

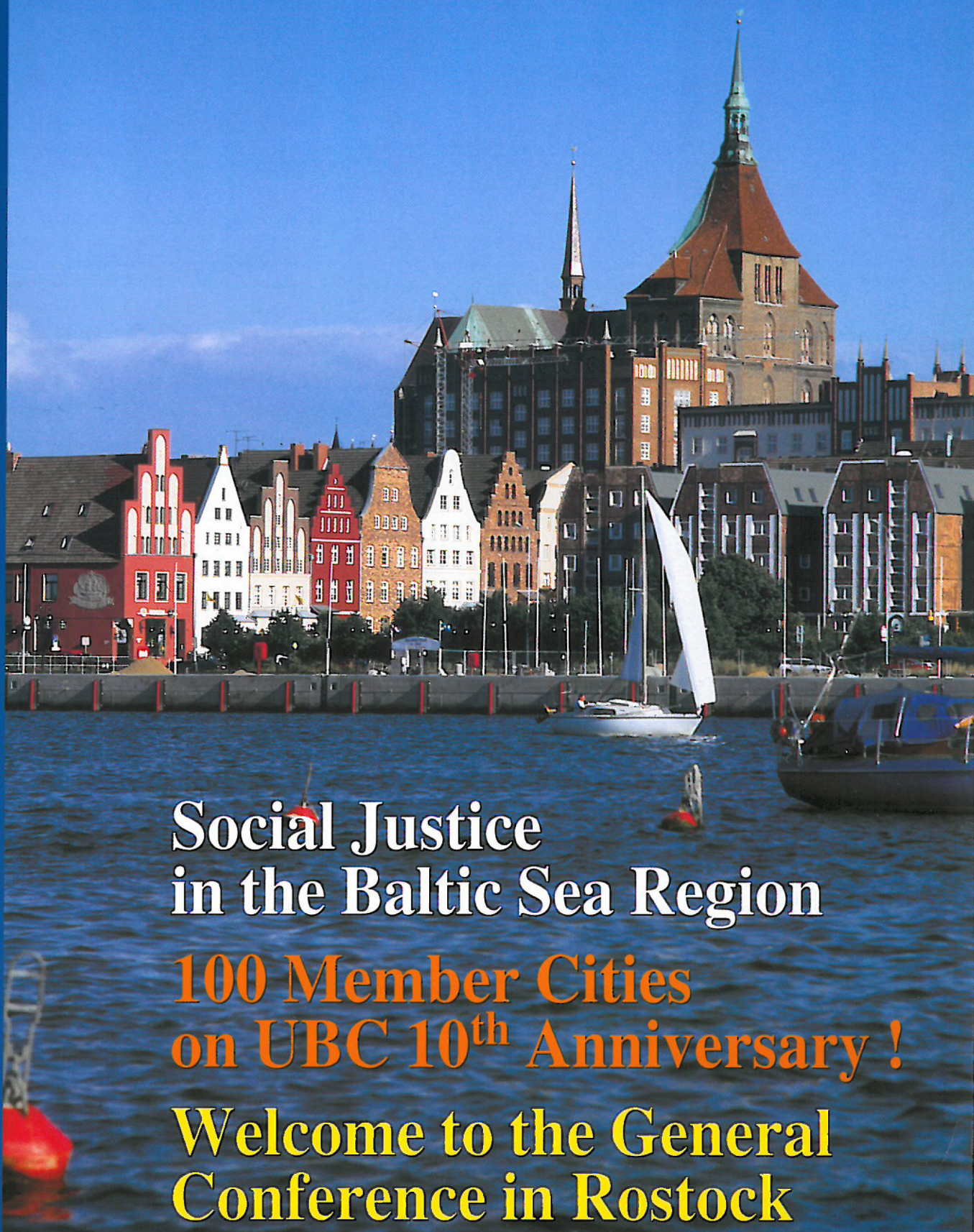


# Baltic Cities Bulletin

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## Social Justice in the Baltic Sea Region

## 100 Member Cities on UBC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary !

## Welcome to the General Conference in Rostock





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COVER PICTURE

City of Rostock  
the host of the  
VI General Conference

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# Baltic Cities Bulletin



Dear UBC Friends,

I would like to welcome you warmly all to the sixth UBC General Conference, hosted by the Hanseatic City of Rostock. The conference also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UBC, and I also would like to specially welcome our 100<sup>th</sup> member city, Berlin, as an UBC member city.

Both the Baltic Sea Region as well as the UBC has developed tremendously during these ten years. When we started, the probably strictest section of the iron curtain had just fallen, and there was a tremendous need for contacts between cities across our Baltic Sea. UBC turned out to be a very successful platform for such contacts.

The first years were in many ways dominated by the search for new contacts and learning to know each other again after so many years of useless division. But soon the contacts developed to normal daily contacts between cities in democratic countries. UBC also developed to one of the major political organisations in our region, and UBC is met with respect from many different actors.

Our region shows a level of stable economic and political development that in my opinion is unique in the world. UBC has been a very important part of this development, which we all should be proud of.

But the road to the future lies ahead of us, and the sixth UBC General Conference is an important step. The theme, "Social Justice in the new Millennium", reflects one of the main spheres of city activity as the social field is one of the large items in city budgets. Many of our citizen benefit of the social services, and the sector is a large employer.

However, social policy has attracted too little attention in the discussions across the Baltic Sea. It is therefore an important step to high-light the social issues and to give them increased importance in the development of the Baltic Sea Region. It is important not only because of solidarity reasons but the social sector must be in order if the stable political and economic development in our region shall continue successfully.

I am very confident in the future of our Union, and I do hope the new UBC President will get as much support as I have received during the years. There will be new challenges and developments, and I know that UBC is very well prepared for the future.

The sixth UBC General Conference will be the last for me as UBC President. During my time in UBC I have had the pleasure to meet and co-operate with numerous devoted persons from cities and other authorities and organisations. I therefore would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the marvellous development of UBC and the Baltic Sea Region. Thank you!

With Baltic Sea Greetings

Anders Engström  
UBC President

Kalmar, October 2001

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*Trainee getting experience in one of the projects carried out by the city of Copenhagen*



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# I. SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

## WHAT ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION SOCIAL POLICY?

### Aim of the EU Social Policy

Social Policy as a separate policy area is new to the European Union. It was included in Amsterdam treaty in October 1997, after some lobbying from, among others, Scandinavian countries. The motivation was to a great extent to avoid "social dumping", meaning not allowing poor social conditions being used as a competitive advantage in the EU by lower social costs.

The Commission on Employment and Social Affairs, headed by the Greek Commissioner Ms Anna Diamantopoulou, sees Social Policy as a productive factor, where economic, social and employment policies are mutually re-enforcing.

The policy is built on one of the fundamental objectives of the European Union, which is increasing living standards. Social policy is seen as a productive factor in that process. Full employment, better jobs, new work environment, knowledge-base economy and mobility will lead to a better competitive position of Europe. Social protection, social inclusion, gender equality, no discrimination and social dialogue increase productivity and efficiency.

Much social expenditure, like health and education – is seen as an investment in human resources. Much effort is laid on quality of employment, social spending and industrial relations in order to increase the competitive power of Europe.

DG Employment & Social Affairs is responsible for the development and monitoring of the European Employment Strategy, which encourages co-operation between Member States on their employment policies, and mainstreaming of employment in all Community policies.

Other tasks are effective implementation and developments of labour standards, like health and safety, working time etc, and free movement of workers. Promoting equality between women and men and the development of the new anti-discrimination policies related to employment are also within the scope of DG Employment & Social Affairs.

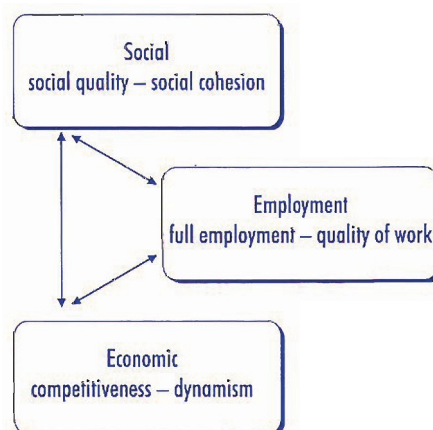
The old, traditional fields of EU policy, like agriculture or regional policy, are

burdened by old ways of thinking, which is deeply rooted and thus very difficult to change. The social sector has more vital and progressive attitude, ready to reform the EU to a competitive power in the world. The directorate also gives the impression of being much more development oriented than some of the old "traditional" directorates.

### Where does the money go

DG Employment & Social Affairs also manages the European Social Fund, ESF. It is the main European financial tool for the employment strategy and contributes to social and economic cohesion. It has invested in programmes to develop people's skills and their potential for work. 195 billion EURO is allocated for 2000-2006.

ESF channels its support into strategic long-term programmes that help regions across Europe, particularly those lagging behind, to upgrade and modernise workforce skills and to foster entrepreneurial initiative. The money is managed by the national governments in respective EU countries.



### Involvement in EU enlargement

DG Employment & Social Affairs heavily involved in the enlargement process. Of the 105 million inhabitants of the candidate countries, more than 98 million will live in regions with a GDP per head less than 75% of the average in EU27.



*EU Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou together with the Swedish Minister for Labour Mona Sahlin*

However, the financial allocation for structural measures decided by the Berlin European Council, including funding for the new Member States, will amount to only 0.45% of the GDP of an enlarged Union of 21 in 2006.

DG Employment & Social Affairs are active in the applicant countries in a number of ways, for example monitoring implementation of legislation adapted to EU. There is also an ongoing assessment of the employment conditions in co-operation with the governments in the applicant countries

### The role of cities

As usual, sub-national authorities, like cities, are very little engaged either in a dialogue with DG Employment & Social Affairs or with the national governments. Cities will in due time to a great extent be responsible for implementation of the accession to EU – the social sector is one of the large items in city budgets. But it is very unclear what the EU enlargement will mean for the cities both in terms of money and in terms of future responsibilities.

However, "traditional" social issues that engage cities and local authorities, for example care and social security, are not in the core of the activities of the DG Employment & Social Affairs. But the social engagement of cities is changing as well. Hopefully the UBC General Conference will open some doors for a dialogue between the local authority level and the European Union.

*Juhan Janusson  
UBC EU Co-ordinator*





# CITIES AND THE SOCIAL SECTOR

## Applicant countries

City administrations in the applicant countries have a short democratic tradition, compared to the EU cities. The social sector is new – in socialist times it was mainly handled by the Trade Unions. This may be one reason why the role cities in the social field are more divergent than in the EU countries.

Cities in the applicant country spend typically 5-10 % of the municipal budgets on the social sector. This shall not be seen as a low priority – the difference compared to EU cities can be explained by an other cost structure, caused by the low income levels. To give the same relative social support in eastern cities, a far smaller amount is needed.

The governments create the legal framework, but the government financing varies. In Estonia and Poland, the government finances social support for the poorest, but in Lithuania the city does that. In other fields it can be the opposite.

During the last 10 years one development trend has been that the scopes have been widened and new problem areas have successively been introduced. The handicapped is such a “new” sector – in socialist times they were hidden in institutions and not integrated. Privatisation of institutions and activities is an other trend – in Estonia, most of the child care institutions are run by private bodies, even if the city pays most of their incomes. Problems connected with unemployed people did not exist earlier, now it is a growing field. Street Children is not a big problem if you look at numbers or costs, but it exists and causes much concern. Trends also include the individualisation of the social services – to create broad solutions for various categories with some social problem is replaced by solutions based on the individual needs.

Institutions are used more extensively than in the EU countries. One reason, besides traditions, is the relatively poor housing with limited space – even if integration is cheaper and more efficient there is simply not housing space enough.

It is believed that the widening of the responsibilities will continue. Other development plans include creation of centers for abused women in families and a efforts to create day care centers for various groups, like people with disabilities or with old age.

Also the legal situation is developing. In Lithuania, a large reform on responsibility for the social sector is planned for 2001. The fighting at the moment concerns if the government also will allocate more funding as a compensation for the transfer of responsibilities to the cities.

The role of the European Union is important but mostly indirectly. In the efforts to reach EU levels in all possible areas, development of the social services is one part. The contacts with other European countries have given inspiration and new know-how. If looking at future trends, EU accession will play a certain role.

