: chief editors, experts in different fields, one or two presidents of important industries and so forth. This group can perhaps only twice or three times per year, but the group is needed and cannot be replaced.

### Participation

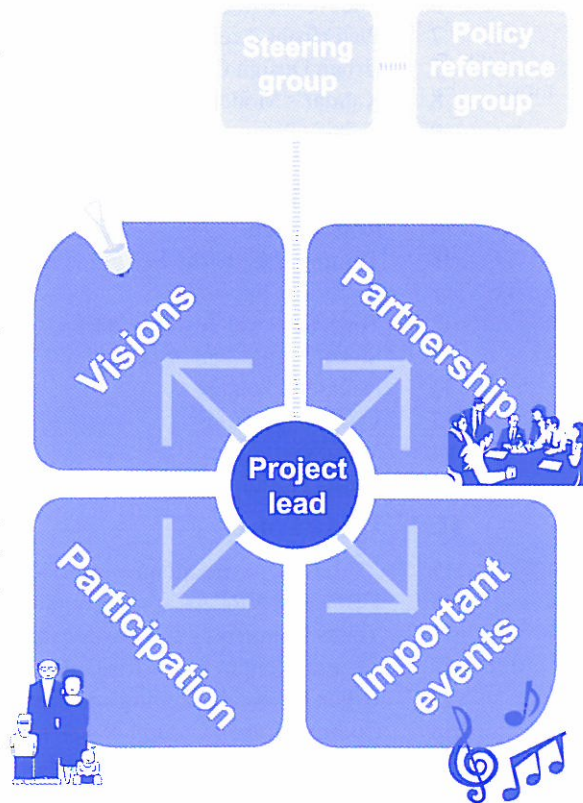
You also need a consultation group. Start with a few real enthusiasts. Keep them well informed and listen to their perhaps first crazy ideas. Further on you might organise your consultation group stronger and also invite existing groups or communities.

### Partnership

The easiest group to establish is real estate owners, contractors, controllers and officials of various kinds. But be aware of representatives in the group saying that this is the only group needed. If you act only with this group, you will get into trouble with other interest groups very soon.

### Important events

The society nowadays is very closely related to various kinds of information. By connecting your project to an



Important Event, it will get more power. The Olympic Games in Barcelona or the Bridge across the Öresund are examples of Important Events. But there are also lots of local big events worth pointing out, like a new ferry line, pulling down old unpopular monuments or buildings, or laying out new avenues with trees. Other events are political elections, visits of kings, queens or presidents and exhibitions.

Cross-Border Questions can be a fifth concept. There might be important questions which concern more than just your own city. We in Malmö are for instance just now facing a cross-border situation with Copenhagen. But you might say that cross-border co-operation are special cases of big events.

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# PLANNING IN THE HARBOUR CITIES

Contemporary development of each city - including the harbour city - has to be based on the specific strategy, developed in various planning documents. Within these two major levels may be presented:

**master planning** (structure planning, strategic planning) - being prepared for the areas of entire cities, and including most of the aspects of city physical and economic development. Some of them - so-called structure plans - have typically spatial character, and mostly deal with urban development issues of the city.

**local planning** (urban development plans, local strategies for development) - which serve as the regulatory and policy documents for the development and redevelopment of urbanized structures.

Within different types and levels of planning various issues are involved, which include - among others - physical features of the space. This element seems to play a key role in the entire process of urban planning, which is oriented on shaping the spatial structure of the city. But also other elements have to be taken under consideration: economic development (without which any physical development can not take place), social issues (such as population, employment, social infrastructure, services etc.) and - last but not least - preservation of the environment and its elements both natural and cultural heritage.

Of course, different principles may be involved while planning for the development of the city. Currently the paradigm of the **sustainability** is commonly used, which mean employing the specific approach to urban development. Among many elements, it is necessary to point out at least four of them:

- consolidating the new development within the current borders of the urban structures, which include reuse of derelict land and quitting the greenfield development;
- introducing the mixed uses within central districts of the cities, which help avoiding domination of the space by purely commercial activities;
- preservation and restoration of the heritage, which helps in regaining the specific cultural and environmental identity of the city;

- reshaping the transportation patterns, which also involves limitations in usage of the private cars;

In the case of harbour cities these principles have to be confronted by the specific issues, present in the context of maritime - oriented urban structures. The major problem is related with economic transformations of the harbour cities that took place over last decades. These changes were associated with developing the modern tertiary ports and successive decline of smaller shipping centres. In result many of the formerly vibrant harbour cities nearly completely lost their importance as the nodes of maritime transportation and industries.

As a result of the above the need for redeveloping the post-industrial and post-harbour areas (usually located in the waterfront zones) arose, which in some cases could not be properly satisfied by the cities themselves. On the other hand, waterfront locations appear to be of the primary interest for developers and other parties involved in the process of urban development.

Also, harbour cities are often associated with interesting cultural landscapes and heritage, which include picturesque old ports, museum ships or other maritime themes. In case of the Baltic cities, many elements of the common tradition of former strong economic cooperation are also represented in their heritage and tradition.

So how to plan for the successive development of the harbour cities? How urban planning can contribute to this process? The first thing is not to forget about the basic element of the harbour city - its port and related industries. In many cases they still constitute one of the major elements of their economy. Therefore, it is necessary to understand their needs, and - confronted by the economic trends - design for providing necessary land and infrastructure for this sector.

When remembering about the maritime economy, it seems also necessary to plan for development of other sectors - which should include tourism based on the maritime and cultural heritage and activities. This type of activity may bring the new economic impulses for the cities that lost their previous economic importance.

At the same time it is necessary to keep the city in touch with its water body - which means proper development of its waterfront, which include the derelict lands. That means planning for reuse of the post - harbour and post - industrial areas in order to transform them into other functions. That may include such the elements as:

- commercial (city centre) activities;
- recreational infrastructure for the citizens and tourists;
- tourist infrastructure - which include hotels, cafes, marinas and others.

Development of the tourism as the new economic basis for many harbour cities demands giving the priority in planning processes for such the elements as:

- preservation of the heritage, which include the cultural landscape of the city;
- developing the tourist - oriented spaces;
- preservation and - in many cases - creation of the specific architectural character of the city, which helps in re-creating the unique cultural identity of the space.

Urban planning has a key role in shaping landscape and economy of the cities, which - in case of the harbour towns - means also providing regulations for developing specific uses and preserving their unique maritime character. This last point relates not only to the waterfront or city centre areas - the maritime character of the city should be detectable in each of its parts. That means the necessity for providing specific architectural guidelines, rethinking the entire urban structure and preserving the specific, maritime - oriented uses.

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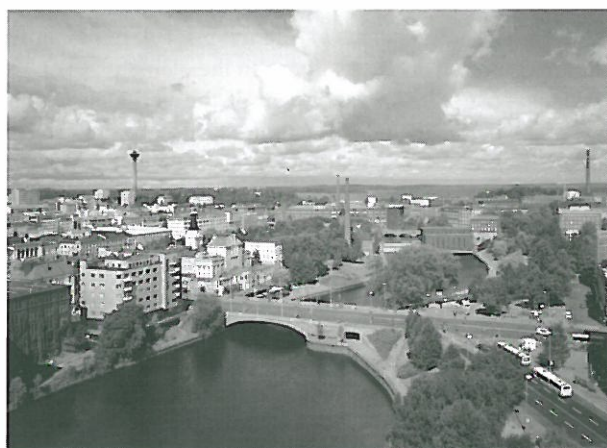


# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATIVE PLANNING

## Towards sustainability

Sustainable development as a new concept in international development was extensively recognised in 1972 at the UN Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm. It challenged the idea of maximising GNP growth as the previous self-evident measure of development.

The Club of Rome published the "Limits to growth"-report the same year. The dramatic message was that limited natural resources and ecological problems cast a shadow of doubt on all future development.



*The Tammerkoski rapids flow through Tampere*

Fifteen years later, in 1987, the General Secretary of the UN assigned Gro Harlem Brundtland, then Prime Minister of Norway, to prepare a global reform programme. The Brundtland Report concluded that the current development could not continue. Sustainable development was adopted as the new way forward.

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 signalled the next phase. The sustainable development action plan, which was adopted at the conference, was called Agenda 21. The countries signing the action plan announced their commitment to sustainable development.

The idea of sustainable development has become part of community planning through international agreements. The objective of community planning is a community of sustainable development. In May 1994, following the European

Conference on Sustainable Towns in Aalborg, Denmark, a number of European cities signed a joint declaration, the Aalborg Charter, that was based on Agenda 21, committing them to take concerted measures to promote sustainability

At first, sustainable development referred primarily to ecological sustainability. Over the years, the concept has gained more dimensions. A community of sustainable development can be characterised by minimised energy consumption, recycling, use of renewable sources of energy, conservation of nature and preservation of natural diversity, conservation of cultural and historical values, promotion of responsibility, initiative and community, securing of healthy, equal and safe life.

The objectives emphasises the diversity of sustainable development. The properties of a community of sustainable development or an ecological city cannot only be measured by ecological measures, or just by observing the physical environment. Among others, the following two criteria have been proposed: 1. The design of an ecological city needs to take general moral and ethical considerations into account. 2. For sustainable development to become reality instead of just words and objectives, citizens need to participate in the development.

The city of Tampere in Finland is one of the twenty-four cities to have signed the Aalborg Charter. The city has drawn up an environmental programme, where it commits to sustainable development. The objective of the environmental programme is that all planning and development will be based on environmentally conscious co-operative planning. Planners and researchers shall meet at the same table. The citizens shall participate as soon as the planning starts, because, in the end, the practical outcome of the plans depends on the citizens' response.

## LIFE-project of Tampere

To promote the environmental programme of Tampere and to develop the planning methods, the "Sustainable development through co-operative planning" project, co-financed by the European Commission has been started. It concentrated on the development of a 515 square kilometre sparsely populated rural area at the fringe area of the city.

The main challenge for planners was that dispersed development can lead to environmental problems. For instance, wastewater problems increase the burden on lakes, wetlands and ground waters. A dispersed structure fragments the road network, the network of technical and municipal service. Long distances increase the amount of traffic, which results in emissions and noise. The area of natural environment and valuable landscapes diminishes and fragments. Collection, sorting and recycling of waste in a sparsely populated area require special arrangements. Most of these problems can be avoided or reduced by appropriate planning and information. Another core objective was to get the local inhabitants to participate in the development of their home environment.

The project brought different aspects of planning together. The views and observations of officials, researchers and citizens were expressed in various project meetings. Inhabitants contributed with local knowledge. Researchers provided a survey and observations on what sustainable development comprises. Officials supplied the values of administration, legislation, planning and technical management. Open interaction was the bridge builder between the different views.

Learning by doing was characteristic of the project. The new planning models have been applied according to the principles of sustainability to develop the sparsely populated area. The bridge towards the future is built on co-operation. The best feedback for a planning professional came from the local people: The officials are no longer faceless. Once we know each other, we can build a better future together.

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## NEW TOOLS IN PLANNING

Today, Bergen has an effective set of tools and considerable authority over its own planning. The municipality is responsible for co-ordinating, initiating and implementing physical planning and is required to develop and revise a long-term, legally binding municipal plan. The agenda of the plan is, however, flexible: the municipality itself sets the agenda for its own long-term development. A new and interesting planning tool is under development: legally-binding municipal plans for *parts* of the municipality allow for long-term quality assurance of different areas in correspondence with the area's particular conditions and character.

The cultural heritage protection authority has produced its own map showing the structure and connections which form the identity-creating elements. The city conservation office develops a cultural heritage base in the form of maps for all major municipal sub-plans, area development plans etc. The maps act as "take-care" signs. In this way the cultural heritage protection authority is involved as an active and constructive partner in the future development of the city.

The municipal plans are based on building within existing city structures and



*Narrow and picturesque alleys and cobbled streets flanked by wooden houses are typical of the old city quarters*

developing the crossroads with the centre of Bergen as the centre of gravity. This also supports the target of achieving city districts of equal value, each with well-functioning district centres. Following up the challenges, municipal level planning involves several major-planning tasks within four main themes: communications and transport, cross-roads and area development, and city centre.

The Bergen programme for transport, city development and the environment will co-ordinate all public transport, environment and road projects for the twenty-year period 2002-2021. The programme will be financed through national, county and municipal sources and increased payments from road users, initially for a ten-year period. Principal task in the city centre in recent years has been to improve conditions for pedestrians in the whole of the central shopping zone, form the basis for renovation and maintenance within historic areas and create better conditions for public transport. Bergen Municipality has carried out active area and building renewal in central residential areas since 1975 and 90-95% of the central building stock is now of an acceptable living standard. Central city areas have become attractive as a result of traffic reduction and development of green areas.