As EU is concentrating on employment, it is most likely that also social activities of cities in the applicant countries will start activities in the field. Some also mentioned the European Union fear of Social Dumping. It is important not to cause such acquisitions because it might lead to interference from EU.

## Sources:

*Ms Cecylia Tuznik, Director of Municipal Social Welfare Centre, Gdynia*  
*Mr Egidijus Prizgintas, Director of Social Department of Klaipeda*  
*Mr Jüri Kõre, Vice-mayor of Tartu*

## EU Countries

With 50-60 % of the municipal budgets allocated to the social field makes the social sector the largest in terms of money in cities in the Scandinavian countries. About one third of it goes to elderly care, which indicates a ticking bomb, consisting of an ageing population demanding more care and fewer people in productive age. Elderly care is also in the limelight of the media, focusing both on quality and quantity of municipal resources for elderly care.

The social services are fairly similar in the Scandinavian countries. This reflects the very long traditions of development of services in a well-fare society. The standard is still very high, but other nations are closing up and in several aspects the standard is not so unique any more as it used to be a number of years ago.

The main trend in recent years during the economic crisis has been cuts in the social budgets on all levels. This has in some cases led to increased costs for cities, at the same time as also the cities have

carried out budget cuts. Other trends have been more focus on individual's rights such as children's rights, decentralisation including user's influence, activation and local work, and the consequences of long lasting unemployment.

For the future, one problem is growing social differences. It will be more important to defend social security, and it becomes increasingly more difficult to get back to the society for persons that for some reason, like unemployment, has been pushed out of it. This so called “rest group” is growing and the solutions are more difficult to find.

Another growing problem is connected to the integration of immigrant and fugitives – a special aspect is that it is a politically hot potato, especially in Denmark where the issue in many ways dominates the internal political discussion. One of the parties in the Parliament has a very high profile on immigrants and has been successful to keep the issue on the agenda.

There is also a growing awareness that a more comprehensive perspective is needed and that all kind of city activity must be involved in social planning. Urban planning, housing and the school system – all have social implications.

The role of the Government is to create the legal framework. The roles regarding activities differ a little: In Denmark and in Finland, the government allocates funding for special purposes, but in Sweden, the money from the government can be used freely – to social services or something else. Instead, some of the tasks handled by the Danish municipalities are state responsibilities in Sweden, like pensions and sickness allowances.

In general the steering role of the Government is not felt very much. There is a possibility for cities to organise and carry out social work with no steering from the Government.

Also the EU is not felt very much. Perhaps because the social standard in the Scandinavian countries is high, the European Union instead turns to other countries with a less high standard.

## Sources:

*Ms Ingrid Augustinsson Swennergren, Head of Social Services, Karlskrona*  
*Mr Kaj Stubben, Head of Development, Social Departement, Kolding*





## LUCKY CHILDHOOD - IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL ?

**The problem with children and youth is not unknown in every city, specially about children who do not get enough attention, love and understanding from family or people around them - children from social risk families.**

One of the most important question and priority in Cēsis is work with children from social risk families and with under-age lawbreakers. Changes in law of children right protection define municipality's responsibility in work with under-age lawbreakers. Cēsis City council tackled this problem together with financial support of Canadian government and support from Soros Foundation Latvia – Infant Supervisory Service (ISS). The main aim of this Service is to supervise and

control children who are followed up by inspection of police.

Social workers help children and their families to solve different matters, to integrate in society and to reintegrate after returning from prison. Today there is 50 children in Cēsis under control of the police. They have participated in bees in Cēsis City, in several excursions, as well as summer camp. Right now with financial help from local enterprises children are repairing space for bodybuilding hall.

Another well-done project is *Centre for street children and for children from social risk families* opened in June 2001 with help of Latvian State. Here children can spend their free time – play different table games, listen to music and watch TV or video. The Rotary Club has

provided the Centre with three computers. Of course children have possibility to talk to social workers about their problems and possible solutions. Meetings with parents, different seminars and lectures about children upbringing, education, psychology, and health are organised, too. The Centre is opened just some months now, but it has already showed its necessity – children are coming, taking their friends with them and that gives us fulfilment and delight. With small aid, but all together we have done good job and that is our aim.

### Further information:

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## INITIATIVES TO COMBAT YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

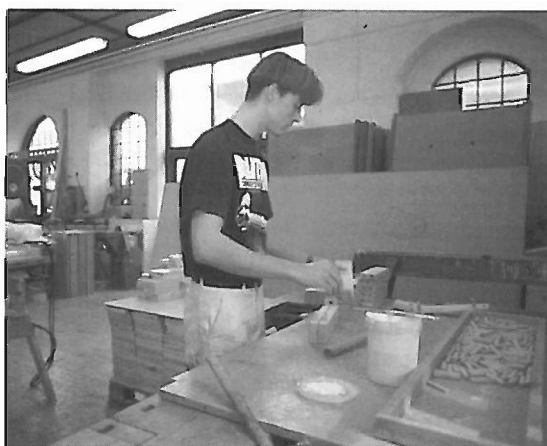
**For many years, the City of Copenhagen has focused on young recipients of cash assistance. This has meant that youth unemployment has fallen drastically through the 1990s. However, despite these good results, there is still need for intensive work for large groups of young people receiving cash assistance.**

The City of Copenhagen will enhance initiatives for young recipients of cash assistance who have been receiving benefits for a longer period. These people will be offered actual jobs or a place in ordinary education rather than a long employability enhancement programme.

### Partnership with business

The future small generations of young people provide an obvious opportunity for cooperation between a municipality and businesses in order to involve more young people in the labour market. The City of Copenhagen will enter into partnerships with enterprises in Copenhagen in order to ensure jobs and work-experience places for unemployed young people.

Placing young people in the labour market is to be supported by mentor schemes where municipal job consultants are available to solve problems for both enterprises and the young unemployed. The social responsibility of enterprises is



*Trainee getting experience in one of the projects carried out by the city of Copenhagen*

increased when the municipality commits itself to intervening in any conflicts and to dealing with the majority of the paperwork.

### Immediate employability enhancement programme or rehabilitation

Current initiatives will continue, including through an immediate employability enhancement programme for young people applying for cash assistance. In addition, the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs has allowed The City of Copenhagen to implement a test scheme on rehabilitation of maladjusted young people between 16 and 18 years old. The scheme is based on

the "Spearhead" Project, which creates paid or subsidised work for young people under 18 years old. The City of Copenhagen hopes to expand the target group to include young people over the age of 18.

### Training/education and job guarantee for young people

Cooperation between the Administrations of Education and Youth and the Family and Labour Market of the city of Copenhagen has created a training/education and job guarantee for all young people

under 18 years old. More specifically, all young people from 15 to 17 receive an individual education plan. Cooperation forms a good foundation to support the transition from school to working life, to ensure continuity into training/education and work, and to prevent marginalisation for young people in Copenhagen.

### Further information:

The Labour Market Office  
City of Copenhagen  
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Fax +45 33 17 37 63  
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## CITY UNDER WATER

**For almost 300 years Gdańsk has not been flooded. So it was seriously threatened in the beginning of July this year. Mobilisation of all city institutions was accompanied by common engagement of hundreds and later thousands of volunteers from Gdańsk NGOs. During this powerful rain it became clear that city forces alone would not do.**



Three Gdańsk wards were flooded at the same time. To react, one needed support and resources from outside the city. Mainly heavy equipment and firemen, police and other city wardens and the army were needed. For 24 hours round the clock for many days skills and competence of brave rescuers had been tested. Simultaneously, the city was an

arena of efforts connected with logistics striving at securing thousands of temporary dwellings and food for the victims and for the rescuers. Providing medical assistance, help to the handicapped, support to the elderly, first aid to all in need- these are only a few examples of wide spectrum of actions taken in this situation of realistic danger on such a scale. As in similar situations in the world, not all the links in this chain worked well. Some of them had to be modified on sight during the flood. Hopefully, other mistakes shall be eliminated when the thorough analysis shows the reasons and consequences of the mistakes made.

The end of flood in Gdańsk means the beginning of redevelopment of infrastructure in the wards which suffered most. Rescue action among the citizens continues with finding new dwellings and social benefits to thousands of those who lost their flats. On the other hand, the end of flood is a message to many environments that the city is ready for new capital investment and is a kind of confirmation of its tourist attractiveness.

The end of July unfortunately faced



the beginning of flood in other regions of Poland. Gdańsk citizens who suffered from the long lasting rain, knew how disastrous it could be and what human suffering was. Three weeks after the flood in Gdańsk, its citizens launched the solidarity action for flood victims from other regions of Poland.

It is worth using the time between the events for analysing and evaluating of the taken decisions in July. No one knows when we shall be experienced by disasters again...

For more information about the flood, please go to <http://www.ngo.org.pl> or <http://pomoc.ngo.org.pl>

### Further information:

Mr Marek Hola

Gdańsk City Council's Committee on Social Policy and the Family Matters  
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## WELFARE SERVICES PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE

**The basic element of social and health care of the City of Kotka is the needs of our population and the keystone is to guarantee that these services are available for everyone. The City Council accepted in spring 2000 Strategy of Social and Health Policies, in which one of the areas of priority is preventive action towards children and youth.**

The objectives of these actions are to prevent: exclusion, mental, intoxicate abuser and drug problems and to prevent criminal actions. Well-organised social and health care services are part of the process, which promote social justice.

In Kotka area, where unemployment rate in July 2001 was 16,2 %, the most presumable persons to be isolated are youngsters between 18-25 years, who have interrupted their studies, who usually do not have any degree or profession and have frequent and long-term unemployment periods.

The law of rehabilitative work activities came into effect in the beginning of September 2001. The city of Kotka has prepared itself for this so that social work will be targeted to the youngsters, who are in danger to isolate. As a part of active social policy, local social and employment authorities try to find, together with these youngsters, first of all, educational and employable solutions and just second, rehabilitative work activities. The rehabilitative work activities are based on different employing experiments. There should be found such meaningful work opportunities which include both rehabilitative element and also emphasised health aspect. The rehabilitation is multi-professional co-operation. The main goal is to help and support those isolated youngsters to achieve a better state of mind and to be their own masters. If these actions will be successfully completed, we surely

prevent social justice in a perspective of these youngsters, the population and the whole society.

The Strategy of Social and Health Policies of the city of Kotka plays an important role in wider welfare policy. The local authorities of social- and health-care organisation follow the results. In this follow up we could assess how rehabilitative work activities prevent the exclusion of young people and promote social justice. We have a wide and demanding social field of work ahead of us.

### Further information:

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City of Kotka

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## DAILY CARE CENTRES



### JŪRMALA

The City Council has decided to establish the Daily Care Centre for mental patients. The individuals with mental deficiency should be in focus of every municipality and democratic society at all. There are about 2500 mental patients in Jūrmala.

The attention of the society is not always correct to people who have limited opportunities to study and get education, to care about themselves and be able to walk. Also the opportunity to get job and provide necessary things for existing is at the very minimum.

The goal of the recently established institution of the social care - Daily Care Centre - is to increase independence level for mental clients by providing technical help and developing their professional skills. The expected result is an increase of self-confidence and integration in the society.



*Centre's clients making drawings for an exhibition*

The first part of a day is planned for practical lessons - work with computer, wood materials, drawing and other hand-made practices. In afternoons there are workshops in ceramics, drawings and music. As the specialists of Daily Care Centre suppose, clients can develop their professional skills in some certain jobs and get qualification which can be used under the management of masters. For example, they can be trained how to cut a grass,

make wooden toys and take care about trees in the parks. In the future they could study in Rehabilitation Centre, as it is almost impossible to be on labour market without basic knowledge.

About 50 clients can be located in the Daily Care Centre everyday. The working hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Those individuals, who can not get to the Centre and get back home by

themselves, will be given help and transported by special buses.

#### Further information:

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City of Jūrmala  
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### KÄRDĻA

The project idea grew for 3 years. On one hand the town with 4200 citizen needed a place for elder people who stay at home and have no opportunities to gather and communicate, on the other - municipality has responsibility to establish such kind of opportunity. By the law of social welfare in Estonia it is assignment of local authority to ensure existence of social services.

For three years it has been a favourable time to elaborate the idea of day-care centre. The Congregation of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church had in good place, in the centre of town, a house that was in very bad condition. Municipal official has good relations to the Congregation already for a long time so they agreed to make a plan to build up the house for benevolence and social welfare. So that was the beginning of the co-operation project: *Foundation of a day-care centre for retired and*



*Day-care centre for retired and handicapped people in Kärđla*

*handicapped people.*

Objectives of the project are:

- Creation of social life opportunities for handicapped and retired people
- Supporting interest development of handicapped and retired people
- Assistance in integration of handicapped people into society
- Guidance counselling of handicapped and elderly people in managing with their lives, psychological counselling
- Arrangement of cheap lunch for people with very low incomes

Thanks to financial help of Netherlands Co-operating Foundations for Central and Eastern Europe, Diaconie Centre in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), Kärđla Town Government and State of Estonia the day-care centre is open today five days a week. It is possible to gather, to have interesting activities, to meet, to read newspapers and to drink a cup of coffee with good friend.

The day-care centre in Kärđla is a good output of the co-operation between the municipality and a non-profit institution.

#### Further information:

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## CIVIC ADVICE CENTRE

**It is over a month since Gdynia set up Civic Advice Centre. It is a place where the citizens are able to get confidential and free of charge advice in any subject. We only show possible ways of solving the problem and clients take care about their problems by themselves.**

One of the Centre's aims is transforming the society into a civic society. A man of the civic society is able to take care about him; he only needs to know all possible ways of acting. He does not expect somebody else to do his work.

Most of advisors are law students but there are some sociologists, educators and economists. An advisor listens to the client, asks questions and defines the problem. The last part is sometimes very difficult, because clients have too many problems they want to solve at the first meeting. They often treat us as the last hope. Sometimes people just feel lonely and they need somebody to listen to them.

The Centre starts working at nine. First we check if there are any problems to solve for a particular day. Usually we check the date of client's next meeting and the urgent cases are done at the first place. One group of advisors work with the cases, which means they read textbook, flick through

codes and acts, and call the governmental and non-governmental institutions to find all possible ways of acting for the client. Other advisors admit clients and listen to their problems or pass on finished pieces of advice. In advising process it is not important that one advisor admits the client, the second one finds solutions and the third one passes on the advice. There are some people who are in contact with the same case so it is one form of control. It is very easy to establish who admits the client and ask this advisor for more information that may not be written on the sheet.

During this short time of activity we have admitted about 350 people. It is a lot comparing to other centres in Poland that have about 200 people a year. The most popular problems are cases connected with housing, institutions and family.

Civic Advice Centre was set up by a non-governmental organisation "RAZEM" association with the financial support Gdynia City Council.

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## NEW HUMAN SCIENCE CENTRE



**The Satakunta Region Human Sciences Research and Development Centre started in Pori on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2001. The objective of Centre is coordination, development, research and teaching pertaining well-being and human services. The Centre operates as an activator of social innovations.**

The Centre creates networks for those actors in the Satakunta region whose aim is to promote well-being and to prevent marginalisation. This is the first time social sciences research is introduced to Satakunta. The city of Pori has financed professorship in social and health services.

The task of the Centre is to create and implement an extensive regional research project, the aim of which is to get information about the situation of well-being and changes in it. Social work professional methods are also essential research subjects. Research is directed by the Professor of Tampere University.

The Centre coordinates well-fare projects and promotes cooperation among public, private and non-governmental actors. It also supports and gives advice in matters relating to project management and funding and acts as an external provider of evaluation service.

The aim of the Centre is also to represent advanced competence within social work by promoting the interaction of research, development and education in everyday practices. The centre also coordinates cross-municipal cooperation in the specific services in the social field. The Satakunta Region Human Sciences Research and Development Centre is funded by the Regional Council of Satakunta, partly by the European Social Fund, the City of Pori, Satakunta Polytechnic and the Diaconia Polytechnic, Pori Training Unit.

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## CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES

**Crime prevention is an important public task both for those from the public and voluntary sectors. Individuals, public service departments and organisations all agree that crime is an undesirable phenomenon which both can and should be combated – among other thing through preventive measures. All experiences indicates that this is not a task that can be left solely to one department.**

Individual efforts alone is usually not enough. Efforts must be coordinated through a long lasting and committed cooperation between different sectors, a cooperation based on the knowledge.

In Bergen three public sector bodies – the municipality, the police and the county council – have formalised collaboration

on crime prevention measures. The collaboration is based on the CLPM model. CLPM stands for Co-ordination of Local Crime Prevention Measures.

One year after the establishment of CLPM, the City of Bergen can provide experiences related to organisation, co-ordination and hindrances in this field. Our hope is that this experience will be the first step to create a society where children and youth avoid crime - a society with vital local environments where every human can be safe.

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## SUPPORTING EVERYDAY LIFE

A project "Supporting everyday life" was started in Estonia last year. The aim of the project is to help the mentally disabled people and people with mental disorders to manage their everyday life and thereby enable them to live independent life of full value.

Keila social care centre offers many possibilities for the disabled. One of them is help of specialists, who listen the worries, guard that these people manage their money matters and supporting the families. The centre offers dinner for a symbolic fee and teaches the mentally disabled to cook themselves.

The different handicraft circles are very popular, like the bible hour or aerobics. Those, who wish, can study computer and interest for that has been surprising. The centre has also organised lectures, excursions, theatre visitations and exhibitions. One very important, but difficult issue is to find work for the mentally disabled. So far they have made dolls for the children's department of the



*Keila Social Centre - the handy-craft club in action*

Keila hospital and done some seasonal jobs, like packing plastic and paper dishes.

The long perspective goals of the centre are to help the mentally disabled and people with mental disorders to become more independent, to get better on with their lives, also to improve their living conditions and help them to find a job.

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## THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Sweden ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in June 1990. The Convention boils down to four words: Children shall be respected. In August 2000 the government administration proposed the Municipal Council of Karlskrona to decide to start a project for the realisation and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all activities in the municipality. The Council adopted the proposal.

The city of Karlskrona mainly works with 4 basic principles in the Convention:

- A ban on discrimination (art.2)
- The best interest of the child (art.3)
- The right to life and development (art. 6)
- The child's right to express his or her views (art.12)

views (art.12)

The main goals to achieve are:

- The UN Convention should be an active instrument and should permeate all decision-making activities.
- The city should establish systems for monitoring the realisation of children's best interest in local government activity.
- Child impact analyses should accompany all decisions affecting children
- Child statistics should be developed
- Child policy plan should be developed.

To be able to achieve this, we have to build up the knowledge of the Convention. In cooperation with Save the Children and the National Office of the Children's Ombudsman, we arrange different kinds of activities, seminars, lectures, competitions, theatre- and musical performances. Basic training measures supplemented by in-service training of all personnel in all of the municipality departments. Realisation of the Convention is an on-going process – and it has to be kept alive.

The project has its political board and each city department have a representative in a personnel network. He or she has the task to spread the knowledge in his/her own department. Children and youngsters from different schools are deeply involved in the project, too.

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## HANDICAP POLICY PROGRAM

The City Executive Board, on 16 June 1998, decided to commission the Office to co-ordinate work to draw up a handicap policy program for Sundsvall. The program is based foremost on: applicable legislation, the UN's Standard Rules, an inventory of needs and shortcomings as experienced by handicap organisations in the city.

The aim of the handicap policy program is to express the city's political ambition and will to see city residents with disabilities achieve equal participation and opportunities as well as have the same rights and obligations as other members of society. The program will:

- contribute to making the UN's Standard Rules more widely known,
- raise awareness of persons with disabilities,
- reinforce the continuous process that leads to improved conditions for persons with disabilities,
- be an efficient instrument for the guidance of city boards, committees and companies.

The program is to be followed-up annually by the city's boards, committees and companies. The annual report presents the extent to which the boards, committees and companies have worked based on the statements of intention in the program, the targets/action plans and experience of the work founded on the handicap policy program. The results presented by the boards, committees and companies are to be compiled and evaluated by the City Executive Board in consultation with the city handicap council. The City Council is to hold at least one debate per period of office devoted to the handicap policy program.

The road is long and all necessary undertakings cannot be conducted at the same time. Therefore, the program treats the standard rules, in order of priority, those are adjudged to be particularly important.

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## ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**In 1998 problem of domestic violence against women was discussed for the first time in Klaipėda. Since then a lot was done. The Social department prepared the Family Social Assistance Program that was approved by the City Council. The city carried out the project "Establishment and implementation of support system for women suffering from domestic violence and sexually abused children in Klaipėda City", financed by the American Peace Corps and the World Bank Small Grants Program.**

There is no model or system how to provide help for women suffering from violence and for sexually abused children. Standpoints of society "Problems in family should stay in family" are changing but not quickly enough. Support, which is provided, is not co-ordinated and not efficient. Violent relations in family not only harm woman's life, but damage personality of a child and influence his/her future life. Increasing alienation, general recession of economy, scenes of violence on TV influence family life in

negative way. If woman cannot feel safe at home, she cannot protect her child either. It is necessary to increase economic independence of women, responsibility of parents for their behaviour towards children not only in public places, but at home as well.



*Seminar on domestic violence: Head of Vilnius Mother and Child Home, representative of Municipal Police, Head of Social Care Department*

During the project four seminars were organised. Scientists of Klaipėda University, politicians, police, doctors, representatives of NGOs, social workers

and employees of Children Rights Agency took part in the seminars. Experts of this field led the seminars, shared their experiences and presented Swedish expertise to end violence against woman and children. Also representatives of media were actively involved in all events. A special TV program was prepared where victims of violence were sharing with their problems. Ten information stands and special information brochures were issued. They appeared to be very helpful for victims of violence. Social workers understood that there is a lack of special skills and information how to assist in the daily work against violence.

Klaipėda Municipality is grateful to Swedish partners who enable participating in the new project dealing with the problems of domestic violence, financed by SIDA. The city specialists will be able to establish links with the Swedish experts as well as institutions, which provide assistance to the victims of domestic violence in Sweden, and to improve their qualifications and skills.

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## REFUGEE PROJECT

**The Lithuanian Red Cross, Kaunas and Odense cities implement the project "Kaunas-Odense refugee project", financed by Phare Small Project Facility.**

Lithuania encountered refugee problems in the last decade, after regaining of independence. Refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and other countries started to cross Lithuania. Besides, during the recent war in Chechnya, many Chechens come to Lithuania.

The Lithuania Government approved the program of social integration of refugees while creating favourable conditions for the adaptation of those who received the refugee status following the Government decisions on the Refugee Status in the Republic of Lithuania and on the Implementation Means of the Government Activities of 1997-2000. Social

Care and Employment Ministry, Education and Science Ministry, Council of Refugee Affairs and Municipalities are supposed to take care of the integration of refugees according to this program. Within the integration process people are involved into the Lithuanian society with the possibility to live independently.

Kaunas Municipality, as well as other Lithuanian municipalities, is not prepared for this process. The city neither has an integral system how to integrate or help to integrate the persons who received the refugee status into the society, nor specialists educated for this task. Thus, such a situation provided an idea to prepare a project in this field. The Project partner is Odense City, which was invited for such an activity basing on the facts that Denmark is a country who receives around ten thousand new refugees each year, and about ten percents of all

inhabitants in Odense City are refugees. Thus this city has a long-lasting practice and experience in the field of social integration of refugees.

The tasks and objectives of the project are to receive consultations from Odense experts regarding the refugee integration on a local level, train social workers how to work with refugees, share the experience of the refugee integration in both our countries specially focusing on specific work with refugees from different countries and create the refugee social integration system.

The project started in May 2001 and is expected to be complete next spring.

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## WELFARE IN TRANSITION

A two-year project on welfare issues was started in the autumn of 1999 in the municipality of Norrköping. The aim of the project is to investigate how municipal resources can be mobilised in order to achieve the vision for the year 2010 of "a good life" for everyone.

Swedish local authorities are faced with a number of challenges like, for example, continued adjustment to the welfare policies of the other EU countries, the dramatic increase in the need for the care of the elderly, and the growing difficulty of finding staff for the care- and health-sector. Besides this, Norrköping are faced with challenges of a more local character e.g. facilitate the meeting between working-class culture and educational culture and the meeting between different ethnic cultures.