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## THE OFFICIAL PLAN

After an 18-month period of public discussion and draft plan review, the Riga Official Plan was adopted in December 1995 and become a functioning city management tool. The Official Plan is based on the principle that the most important task is to create the best possible living and working conditions for people, at the same time protecting the environment and cultural-historical heritage. During its operation detailed plans have been prepared for areas of city development. At the moment the following major project are being prepared:

**Major city core development.** The Historical Centre was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997. The historic core of Riga is undoubtedly the "economic engine" and for that reason one of the powerful economic forces. This area of 1.900 ha and 19 % of the city's population provides 45% of the city's employment. It receives also a large portion of investments in renovation and new construction. The aim of the project is to prepare a plan with realistic control mechanisms that will protect the valuable heritage but at the same time not stifle development

**Latvian-Canadian housing sector co-operation.** The project aims at establishing more efficient market-based provision of housing in Riga. The University of Calgary with its network of housing professionals will assist in the development of a Housing Policy. Within six months it will provide training and policy advice to strengthen the institutional capacity of municipal government and to improve its ability to plan, finance and manage housing.

**Green space development plan.** To achieve the goals of the Plan, great importance in city development is given to greenlands that are formed by 6 different but interconnecting nature elements. The green space plan should identify areas of the different elements and prepare specific policies for development control.

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### INTA24 International Congress on urban development in Bergen

"The city region in a world of globalisation: urban promotion for sustainable development"

From June 18 to June 22 the city of Bergen will host the INTA24 Annual Congress.

INTA is an international network that encourages the exchange of information, experience and best practices on urban development and renewal across the world.

The INTA24 Congress will address strategies and instruments for placing the city region on a sustainable basis. Local speakers, along with speakers from the USA, Estonia, Russia, Poland, Chile, India, Japan, Indonesia, France etc guarantee an interesting programme.

Further information:  
[www.inta-aivn.org](http://www.inta-aivn.org)





*First part of river was reopened in 1996*

Since 1850 Aarhus has been an important Danish seaport with a river that is part of the port. Due to the expansion and development of the harbour and its increasing activities it became in the thirties necessary to direct the river into pipes. The harbour was enlarged further more and its activities were moved further out into the bay. Therefore the urban development plans can propose to reopen the river and to develop recreation function.

Covering the river in the 1930s entailed a conspicuous change from provincial idyll to modern metropolis, with larger building



## RE-SURFACING THE CITY

complexes and heavier traffic to the harbour. In recent years more intensive use is made of the inner city as a place to spend time and this has necessitated a reduction of traffic and greater emphasis on recreational urban elements. As the river dominated the city for the first 1000 years, reborn water motif will determine how its typography will be perceived in the future. The approach taken to urban architecture is, therefore, extremely important. The transformation from land to water has been the object of a particular attention and it will continue in the following years not only in the city centre but also in the harbour area close to the city.

An important move in this direction has been the approval of an expansion of the harbour of 130 ha. As a consequence of public voice it was decided to arrange an international urban competition concerning the future development of these harbour areas. In all 150 competition entries were received, among these 64 from abroad. The entrants take in being inspired by the complex character and substance of the

competition: city-harbour-nature-environment-traffic-actual/future activities.

The river project has been particularly well received by both the community and the profession. The project of reopening of the river was a success. It won both the 1996 Danish town planning award and received in 1998 an European Urban and Regional Planning Award.

In recent years, efforts have been directed towards limiting the city-centre traffic and giving more streets back to pedestrians and cyclists. The competition was arranged by the City Council in 1999. In this way the council obtained urban planning proposals permitting closer connection between the city, the harbour areas and the bay - and in the same time stipulating a development compatible with continuous commercial activity on the adjacent harbour areas, among other things concerning traffic matters.

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## THE NEW TOWN ?

Copenhagen is at the natural centre of the rapid development which has made the Øresund Region one of the most dynamic in Europe in the last decade. The fixed link between Denmark and Sweden has made the region very attractive for investment. This process requires room for development - not least in the region's principal city. Copenhagen is in the exceptional position of having the capacity to expand its boundaries just minutes away from its historic centre - in Ørestad, where 310 hectares are currently undergoing rapid development.

With the opening of the fixed link, Ørestad will be at the geographic centre of the Øresund Region, and at the same time become the new gateway to Copenhagen thanks to its international traffic connections. Ørestad is about one kilometre from Copenhagen's Town Hall Square, presenting itself as an attractive alternative to present mid-city locations.

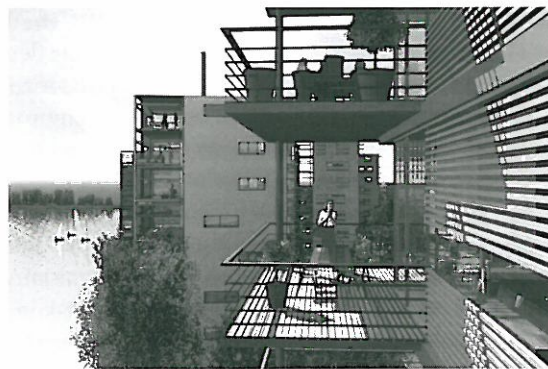
The Ørestad Act ensures urban development of high architectural quality with regard for its natural surroundings.

Wide boulevards, a modern Metro, green areas and blue canals are central elements. The first buildings are currently being raised from the drawing board and becoming a reality.

Ørestad comprises six quarters, each with its own character. Construction in Ørestad will be divided thus: 60% commercial, 20% residential, and 20% designated to retail, culture, education, sport, service and leisure facilities.

The northern quarter - University Quarter - is currently under development and will be the first to be completed. The University of Copenhagen will be at the centre of a new area, which will bring together education, research and commerce. This quarter will be home to a number of public institutions and is expected to be completed around 2010.

At the same time, development is going on in Ørestad City, which is planned as a large, densely built and intense urban



*Vision of the new city Ørestad*

community with room for international businesses, regional culture, shopping centre, offices and residences. The expansion of Ørestad City is determined by its position, in that it is the point where the motor and rail links to Copenhagen Airport and Sweden cross Ørestad, thus creating a supreme transport and urban development area. Ørestad City is also expected to be completed around 2010.

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## WATERFRONT AREAS

In December last year Gdynia started the project *Waterfront Urban Development. A Network of Cities in the Baltic Sea Region*, which is financed with Phare CBC and Interreg IIC funds. The partners of the project are: Elbląg, Gdynia, Szczecin, Tczew, Gdańsk, Pomeranian Province, Køge, Potsdam, Lübeck, Werder, Rostock, Göteborg and Vaasa.

The objective of the project is to create spatial plans for waterfront areas. The commonly faced problem is the necessity of change of these areas' functions: an alteration from the present industrial, military or unplanned roles into cultural, natural, tourist or recreational ones. The waterfront must not only retain cultural heritage but also stimulate Baltic cooperation and integration. This seems to be the reason why the project appeals to and is supported by over 30 Polish governmental and self-governmental institutions, NGOs, scientific or academic organisations. The representatives of the organisations supporting the project participate in its implementation.



*Kościuszko Square in Gdynia*

An important field of cooperation in the development of the idea: *Waterfront Areas – Baltic Meeting Places* may be UBC, particularly the Commission on Urban Planning. Out of 14 cities participating in the project, 9 belong to the UBC.

The present waterfront areas are the source of many problems: legal, urban, technical and financial. Their solution was the objective of the *III Plenary Meeting* held in Gdynia, 6-8 April. The participants discussed directives of Sustainable Urban Planning Development of the European Continent. The directives imply; among others: "coastal regions represent very rich biological, geo-

physical, landscape, economic and cultural systems. They therefore offer a common resource and heritage for individuals and society which should be protected for present and future generations."

A challenge for local-governments is to shape social responsibility for nearby natural surroundings. In post-totalitarian countries a great majority of society has lost the belief of being able to influence the spatial planning of their district or city. Polish partners of the project thus approach *Waterfront* as an important experience and "Academy of Skills" as regards European spatial planning standards.

During the last meeting, areas included in the project as well as plans of their modification were presented. The discussions were held in the following problem groups: legislation, implementation, instruments, visions and sustainable development. At the end of the meeting the declaration of the co-operation even after the completion of the project was signed by Polish partners.

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## URBAN DESIGN CENTRE

One of the reasons to stress the urban dimension in regional planning is the importance of the urban environment as a generator of development. Within the European Union's programme European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) – increasing interest is focused on the city and its role in the development process.

Migration of people from rural areas to cities has created a type of city dwelling and a way of life with different sets of values from those of earlier generations. Therefore a shift of values needs to be analysed influencing the design of the urban environment. The sustainable city demands new tools and planning solutions. The environment and structure of urban areas must be transformed in order to respond to the new demands of today. Through internal migration and

immigration from abroad, the city continues to be a melting pot of people with different social and cultural backgrounds. These changes in the urban environment demand new knowledge about how the planning situations should be handled. New research findings are necessary to form the basis for how planning problems should be treated.

CERUM and the regional and local planning agencies in Umeå have drawn the conclusion that there is a need for new knowledge that can include the design of the cities/towns and urban regions as well as that of smaller places and their different functions. In order to meet this need CERUM is working on developing an Urban Design Centre to be established at the University of Umeå.

At present an introductory study is being carried out with three aims:

- To investigate the educational need to strengthen university teaching in Urban Design and to gauge its importance for urban development.

- To produce a research programme on Urban Design considering the strong, already established research topics of the university as well as the possibility of close cooperation with universities within and outside Sweden.

- To link scientific research to planning work at regional and local levels.

During this year interdisciplinary groups will be formed to develop research programmes to serve as the basis for applications to research foundations and to other groups such as UBC.

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## KALMAR'S MODEL FOR EUROPE

A total management tool for the sustainable refurbishment of Europe's 80 000 post-war residential areas with a total of 56 million dwellings will be developed with the support of the European Commission.

Seven housing companies from all over Europe, together with nine European research institutes, one construction company and five consultancy organisations, are going to develop, test and improve models and tools in the next four years. The results will be provided to facilitate the enormous refurbishment task, which must be carried out in the European Union as well as in Eastern Europe. The sustainable refurbishment will be executed at a cost budget and within a time schedule comparable to traditional refurbishment, but with the greatest possible consideration for customer participation, energy savings and environmental improvement.

The project was initiated by Kalmarhem Ltd, Sweden, and Blomstrand Consulting Ltd, Sweden. Kalmarhem is also the project co-ordinator.

- The housing companies and contractors, as well as the tenants and municipalities concerned, have needed such concepts for a long time. Many housing companies already have experience in carrying out energy-efficient and environmentally friendly refurbishment. But they lack efficient and practical management tools, says the project co-ordinator Mr Tomas Eriksson, of CEO Kalmarhem Ltd. We have the framework for a European concept and it will be further improved during this four-year project.

- For a long time, housing companies have been presented with solutions made

by designers and architects. These solutions are often good, but are not based on either the tenants' demands, the municipalities' needs or, most important of all, the housing companies' financial situation.

### Development cost 10 million Euro

The European Commission's DG Research has granted 4,9 million Euro in the Fifth Framework Programme, Key action: The City of Tomorrow – for the project. The project participants provide an equal amount in terms of time from their experts' and staff's time. The total turnover of the project will be approximately 10 million Euro for the project duration of four years. This means that the project is one of the largest that the European Commission will support in the next four years.

- We will see rather quick results in the refurbishment projects that will be carried out in the participating housing companies' residential areas. Together, the housing companies own more than 200 000 dwellings. The project models and tools will be tested in selected parts of the housing-stock and then tested again in two other countries – one located in Eastern Europe.

- When the projects are completed, we will have a comprehensive concept to offer to the European housing companies, tenants' organisations and the municipalities concerned. They will be of great help in controlling the coming refurbishment and setting quality demands for architects, designers and technical installation engineers. It is not until then that we will be in control of the situation and can ensure that necessary, practical solutions to save energy and improve the environment will be realised, says Mr Karel Dekker of TNO, the project's scientific officer.

In all, more than 200 people from various organisations will be involved in the project. The model is simple and efficient: one single European organisation performs the actual production of the concept while the participating housing companies contribute with their assembled knowledge and test the concept in an ongoing refurbishment project. The municipalities, tenants organisations,

local consultants and construction companies concerned are participating in each of the model-projects.

### Widespread European participation

The project participants are from seven member states: The United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Finland, France and Sweden. Not only housing companies from these countries are taking part, but also well known research organisations such as TNO from the Netherlands, VTT, Renova and Motiva from Finland, CSTB from France, IfS and IRS from Germany, BRE from England and SBI from Denmark. In addition, a major construction company, NCC Ltd and a number of well-known consultancy firms are also participating.



Mr Jan A Blomstrand responsible for project implementation concludes:

- The models and tools that will be evolved will be disseminated in the form of general rules and as a set of guidelines. The participating companies from seven different countries form a parallel exploitation company that will market the results and help housing companies to carry out the sustainable refurbishment of post-war residential areas all over Europe on a consultancy basis.

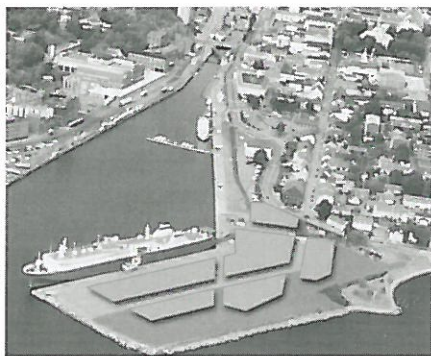
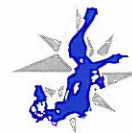
SUREURO shall carry through a pilot project in the Czech republic. The project will also try to find cooperation partners in Eastern Europe since the product is very suitable to be implemented in pre fabricated housing areas.



*The residential area of Inspektoren in Kalmar (both photos)*

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*The old port area will be used by university and business*



## EASTERN PIER

Karlshamn was founded in 1664 by Karl X Gustav. The ending -hamn (harbour) indicates that it was intended to become a major port. A strategic position, a deep-water harbour, a sheltered position, generally ice-free at the winter season; these were the reasons for choosing the bay of Miean as a new port in Blekinge. Karlskrona became a naval port and Karlshamn became a commercial port for goods and trade.

At the end of the 19th century and right up to the sixties industrial enterprises have been located to Karlshamn, mostly those in need of a good supply of waterpower and shipment. The beginning of the seventies meant the start of a new port, 3-4 miles to the west of Karlshamn. Gradually most of the activities have been relocated to the new port. This autumn (1999) all activities have left the eastern part of the old port of Karlshamn. The last one to move to the new port was the ferry terminal.

Today the port of Karlshamn is number 7 regarding goods (5 million tons a year) Between Stockholm-Trelleborg it is the largest one. The capacity has more than doubled the last few years, mostly related to the political changes round the Baltic Sea. What happens to the old parts of the former port, The Eastern Pier downtown? Unemployment has never reached a high level at Karlshamn. The last few years we have had a small, but irritating reduction of population. Our traditionally strong industrial sector has started shrinking and we see no growth of the service sector.

Our ambitions regarding the Eastern Pier are:

- to develop and improve university education at Karlshamn
- to attract and get service industry of popular lines of business
- to have an easy access and improve attractiveness to those living at Karlshamn
- to have 1000 students and 500 places of work at this area.

The ground is filled up and is no part of historical Karlshamn. The area will be easily accessible in summer 2000. The quays can be used by different kind of boats. Planning is going on. Intensive discussions together with university people are now being held regarding aims and directions of study programmes. It will probably be applications of IT technology and trade, logistics and business of all kinds.

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## URBAN CENTRE

Kaunas is one of the two most important urban planning centres in Lithuania. Several interesting urban and spatial planning projects are currently prepared in Kaunas. The most important one is Kaunas Master Plan, which is prepared by the municipal enterprise "Kauno planas" together with specialists from Kaunas Technological University, Vytautas Magnus University, Architecture and Constructions Institute and other institutions. City development visions of the city's urban development model have already been prepared and territory development strategy is almost finished. Basic principles are sustainable development, improving living conditions of inhabitants and underlying attractiveness of the city. The Master Plan suggests using the city's territory in a compact and optimal way and developing communications and engineering

infrastructure. The essential tasks are to improve quality of the environment, reduce pollution, and maintain valuable natural and cultural territories.

The urban plans of the most important city areas, which take almost one third of the city's territory, have been prepared by "Kauno planas" and "Miestprojektas". The other urban development strategy concerns valleys of the Neris and the Nemunas and is quite special, as it indicates principles of this valuable and sensitive spatial development. The plan suggests to re-organise industrial zones into public, residential and recreational ones, attempting to do this through economic means. The basic principle is opening the city to the waterfront.

One of the main actors in this field is Kaunas County Governor's Administration - organiser of several important projects. One of them is Via Baltica spatial development project implemented by six countries and financed by EU funds PHARE. Lithuanian consultants are specialists from the municipal enterprise



"Kauno planas". This project creates aims of general development of the area as well as strategies for the development of spatial planning, economy, communications, culture and tourism. The project is approaching to the end. Other partners in that project are f.ex. Transport and Road Investigation Institute and Kaunas Technological University.

The other important issue is "small" planning that is actively promoted in Kaunas through preparation of plans of plots for restitution. This kind of work can do significant influence to the city's urban structure, i.e. to promote its development.

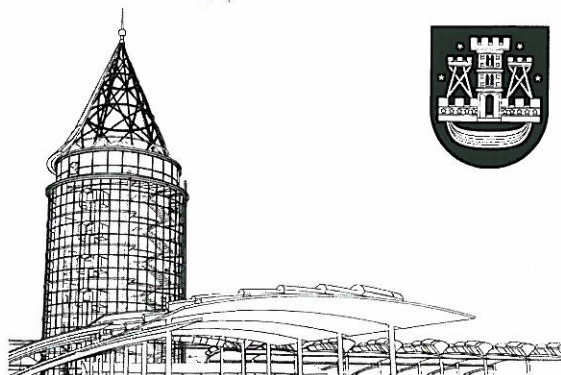
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## NEW LIFE FOR OLD CASTLE

It is essential that the Old Castle Place, a monument of history and culture would be integrated into contemporary structures of Klaipėda. In 1252 a wooden castle was built near the Curonian lagoon on the mouth of the river Dane. This date is considered to be the beginning of the city of Klaipėda. The castle faced severe battles and during the first five centuries was many times rebuilt. In that time the town and the castle made up an integral urban structure. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the castle lost its defensive value and deterioration of its constructions started. Two castle bastions, a fragment of the defensive canal and archaeological layers of different periods with traces of former buildings have survived.

The programme for the development of the whole Castle Place is under preparation. The surrounding urban structures are formed with respect to the main value of the territory – Klaipėda Castle. Efforts are made not to choke it with larger constructions and not to screen the castle's significance. The old buildings on the embankment of the river will accommodate tourism and service institutions. The shore of the lagoon and the pier will be used to locate a modern cruise passenger terminal. The remaining old 19<sup>th</sup> century constructions of the shipyard will be used for demonstration workshops for yacht building.

The historical-urban space will be re-created and the Old Castle Place will

become a centre of history, culture and tourism. The restored underground corridors would house the Castle Museum. A very significant part of the project is regeneration of the Great Tower of the Castle, which should become the symbol of Klaipėda and the main accent of the old town. It will function as a museum of new generation, conference and video halls with a numbers of cafes. The overview point will be on the top of the tower, from which a splendid panorama of the old town, the lagoon and the port could be seen. The projected building is a modern one with the historical silhouette of the former Tower. The exterior will be constructed of aluminium framework with glass.

The programme for the development of this territory will be carried out in 3 phases and not only the national government but mainly private capital will support the project. Major role for the city will be to create favourable conditions that such investment could be smoothly attracted.

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## ROSE SQUARE

One of the most notable recent accomplishments in Liepāja is the reconstruction of Rose Square – the central square of the city. It is very emotional work for the architect – a Liepāja resident – as this place is regarded as “the heart of Liepāja”. The reconstruction project was worked out by architect Andris Kokins and in 1999 its implementation was started. The downtown reconstruction is one of the largest infrastructure reconstruction projects in Liepāja in recent years, it provides for reconstruction of Rose Square, retaining its historic model yet making it contemporary through modern architecture and materials.

The reconstruction is a conceptually new solution for the city centre. The main emphasis of the concept is on the reconstruction of the central rotunda shaped as Wind Rose. On the edge of the rotunda there are ten plaques from Liepāja partner cities. It symbolises the integration of Liepāja in Europe. With the further

development of the economic and international relations of Liepāja, Rose Square will become the symbolic centre of the city's possibilities and contacts.

The reconstructed central part of Rose



*Rose Square - the heart of Liepāja*

Square was ceremonially opened on March 18 this year – on the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liepāja in the presence of the State President of Latvia and leaders of Liepāja partner cities. In May there will be a rose planting action. In the action, among others children who joined the art contest “My rose - to my rose square” will participate. During only two weeks more than 220 entries had been sent to the City Council – they gave a picture of roses children would like to plant in the Rose Square.

Rose Square is not surrounded by sentimental memories only – the people gather here several times a year – before Christmas when the central Christmas tree is here; on the eve of the New Year it is a place for fireworks; at Easter – for fantastic flower composition, in summers – a shady place for relaxation. There are several poems and even a song dedicated to the central square of Liepāja.

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## TURNING FACE TO THE SEA

In 2000, Helsinki is celebrating its 450th anniversary and is one of the nine cultural cities of Europe. You can notice this in the city centre and in the new housing developments. Here you have some guidelines of planning and constructing in Helsinki.

The City of Helsinki has deliberately set about creating the right conditions for investment in new housing and new business. The economy is recovering strongly and new office buildings are under construction again. New high-technology centres have sprung up at Ruoholahti in a new housing development by the sea and at Pitäjänmäki in an old industrial area. In the heart of Helsinki in the Kamppi-Töölönlahti area construction is continuing. In recent years the population in Helsinki has been growing at a rate of 7 000 – 9 000 a year. The total increase for the 1990's so far is 60 500.

In terms of new house-building per capita, Finland is one of the leading countries in Europe. Even during the recession of 1990's, the City was able to provide the right conditions for building homes for its growing population. Every year it were built on 3 000 new flats the land owned by the city of Helsinki and

on private land some 500 more. The City of Helsinki has invested decisively in municipal engineering, and in building children's day-care centres,



*New housing development in old harbour and storage area*

comprehensive schools, parks and waterside landscaping for its housing areas. Former warehouse buildings have been demolished and dock areas cleared, and modern urban districts have been built in their place at the edge of the sea. Big change has been carried out in four areas close to the innercity: Pikku-Huopalahti, Ruoholahti, Herttoniemi and Arabia

seaside area. Waterfront areas that were formerly closed to the public have been turned into marinas, shoreline promenades and housing districts of high architectural quality, as has been done in the harbour towns of Continental Europe. The inner city area is being extended further and the process will continue. The city of Helsinki is planning to move the western and eastern freight harbours some 15 km to the east to Vuosaari in 2005. By renovation of the urban structure we can get two new housing developments for some 20 000 inhabitants to live.

In Helsinki we have also been carrying on the tradition of the Finnish garden city. At this moment, new urban districts are under construction in the midst of nature, at Viikki and Vuosaari. In Viikki we are building a large scale ecological housing development close to Helsinki University Biotechnical faculty and research centre.

The construction of new city districts will continue. The City of Helsinki looks out to sea and forward into the new decade with great confidence.

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## HISTORICAL APPEARANCE

The historically arranged system of palace and park complexes divides a housing estate of the city of Peterhof into the three districts and the main objects arranging the town are: *Peterhof* State Museum, military high colleges, plants of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation and Petrodvorets watch-makers' plant.

The mainstream of today's town-planning policy is preservation, recovery and development of the historical and cultural potential of the region. Objects of new constructions under historical environment subordination are *Neu Dorf Strelna* Russian German's settlement arranged in the place of a former German colony. The project includes 129 two-storeyed cottages, objects of engineering

infrastructure, manufacturing objects to provide employment of the settlers and to improve social sphere. At present 38 dwelling houses for 50 families are built.

The projects *Merchant's Harbour* and *The Down Road* are two of a number of projects with an organic synthesising of the architecture and landscape art directed to increasing attractiveness of Peterhof for travellers.

The idea of reconstructing historical appearance around the former Merchant's Harbour has found its reflection in the concept of revival and development of reserved territories of *Peterhof* State Museum. One of the main historical functions of Merchant's Harbour was receiving flows of tourists arriving in Peterhof by passenger ships and their own yachts. In the future this complex will fulfil the same function.

To provide all services for tourists it is supposed to construct: new yachting port, docks, hotels, restaurant, cafe, etc.

The project *Down Road* proposes

developing the territory of southern coast of the Gulf of Finland to include it into the sphere of tourist business. The monuments of history and architecture – palaces of Znamenka, Michailovka, Konstantinovskij, Tsar Stables and others – are located along the Down Road.

The engineering opening-up of the project has started recovery of historical streets and roads, planning of adjoining territories, renovation of facilities. Based on the feasibility study a lot of investment could be offered to potential investors. Both existing and lost monuments of history and newly created complexes, for instance historical and ethnographical settlements and also harbours, parking lots, camping, motels could be shown as objects for investment.

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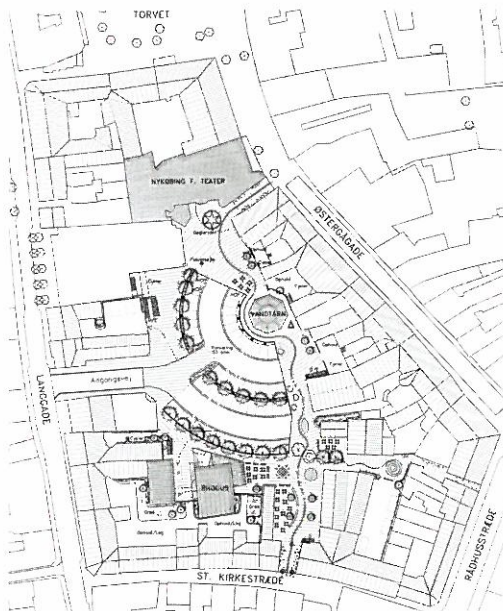


## TOWN RENEWAL TOWARDS 2005

During the last 4 years the City Council in Nykøbing F. has developed sketches to the town renewal plan for a central city area. The history of the central city area called Holland's Gaard goes back to medieval times. The quarter around Holland's Gaard had been a pulsing part of the city by being the locality for the monastery and the church, the merchant's houses and markets. In the sixties a new town plan made tremendous changes to the functional city's structure. The central bus station was removed from Holland's Gaard and the route of regional traffic was led to a new ring road. Coincidentally new industrial areas were developed at the outskirts of the city. The quarter around Holland's Gaard was in the waves of rapid changes facing a new role

On the one hand the Holland's Gaard and its surroundings has remained, as far as retail trade is concerned, as a well functioning part of the city centre with many modern shops and pedestrian streets. On the other hand a massive group of the previous industrial buildings are still out of function and fallen into disrepair. Moreover almost every open space in the quarter is used for parking, the environment is poor, a significant percentage of the flats have considerable bad hygienic facilities and there is almost no access to open space.