The report *Hard Facts - Welfare development during the 1990's in Norrköping* provides a picture of a decade of great economic restraint within the municipal activities in Norrköping, which has had an effect on the number of employees among other things. At the

same time the need for municipal welfare service has grown. More restrictive assessments and increases in tariffs are some of the changes carried out during the 1990's. This has meant that cost-increases have been kept within certain limits despite increased needs. In 1998 the trend was broken in that several curves began to point upwards again e.g. the number of available jobs, the level of education and the investment in crowns per pupil in the compulsory school. On the other hand the need for social support of and treatment for children and teenagers and marginalisation from the work force are still at a high level.

The project also includes a qualitative investigation. In eighteen strategically chosen groups issues have been discussed which touch on how changes in welfare during the 1990's have been experienced and how people view welfare in the future. It is also of interest to study



*The female pensioners group - one of the eighteen discussion groups*

the significance of gender, age, education and ethnic background with regard to these tasks. This work will be reported on during the autumn of 2001. The final commission in the project is to draw conclusions from the results of the two studies and make proposals for the future welfare politics in the municipal of Norrköping.

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## IMPLEMENTATION OF UN STANDARD RULES

Since 1996 the Municipality of Kolding has been working on the implementation of the United Nations' standard rules for handicapped person from the principle that the standard rules must form part of the planning of all new initiatives. Taking in consideration that it is not possible to change the whole town at a single blow, the work was started from the principle to ensure that accessibility is part of the municipality's future planning.

In order to organise the work, the municipal board of directors set up a steering committee. Subsequently, a parallel group nominated by that committee drew up a plan for the execution of the project. This plan implied that the project was to be a co-operation project between the handicap organisations and the Municipality of Kolding, in order that the organisations had the possibility to leave their marks on the implementation of the standard rules.

In the succeeding phase four co-operation groups were set up with representatives from the handicap organisations and from the involved branches of the municipal administration. The action areas were physical accessibility; education, leisure time activities, and sports, culture and occupation and social security.

The purpose of the groups was primarily to create co-operation bodies attached to the individual action areas and to prepare a survey of the activities and the planning material concerning handicapped persons that already existed within the involved branches of the municipal administration. After the groups had prepared their interim result the steering committee and Kolding Handicap Advisory Board decided that the work with the United Nations' standard rules was to be a part of the municipal planning.

In December 2000 City Council

approved a proposal to secure further work with UN's standard rules. The proposal means that the work on implementing the standard rules as its starting point chooses a reference group. The task of the reference group is to follow the above 4 main action areas which are being dealt with by the co-operation groups. The reference group is responsible for the fact that the handicap organisations are ensured influence at new initiatives or at existing activities. This may, for instance, take place by way of participation in planning or consultative assistance in connection with, e. g. building activity, or by submitting the matter to relevant organisations or individuals.

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## SOCIAL PROJECTS

In 1998 the City Council decided to establish a department which works with people on social security, people who apply for pensions or rehabilitation and people on sickness benefit. The city of Nykøbing F has prepared many offers addressed to all the target groups.

For those who have problems with drugs or alcoholism, poor education or various social problems, the primary task is improvement of their life style. This group needs small and secure projects, with known settings and close daily contact to the project workers. The city policy is to help those people by creating opportunity to improve their lifestyle and to avoid further social problems. The Labour Centre is responsible for all activities regarding activating people.

For the group with problems, such as many years or unemployment, out-dated education and lack of experience, the city tries to help by improving their skills through education or training in various tasks. Therefore the projects similar to the Labour Market, where project workers are employers, were established.

There is also a co-ordinator that is responsible for the visitation of people to the jobs in co-operation with social workers in the department. Everyone starts with a short trial period in the company. In this period such a person receives social security money. After the trial period they might get, hopefully, an ordinary job. This project is quite new, but the local Labour Market has been very positive, so expectations are high.

Also when people are on sickness benefit for a long period without connection to a job it implies a certain risk on possibility to get back to the labour market. That's why Nykøbing F. has decided to offer this group the possibility to participate in courses where they can meet people in the same situation and make plans for their future, their rehabilitation or pension.

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## HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

The Hanseatic City of Rostock became member of the Healthy City Network on the basis of the citizens resolution. On December 1992 the working group "Local Health Promotion" was founded for the realisation of the Healthy City Project of the World Health Organisation in Rostock. It is tied up to the public health authorities and aims to develop a role model "Healthy City" on a long-term basis.

The development of a "Healthy City" leads to a better use of local resources, promotes the bonds with the own living place and the support among the citizens as well as the ability of the individual and institutions to care for health in the sense of the WHO-definition. Health promotion is therefore part of the local policy.

As a support instrument the working group has taken over the function to accompany the process of a preventive public health policy, to take up the mentioned objectives and to set appropriate accents. Co-ordinated by the department for health promotion more than 50 partners - offices of the city administration, associations, federations of the free welfare services, self-help groups, education authorities, schools and others - work together since 1992. Co-operation is voluntary, result-orientated, bound to no statute and considers the respective identity of the partners.

The aim of the "Healthy City Project" is, among other things, to create a self-help-friendly climate in Rostock, to allow and ensure networking and exchange of experience between self-help groups and initiatives and by promoting self-help contact point to guarantee consultation and support for the groups as well as for Rostock's citizens.

The "Rostocker Pot" as a union of more than 100 health, social and illness-referred self-help groups and initiatives forms the platform for the participation of people within local health promotion. In more than three years one of the working group "Co-ordination of Initiatives for a Health-promoting Infrastructure" compiled e.g. the testing method "Child-friendly City" that contains criteria, which can be set also as a standard for a healthy city and has become one of the official instructions for employees of the city administration on June, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999.

The testing method to child friendliness has the target to protect the realisation of interests of children and young people as inhabitants in the municipality lastingly. By giving specifications and by increased efforts the aim of the testing method to the child friendliness to plan and arrange the future of our city in such a way that children and young people can develop universally and healthy is to be realised.

In January 2000 resulting from this aim developed the Project "Equal Chances and Health for Children in Evershagen". The city of Rostock operates together with 50 other municipalities and districts in Germany to reduce the existing social and health chance inequalities. In that way it is not only fixed in the guidelines for local development, also the report of the working group "Local Health Promotion" to the citizens contains a view on the future department-sharing work for the healthy city project concerning this objective.

The working group admits responsibility for common activities to the decrease of social and health chance inequality of children according to the "UN Children's Convention". The grown and stable co-operation structures in the health promotion enable it to direct the entire available forces toward a direct town-quarter work.

As the field of activity the city district Evershagen was selected as one of the big building settlements in the Northwest of the city.

1. to develop a child-friendly policy on a long-term basis,
2. to organise a district conference to the topic "Equal Chances and Health for Children in Evershagen",
3. to result in a networking of the health and social supplying structures existing in the quarter,
4. to get a direct health-promoting intervention going and
5. to link all activities with the residential environment improvement programme in the district and check them for child friendliness".

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## SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY GOING TO TOWN

**For the last couple of years a group of local policemen in Malmö have made a survey of robbery committed by children and teenagers in the city. The group has worked with young criminals under the age of eighteen. Robberies increased drastically in 1995-1996.**

To rob persons in the same age is common. Young criminals extort mobile phones, money, jewellery, clothes and even shoes from other teenagers and use more or less violent methods or threats. To rob someone of your own age seems to be about showing power and to disgrace the victim, rather than about money or valuables. Teenagers have also been known to rob the elderly and handicapped.

In addition to robbery, the local police

have been able to connect teenagers to pick pocketing and bag snatching. The local police have through their work managed to arrest several of the teenagers in the city district having committed robbery. By arresting a main character, the leader of a gang, teenagers in the same circle of friends might be deterred. It is, however, likely that new groups of teenagers are created relatively fast and that they take over the role as young robbers.

In the city district Centrum in Malmö one social welfare secretary is working preventively with teenagers. The target group is teenagers found to be in the danger-zone of becoming criminals and/or showing other destructive behavioural patterns. Other destructive behavioural patterns might for example be teenagers occupied with what one in the future

might fear will result in a criminal behaviour or teenagers being friends with criminals and therefore are at risk of being influenced negatively by these friends.

To improve the possibilities of a meaningful occupation and recreational activities grown-ups need to be involved and function as a support. "The social welfare secretary going into town" is a grown-up who, by carrying out visiting work, is able to get in contact with teenagers in need of recreational activities as an alternative to criminal activities.

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## MULTI-SECTORAL URBAN REGENERATION POLICY

**In cities of the accession countries the introduction of market processes to the allocation and use of land and property, along with structural changes within labour markets are inducing tendencies familiar in the EU. A particular challenge is then to prevent spatial segregation and concentrations of exclusions. Meeting the challenge requires a comprehensive approach, which can combine preventive actions to reduce the incidence of distressed areas with remedial measures that integrate existing such areas into the social, economic and physical fabric of the city.**

The area-based multi-sectoral policy is the core of Szczecin's urban regeneration programme. It confronts the concentration of social distress, environmental degradation, crime and economic decline in particular city areas. Action integrates such areas into wider social, economic and physical fabric of the city and the region. Research, monitoring and evaluation of issues of discrimination, social exclusion, poverty, and delinquency in urban areas, early warning systems, social protection and public services are all part of the scheme developed by the city. Also, a

successful attempt was taken to form a strong partnership to define challenges, strategy, priorities, and resource allocation, and to implement, monitor and evaluate the strategy. Partnerships include economic and social partners, NGO's and residents groupings. The strategic plans for the areas in question were linked to the economic, social and physical network of the wider urban area, including between neighbourhood partnerships and agents responsible for the social and economic strategy of the wider conurbation.

As early as in 1994 the city started the Municipal Scheme for Social Pathology Prevention and Social Problems Solving. The programme using certain methodology is translating gathered information, diagnosis and solutions into concrete tasks. Three major stages have been realised. The inventory of institutions specialising in solving social problems, identifying their competencies has been prepared. About 5000 city units have been diagnosed on the basis of 4 thousand interviews. Environmental Co-ordination of Social Activities project is under way. Its task is to integrate activities within the environment, all the institutions

and persons dealing with the prevention and solution of social problems. The CLRAE's conference in Szczecin (October 2000) on crime prevention had reinforced the process in the city.

The city promotes equal opportunities and social and economic integration and improved living and working conditions for people belonging to low-income, discriminated and other socially excluded groups, as well as supports the regeneration of its urban areas in difficulties. The basic objectives are to strengthen local capacities to respond to the specific needs and potential of neighbourhoods in an integrated way; extend pathways to employability and integration, in particular for the hard core of the long-term unemployed, young drop-outs, lone parent families and others who are economically or socially excluded; provide accessible and reasonably priced basic services, especially in relation to employment, education and training, health, energy, transport and communications, policing and justice; prevent urban crime including juvenile delinquency and increase security.

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## HERVANTA EU-PROGRAMME

**The EU-programme of Hervanta in Tampere started last year concentrates on the unemployment and on the development of Hervanta's attraction. Already 16 different projects have been funded and are in action. Hervanta was accepted into the West-Finland objective 2 – programme on the basis of the presentation of the city of Tampere and the Council of the Tampere Region.**

The programme idea was set out due to the high unemployment rate of Hervanta compared to the average rate of Tampere. Decisive factors were also the lower income and education rates compared to the city's average rates. During the years 2000-2006 almost 100 million Finnish marks are being invested there. The support will concentrate in the areas of development work and promoting of the structural changes. The essence of the programme is to get the long-term unemployed and the socially alienated into development work. The programme's goal is to create 385 new enterprises and 1000 new working places by the end of the year 2006.

Hertta project seeks new paths to working life and social participation with

a group of unemployed. Characteristics of the unemployment of Hervanta are the high rate of the long-term unemployment and the high rate of the unemployed immigrants. Strengthening of self-esteem, motivation and management of everyday life of an unemployed person is very



*Hervanta centre - statute called "The Muse"*

important. With local ideas and help of business development and enterprises support from EU-programme creates conditions for new enterprises to be born in Hervanta.

Significant part of Hervanta is composed of the University of Technology and Hermia Technology Centre. During the EU-programme their image and market value is being utilised. Hervanta is a very compact area and this is the most natural place for the experiments of the 'easy to use' technology. It is important to get the residents along with the information society development. Information technology is an excellent tool which all of us should be able to utilise. At the grass root level this idea is promoted by HerPro-project. For residents HerPro's Cornernet is a place to use computers and a meeting place.