In the beginning of the nineties the city participated in a demonstration project organised by the Ministry of Housing. As a result of the demonstration project a group of key citizens were asked to sketch out a proposal for a renewal plan in Holland's Gaard. In 1998 Nykøbing F. obtained a grant from the government. A board, which represented residents, owners, business, cultural institutions, member of the City Council, officials and consultants, was set up to work out a specific program and students made models to show how Holland's Gaard could look like. Coincidentally with the process for the comprehensive renewal plan a proposal for the renovation of the dilapidated housing area is going to be worked out as an important part of it. The comprehensive renewal plan which was approved by the Ministry of Town



*The new plan for Holland's Gaard*

renewal and Housing in January with a budget of 9.5 million DKK means great changes to the quarter as it is going to be rebuilt into a new city area with an entertainment square connected by a blue waterline and sculptures on pedestrian areas and open air spaces. The project will be completed in 2005 and then Holland's Gaard will be a very attractive part of the city.

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## STORM WATER - AN ASSET

Landskrona is situated within an agricultural and densely populated district of western Scania. The city itself was long dominated by heavy industry but now is experiencing a period of transition.

Landskrona's town centre is characterised by its proximity to the sea. The promenade along the coast, many parks and natural areas allows its inhabitants to enjoy the sea and greenery. Even so, access to nature is often limited, especially in the smaller communities. Agricultural land frequently starts where buildings end, and people must walk or exercise along tarmac roads. In fact, in the countryside of western Scania and its

small communities, access to nature may be a limited resource.

The municipality has made plans on how to protect and strengthen existing possibilities. The rivers Saxan and Braan – two watercourses that are mainly flowing through agricultural land – are valuable landscape features, but heavily burdened by agricultural runoff and to some extent by storm water from roads and built-up areas. Through our planning process, towards improving water quality and conservation values of these rivers – extensive implementation programmes have been established. These programmes involve constructing wetlands, buffer strips and footpaths along the rivers. They also aim at favouring rare and threatened species and improving the values of "trivial" natural areas.

Thanks to government subsidies, Landskrona is now implementing these programmes. Wetlands are being constructed in order to decrease the load of nutrients from agricultural land to the rivers and sea. Existing valuable elements are protected and new ones created. Special thought is given to threatened species. An important part of the project concerns ecologically beneficial treatment of storm water. Some 20 storm water treatment dams are being planned along the rivers. Apart from their cleansing effect, these dams turn storm water into an asset to landscape, wildlife and have a levelling effect on water flow, especially important during summer when water levels may be very low.

All the above measures will reduce the load of pollutants to rivers and sea, aid nature conservation along the river, and give the inhabitants of Landskrona scenic areas to dwell in.

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*Small storm water dams along the rivers create a richer natural environment*





## DETAILED PLANNING

The detail planning of the quarter located in the heart of the old town is one of the most interesting planning project in Viljandi. The reason of compiling this plan was the need to activate an empty area in the town centre. The other problem was the central square that bears the identity of the town and finding new solutions for building around this area.

The area under planning is traversed by the remnants of the medieval town wall which are protected by the preservation of antiquities and the moats. The perimeter of the quarter is covered with one and two storeyed buildings mostly from the 19th and the 20th century. The eastern side of the quarter was destroyed in the fire in 1944, therefore, instead of the medieval buildings a central square and a green area were developed.

The planning process has taken about five years. The solution, offered by a bureau in Tallinn, turned out to be unsuitable for a small town. According to new research there was a need to specify a locations of the defence fortifications, two wall towers and the profile of the moat. After the discussions it was decided to restore the northwestern tower to show the real measures of the town wall. The rest of the town wall will be conserved or marked in the landscape. The starting point for designing the central square was the foundation of the statue to an essential personality for Viljandi.

As a result of the wide discussions a solution both constructive and attractive was completed for this part of the quarter. The town wall was marked with three-storeyed buildings, where before the town wall according to the demands of the preservation of the antiquities was designed one-storeyed. In the third phase of the planning the all discussed themes were brought together. The new planning results in a new recreation zone with attractive water cascades and fountains and the city centre with its business and service areas.

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## URBAN MARKETING

Since November 1998 an urban marketing concept has been worked out in Rostock. Urban marketing is identified with strategic urban planning, separated and transsectoral connected with spatial urban planning. During the process in order to define the general goals every household was offered a discussion in the municipal newspaper and internet. Now these guidelines with priorities are completed.

What could be reached by sustainable and environmental development is already described in the urban marketing programs. Social balance, future-oriented



economic systems and sustainable usage of natural resources have to be developed together and not apart from each other. Cross-cutting policy is therefore the promotion and protection of equal chances for all inhabitants.

Using holistic urban development as the core of a marketing concept means activating public, social and private actors and providing a list of priorities. Starting in April 2000 the local city marketing concept will be followed by a regional one. This concept will be established under the umbrella of the regional spatial program that will become more concrete.

Between planning and realisation of plans is mostly a high wall. With the instrument of marketing and management orientated demonstration projects it is easier to instill innovation and to steer processes. Demonstration projects show that ideas can work, they act as prototypes for further standard implementation.

One of the most successful projects is the sustainable orientated urban renewal programme URBAN, funded by EU money. Urban renewal is less an issue of

engineering than it is trans-disciplinary work. The question: "10 years Inner-city development in Rostock, where does it go from here?" is showing up in further research and projects. Now, with the EU support from Interreg II C program, investigation is being done about specific aspects of participation of residents and potential investors. This network between Copenhagen's "Kvarterlift-programme" and the urban renewal strategies in Rostock, Wismar, Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius is named "Innovative Urban Planning and Management". With the instruments of participatory and cross

sectored planning and urban management a new planning culture shall be arrived at. The project will create preconditions and elaborate guidelines for development and application of flexible instruments employing NGO and CBO participation in planning urban revitalisation actions.

Another central development question for Rostock is, how to give the large housing estates a fair future. 50 % of Rostock's population live here. Now the programs "Living Environment Improvement" and "Social City" are effective instruments to improve the living quality in these problematic quarters. The Interreg II C programme waterfront urban development allows for Rostock a Baltic-wide fair marketing campaign. In summer everybody can observe the progress in the former "social focus quarter" via Internet. This EU project gives Rostock the possibility to have professional Internet marketing for tourism and real estate aspects. Now everybody can enjoy a virtual guided trip through Rostock and Warnemünde, and potential investors are able to inform themselves discreetly about the real-estate offerings in Rostock.

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## MÄKIKAIVO AREA

During the last few years old industrial areas in the city centre of Vaasa have been re-planned for housing. One example is the former industrial area, Mäkikaivo that participated in four European architectural competitions.

The competition area is a former industrial block close to the city centre. The ground of the area is fairly even. The old warehouses in the area will be torn down. In the master plan for Central Vaasa the competition area has been reserved for multi-storey residential use. The site covers 2.4 hectares. It is to be used for living and for activities supporting residential use. 10 % of the floor area may be used for other construction, which also supports residential use.



Vaasa – Mäkikaivo

The aim of the competitions was to find a design which outlines the goals of living in the 21st century and possesses high environmental quality. The solution is meant to serve as the starting point for a new town plan for the area. It has been stated as a wish that the design should promote the birth of a safe and balanced residential community, and that attention should be paid to the mediating role of the area between the adjoining areas of low-rise housing and public buildings.

The floor area shall be, according to the competition rules, between 15.000 m<sup>2</sup> and 20.000 m<sup>2</sup>. The lower limit admits one-level parking; the upper limit requires multi-level parking. Depending on the solution, the highest number of storeys can vary between 2 and 5.

The jury has paid special attention to the quality of city space, to the functioning of the dwellings, to innovative forms of living, and to the multi-functionality of outdoor spaces. The entries shall have been feasible with respect to building and maintenance costs and they shall be suited for the climate of Northern Europe.



Construction has started at Mäkikaivo

The winner of the competition was the Swiss architect Jean-Lou Rivier. The runner-up was the Finnish architect Pentti Kareoja. The jury's opinion of Kareoja's entry is: "The bastion-like composition and the outdoor-indoor rhythm are unique and create an interesting, appealing scale and atmosphere. There are some details that must be studied, such as the living trees in the buildings, and the parking, but they are easily solved without losing sight of the architectural aims. The general touch and the interiors are refreshing."

The city plan of the area has been adjusted in accordance with the runner-up entry. Construction has started and first inhabitants will be moving to the area in the summer of 2000.

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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

For the past few years the Gdańsk authorities are striving to involve public participation in the process of creating master plans for the respective city districts. The aim is to get the ideas from the citizens, not only involve them formally.

That's why since the end of 1998 the city introduced the program of public debates. This is a unique program aimed at involving the citizens in the planning of their city development. The citizens have an opportunity to work on the local master plans, together with the city authorities and planners. This method has been introduced jointly by the city authorities, NGOs and Gijbels Institute from Rotterdam, acting on behalf of Dutch governmental fund MATRA.

The public debates:

- disseminate information about the local master plans
- give all citizens interested in city development a chance to express their

opinions, and at the same time, the city authorities may verify their concepts preliminarily adopted in the projected master plans

- allow the city authorities to present their arguments in controversial cases
- create a way for citizens to be involved in the city decision making process
- foster the democratisation of public life

Until now two public debates have taken place. The first one concerning the Ołowianka island was described as very positive by participants. It was run by the Dutch guests along with Gdańsk NGOs and city clerks. The debate resulted in moving all technical infrastructure from the island and reserving the whole island for tourism and culture purposes.

The second debate carried out by the City Hall clerks and NGOs was devoted to the plan of the Main Town. Five meetings have been held with the citizens, NGOs and opinion-makers such as

architects, planners etc. 350 persons participated in the meetings. The discussion was widely reported in the media. 86 remarks and proposals were raised during the meeting. Participants were also requested to take part in the questionnaire asking whether to keep the existing green areas or to rebuild historical houses. 140 answers were received, mostly supporting the proposals included in the plan. All remarks and proposals were forwarded to the City Board which approved several of them. The Mayor of Gdańsk, Mr Paweł Adamowicz presented the results of the public debate on the Main Town master plan at a special press conference held in January 2000.

In the future public debates may be organised also in other fields of public life – wherever the city authorities want to involve the public the discussion and cooperation.

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## II. UBC Today

### 27<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN KEMI

The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held on the 1 April 2000 in the City of Kemi, Finland, upon the invitation of Mr Juhani Leino, Mayor of Kemi. The meeting was attended by the Members of the Executive Board and the Chairpersons of the Commissions.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

President Anders Engström reminded that since the beginning UBC had two equal Vice-Presidents. At its last meeting the Board decided that it should be determined who shall be the first and who the second vice-president. The Board decided that Mr Gentvilas shall serve as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Mr Lahoniitty as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

#### UBC Action Plan

President Engström reminded at the last meeting that the Board authorised the Presidium, the Secretary General and the UBC EU Coordinator to prepare the draft of the UBC Action Plan 2000-2001. Mr Engström presented the first draft of the Action Plan. The Action Plan concerns the following UBC organs: Executive Board, Presidium, Commissions, networks, working groups, secretariat. All activities shall take into account the following guidelines: sustainable development, EU enlargement, young people involvement, gender equality. The Board decided the first draft of the Action Plan shall be sent out for comments to the Commission and network chairpersons.

#### Financial report 1999 and budget 2000

Mr Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, submitted the UBC financial report for 1999. Mr Żaboklicki underlined that all member cities paid their membership fees and the financial position of the Union is stable. The financial report displays UBC incomes,

expenditure, a table with membership fees, expenditure of the Commissions, costs of the secretariats and UBC projects with external funding. Subsequently Mr Żaboklicki presented the adjusted version of UBC budget for the year 2000. The Board took note of the financial report for 1999 and adopted the adjusted budget for 2000.

#### Cooperation with LVRLAC

President Engström recalled that SIDA requested UBC to transfer know-how to the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Cooperation. Following his



*UBC Presidium during the Board meeting in Kemi*

and Mr Jokinen's visit to Victoria Lake region in November 1999, the President informed that in April, the Secretary General and UBC-EU Coordinator would go to Uganda in order to work out the document indicating the areas of cooperation between UBC and LVRLAC. The document is to be signed in May in Uganda by the Presidents of both organisations. Cooperation will consist of joint projects, seminars and study tours for civil servants from Victoria Lake cities in the Baltic cities. All project costs are covered by SIDA. Remuneration for the UBC EU Coordinator's work will be transferred to the UBC budget. The Board authorised the President to sign the agreement on cooperation with LVRLAC.

#### Commission meetings

President Engström informed the Board, that the day before the Board meeting the Presidium met the chairpersons of UBC Commissions in order to discuss the ways of work in the future. The leaders of seven UBC Commissions were present. Participants discussed inter alia the following issues: UBC steering documents, guidelines for Commissions work, decentralisation of responsibilities, Commission secretariats, UBC Action Plan. The

meeting was described by the Presidium and the Commission chairpersons as very useful – the participants expressed an opinion that such meetings shall be held regularly once a year. Mr Risto Veivo, UBC Environmental Coordinator, reported from the first meeting of the Commissions chairpersons, held in association with the Board meeting in Kemi. Commission leaders exchanged experiences and ideas on the activities, structure and ways of work of respective Commissions. The chairpersons expressed the opinion that such internal meetings are beneficial to all

Commissions and should be held systematically.

#### Barents Region

Mr Rune Rafaelsen, Project Manager in Barents Secretariat, made a presentation introducing the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. The Barents Council was established on 11 January 1993 by the foreign ministers of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia. The purpose of the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation is to secure stability and progress in the area. The Board expressed its thanks to Mr Rafaelsen for attending the UBC Board meeting and introducing the cooperation in the Barents Region. Both organisations expressed an interest in the exchange of information and experiences.





*continued from page 15*

### **Interreg III initiative**

Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC EU Coordinator, informed the Board that the President set up a working group to work out a programme for cooperation between local and regional authorities in the BSR. Mr Janusson presented the document "BSIC – Baltic Subnational Initiative for Cooperation", prepared by the working group. The programme should be financed by Interreg III B and shall consist of a bundle of projects, managed in the BSR. The project sizes shall vary between 50.000 and 200.000 Euro. The Board fully supported the initiative and authorised the working group to continue its work.

### **Outcomes of SAIL project**

Secretary General Paweł Żaboklicki informed the Board that the SAIL (Spreading Awareness to foster the Implementation of LA 21 around the Baltic Sea) project has been completed. The project was financed by BSPF EU program, 100.000 EUR from PHARE (applicant - UBC Secretariat) and 60.000 EUR from TACIS (applicant – City of Lahti). The project consisted of 10 seminars for the LA21 coordinators and municipal decision makers from cities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia. The project produced information materials (manuals) on LA21 in five national languages of countries mentioned above. The Board expressed its satisfaction with the outcomes of the SAIL project.

### **UBC website**

Secretary General reminded that during the last General Conference in Stockholm President Anders Engström agreed with the Chairman of Szczecin City Council, that the city of Szczecin will take over the UBC homepage from the city of Kalmar. Following this agreement the UBC homepage was transferred from Kalmar to Szczecin in February 2000. In March 2000 the webmaster started to update the homepage with the information sent from the secretariat. The Board emphasised the importance of professional internet service and expressed gratitude to the city of Szczecin for maintaining the UBC homepage.

### **Next meeting**

Following an invitation from Mr Vladimir Yakovlev, Governor of St. Petersburg, the next meeting of the UBC Executive Board will be held in St. Petersburg, on 16-18 June 2000.

## **UBC AND LVRLAC - SISTER ORGANISATION IN AFRICA**

The functions and responsibilities of local authorities are similar, regardless of size and location in the world. The main responsibility is to cater to the well-being of its citizens and sustainable development for the benefit of present and coming generations. This has become even more obvious in the new co-operation between UBC and its sister organisation in the Victoria Lake Region in Africa.

There is also a worldwide trend for cities and local authorities to co-operate

between UBC and LVRLAC was signed in Entebbe, Uganda.

The visit was followed up in April 2000 by the UBC Secretary General and the UBC EU Co-ordinator in Entebbe. Concrete fields of co-operation as well as priorities were specified and a draft agreement was worked out.

The UBC President and UBC Vice President paid a new visit shortly after that to sign the draft agreement, and now there is a solid base of priorities and possible co-operation projects.



*The Presidents of UBC and LVRLAC signing cooperation agreement*

in transborder networks. UBC is one of the most advanced such networks and is seen as a very successful example.

The network of local authorities around the Victoria Lake, the Lake Victoria Region Local Authority Co-operation LVRLAC. LVRLAC has 14 members from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. The president, Mr Stephen Kabuye is the mayor of the city of Entebbe, Uganda.

Sida, the Swedish International Development Authority, has asked UBC to work as consultants and support LVRLAC to develop their organisation and activities. The first contacts between UBC and LVRLAC were made during a study tour to Sweden by leading persons from LVRLAC in 1999.

The UBC President returned the visit in November 1999 together with Mr Miko Jokinen, vice-chairman of the UBC Commission on Environment, when a preliminary agreement on co-operation

The co-operation is mainly facing the environmental problems in the Lake Victoria region, but the co-operation is also focusing on many fields of local authority activity, for example staff training.

The next task is to prepare a list of concrete projects, based on the priorities of LVRLAC as well as the possibilities of UBC. UBC will in the near future approach member cities and ask if they have competent specialists in various areas that can engage in the co-operation. Study tours for officials and politicians from the LVRLAC member regions to the UBC secretariat and UBC member cities will also be carried out.

The UBC EU Co-ordinator will be the project leader. UBC will work on a regular consultation basis for Sida in this project, which means that all UBC costs will be more than covered by the Swedish Government.





# YOUTH CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The most important task for young people today is to work for a sustainable future. By preventing the negative impact of human behaviour on the physical environment, economics and the social area. It should be based on international co-operation among young people. Everybody has the responsibility to care for the planet of Earth and make it peaceful and fair to live in. It is necessary that young people, being the future generation, take part in the development of this sustainable future.

YCSF (Youth Concerning the Sustainable Future) is an exchange network for youths around the Baltic. The main theme is Agenda 21 and we deal with such issues as local democracy, sustainable development and ethnic culture in the Baltic region.

The idea of YCSF as a project was invented in Kalmar Municipality in the spring of 1997. During the spring of 1998 two meetings with 30 participants from Kalmar, Gdańsk and Kaliningrad were organised - the first in Kalmar in March and the second in May in Gdańsk. We were talking not only about issues connected with sustainable democratic and environmental development, but also about the lifestyles of young people in different countries, their customs, habits and attitudes. We discussed also equality, racism, pupils ascendancy and much more. The most important questions were - "what can we do for sustainable development and future?", "how to make other youths want to take an active part in their society" and "how to get power as youth and to make the decision makers treat our opinions seriously?". It became obvious to us that although we live in different countries, we deal very often with the same problems and have the same objectives.

The initial part of the YCSF-project ended in March 1999. Now we are working on a continuation of our successful co-operation as a network. We managed to encourage the group from Bützow, Germany to join our project and take part in our organisation meeting in Gdańsk in February 2000. The meeting was very successful and now we know that we will continue our work in co-operation with the help of UBC.



*YCSF meeting in Gdańsk - where is the famous "Green Gate" ?*

Our plan is to share our experiences and opinions with the others, and thus help them with their initiatives locally. The basic objectives are to spread the information about Agenda 21, sustainable development and future, and make other young people more conscious of what is

happening and aware of their possibilities to influence their societies.

We organise meetings for all the network members twice a year, each in different countries. As a network we want to act locally and internationally. Locally, we work on local projects connected with Agenda 21 and other youth activities. On an international level we want to have exchange meetings to share our experiences, brainstorming about new project ideas and to have inspiration seminars. Now we are thinking about closer co-operation with UBC. Perhaps it is a nice idea to have a commission on youth within UBC? YCSF network is open for everyone: we are looking for participants especially from Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Norway and Denmark, but everyone is welcomed.

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## GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ROSTOCK 2001

The VI UBC General Conference will be held in Rostock in October 2001. The first day of the Conference 12 October 2001 will be under the topic '**Social Justice in the new Millennium**'.

To elaborate valuable knowledge **4 Workshops** should be held under the following headlines:

- I. Gender Equality
- II. Health for everybody
- III. Participation of Children and Youth
- IV. Strengthening of handicapped and chronically ill persons

Today we would like to call for interesting contributions to make this first day a valuable and lively event for all of us. We need:

1. to find experts to hold the **impulse lectures** as introduction into each workshop in the plenary session and participate as **co-leaders in the workshops** (4 persons)

2. to find **speakers from 3 - 5 cities** for each workshop presenting achievements, results, difficulties, visions, projects of Eastern and Western UBC Cities. (12-20 persons)

3. to find **co-workshop leaders** from UBC cities (4 persons)

Please, talk in your city about the topics of the conference and the workshops and try to find interested speakers.

**We would very much appreciate if you give us the names of speakers and possibly the topics of their speeches before 30 June 2000.**

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## URBAN PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN SEMINAR

UBC Commission on Urban Planning invites architects, town planners and urban designers to the best practise seminar to be held in Umeå, Sweden, 15-17 June 2000. The theme of the seminar is **Renewal of City Centre and its surroundings**

Discussion continues after the successful Malmö seminar last December. This time we are looking at City Centres and the empty places close to the central business areas. We want to find interesting examples of how cities and towns have developed their centres and kept them beautiful. What are the driving forces in your city, which keep the Centre vivid? It is also useful to discuss the actual problems, which must be solved.

Umeå is the City of large birch boulevards. You are welcome to the city of northern light.



*New housing quarters in Umeå*

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City of Umeå

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Mr Jussi Kautto

City of Helsinki

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## COMMISSION ON CULTURE 4<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

**The UBC Commission on Culture wishes to invite all UBC members to participate in the fourth working session of the Commission on Culture to be held in Szczecin on 9-11 June 2000.**

The main purpose of this session is the election of a new Board of the Commission on Culture, and the election of its Chairman and Vice Chairman, as well as the discussion about the functions of the Board, the strategy and activities of the CoC in the forthcoming years.

We wish to inform you that the Committee of the Commission on Culture during the meeting in Klaipėda (Lithuania, 23-24 October 1999) adopted the following regulations concerning the election of the CoC board.

Members of the Board 5 to 7 persons / elected every second year/ are from different countries. Cities propose themselves to be on the Board and they are represented by professionals in the field of culture (from Municipality or City Institutions). Non elected members have priority for the next two-year period. The Board proposes Chairman and Vice Chairman for the approval of the participants of the CoC election meeting.

Initiative of invitation to the meeting belongs to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. City which is represented in the Board covers travel expenses and accommodation of its representatives for participation in the Board meetings.

According to the above the new CoC Board will be elected by the representatives of the UBC cities which will participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> CoC Session.

The Cities which wish to be represented on the CoC Board are kindly requested to send their application to the Secretariat in Szczecin.

Presenting your candidate for the Board election, please include the following information: 1. main professional activities, 2. education, 3. personal motivation for the candidature, 4. languages, 5. experience in dealing with international cultural events.

Ms Magdalena Lewoc  
Secretariat of the UBC Commission  
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## BUSINESS COMMISSION CONFERENCE

**The UBC Business Commission had its annual conference in Kolding, Denmark on the 25-26 of May.**

19 cities from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark were represented. The main topics were cooperation between member cities and exchange of ideas on how to develop the local business environment.

In connection with the conference there was a preconference on the 24<sup>th</sup> for those who had a special interest in the subjects "retailing" and "attracting new business from Denmark".

As to the subjects of this year conference the inspiration came from the commission members themselves. In January a questionnaire was sent to all members asking questions like: "In what business related areas has your city experienced success and is willing to share information with others?" and "Areas in which you need inspiration from others cities?" In other words: We defined strong points and weak points – and try to learn from each other. Some members, especially those from Poland, raised the question: What can prevent an attractive city shopping area from dying out due to hard competition from new shopping malls on the outskirts of town and from foreign retail chains? Kolding has been active in this field, and we met the people involved in the successful cooperation between down town and shopping mall.

Our conference was held in the same premises as Baltic Sea States Summit in April.

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## COMMISSION ON SPORT MET IN PANEVĖŽYS

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2000 the Annual Meeting of UBC Commission on Sport was held in Panevėžys, Lithuania. 8 cities from Denmark, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania took part in the meeting. Despite hot weather, which welcomed us in summery Panevėžys, participants of the meeting discussed the UBC steering documents and the budget for the year 2000. The Commission on Sport has

decided to support the following sports events in member cities this year:

- Klaipėda, *UBC Sports Games* (29–30 July)
- Gdynia, *Road Running Race* (28 May)
- Panevėžys, *International Female Cycling Competition* (29 June – 3 July)
- International Football Tournament* (26–28 May 2000; 17–18 June 2000 and 15–18 September 2000).



*Władysław Kozakiewicz visiting a photograph exhibition devoted to Olympic Games champions*

During the Annual Meeting of the Commission a project proposal regarding senior sport put forward by Aalborg was discussed and was met with great interest. Furthermore, members of the Commission suggested creating on the UBC website a data base of sports clubs in our cities interested in international co-operation and exchange as well as establishing a mini stock of sports

equipment that could be presented by western cities. These two things will appear on www pages of the Commission on Sport this year.

The city surprised us with a great number of sports facilities, and no wonder that among its inhabitants there have been so many Olympic Games champions. And it was the topic of a photograph exhibition of famous champions which could be seen by participants of the meeting.

After an eventful day, the Commission members together with the city and regional authorities, sports club managers, sportsmen could have a go at a bowling game (the team consisting of Commission members won!).