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## COOPERATION IN SOCIAL SPHERE

**On May 21-23, 2001, St.Petersburg held the international conference "Introducing in the society, preventive measures, development—social dimension in the focus". The Conference was the result of fruitful co-operation in the social sphere between the European Union, its member-states and Russia. Its target was to develop further bilateral and multi-sided co-operation aimed at support of social transformations in Russia.**

This Conference was the main event in the project of co-operation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Russian Federation and the European Union. Saint-Petersburg became the place of this Conference not by chance. Here the major international project *Co-operation on*

*improving social work in Saint-Petersburg* is being realised since 1998. From the Russian side the partner responsible for its practical issues is the Committee on labour and social protection for citizens, St.Petersburg Administration and from the Swedish side it is the Higher Social School of Stockholm State University.

There were 250 participants working in the Conference, 100 of them being representatives of EU countries and 150 being leaders and heads of Ministries and departments of Russian Federation, and also the leaders from the regions of Russia. Among participants there were Minister of Labour and Social Development of Russian Federation, Minister of Health and Social Insurance of Sweden, the Vice-president of the World Bank on international connections and connections with United Nations,

representatives of European Union, UNISEF, MOT, Swedish Investment Development Agency and others. In the Conference the focus was put on the questions of social development, arranging address social assistance for the citizens, social services for families having children, elderly people, and disabled, drugs and alcohol abused. The discussions of the current and recently finished projects of co-operation took place. Its participants were introduced to the work of the institutions of social sphere of St.Petersburg.

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## CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

The common objective for the Department of Career Guidance and Counselling at Vaasa Vocational Adult Education Centre is to prevent social exclusion by providing a wide variety of means in the field of guidance, counselling as well as training and education. Since the mid 1990s tailor-made projects were carried out. Projects, mainly funded by the European Social Fund, aim at improving unemployed people's health and working capacity and updating and improving their working skills to meet the labour market demands.

The target group for these projects has consisted of unemployed persons with reduced working capacity and other disadvantages (mental and/or social problems, problems on reading and writing, drug problems etc).

We also offer studies in the Finnish language and the Finnish culture for immigrants and refugees. Apart from

improving their language skills, the studies also aim at promoting social integration, not only in the society, but also on the labour market. The Employment and Economic Development Centre for Ostrobothnia reported for the last year (2000) that only 1,1 % of immigrants

and quota refugees continue in vocational education, and actions for increasing this percentage is one of our departments objectives for the future. We have also developed tailor-made courses for illiterate immigrants.

The future challenges of career guidance and counselling, as well as of vocational education, coincide all over Europe. The issues and problems to solve are the same: unemployment, reduced working capacity and social exclusion,



*Students and counsellors discussing in nature how to improve the working capacity of unemployed*

aging population. The Department works in close cooperation with representatives of the employment exchange offices, employees, social welfare offices, rehabilitation centres and other similar bodies.

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## SOCIAL POLICY INNOVATIONS

**Lithuania started implementing reforms of free market, economic policy and social security in 1990. The reform of the social services' system was to create the complete network of social services satisfying the needs of the community and covering all social groups. Municipality, supporting NGO's, undertook creating mixed system, where the society would take an active part in solving social issues. Vilnius Municipality was one of the first to start reforms of the social services' system.**

At the initial stage of activity NGO's were not strong enough to solve all development issues of different social services, therefore the municipality took responsibility for providing some services. In 1996 municipal Social Care Centre prepared a proposal concerning implementation of the development programme of social policy and community services. The Centre provided for the services which have not yet been rendered to the community: services to

women who have suffered from violence; social rehabilitation services provided to alcoholics and drug-addicts; day centre services to the elderly people; professional training services to mentally disordered people.

After a successful participation at the competition, together with the other 5 municipalities, high quality social services were organized together with the World Bank and also the Swedish Agency of Investments and Development (SIDA), which financed training courses for workers in Vilnius. This pilot project has influenced spreading of wide community service network in the Lithuanian municipalities and has made more active NGO's, also it has deepened community social cohesion.

One more important step made by Lithuania while implementing gender equality policy, was to pass the Gender Equality Law and to establish the Controller's position. Presently, Vilnius, the first in Lithuania, together with Oslo work on the common Gender Equality project. City of Vilnius has appointed a

person responsible for the control of gender equality. Therefore, Vilnius Municipality became the first to initiate effective implementation of the Gender Equality Law on the municipal level.

Seeking to do away with isolation and to ensure effective integration to the community, Vilnius cooperates with Helsinki in creating environment adapting strategy. Using Finish methodics, at present the evaluation of public buildings is carried out by a group of physically disabled persons. Social workers of Vilnius develop very good relations with the cities of Erfurt, Aalborg and Oslo.

After restoration of independence, Vilnius gets back its historical features. Receptive to positive experience of different nations, it has become a city open to co-operation, seeking to adopt the progressive experience of the Baltic and other European countries, also to actively participate in the decision making process on European social policy.

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## II. UBC TODAY

### WELCOME TO VI GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Dear UBC friends,

To live longer, healthier and more satisfied. That is the result of the second annual report on the social situation in Europe that recently was submitted.

In the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the social trends it was stated that humans remain longer healthy and life expectancy has risen. On an over-aging of the population is to be counted. Besides it is pointed out that there are still large income differences in the EU member states. The potential accession countries are still not at all considered here.

This alone shows, what large challenges in Europe are awaiting us.

With the Union of the Baltic Cities (the UBC), whose member the Hanseatic City of Rostock is since 1991, one hundred member cities of all ten Baltic Sea states take up this challenge.

The UBC members co-operate on the political and local level. The participation is voluntary and dependent on the respective priorities of the cities.

I have the great pleasure to invite you to the VI UBC General Conference with the ambitious topic "Social Justice in the Baltic Sea Region in the New Millennium".

Politicians and experts like EU Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou, EU Parliamentarian Maj-Britt Theorin, Social Minister of Estonia Eiki Nestor, Secretary General of German Caritas Georg Cremer are expected to participate and to share their experience. With regional inputs from many of our member cities, the conference focuses on practical solutions for a better social life.

Another highlight will be the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Union of the Baltic Cities.

As hosts of the general conference we want to act in the name of "Hanseatic City".

Whenever peaceful trade along the Sea was possible - as at times of the Hanse -

Rostock and its citizens went well. The name "Hanseatic City" is therefore a symbol for peace and partnership. And so it has been again for the last ten years.

The community of peaceful trade, their traditions, the old trade routes across the sea - at the moment all that develops again one way or another.

In the passed decade Rostock could develop itself again to an important commercial centre.

Numerous ferry lines have settled here. The city became a central point in the maritime traffic to Scandinavia.

By the enlargement of the European Union Rostock moved into the geographical centre of this Economic Community and is situated in a straight line between the metropolises Berlin and Copenhagen. At the same time Rostock's port has become a focal centre for the trade not only with Northern Europe, but also from and to Eastern Europe. Owing to the close relations to Scandinavia most modern shipbuilding has been kept or newly settled here.

Rostock is also the commercial, scientific and cultural centre of the country Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. We fulfil a big amount of central functions in our Land of the Federal Republic, even if that is not always acknowledged. Rostock is an important investment location.

Numerous modern enterprises have settled here in the last years; only in the surrounding of the port 250 enterprises - from the malthouse to coal power station - have been established.

The University of Rostock today is an important factor for the local economy:

From the university and institutions, which have been developed around the university, scientific-technological



solutions emerge for the building industry and shipbuilding, for agriculture, environmental protection and medicine.

Rostock has become the destination for international cruise-liners - the short connection to the German capital Berlin is probably the reason for it; but the proud luxury passenger vessels from all over the world bring also glamour into our city. And every single guest take something home: The knowledge of the beauty of the Hanseatic City of Rostock, which we are proud of.

The EU enlargement to the East includes enormous chances for the entire Baltic region, from which we all will profit. For the future of the people in the cities around the Baltic Sea it is a question of filling the co-operation with life. So I go by the unknown author, who said: "A good partner is like old wine - it becomes better and better with the years."

In this spirit I wish the VI General Conference of the UBC all success.

*Arno Pöker  
Mayor  
Hanseatic City of Rostock*



# 31<sup>ST</sup> EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN MALBORK

The 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2001 in the City of Malbork, Poland, upon the invitation of Mieczysław Roeding, Mayor of Malbork.

## 100 Member Cities!

Paweł Żaboklicki, Secretary General, informed the Board about the applications for Union membership submitted by the cities of Paldiski and Berlin. The Board decided to accept Paldiski as 99<sup>th</sup> member and Berlin as 100<sup>th</sup> member of the UBC and wished them fruitful cooperation with other member cities.

## VI General Conference

Arno Pöcker, Mayor of Rostock, informed that following the suggestion of the Board, the conference keynote speeches will be followed by the panel discussion between the speakers. The Board expressed its satisfaction to the city of Rostock for the professional preparations to the VI General Conference.

Petra Hamann, Rostock, informed that working group led by Rostock prepared the first draft of the UBC Social Charter. The Charter includes the social goals for the UBC and its member cities. The Board decided the Charter shall be treated by the cities as a guideline and it is up to each city to follow the Charter.

EU Coordinator Juhan Janusson stressed that the conference resolution should deal with the most important questions concerning the UBC and BSR eg: cities involvement in the EU enlargement process; preparation of cities for EU membership; cities involvement in the implementation of Agenda 21 etc.

Risto Veivo, Turku, informed that the booklet introducing the conditions of the UBC environmental award 2001 contest was published and sent to all member cities. Cities are welcome to present successful practices which include environmental and social goals.

President Anders Engström put forward a question whether the UBC Presidium should be enlarged to four persons ie. the President and three Vice-Presidents. After discussion and voting the Board proposed the GC to make appropriate amendments in the UBC Statute in order to elect four members of the Presidium.



*Participants of the 31<sup>st</sup> Executive Board meeting, Malbork, 16 June 2001*

Mr Żaboklicki informed that the anniversary working group is preparing inter alia the following arrangements for the GC: anniversary colour booklet; exhibition of photographs; exhibition of children paintings and other.

Mr Engström proposed to hold during GC the seminar for city managers dealing with youth questions. He informed that Ina Werner, head of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth in Kiel agreed to be involved in such seminar.

## Action Plan 2000-2001

President Engström drew the conclusion that UBC has been active and successful in such areas as: EU enlargement in BSR; implementation of Agenda 21 locally; cooperation with Baltic organisations. President Engström admitted that UBC was not successful in the question of involving Belarus cities in the UBC work as well as in sufficient involvement of youth in the UBC activities.

## New LA21 Action Program

Mr Veivo presented the first draft of the UBC LA21 Action Program 2002-2003. The total budget of projects proposed in the program equals to 2.5 MEURO. The new program will be adopted at the GC in Rostock.

## Seminar for EU-Coordination

Charlotte Pedersen informed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Seminar for UBC EU-Coordination was held in Kotka in May. During the seminar participants discussed how to develop the

network. There were also interesting presentations showing how different cities deal with the EU matters.

## UBC-LVRLAC cooperation

Mr Janusson informed that in April, fifteen high-level LVRLAC decision makers from the cities of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania had a study tour in the BSR. The tour concentrated on environmental issues. The representatives of LVRLAC visited the cities of Stockholm, Nacka, Turku, Kalmar, Gdynia and Gdańsk. The group also visited UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk and Secretariats of the Commissions on Environment (Turku) and Sport (Gdynia) in order to learn about UBC structure and activities.

## Project proposals

The Board supported two proposals submitted by Rostock: Conference on Transport & Logistics in the BSR in 2002 and Hanseatic Sunshine Ride 2003.

## Baltic Cities Bulletin on Youth

Paweł Żaboklicki introduced the last issue of Baltic Cities Bulletin devoted to "Youth in the BSR". The bulletin includes stories sent by member cities introducing projects, activities and events directed to youth and initiated by youth.

The Board decided to hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Rostock on 11 October 2001, on the eve of the VI UBC General Conference.

*By Paweł Żaboklicki  
UBC Secretary General*





## COMMISSION ON CULTURE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and meeting of the Commission on Culture was held in the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September in Finland, the cities of Espoo and Helsinki hosting the meeting. The convention had close to 30 participants from Kolding (Denmark), Tartu and Tallinn (Estonia), Espoo, Helsinki, Kotka and Vaasa (Finland), Liepāja and Riga (Latvia), Šiauliai and Vilnius (Lithuania), Bergen (Norway), Szczecin and Warsaw (Poland) and Gotland, Kalmar, Nacka and Sundsvall (Sweden), about 15 Finnish experts of art education participated the programme of the first meeting day plus the charming young and very young persons who participated demonstrations.