See you next year in Karlskrona where we plan to organise a conference devoted, among others: to sports seniors and that of the disabled as well as to the issue of construction and management of huge sports buildings

### Further information:

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## UBC EU Co-ORDINATORS NETWORK

In September 1999 the UBC EU Co-ordinator Network received economic support from the EU-programme Swebaltcop for carrying out three seminars and constructing a homepage for the network - called the EU Co-ordinator Project. The aim with the project is to create a forum for exchange of knowledge, information and experiences between EU co-ordinators in the UBC member cities and thereby build a platform for a long-term co-operation within the network.

The first seminar within the project was carried out in Tartu, Estonia on the 16-17 of January this year. 34 participants representing 25 UBC member cities attended the seminar. The second seminar was arranged in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 19-20 of May with 20 participants from 17 cities.

At the first day of the Tartu seminar we focused on The role of the EU co-ordinator in local authorities. Representatives

from Aalborg, Malmö and Turku presented their practical knowledge and experiences from working with EU-related issues in their cities. During the second day we worked with Techniques for presentation. The lecturer for the day was Mrs Ann-Christin Bayard from IKL - Institut Kreatives Lernen.

During the Vilnius seminar we concentrated on The integration process to the European Union, with emphasis on the local authority level. The seminar treated issues like how to influence the European Union, how to find relevant information and the accession process. Lecturer was Mr Håkan Gustafsson, senior adviser from Sweden. In a workshop the participants exchanged experiences from working with EU-related issues on the local level and presented the possibilities and problems that they face. In another workshop we worked with finding relevant EU-information on the Internet. During the

seminar we also discussed about the continuation of the co-operation within the network.

The next seminar will be arranged on the 29-30 September. It is not decided yet in what member city the seminar will take place, but information will be sent out on the UBC contact list and the EU Co-ordinators mailinglist as soon as we know. Our next seminar will deal with concrete planning of projects and the application process to the EU.

If you want to join the EU Co-ordinator Network and/or if you want the documentation from the Tartu and Vilnius seminars please contact the project leader.

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# UBC AGENDA 21 MEETING

**The UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group and Commission on Environment met in Riga 16-18 March. 50 representatives of member cities and co-operation organisations participated, and the Agenda 21 work of the UBC was again taken a few steps ahead. Workshops on different topics proved to be a very effective way to proceed.**

The meeting focused on the implementation of UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program 2000-2002, offered an overview of current developments of Baltic 21 and the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, and the new initiatives of the European

Commission. Experiences were exchanged by short presentations from participants. Working methods included workshops for developing the project ideas of the action program into concrete projects.

## **Status of UBC Agenda 21**

The UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program currently includes 16 projects and/or project ideas. Seven of these are on-going and nine are still more or less at the planning stage. All the active projects were presented, and the meeting elaborated the different project and activity ideas of the program in five workshops: Management Systems, Information Materials, Youth Projects and Networking, Democracy and Local Agenda 21, and Spreading Good Practices. The workshops resulted in several proposals for future activities.

## **Management Systems**

The group agreed that increasing the use of management systems is a good goal for the UBC. The UBC could contribute to this goal, e.g., by exchanging experiences and developing human capacities. The group proposed the following activities:

- organising a feasibility study on management systems in the BSR (in co-operation with ECAT and REC), and
- organising a kick-off conference for further activities / projects. In such a conference DG Environment should also be involved. The results of the feasibility study, examples from EU and pilot projects from different Baltic States could contribute to the contents.

## **Information Materials**

This workshop wanted to underline the function of LA 21 as a long-term process for sustainable development. And from this comes a conflict: Agenda 21 is a long-term process, but the politicians are elected for short terms. Also, there is not enough co-operation within the municipalities, and



*Workshop on information materials*

because of this it is very difficult to spread the information (as a result, e.g., the citizens do not know much about LA 21). The group proposed the following activities:

- organising a pre-feasibility study (could be partly follow-up to the 1998 UBC Local Agenda 21 Survey) including questions directly to different target groups (mayors, council chairs, experts). Association of Estonian Cities had expressed interest to co-operate in such a survey.
- on the basis of the survey, planning a project on information materials.

## **Establish Youth Commission?**

This group came to the conclusion that a UBC Commission on Youth should be founded. Such commission would give status and accountability for youth co-operation. The commission could concentrate, e.g., on the following activities:

- networking and developing activities and projects,
- work on anti-discrimination, sustainable development, EU-enlargement, and contacts with youth NGOs, and
- Agenda 21 could be used as one framework and tool for the work.

## **Democracy and Local Agenda 21**

The group proposed an idea of a project on indicators for local democracy. The aim would be raising awareness and measuring dialogue and involvement (democracy indicators), and the problem addressed would be unequal involvement of social groups and lack of democratic structures. Such project could consist of the following

activities: case studies, developing democracy indicators and the results could be presented in book-form.

The cities of Kaunas, Nacka and Visby had expressed preliminary interest to lead such a project.

## **Spreading Good Practices**

UBC has started the Best City Practice Project (funded by the Nordic Minister Council), which aims at disseminating the results of the environmental award scheme 1999. Spreading good practices is one of the most characteristic ways how a city network can bring added value to its members. The intention is that the project would consist of three workshops where good practices would be presented both on-site and in the seminar room. The workshops would be complemented by benchmarking exercises in city pairs or smaller groups of cities. Planned Activities

- 3 workshops, first one in autumn 2000 and the last one in 2001 on the occasion of the UBC general conference,

- Principle of "no free tickets" and sustainable working in the project - use e-mails and other modes of e-communication,
- involve politicians to some of the seminars?

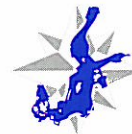
## **European Regards from CEMR**

The meeting also had the pleasure to be attended by Mr Edward Cameron from the Council of European Municipalities and Region (CEMR). In the addition to CEMR Mr Cameron represented also the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, being one of the five European city networks that belong to the co-ordinating committee of the Campaign.

Mr. Cameron emphasised the will of CEMR and the Campaign in general to strengthen co-operation with the UBC. He briefly informed the meeting about the history, future developments, and information activities of the campaign. More information can be obtained from the website [www.sustainable.cities.org](http://www.sustainable.cities.org).

More networks are most likely to be invited to join the Campaign's co-ordinating committee, UBC being one of the candidates. Mr. Cameron stated that CEMR is positive about opening the CoCom for new members, and he closed his presentation by inviting the UBC to co-operate with CEMR in planning and organising a conference on sustainable development and Local Agenda 21. This conference is being planned to be organised in Malmö, Sweden, during the Swedish EU Presidency in 2001.





## THE END OF SAIL

The SAIL Project on Local Agenda 21 has reached its end. The project managed to produce good basic sets of information materials on Local Agenda 21 in Russian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish. The project also successfully promoted LA21 activities, and could also provide some assistance for implementing LA21s in the target countries.

The workshop approach that was used for planning the materials proved to be a good method for shared learning and creating. The roundtables and national meetings that were organised by the project partners were also successful and

gathered wide participation from municipal experts, decision-makers and other stakeholders.

The inflexible bureaucracy on the side of the administering body of the funding source (EU Phare and Tacis Baltic Small Project Facility) caused some problems during the project. This stiffness made, e.g., even small necessary budget re-allocations impossible.

All the materials produced are available from the project partners (contact info available from UBC Secretariat). These materials will no doubt be effectively used for advancing Local Agenda 21 in many



*The last event within the project was the seminar in Gdańsk*

cities in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. Some follow-up activities have also been already planned by the UBC and the other project partners.

## USE MEA TO FIND PRIORITIES!

The need for environmental investments especially in the cities on the Eastern side of the Baltic Sea is great. One of the problems that cities face in decision-making often is: where to start? MEA can make finding the answers easier.

The results of each MEA include a lot of valuable information for prioritising decisions on environmental investments. The intention with MEA is to offer a tool for city management and environmental experts to analyse and describe the current state of local environment and environmental management, define the strengths and weaknesses and to propose improvements (including proposed order of prioritised investments).

In the beginning of each MEA, a political commitment to the process is required from the implementing city (preferably city council decision). From the initial decision-making and commitment, the work then proceeds to preparatory work (targeting the audit,

establishing audit team and twin city partnership for the process, planning, etc.), collecting the data, analysis of data, audit reporting and follow-up. The whole process usually takes at least six months to be thoroughly carried out. After that, the city administration has at its disposal sound information on which to base future strategies and investment decisions.

The cities that have been implementing MEA so far include Tallinn (EST), Pärnu (EST), Panevėžys (LT), Klaipėda (LT), Marijampole (LT) and Ignalina District (LT), and partially (environmental administration) also Turku (Fin) and Pori (Fin). In addition, as twin city partners, the cities of Helsinki (Fin), Vaasa (Fin), Oskarshamn (Swe), and Kalmar (Swe) have also made a remarkable contribution. The City of St.Petersburg is now also starting the process by way of a staff training project.

In addition to these cities, the Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology of Lithuania (ECAT-LT) has also been a very important co-operation partner. And, furthermore, in addition to the EU Life Program, also the Nordic Minister Council, the environmental ministries of Finland, Estonia and Lithuania, as well as the World Bank have supported the MEAs so far.

All these cities and other partners would most likely warmly welcome new partners to take part in the processes, or even in implementing the prioritised improvements proposed as a result of each process.



## HANOVER 2000 CONFERENCE

On 9-12 February, almost 1500 representatives of cities, organisations, national administrations, EU and other stakeholders gathered in Hanover, for the Third Pan-European Sustainable Cities Conference. The conference concentrated on the development of the Campaign by reviewing lessons of the past, creating strategies for future, and strengthening political commitment. The Campaign now has over 600 municipalities as members. In the near future, more networks are most likely to be invited to join the Campaign's co-ordinating committee, UBC being one of the candidates. The UBC contributed in many ways to the Conference. UBC Vice-President Gentvilas was one of the plenary speakers. He underlined the will of the UBC to contribute to sustainable development and the necessity for Baltic cities to work on LA21.

Also the new proposal made by the EC to the European Council and Parliament on establishing a framework of co-operation on sustainable urban policy was discussed. This framework would, among other things, create an improved legal basis for supporting the activities of networks of local authorities working in this field. If approved by the Council and Parliament, this proposal would enable new project proposals to be planned more explicitly for work on sustainable urban policy. The Conference laid a special emphasis on strengthening the work on sustainable development in the EU Accession Countries and in other parts of Central and Eastern Europe.





# GENDER EQUALITY AND THE FUTURE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Women's Conference was held in Helsinki on March 9-11, 2000. An impressive participation of active women representing different sectors of society in the whole Baltic Sea region met at the Finlandia Hall to debate gender equality and the future. There was electricity in the air when, at the opening session, the chair of the Finnish organising committee, the First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Finland, Ms. Sirkka-Liisa Anttila, introduced the newly elected Finnish President of the Republic, Ms. Tarja Halonen.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Baltic Sea Women's Conference was held in Lubeck, Germany, in 1997. The main theme then was Women in Politics.

In the resolution of the 1997 conference, the participants pledged themselves to increase the participation of women in politics. At least at the highest level the task had been fulfilled in the host country in the time between the conferences.

One question which aroused discussion in the workshops, was the Swedish and Finnish experiences of gender quotas as a means of promoting equal participation in public government. On this point the discussion will surely continue. Experiences of non-representing quota systems in elected bodies in several countries, as well as a tendency to turn away from the public sphere to the private, lessen the attraction of quota systems, although the Finnish and Swedish experiences seem to speak for the use of quotas in nominated (as opposed to elected) bodies. Examples would be state committees or committees of regional and local authorities.

One of the main themes at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Sea Women's Conference was "A Sea Full of Life- Empowering Women on Environmental Challenges". The UBC Women's Network was part of the International Programme Committee for the Conference. Agenda 21, one of the workshops within the theme, was chaired by Hjordis Höglund, coordinator of UBC Women's Network and Riitta Vesala. In

the summary of the workshop it was emphasized that Agenda 21 is a democratic process. Participation and real influence are in this way, necessary parts of the work - and gender equality is a prerequisite for success.

There is a need for increased recognition and participation of women in environmental policy-making. Our experiences are that women are active at the grassroots level and the men at the top decision-making level. We would like to see more women in decision-making positions, at all levels, where they can better influence the whole process.

Only by integrating all the three components, the economic, the social and the environmental we can achieve a sustainable society. And the women's influence is of crucial importance for success.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Baltic Sea Women was invited to Tallinn, Estonia, by the Estonian Minister of Gender Equality.

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## NEW EU PROGRAM ?

Transborder co-operation is the third largest field of activity for the European Union after Agriculture and Regional Cohesion in terms of allocated funding. Interreg III will channel the major part of EU transborder funding.

Interreg III could be the source for funding for a very needed program for small- and medium scale projects in the Baltic Sea Region. UBC has therefore appointed a working group with the purpose to work for the creation of such a program, consisting of Mr Risto Veivo, Mr Paweł Żaboklicki, Ms Karin Wohlgemut and Mr Viktori Buls, representing UBC and Ms Krystyna Wróblewska, representing BSSSC. Mr Juhan Janusson is coordinating the work.