The theme of the session was art education concentrating mainly in the structure and teaching models adopted in Finland. The representatives of the Ministry of Culture in Poland brought Polish perspective into a discussion. In commentary speeches were brought experiences from art education in Riga and Szczecin as well as some project information. Performances by the students from East Helsinki Music Institute, the Tapiola Secondary School, Espoo, and an art exhibition of handicapped children, pupils of the Espoo School of Art, were demonstrating the methods and results of art education in Finland.

The discussion during the meeting dealt mainly with different aspects of art education. Some delegates were concerned about boys' low commitment in culture and art education. This was discussed but no clear measures were found to solve the problem how to involve boys in a greater amount in culture or how to raise their interest in joining art lessons. It was suggested that the sessions would include

presentations of projects from different cities with purpose to find partners for starting projects and to give ideas for new ones. The subject was supported though the Bulletin already exists for this purpose and is a forum for the information and partner searching. The representative of Helsinki proposed a summer camp for children to be organised in Helsinki in 2003.

The Board decided to have the next annual meeting in Riga which had announced its willingness to organize the convention. It was also suggested that the meeting and sessions in the



*Session participants in the Espoo Cultural Centre. In front the board of the cultural commission (from left): Björn Holmvik, Hannes Astok, Riitta Hurme, Sławomir Szafranski and Olov Gibson.*

forthcoming gathering would deal with the same issue - art education. The members of the board are Mr. Sławomir Szafranski (chair) from Szczecin, Ms. Riitta Hurme (vicechair) from Espoo, Mr. Hannes Astok from Tartu, Mr. Olov Gibson from Visby and Mr. Björn Holmvik from Bergen.

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## BEST CITY PRACTICES — APPROACHING CONCLUSION

The third and the last workshop of the ongoing Best City Practices (BCP) project will be organised in Turku, Finland 8-11 November 2001. All five city couples, which participate in the project, will present there their feasibility studies, completed during the summer. In addition, the agenda of the workshop will include topics like funding, public information work and some workgroup working according to the wishes of the city pairs.

It is also meant that at least some of the cities participating in the UBC Environmental Award 2001 could participate in the workshop in Turku. This would spread the information about BCP's

working methods, new contacts could be created between BCP and Award cities and two way transformation of good practices would be enabled.

As BCP project has so far been successful and benchmarking as a working method has been practical, it is also reasonable to think the future of the BCP also during the third workshop. Will there be continuation for the project, phase two? Or will there be "BCP II" with new city pairs, with Environmental Award 2001 cities? Commission on Environment is developing



*The representative of the city of Sillamae presents the current situation of their project with Bützow*

thoughts around BCP project and welcomes all ideas regarding it!

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# COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

## SET UP PRIORITIES

**The Commission on Transportation met in Göteborg June 25-26, for a two-day meeting to discuss the priorities for the commission.**

In focus of the commission will be the role of city administrations in meeting the challenge of sustainable mobility within the cities. Priorities will be to learn why and how to improve the conditions of cyclists and pedestrians, how to develop the management of public transport systems and exchange of information on the potential for mobility management-tools to develop efficient, sustainable transport habits.

On the list of future activities are:

1. A conference on "Worst practices in managing public transport systems – mistakes we have made, for others to avoid".
2. A seminar on the benefits of increasing bicycling and the means to succeed.
3. A meeting to exchange experiences and ideas on mobility-management tools.
4. A scheme for exchange of personal in public transport management and operation between member cities.

Before the June meeting, Göteborg had distributed a letter and a questionnaire among member cities asking for proposals and priorities. A list – including the topics finally selected, but also topics like introducing vehicles with superior environmental performance, good ways of hosting a harbour, managing noise from urban transport systems and economic efficiency and road congestion – was circulated. There was some interest in many of these as well as a particular interest in road-pricing. During the meeting, we looked for topics where we could see a clear role for the UBC-network and where we saw a committed interest among members. However, this is not an exclusive decision. Göteborg would be happy to facilitate other initiatives within realms of the transport commission.



*The meeting took place in Palace Konferens*

We welcome e-mails from people of member cities who are interested in taking part in any of the activities mentioned above, who have an interests in contributing to other activities within the commission or who just want to be posted information about transport issues.

#### Further information:

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## ABC PROJECT FOR UBC CITIES

#### Our program for the next years

Our ambitions for the future works in our UBC Commission are to continue and develop the co-operation for city/town planners and architects in cities and towns in the BSR region. Therefore we create a network for exchange of knowledge and experience, having professional preparation groups for our "burning" questions and going on arranging common seminars, two per year. We will try to get resources through an application to Interreg III B.

After fulfilling the project, we hope that we are able to formulate common strategies for the development of our cities. We also hope that our UBC Commission will get a world-wide reputation - at least

in the BSR - of being a serious and clever partner to co-operate with when solving local and regional problems.

#### Our application to Interreg III B

Our project is named "ABC – Alliance of Baltic Cities" - A City network co-operation for Local approaches to Regional Strategies. In our developed program we refer to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> strategic objectives given in the Interreg III B program. We base our application on our previous work during more than two years, four seminars and our experiences. We stress the strong connections existing between regional and local planning.

We propose a common project for three years with 30 cities joining the project, 15 EU-cities and 15 non EU-cities. We count with seven common seminars, four held in non EU-cities, and three in EU-cities. Each seminar will last for three days. Half of the time at each seminar to be used on common issues, half time to be used on issues stated by the Host City. We will create three preparation groups, which shall meet once between each seminar. Each preparation group consists of five cities from both EU-cities and non EU-cities. Every preparation group shall prepare and lead two of the seminars and document them afterwards. Our certain topics for the three preparation groups will be:

- Visions and future for our cities,
- Cities and regional development, and
- Urban Challenges

#### Expected results

We expect that we will succeed "Bridging over the Baltic Ocean", i. e. learning from all sides. We also believe that we get stabile individual contacts to build on for the future. We will present six broad examples on how to solve local planning problems – both separately presented and all together in a final report. We will make it possible to continue with our work of colleagues and make them "consultants" to any city within the UBC.

We have calculated the need of financial support from Interreg III B to a little more than 100.000 Euro per year over three years. Adequate financial support must also be applied for to Phare/Tacis for the 15 non EU-cities participating.

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## BALTIC TOURISM ACADEMY

**During the spring of 2001 the Commission on Tourism has been working with the Baltic Tourism Academy, a part of a bigger EU project, and its seminar series around the Baltic Sea. The seminars focused on how to work with events in different aspects. Totally around 300 persons visited one or more seminars from January to June this year.**

The Baltic Tourism Academy travelled around the Baltic Sea as follows: 1) January 23-24, Kalmar/marketing, 2) January 25, Karlskrona/the idea behind, 3) February 27, Tallinn/organising&financing, 4) March 29, Gdynia/organisation, 5) April 26, Vilnius/advertising, 6) May 8, Rostock/sponsoring and finally 7) May 10, Nykøbing F./measuring effects. If you want to know more about the Academy and different events please visit: <http://www.balticevents.com>



*One of the workshops within Baltic Tourism Academy was held in Rostock*

Information about the Baltic Tourism Academy and its seminars has been distributed via the UBC network and this showed to have great impact on participation in the seminars. The Commission on Tourism offered a refund of 100 EURO for participants from Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

### Handbook

As one result of the seminars a handbook on CD-ROM has been produced. The CD with the title "EVENTS - instruments for marketing tourism destinations" is written as a book, but printed in a digital version. It is very easy to use and parts or the whole book may be downloaded from the CD for a paper version (170 pages). The handbook aims at being a best-practice and checklist book

and not an encyclopaedia. For people working in tourism, and especially with events, and also students, this might be interesting and a good help in many aspects. The CD contains many contact persons, lecturers and further literature lists. For more information, please contact the Commission on Tourism.

### Evaluation

The seminar series has been evaluated in detail to get more information on the needs of training in tourism in the Baltic Sea region. The information gathered will result in a new improved Baltic Tourism Academy. Look out for more information in the UBC network and the Baltic City Bulletin.

### The Commission for the moment

The Commission keeps the focus on training in tourism and encourages more involvement from the eastern side of the

UBC network. For the moment the Commission is planning a project where the Commission will function organisationally as an umbrella. The project called "The New Role of Cities and regions in Sustainable Development - Spatial planning cultural tourism policy interpretation and communication" was initiated by Mr Arne Ellefors, CTI, Norköping. This will be a BSR INTERREG IIB project if

approved. For more details about the project please visit the website: [http://www.spatial.baltic.net/interregiii/project\\_list.xls](http://www.spatial.baltic.net/interregiii/project_list.xls) and click the project "Spatial planning cultural tourism". Here you may find many other interesting projects as well.

Finally the Commission on Tourism welcomes you all to the General Conference in Rostock, where a special session for the Commission will be held.

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## UBC INTERNAL SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES

**The Commission on Environment has produced guidelines to help all commissions and networks in their role in making UBC activities and practices more sustainable.**



Separated into six sections, the guidelines provide useful information on how to achieve greater sustainability when running meetings/workshops/conferences, producing

publications and in an office environment.

All the commissions, networks and the secretariat were asked to complete a questionnaire to gather their thoughts and ideas on how to make the UBC more sustainable and also to see what sustainable practices we already undertake.

The networks and commissions are all different and each one is making positive steps in their own way. Some for example are already recycling paper, using energy efficient light bulbs and we all are making extensive use of e-mail and the Internet.

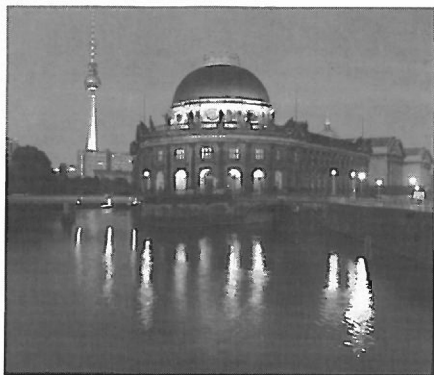
The guidelines are a good tool to make sure that we all pull together in the same direction to create a more sustainable UBC.

A draft of the guidelines was presented to the 31<sup>st</sup> UBC board meeting in Marlboro, Poland on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and was warmly welcomed by the board.

The next step is for the guidelines to be proposed to the General Conference in Rostock as part of the LA21 Action Program 2002 - 2003.

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## BERLIN JOINS UBC AS CITY NUMBER 100!

*In June of this year Berlin had the great honor of being accepted as the 100th member of the UBC. The most important association of cities in the Baltic Sea Region has taken up the tradition of a community that once decisively shaped the entire region: the Hanseatic League. At the same time, it extends far beyond the trade and merchants' alliance that united us from the Middle Ages until the early modern era, transcending linguistic and national boundaries.*

*Certainly, economic ties play a significant role even today. In addition to exchange on the commercial and economic level, however, cultural and political exchanges are also important. We can now find common ground, freely and unhindered, whereas the political division of Europe and the disregard for independence and sovereignty rights had made this impossible for decades.*

*The urban centers determine the pace of development in this respect. Berlin is a crossroads on the communication and trade routes to and from Central, Eastern, and Northern Europe. The Baltic Sea is an inland sea not only in the geographic sense; these waters have long since connected us more than they separate us. Tourism makes an important contribution to this. The Baltic Sea is a favorite recreation spot not only for the people of Berlin.*

*The 10th anniversary of the UBC and its general conference in Rostock offer the opportunity to reflect on the successes it has achieved. During a decade of fundamental change, it has contributed significantly to increasing the awareness of what unites the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC demonstrates unity within diversity and lends the cities particular weight in the formation of ties in the Baltic Sea area.*

*Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit*

### **Berlin – A City on the Waterfront**

Berlin's inner city waterways are unlike those in any other European capital. Nearly seven percent of Berlin's total area is water, with approximately 200 kilometers of waterways meandering through the city. There are so many water sport and recreational areas that even on the hottest summer days, only a few spots are congested with city dwellers heading to the outlying areas beyond this city of millions. Unlike the urbanites of other cities, Berliners start not with the outlying regions, but rather within their own city limits. The end of the Kurfürstendamm is actually the beginning of a series of Grunewald lakes. Together with the course of the river Havel, they make the Grunewald particularly attractive. Treptower Park, an old favorite amongst Berliners, opens up towards the river Spree's broad course with the Stralauer peninsula and Rummelsburger Bay. Beyond the city limits in Brandenburg, the number of waterways and lakes lies not in the hundreds, but rather closer to four thousand.