There are many tasks to be carried out before the project can be successful. First, we need to show a need for the project. The working group will send out a questionnaire where cities will be asked to state urgent projects that could be financed by the program. There is also need for financially strong partners that can guarantee the management of the projects. Probable such partners could either be a consortium of the largest UBC member cities or associations of local and regional authorities in Denmark, Sweden and Finland. The role of this partner must be further specified.

It is necessary to inform and mobilise all friends of Baltic Sea Cooperation, for example the major networks in the BSR,

members of the EU parliament and of the Committee of Regions in Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Finland. Relevant national governments dealing with Interreg III in the EU countries and those in the Baltic Countries and Poland dealing with Phare CBC must be informed, as well as the regional offices of UBC member cities and BSSSC regions in Brussels

Among other tasks the working group has to create a good application to the Interreg III, outline a management unit and an efficient application and decision making system. The creation of this program is one of the most important tasks for the UBC in the near future.

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## III. Member Cities in Action

### “From Gdynia ... to Seattle”

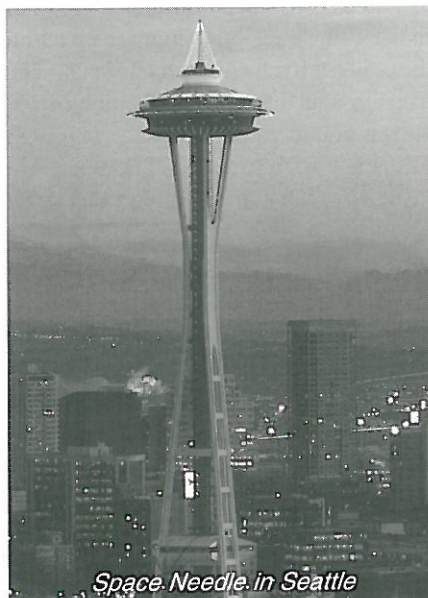
Since 1994 Gdynia and Seattle have been engaged in an active co-operation on a twin city basis. Up to the present moment a number of common projects have been initiated, some of them are already complete. Among them, one can find an educational undertaking: Seattle-Gdynia Sister City Association (SGSCA) in co-operation with American Cultural Exchange (A.C.E.) founded four 3-week and two 10-week English courses in Seattle for students from Gdynia. As its contribution, The City Hall of Gdynia committed to cover students' travel expenses.

To pick up candidates for the course in America, the City Hall of Gdynia organised a writing competition which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2000. The participants in two age groups (16/17-year-olds and 18/19-year-olds), were supposed to write an essay in English on one of the given general topics.

The students' works were read by the jury, which selected 10 best essays in each age category. The best essays were forwarded to SGSCA whose task would consist in selecting 4 students (from the 1<sup>st</sup> age category) to receive 3-week courses and 1 student (from the 2<sup>nd</sup> age category) to obtain a 10-week course. The sixth 10 week English course was reserved for an orphan from one of Gdynia's orphanages as wished by SGSCA.

During their stay in America the students will attend an English course, live with American families, and familiarise with Seattle. The course agendas abound in numerous activities, both outdoor and indoor, aiming at students' introduction to American culture, but first of all at improving of their command of English. Furthermore, the courses will provide ideal opportunities to make long-lasting friendships all over the world.

The official announcement of the competition results took place on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2000 in the City Hall of Gdynia. At present the winners look forward to visiting the land of dreams and of bright visions – the U.S.A.



*Space Needle in Seattle*

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### The Aalborg Triennale 2000

What and how can art, culture and industry gain from co-operation?

As a setting for this exciting cross-cultural challenge between nations, one of Aalborg's ancient city squares will be converted into an “open atelier” from 15

to 21 June 2000.

Here the participants will create a work of art., according to a draft proposal sent prior the event. The task for the artists is to present their

interpretation of Peace and Freedom.

Aalborg's twin cities sent in total 78 proposals. From among them, the committee has picked up 25, which include fascinating paintings, sculpture, pictorial weaving, collages etc.

The Triennale is organised by Aalborg Local Authority and the Cultural Association of C. W. Obels Plads. The

idea behind it is to build bridges between nations, both on the artistic and social levels, comprising friendship, culture and industry. The event will be marketed nationally and internationally, to gather wide attention.

#### Conference on art and culture

Cultural sponsorship: Why? How? Or why not? To illustrate the theme, a conference will be held in the Europa Hall from 20 to 21 June at which international artists and business people will contribute with examples of the value of cooperation between industry and the world of art and culture.

#### Gallery tours

Several “gallery routes” will be arranged along which the public will be able to study sculpture in Aalborg, visit various galleries, including a visit to the Nordjyllands Kunstmuseum and other city exhibition sites, where a majority of the artists taking part in the Triennale will exhibit their own works. The event will be financed through broad co-operation. The Danish Ministry of Culture has contributed a sizeable amount in order to “support an activity that will create a new, and different form of international cultural co-operation”. Several foundations, the City of Aalborg, the Cultural Association of C. W. Obels Plads and not least the world of business will also contribute. Businesses will contribute by “buying an artist” through buying a work of art and providing sponsorship.

#### Special exhibition

The works of art created will be jointly exhibited at Nordjyllands Kunstmuseum so that even more people will have a chance to admire works of art gathered in one place.

#### The Baltic countries well represented

Many interesting artists from Aalborg's Baltic twinned cities wish to participate. Thus artists from Vilnius, Riga, Gdynia, Pushkin and Kaliningrad have been invited to participate in the Aalborg Triennale.

Further information:

[www.aalbk.dk/triennale](http://www.aalbk.dk/triennale)







*Klaipėda received the European Flag of Honour*

## European Award to Klaipėda

In 1999 Klaipėda was awarded the Council of Europe Flag of Honour for international cooperation and local efforts to propagate European unity ideas.

The dramatic political changes in modern Europe allow local authorities to become advanced actors in the processes of internationalization. Klaipėda municipal authorities promote almost day-to-day contacts among citizens of our 14 twin-cities. For ten years now our local policy has clearly focused on practical support of national efforts towards adjustment to the EU requirements, and European values. Klaipėda authorities are strongly orientated towards transnational co-operation with the aim to consolidate nation's democratic achievements, and towards implementation of the national EU policy.

Our Baltic twin-cities get engaged in joint cooperation projects, aiming at contributing to better integration of the Baltic region. The position of the city is that contacts on local level are very significant in promoting advantages of a democratic mode of life even in the places under unfavourable political circumstances, such as e.g. in Mogiliov, Byelorussia.

During ten years of independence, international cooperation includes not only municipal politicians or officials, but also hundreds of public and private organizations, NGOs, the university, schools, and stimulates personal exchanges. Many of Klaipėda citizens have got good friends in twin cities of Liepaja, Karlskrona, Lübeck, Kaliningrad, North Tyneside (England) and even Kuji (Japan).

Klaipėda was the first Lithuanian city to have presented economic-cultural potential of the city and the county to

different EU Directorates and regional offices in Brussels. It was one more effort to make efficient international marketing of the city.

The European Flag of Honour was awarded to Klaipėda on the celebration of the 10th cooperation anniversary with the cities of Karlskrona and Lübeck. The Mayors and twin-city delegations from eleven countries participated. The high distinction of the Council of Europe given to our city is an immeasurable inducement for further activities.

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## Kotka Maritime Library

Kotka Maritime Library was opened at the end of July 1999. The Library serves everyone interested in "the sea" and seafaring. It is maintained by Kymenlaakso Polytechnic, the City of Kotka, and a number of maritime interest groups.

The Library performs educational and public functions. It serves maritime educators and students, professionals and the industry. It further endeavours to promote and stimulate maritime training, research, culture and business life and to enhance the public's interest in seafaring and the City of Kotka.



The collections of the library include about 6 000 books, 300 charts, 40 magazines. It also has good online-connections to several database, and exchanges. Furthermore the Library promotes retrieval skills and the usage of information networks. Library is ready to sell information services to external organisations.

Kotka Maritime Library also maintains the virtual "Lighthouse". The Lighthouse

can be used to search information on maritime training, companies, ships, boating, maritime history, as well as anything that has to do with the sea and seafaring.

The Lighthouse aims at collecting as many useful links as possible. Kotka Maritime Library does not specialize in a certain sector in the maritime field. Therefore the Lighthouse, too, has information on a wide variety of subjects, and has an impressive thematic index. Maritime database can be found separately, and [www-collections](http://www-collections) contain various lists of the internet sites and information sources in the maritime field. These include a list of Finnish maritime libraries and their collections which can be browsed through the internet. The search pages offer a comprehensive selection of different types of servers and search engines.

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## Murder in the Nordic Degree

Germany's only festival devoted to the Nordic and Baltic cinema, the Nordic Film Days Lübeck, is actively preparing its 42nd edition, which will take place on November 2 to 5, 2000. Some 100 features, documentaries, shorts, children's and youth films from Scandinavia and the Baltic states will be shown again this year. In addition, there is the regional showcase Filmforum Schleswig-Holstein.

The selection process is just getting underway, but the topic of the retrospective, always the highlight of the programme, has been decided upon. This year it is devoted to "Northern Murders". This may sound like a strange title for a retrospective, but what it is referring to is nothing less than a revolution in the Nordic cinema, an attempt to shake off the stodgy, slow-moving, philosophising image of the Scandinavian films and enter the 21st century on the forefront of the world cinema. For example, take crime thrillers. The authors such as Sjöwall-Wahlöö and others paved the way with their detective stories. It is time to survey this other face of the Nordic cinema, which has had a great





success with such works as Ole Bornedal's "Nightwatch", which he remade in Hollywood, Jan Troell's "Il Capitano" or Kjell Sundvall's exciting speculation about the murder of the Prime Minister Olof Palme, "The Last Contract".

Last year's event was a huge success with the public and the press even without the previous year's 40th jubilee celebrations or presence of the festival's Honorary President Liv Ullmann, who was unable to attend. The Nordic Film Days' top award, the NDR Promotion Prize, endowed with DM 25,000, went to the provocative road movie "Bye Bye Bluebird" by the talented Katrin Ottarsdóttir from the Faroe Islands, whose first film "Atlantic Rhapsody" had won the Film Prize of the Nordic Film Institutes in 1989. Other movies that received awards include "Breaking Out" (Sweden), "Give Us Our Skeletons!" (Finland/Norway), "The Tough Ones" (Finland), "Mifune" (Denmark) and the children's films "Tsatsiki" (Sweden) and "Katja's Adventure" (Denmark).

Starting on November 2, 2000, the Nordic Film Days Lübeck will again be pleased to welcome the film scene from the Scandinavia, the Baltics and Germany for a survey of the finest in the Nordic cinema.

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## Stop to fossil fuels

The city of Växjö and its project Fossil Fuel Free City has been chosen as the Local Initiatives Award Winner for Excellence in Atmospheric Protection.

The award proves that our long term work with Agenda 21 and climate protection is a major success, says Mayor Carl-Olof Bengtsson and Vice Mayor Bo Frank.

Over the last ten years great effort has been made in the city of Växjö to increase renewable energy sources. Industries, NGOs and private citizens have joined in the task force with the result that emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels in the heating system are less than half the current national average.

In 1996, the Växjö Executive Committee unanimously decided to stop using fossil fuels in its activities. Furthermore, the aims set by the *Climate Alliance*, of which Växjö is a member, have been unanimously accepted: Emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels in the whole municipality shall be reduced by 50 per cent per capita by the year 2010.

The reduction, as agreed upon in Agenda 21 roundtable discussions with stakeholders, is to be *achieved by changing behaviour patterns, increased energy efficiency and primarily substituting oil for bio-fuels*.

The local partners, involved in the implementation of the Fossil Fuel Free Växjö programme, are positive that this work will contribute to economic growth within the region.

The Atmospheric Protection Award recognises excellence in climate protection and air quality management with the highest scoring going to the projects dealing with both issues. This award relates to local implementation of the UN Convention on Climate Change including the Kyoto Protocol.

Behind the award is the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, ICLEI, together with Saitama Prefecture in Japan. Also, such entities are involved in the selection process:

- UN Secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) - As the UN agency responsible for the implementation of Agenda 21, the UNCSD has been supportive of the role of local governments in implementing LA21 or sustainable development processes.

- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - As the UN agency responsible for the implementation of global agreements on the environment, UNEP is also interested in the contribution being made by local governments towards improving the local and global environment.

- Earth Council - The Earth Council is working towards the implementation of Agenda 21 through the National Councils for Sustainable Development and international and regional NGOs. The Earth Council will bring an international NGO perspective to the awards.

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From the Grand Palace 3 monumental cascading fountains lead to the Lower Park with 173 fountains on its ground

## Historical residence of Russian emperors

The city of Peterhof founded by the Emperor Peter the Great in 1705 as his summer ceremonial imperial residence. Thanks to the efforts of the ingenious architects there was created a pearl of the world culture with numerous palaces, parks and a unique fountain system which does not have its analogues in the whole world.

Being located in 25 km from St. Petersburg, the former capital of Russia, Peterhof appeared to be a place of constant realization of magnificent holidays for terms of imperial family. Stretching within 20 km along the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland and occupying 6900 ha, Peterhof is marked by the fact that one fifth part of its territory falls on gardens and parks.