### **The Spree and Landwehrkanal**

In contrast to the Landwehrkanal, the river Spree plays a secondary role in the Berlin cityscape. Whereas residential housing, office space, public buildings and beautiful walkways are common along the Landwehrkanal. The reasons for this can be traced to Berlin's origins as a city of two separate settlements separated by a fordable crossing of the river Spree. The walls dividing the separate settlements hindered free use of the canal for long stretches, which added to the image of a divided city.

A boat ride along the Spree's waterways is a unique experience. In Paris, Rome or Stockholm boat rides are attractive because they offer a changed perspective on views from the banks. The Spree offers views into areas visible only from the water itself.

### **A Transport Route for Capital Projects**

The Spree continues to be the transport route for industrial traffic – whether it be the trans-shipment of goods from harbors, shipping building materials, fuel for power plants, or as in earlier days serving as a route for the fishing industry – the barge upon which the city was built. The industrial history of Berlin has shaped the landscape of its riverbanks. It was with de-industrialization following the fall of the Berlin Wall that the transportation of goods along the Spree and Havel began to decrease. However, together with the railways, water transport routes along the Spree and Landwehrkanal played a major





logistical role in the large construction projects of the nineties at Potsdamer Platz for the DaimlerChrysler Areal and the Sony-Center, and those along the Spreebogen for the Reichstag reconstruction, the building of the Federal Chancellery and the Parliament buildings.

### **Spandau and Rummelsburger Bay**

The city's unification started a fundamental change. The urban planning potential of Berlin's waterways and their accompanying streets is becoming more and more prevalent. Furthermore, Berlin's de-industrialization opens up the opportunity to rediscover water as a location factor. There are numerous excellent locations for apartments, offices, industry, or tourist attractions. Nearly 330 kilometers of lake, river and canal banks offer development opportunities. At the beginning of the nineties, the state of Berlin designated six areas of development, two of which concerned explicitly the topic of a new city of waterways: the development areas of Berlin Oberhavel in Spandau as a "water city" and the EXPO 2000 project Rummelsburger Bay on the Stralauer Spree, which is only five kilometers from Alexanderplatz. These are the two largest projects in which former industrial areas are being transformed into new living spaces. Berlin's waterways are in general safe for bathing and fish counts are rising with the continued improved water quality.

### **Industrial Buildings and Warehouses Along the Spree**

Other large projects along the Spree and Havel such as the Spreebogen in Moabit, the Federal Chancellery and the Lehrter Bahnhof are creating new relationships between water and the city in its center. A new city is arising from the vacant storage halls along the Osthafen. In southeast Berlin's Oberschöneweide, industrial buildings of old city quarters along the bend of the river Spree are coming back to life. Portions of the Osthafen and its connecting riverbank zone at the Ostbahnhof behind the "East Side Gallery", which reaches into downtown, will soon become the largest and most valuable waterfront development area. A new kind of apartment and service building development is taking place in Berlin, in which historical industrial buildings are not torn down, but rather renovated and used for other purposes. The new waterfront living quarters in particular will provide fresh opportunities for Berlin. A good quality of living belongs once again inside the city boundaries and the city belongs once again to its waterways.

### **To the Parliament House Via Water Taxi**

It is said that Berlin has more bridges than Venice. The Senate Administration for City Development alone is responsible for 951 bridges, of which nearly forty percent belong to the Office of Shipping and Waterways. Considering Berlin's size, there lurks behind these large numbers a city development problem which every city on a river must face: there are not enough river crossings.

Water taxis are planned for those stretches along the Spree where bridges lie far apart. These small double-hulled vessels that can reach a speed of 15 kilometers an hour will turn the Spree into a passing lane along the congested streets, like their Venetian models. The city center's new topography will have enough destinations that would draw more than enough customers: soon visitors to Berlin will be able to transfer from a high-speed train (opening in the Summer of 2006) to a waterway. The Reichstag building, Parliament offices and chamber halls, the Ministry of the Interior, the Foreign Ministry, Schloss Bellevue and the Federal President's residency all lie directly on the waterfront. The Federal Press Office, Ministry for the Environment, Federal Press Conference and ARD's capital headquarters are within reach of the Spree, just like the Friedrichstraße train station and a number of cultural spots such as the Berliner Ensemble, the House of World Cultures, the Charlottenburger Palace, the Museum Island, the German Historical Museum, the Berliner Dom, the Friedrichstadtpalast or the Maxim-Gorki-Theater.

### **Berlin's Drinking Water**

Berlin is characterized not by its visible rivers and canals alone. The city literally lives from its ground water. Whereas other cities must as a rule pump their water supply from surrounding regions, Berlin supplies itself with drinking water from its own territory. Berlin's groundwater is a delicious earthly good. The expensive methods of the last few years used in the construction between Potsdamer Platz and Lehrter Bahnhof were certainly no waste of money. Berlin's delicate ground water level could thus be maintained and measures to keep lowered levels in the neighboring areas.

Water as foodstuff, waterways and canals as living spaces: Berlin relies on its wealth of water. This is just the start of a new relationship between the city and its waterways.



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# III. MEMBER CITIES IN ACTION

## Trip around the UBC Cities

In the evening of August, 26<sup>th</sup>, 35 citizens of Greifswald between 15 and 75 years old joined the first UBC-trip organised by the city of Greifswald. The main goal of that trip was to meet with citizens from the Sister City of Kotka.

From the plan to the realisation of that trip lots of ideas were developed and changed. Finally the decision to take a bus and go all around the Baltic Sea was made: from Greifswald a short trip to Saßnitz, where the ferry to Trelleborg leaves, through the night the bus went up to Stockholm and by ferry to Helsinki from where the bus finally arrived in Kotka – “City of the Sea”.

The Mayor and its colleagues invited the group to the town hall and answered lots of questions about the city. Guided tours in and around Kotka, a meeting with the Kotka-Greifswald Association and an organ concert in Kotka church followed.



*Citizens of the city of Greifswald paid a visit to the twin city of Kotka*

Most impressive was the visit to the Langinkoski Imperial Fishing Lodge of the Russian Emperor and Grand Duke Alexander III which got the travellers already into the right mood for the next place to visit: St. Petersburg. Here the good communication between UBC-members opened the door to the famous Smolny for the group. After two nights in St. Petersburg we had to start our way back home, via the UBC-City Tallinn, where again the welcome for the UBC-travellers was very warm. With lots of new impressions and with the feeling of having achieved a kind of a “Baltic Citizenship” the group arrived back in the evening of September, 2<sup>nd</sup>.



*Participants visited also the city of St. Petersburg*

Greifswald's international office has been organising citizens' trips for years. Already traditionally Greifswald-citizens take part in the annual Hanse Days and visit their sister cities regularly. The Hanse City of Greifswald, member of the UBC since 1999, sees a need and a big chance for its citizens to take part in the international activities of the City. It is good, useful and necessary that presidents, mayors and officials meet and discuss the future of the Baltic region, but to form a Baltic identity it takes the citizens. So Greifswald does not only visit their partners around the Baltic Sea – but warmly invites Baltic inhabitants to come here to meet people, make friends, feel history and future!

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## Cēsis Jubilee

In the end of July City of Cēsis in Latvia celebrated 795 years jubilee. Three days were full of events – sanctification of the new city flag, music and folkdance concerts, exhibitions, and Latvian beer festival. However already now Cēsis is preparing to its 800-years jubilee in 2006. Although there is still five years it is important to snug the city for jubilee.

In the concept of Cēsis 800-year jubilee, the next year 2002 is devoted to Resident of Cēsis. The year concept is to keep a

closer watch on family history and family tree, to remind about our roots.

The slogan for 2003 is Cēsis in The World – how have we made us seen in the world? This year Cēsis goes in the world – to find famous former residents of Cēsis, to introduce City to our neighbours and friends, visit our twin cities with an informative exhibition.

In the year 2004 Cēsis will have its Days in Riga. Riga celebrates its 800-year jubilee five years earlier than Cēsis. It is important to show us in Riga, to let people know about what happens in Cēsis, what we can offer.

The year 2005 will be devoted to Cēsis in 15 years of independence – what has changed what has improved, and what have we done. This year is meant to realise the maximal acceleration of the town's development. This year could be the last chance, to begin and complete by the year 2006 any considerable projects to improve the town's environment



*Castle of Livonian Order from the 13<sup>th</sup> century is a popular tourism destination*

And finally the year of jubilee – year 2006. Festivals, concerts, exhibitions, seminars and conferences will take place in Cēsis – a complete range of events to satisfy the broadest range of interests.

Cēsis welcomes its friends, neighbours and business partners to prepare and celebrate Cēsis 800-year jubilee together!

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## Job and Training/Education Project

The project focuses on the individual course member. "Job and Training/Education" creates and exploits cooperation between the course members and teachers to identify the needs of the individual and develop the individual's potential.

"Job and Training/Education" always includes a basic process where the individual identifies his/her skills and prepares a course plan and objectives. After this, the course centres on creating individual labour-market related qualifications either internally, through projects at the Centre for Teaching and Business, or externally through teaching programmes and work experience at an enterprise. The project includes also a forward-looking phase where the individual exclusively works to advance into some other education/training, or into a job.

The target group of is people without a job, and with problems in addition to unemployment. These problems may be due to personal, social, or cultural factors, and these people have not obtained sufficient benefit from other programmes and are not able to find a job themselves.

"Job and Training/Education" applies pragmatic and individual utilisation of a combination of modern pedagogical methods. There is a high degree of differentiation in teaching with individuals working on their own initiative, and the teacher taking a consultant role.

Differentiated teaching is combined with close cooperation and frequent meetings between staff where files, syllabuses, and logbooks are reviewed to ensure focus on the goals and resources of the individual course member. The physical learning environment has been designed as mobile "learning lakes" so that the physical space always supports the teaching/learning situation.

"Job and Training/Education" matches the course members with future goals and with enterprises, the ordinary education system, or a sector-oriented employability enhancement programme.

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## United Against Drugs

The project entitled "United Against Drugs" carried out by the Gdynia City Hall was realised as three-day workshops held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2000. The workshop was addressed to various professional groups, such as police, social workers, therapists and self-governmental workers, briefly people engaged in drug addiction issues. Among the project participants there were representatives from three Gdynia's twin cities Karlskrona (Sweden), Kaliningrad (Russia) and Klaipeda (Lithuania).



*Mr Michał Guć opens the workshops named "United Against Drugs"*

The project was co-financed from Small Projects Fund within the PHARE Cross-border Cooperation Programme. The fund manager is Euroregion Baltic.

Thanks to the presentations prepared by each city, the project participants had the opportunity to get to know the drug situation in other partner cities. Besides, they paid a study visit to two centres operating within Tri City area: a centre "Gacek" run by Social Prevention Association "Mrowisko" and Youth Treatment Centre "Monar".

Thus, the project "United Against Drugs" aimed at, among others, the presentation of activities undertaken by partner cities with the view to reduce drug addiction risk and scope. The workshops were concluded with the formation of four contact groups whose main objective would be the improvement of information flow as well as the initiation of international cooperation in the field of drug addiction. Moreover, the project "United Against Drugs" was a great opportunity to integrate activities of local government, social services, therapists and NGOs.

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## The Projects' Season

The City of Jurmala is known as a place for tourism and spa. A successful geographic location and status gives an opportunity not only to attract tourists and also to develop business. It is a part of Jurmala's image that will be developed by representing the city as a place not only for tourism and spa but also for business, environment protection, culture, and sport.

The specialists from the Department of Economics and Development at Jurmala City Council in co-operation with territorial planners just started to recognise the possible places for running a business. Taking into account the goal of visiting tourists - to relax and enjoy the summertime in Jurmala - there is a work done for finding the most proper territories to offer them to business.

The city offers also certain projects that can be successfully implemented. As one of the most perspective projects is building a camping. It should be located near the centre of the city and a place for spa where the most part of tourists relax. The other attractive project is a development of the network of public catering. It should be located through all the city in places where the most of inhabitants work. It will provide stable incomes through all the seasons.