The grandiose complex of palace and park ensembles of Peterhof includes 16 historical parks and about 30 palaces. The number of monuments of the architecture being preserved makes more than three hundred, some of them being included into a list of monuments of the world importance. The palace and park ensembles appear to be objects attracting a great number of tourists. In the city is located one of the world wide known museums - Peterhof State Museum - reserve natural science faculties of St-Petersburg State University.

With such a beauty it is really place worth visiting.

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## Baltic Palette Region

Politicians from St Petersburg, Helsinki, Riga, Tallinn and Stockholm gathered in Stockholm at the Baltic Palette Conference, 23-24 March, to sign a declaration, promising to (re)build a close and active relationship in a unique collaboration. The vision is to develop the Baltic Palette area into one region that attracts visitors and investments from all over the world.

The Baltic Palette started as a project in the field of spatial planning and development. During a one year period, approximately 150 experts from the participating regional and local authorities have worked with economic, social and environmental issues in order to improve the overall knowledge of the ongoing situation in the Region.

The Baltic Palette Region, consisting of 5 metropolitan areas, sets up a market of 12,5 million people. It has vast potential in taking a leading role in the new economy. At the same time, is also facing numerous problems related to the complexity in living and working in urban areas close to a fragile nature and the Baltic Sea. Eight action groups have been working with various aspects that could facilitate working, living, doing business and travelling in the Region. The project has been creating a Common Vision, a Strategy and a Joint Action Programme that supports sustainable development in the Baltic Palette Region, founded on a permanent and active relationship between the five areas. In a long term perspective the co-operation will result in closely integrated networks and infrastructure investments – mental bridges and physical roads.

The first phase in the Baltic Palette project was to agree upon a Common vision, Common Strategy and a Joint Action Programme for further actions. The declaration underlines the ambition to develop into one region, supported by political commitments. An annual conference will follow up the work in realising the Joint Action Programme.

Another aim is to synchronise the efforts into common marketing. In the competition with other internationally strong regions, the Baltic Palette shall be recognised as a trademark that represents



*Politicians signing a declaration supporting the development of the Baltic Palette Region*

an attractive region that offers creation of new knowledge and arts based on a rich cultural heritage in close proximity to nature and sea.

Further information:  
[www.balticpalette.com](http://www.balticpalette.com)

## Vilnius EXPO 2000

The forthcoming exhibition VILNIUS EXPO'2000 will be held on 20-22 September 2000 in Vilnius. VILNIUS EXPO - The Exhibition of Technologies, Equipment and Services for the City is designed to boost investments into Vilnius City development.

The exhibition is one of the events of Vilnius Days festival which will be staged with a very lively and intensive programme on September 2000.

The exhibition is planned to involve official participation of the city of Vilnius, its Twin Cities and other interested cities, public & private sector that wish to invest into the Lithuanian market, especially into development of the city of Vilnius.

VILNIUS EXPO 2000 aims are: to boost investments into development, to introduce to the public perspectives and to develop co-operation in economy and culture

The organising Committee of official delegation shall submit a participation application to exhibition organiser VISUS PLENUS no later than June 1, 2000. In principle, the contract detail is September 1, 2000. Prompt application is recommended to facilitate smooth preparation for the exhibition, including allocation of a stand location.

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## European maritime heritage

A consortium consisting of cultural actors in the Turku region has initiated a project for the cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea area: **Sails of History**. The aim is to develop a partnership of all kinds of partners, including cities, committed to actively preserving the maritime heritage of the Baltic Sea. Partners from Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland are also invited.

The primary funding will come from the Culture 2000 Programme. Other possibilities are the Nordic Culture Fond, Interreg III and Phare. The objective is to start a network supporting maritime culture and creating a firm basis for securing cultural activities around seafaring in the Baltic Sea region.

The aim of this cooperation is to organise the first events:

- a workshop on the conservation of old wooden sail ships linking expertise from around the Baltic Sea region and Europe.

- a first event for maritime heritage actors together with actors involved in regional development and culture in order to integrate this initiative to already existing activities and to allow joint planning for the future.

- a publication (in print and on internet) will be produced to make cultural heritage and cultural history more accessible to the general European public. Links to the heritage sites will be included and information on existing ships and maritime museums will be displayed and distributed in accordance to the advice from project partners.

Future activities within the framework of Culture 2000 programme or Interreg III will be planned (a theme of fishermen's villages has already been brought up, another theme could be steam ships, etc.)

The project gives opportunity to join forces in preserving the valuable maritime culture of the Baltic Sea area and providing visibility and easy accessibility.

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## EUROPEADE 2000

From 19 to 23 July 2000, Horsens hosts of the 37<sup>th</sup> Europeade, the European Folk Arts Festival, with 5,000 dancers, singers and musicians from 25 European countries. The Europeade is a display of exuberant cheerfulness and colourful performances from all of Europe. The programme alternates between huge spectacular shows and several intimate performances throughout the city.

The row of Europeades began in 1964 on initiative of a group of people from Belgium, Germany, Italy and France. The originators' idea was that each year participants from regions of Europe would gather for a festival, where each region's original folk art within dance, song and music would be shown in both huge spectacular and more intimate shows.



The Europeade was to be the contributory in such a way that the different regions' original cultural identity would be preserved. The arrangement soon proved to be vigorous - and to such an extent, that the organizers had to limit the number of participants, exactly 5000, adding the participants from the host country.

Many group performances will be given at various stages in Horsens. The participants will be wearing colourful costumes during the entire Europeade and will create a festive atmosphere wherever they go. Among different attractions are: Festival night at the Rådhusstræde, Europe dances in Horsens Idrætspark, Europe songs in the open-air theatre and the procession of 5000 participants through the city.

At the Europeade, the regions of Europe meet each year for a festival where the original dance, song and music folk arts of each region are shown at both large, spectacular shows and intimate performances. The Europeade thus helps preserve the original cultural identity of each region.

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## Cancer: a verdict giving a chance

Breast Cancer is a noticeable problem of today. Each year a number of the cancer diagnosed women is increasing. But the most scary thing is that majority of people even are not aware of the existing disease. The city of Šiauliai has just initiated the Phare Baltic Micro Project "Breast Cancer: A Verdict Giving a Chance". The partners of the project are cities: Šiauliai and Etten-Leur (the Netherlands), and Breast Pathology Association "Salvia" and GGD Midden-Brabant (the Netherlands).

The key objective of this project is preliminary activities, training seminars, data collecting about the dynamics of cancer in the region and the preparation of Regional Breast Cancer Combat and Prevention Strategy, also publishing brochures. As the follow-up of this project the Support Center will be established, where volunteers and professional doctors could advise everyone coming to the center, what to do and how to do, if the breast cancer is detected, introduce

the most modern research, treatment and rehabilitation methods, as well as provide psychological support to the disease victims and their relatives.

The first meeting of the project partners was held on 23-24.02. 2000 at Šiauliai. The aim of the meeting was to introduce the situation to the experts and to start preparations for drafting of Regional Breast Cancer Combat and Prevention Strategy.

The next seminar will be held in May: first day for the professionals and the second one for the volunteers and Šiauliai citizens. The lecturers from Lithuania and the Netherlands will introduce the current situation on breast cancer in both countries and cities, as well and their experience in advising and supporting the women facing fear, pain and insecurity. We believe this project will outline the guidelines for the establishment of the Support Centre for breast cancer suffering women, their relatives and the other interested.

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## Baltic Sea Centre

A new planned Baltic Sea Centre is going to provide information about current research findings and new activities regarding the environment of the Baltic Sea; within the sectors of biology, geology, archaeology, industry, sailing and large building projects.

In cooperation with the County of Storstrøms Amt, the municipality of Vordingborg has worked out a district plan covering a stretch of three kilometres along the sea front of Vordingborg, with the Baltic Sea Centre situated on a vacant area belonging to the County of Storstrøms Amt, the City of Vordingborg and one of the largest enterprises in the city. Furthermore, the district plan includes a harbour for research vessels and yachts, a new esplanade, a new seaport, as well as extension facilities for the county hospital.

When the district plan has been implemented, the front of the city will face the Baltic Sea which once formed the basis of the foundation of the city when King Valdemar built his largest stronghold here in 1175. Before the final adoption of the district plan by the Town Council, there were intense negotiations



*A view of the Baltic Sea, from the future Baltic Sea Centre*

with the nature protection authorities which are usually very reluctant to accept building activities near the Danish coasts.

The municipality of Vordingborg has established a project office (of three years duration) employing five persons with university background. Headed by Søren Espersen, they are going to prepare the foundation of the Baltic Sea Centre. The Project Office is currently preparing an exhibition about the Baltic Sea in cooperation with VSEGEI (the geological institute of St. Petersburg), and the RUC (University of Roskilde).

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## Summer Courses

The unique flair and medieval architecture with the Hanseatic-style touches in the old part of Wismar attract thousands of tourists each year. Europe's most modern dockyards, the *Seehafen*, and an extensive lumber logistics centre, give testimony to dynamically growing city, supported by the local university.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy in Wismar

The 6<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy takes place between the 17 July and 4 August 2000 in Wismar.

Supported by the Kunstverein Wismar e.V. art association, this year's summer school will be organized by and held at the Architecture Department of the Hochschule Wismar under the direction of Prof. Valentin Rothmaler. International and local artists will be teaching in each of five courses.

Besides the regular curriculum and under expert guidance, the participants will sharpen their senses, develop and probe their individual potential for expression, or make experiments. The spectrum of artistic possibilities encompasses drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, performance, videos, culinary arts and architecture. The Summer Academy has enjoyed increasing popularity and interest also among foreign participants.

Talented amateurs, university art students or anyone intending to study art are welcome.

## Public Waterworks

In 1911, Viljandi became one of the first Estonian towns to own waterworks. Development of the system started in May, 1911 with excavation of a deep well. At the same time, a water tower was raised and pipes were laid. Most homeowners had already obtained rights to join waterworks. The tower with its 100 m<sup>3</sup> water tank, was completed and on 20th November 1911, the systems were started and water gushed along the pipes. The waterworks of Viljandi were born!

The 30m high red brick water tower with wooden octagon tank room has always been the symbol of Viljandi waterworks. It is one of the tallest buildings of the whole town. Together with the churches of St. Paul and St. John and the towers of old fire station and the town hall it forms the famous skyline of Viljandi.



*View on the old harbour in Wismar*

Further information  
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**Can technology continue to do without women?** Our live is no longer possible to imagine without technology. Both sexes are equally affected by technology but technician professions are over-whelmingly dominated by men. This is particularly true in the classic engineering disciplines. We should not allow that great resource of technical talent that slumbers in the female youth lie being wasted for decades. Women must be also brought into the engineering profession so they can unfold their feminine problem-solving capabilities there.

To meet such a challenge, the Hochschule Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design holds the **Summer College Engineering Sciences 2000 for Women and Girls** between 19 - 23 June 2000. There the female participants will become acquainted with the faculty departments of Electro-Engineering and Computer Sciences, Mechanical Engineering/Process and Environmental Engineering, as well as Building Engineering.

Further information  
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Since the completion of the new water tower in 1962, the old one has lost its importance as a part of town's waterworks. Unfortunately, there is a rule for buildings: what is not in use – is to be

damaged. Threatened with collapse, the wooden helmet of the tower was demolished at the end of 1996 and the useless water tank was lifted down.

On the initiative of Viljandi Rotary Club and with the support of Viljandi Town Government the project of restoring the old water tower in the town skyline as a sight-seeing tower was compiled. Charity actions were carried out to finance the project. The biggest donation of 100,000 Estonian kroons was made by Mr Roman Toi, conductor and composer living in Canada. In November 1999 the helmet of the old water tower was raised back again renovated at its place in the town's skyline.

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## CITIES - MEMBERS OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:



*UBC Executive Board members on the ice, during the meeting in Kemi, 1 April 2000*

### ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The theme of the next bulletin will be "CULTURE IN BALTIC CITIES".

Everyone is welcome to send material to be published in it.

The deadline for contributions is 18 October 2000 - please respect it.

The Editorial Board wishes following contributions to the bulletin:

- Stories related to the theme
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories

Please do not hesitate to contact the UBC Secretariat in any questions relating to the Baltic Cities Bulletin!



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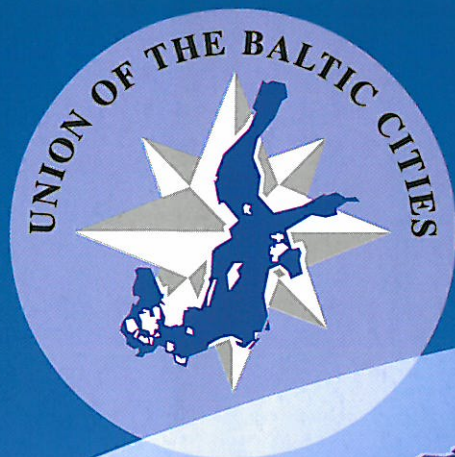
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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 96 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Union has based its operational activities on nine working Commissions on Business Cooperation, Culture, Environment, Education, Health and Social Affairs, Sport, Tourism, Transportation and Urban Planning. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable of having its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).

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 Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information  
about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.**