Also the Sport and Entertainment Centre is planned to develop for families with active way of life. The Water Sport Centre should be located close to river Lielupe or the coast of the Baltic Sea. During the planning process the authors think about entertainment offers in winter and spring.

Jurmala City Council plans to start the presentation of developed projects' conceptions in various exhibitions related to attract an attention of potential investors. Those activities will be started at the autumn of 2001.

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## Management Improvement in Twin Cities

The five twin-cities Hjørring (Denmark), Kerava (Finland), Kristiansand (Norway), Reykjanesbær (Iceland) and Trollhättan (Sweden) are developing an arena for mutual exchange of experience and learning from one another.



Erling Valvik (left) and Terje Fjellvang hope to obtain higher scores in the Bertelsmanns Prize

Initiated by Mr Erling Valvik, the municipal chief executive of Kristiansand, the first stage of project was to evaluate the municipalities in view of the criteria used for the Bertelsmanns Prize - the award given to municipalities for outstanding performance in 1993. The second stage has been to organise this project where members from the administrations in the twin-cities have exchanged experiences on chosen issues. The project manager, Mr Terje Fjellvang, for what is called the "Nordic Practice" is also from Kristiansand.

The criteria and the methods in The Bertelsmanns Prize were developed by a cross-national group of experts. The methods have been somewhat modified for a Nordic setting, but the data are generally comparable with those produced in 1993. The Bertelsmanns benchmarking was carried out in Kristiansand in September 1999. Hjørring, Trollhättan and Kerava carried out the evaluation in May 2000. A group of professors and experts from The University of Oslo and The Åbo Academy were responsible for the evaluation. The results of the evaluation showed that Kereva in Finland turned out to be «the winner» with 509 points. This "competition" has been welcomed as a vitalisation of the co-operation between the cities.

The second stages work is recently fulfilled and the reports are published on

the projects own website - [www.kristiansand.kommune.no/nordic](http://www.kristiansand.kommune.no/nordic). The Nordic Practice project consists of 3 working groups. The municipality with the highest score on each given criterion is mainly responsible for this part of the project. Kereva is in charge of the working group responsible for criteria 3 and 4 (Decentralised management and Controlling and reporting), Hjørring for criterion 2 (Citizen and customer orientation) and Trollhättan for criterion 6 (Employee potential).

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## Exchange between Theatres of Twin Cities

The bond between Kiel and its twin city of Kaliningrad has taken on a new artistic dimension. Kiel's theatre company, Die Komödianten, has assumed the role of cultural ambassador for the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, within the framework of a cultural exchange agreed between the theatres from Kiel and Kaliningrad, with support of a financial and conceptual nature provided by Kiel's press office for foreign relations.

In April 2001, Die Komödianten travelled to Russia to perform their successful productions at the Kaliningrad German

National Theatre and, in September, the Kaliningrad theatre paid a return visit to Kiel. Further theatrical exchanges of this kind are planned involving a number of Kiel's other twin cities.

For many years now, direct contacts between local residents have breathed life into the bond established between Kiel and the eight cities with which it is twinned. Appearances by artists from Kiel in the partner cities are as much a part of this as exhibitions held in Kiel, featuring the work of artists from partner cities. The cultural exchange involving two private theatres represents a new departure from the norm, with the Kiel and Kaliningrad theatres extending existing links between the two cities to theatrical venues.

The German National Theatre in Kaliningrad was founded in 1995. As the successor to Russia's now defunct German Theatre, it is now the only German National Theatre in existence. The private theatre receives sponsorship from Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as from the German Ministry of the Interior and others agencies. Its repertoire consists mainly of works by Russian-German dramatists, with works translated simultaneously into Russian. The German Embassy sponsors touring productions staged by the Theatre Company within the Russian Federation. The theatre has also made guest appearances in Poland and Lithuania. During its visit to Kiel from 19 to 23 September, the company performed its productions of "Liebe & Rock 'n' Roll" and "Mei' Wolgaland, mei' Heimatland".

The Die Komödianten Company was founded in 1984 as Schleswig-Holstein's first studio theatre to perform plays and cabaret. Every summer the Company stages a production of the well-known dramatic work "The Little Prince" in the courtyard of Kiel town hall. Die Komödianten have attracted considerable attention with happenings like the Theatre for Dogs and the Human Zoo. The Company has also made overseas guest appearances in Norway, Sweden, USA and Great Britain as well as in the Russian city of Kaliningrad.



Signing the cooperation agreement between theatres from twin cities of Kiel and Kaliningrad

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*Fixed link over Øresund between  
Malmö and Copenhagen*

## **Malmö and Copenhagen – one Urban Area**

**Malmö and Copenhagen are the main centres for growth and development in the Øresund region. In order to take advantage of the great cultural and human resources available in the region the two cities have decided to work according to a specified vision of co-operation and integration.**

The common goal for the cities is to get the residents of two cities to feel like residents in one coherent urban area. New project ideas are born everyday and new constellations for co-operation are established both within the private and the public sector. Regular contacts between politicians, civil servants, schools and businesses are part of every day life.

A political working group has been established, consisting of leading politicians in Malmö and Copenhagen, which will ensure that initiatives are taken within areas where they can make a substantial change. The two cities are dedicated to make a difference where others have not yet planned or taken initiatives. These initiatives will function as inspiration and engine to a more integrated Øresund region.

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## **Interactive Information Service**

**The BOING project - Baltic On-Line Interactive Geographical and Environmental Information Service - has created a new prototype information service, gathering all kinds of information on this issue. Is there something you want to know about eutrophication in the Baltic Sea? Where can you find alga blooms or dead and oxygen deficient bottoms? What is there done about it?**

At the main page the visitor is presented with an encyclopaedia and glossary that describe the overall issues and give a general overview. Digging deeper into the BOING service, the user is directed to five sub-sites about different aspects of the complex problem. The sub-sites contain descriptions of indicators that act as benchmarks, as well as interactive maps, databases - and data downloads. Explore the BOING information service, and tell us what you think - this is still a prototype and improvements and updates are planned.

The BOING project is funded through the EU Info2000 programme, and is managed by the Finnish Institute of Marine Research, UNEP/GRID-Arendal and Stockholm University Department of Systems Ecology.

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## **Agenda 21 – a Chance for Women**

**It was already in August 1998 when the working group “Women and Local Agenda 21” met for the first time, initiated by a congress on the topic “Agenda 21 - a Chance for Women in Rostock?”. The group started with about 10 women who were interested to work for a sustainable development of the Henseatic City of Rostock.**

In 1999 the Office Local Agenda 21 and the working group published a brochure to advertise for Agenda 21 and a sustainable development of Rostock. The summery gives an idea of what - from women's point of view - is important and has to be considered.

At the beginning women discussed what should be common topics and aims. Nobody wanted to participate just for show but to make sure, that this participation will be considered in the discussion process towards a sustainable city.

We were focussing on questions like: What topics are especially interesting for women in Rostock? What does sustainable development mean for women? Can sustainable women's initiatives become more valuable by means of the Agenda process? Which processes, projects or conference shall be initiated sooner or later? How can we proceed with our ideas and demands within the urban development process?\*

The group decided to work on three main topics which are Labour, Politics and City development.

It was agreed that from women's point of view the following values should absolutely be part of sustainability: variety - justice - human dignity - partnership - friendship - respect - patience - inner and outer balance - love - peace - right for individuality - fun - wealth - confidence - solidarity - women power - self-determination and -realisation - richness in colour - personal freedom - acceptance and tolerance - personal freedom - heterogeneity - time for reflection and recovery - calmness and composure

During the last two years the group played an active roll in the Agenda process: e.g. supported women's groups in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, produced a short film about their own group and developed a certification project. At present the women are starting a competition for an exhibition on the future life of women.

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## Training of Local Officials and Matching of Companies

Training of local officials from Kaliningrad in project management and matching of businesses within the IT and electronics sector from Denmark and St. Petersburg are two projects just starting up from the EU office Aalborg.

The project MindMatch has just begun in September 2001. A seminar to be held in St. Petersburg in the spring of 2002 and an Internet page are core elements in finding and matching companies from Denmark and the St. Petersburg region – which is the aim of the project. The companies are found within the IT- and electronics sector. The matching of companies shall result in long-term cooperation arrangements. Participation in this project can be of great benefit for the competitiveness of the companies on the global market.

Another central element of the project is training. The Russian companies will receive training in amongst others western business terms, human resource management, international auditing and Danish business culture. Furthermore, the Danish companies will receive training in Russian business culture. The project is set to run from September 2001 till June 2003.

Training of local officials from the Kaliningrad municipality in project management is the key element in another project beginning this fall of 2001.

The aim of the project is to develop the skills of the officials of Kaliningrad Authority in relation to project development and management. Furthermore, their knowledge of the EU system and EU funded programmes will be increased.

The main themes of the workshops and seminars organised within the project will be "Economic development and the SME sector" and "Environment and energy". Hands-on experience is also central. Therefore, some participants will have the opportunity for a traineeship at the North of Denmark EU Office in Brussels.

This project can increase the possibilities for the Kaliningrad region to develop through the participation in EU projects in the future.

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*Mr Maciej Płazynski, speaker of Polish Sejm, opens the conference*

## Cooperation between Investment Parks

**On 7-8 September this year in Malbork took place a conference: "International co-operation between investment parks in the Baltic Region" and presentations of the local companies and discussions between representatives of the companies from the partner towns from Sweden and Germany.**

An initiation of that economic forum was a famous voyage on the Nogat river (last year) during which the economic and tourist co-operation agreement was signed by the Administration of the town of Malbork, Malbork Commune, the city of Sztum, Sztum Commune and Malbork District. The newly begun co-operation brought into existence the Intercommunal Association "Malbork-Sztum Investment Park". The objectives of areas included in Malbork-Sztum Investment Park are industrial investment, tourism industry and conference centre.

The cities of Malbork and Sztum, which constitute the Investment Park, are extremely popular tourist destinations. One of the main attractions is the biggest brick gothic castle in Europe, which stands on the Nogat river, a former capital of the Teutonic Order State. In 1997 the castle was included on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. Each year the castle is visited by 500.000 tourists who enjoy numerous attractions and great performances which allow tourists to go back to medieval times. Moreover, Malbork is famous for its arcade houses in the Zulawy District and its Dutch farms.

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## King's Road Project

King's road is one of the oldest tourist routes in the Northern Europe. Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century kings and merchants have been travelling along the King's Road connected Stockholm, Helsinki, Saint Petersburg and other towns located on the shore of the Baltic Sea. The King's Road project is co-financed by the European Union's Tacis program.

King's Road Russia is a marketing project for cultural tourism between King's Road in Southern Finland, city of Stockholm, city of St. Petersburg and its region. This route is demonstrating unique cultural treasures combining the Eastern and Western traditions.

For 70 years Kronshtadt, the unique fortress town, was closed not only for foreign tourists but also for people of Soviet Union. The city was a military base of Baltic Navy fleet. In modern economic situation one of the main objectives for Kronshtadt is development of tourist infrastructure in the town. Participation in the King's Road project is very important step in the town's development and preparation to 300- years jubilee which will be celebrated in 2004. Kronshtadt, built by the decree of Peter the Great in 1704, is only 1 year younger than the Northern Capital City of Russia - Saint -Petersburg.

The historical, cultural and architectural heritage is represented not only by museums such as "The Kronshtadt Fortress" Naval Museum or home-museum of Orthodox Saint Ioan but also by cathedrals, monuments and unique military fortifications. Tourism is giving a new life to the town. The town of the Naval Glory attracts thousands of Russian visitors. And now a very interesting route for foreign tourists is ready. This route is a part of King's Road.

The working group, which consists of representatives of city administration, International Fund "300 years of Kronshtadt – Holy places be revived" and St. Petersburg Travel Company, was organised in Kronshtadt in July 2001 to create the tourist route. In September Kronshtadt is waiting for inspectors from Finish Tourist board.

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## City of Festivals

**Liepāja offers an active and rich season of culture, sport and entertainment all year long. Different festivals take place in the city of Liepāja, the motto of which is – City, where the wind is born.**

There are several popular festivals with international resonance:

Amber of Liepāja – rock music festival with already 27 years old traditions; International Piano Stars Festival – which will have the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year, inviting together classical and contemporary pianists from different generations and schools; Let's sound! – children music festival.

Liepāja also takes pride in hosting the International Motor Rally Kurzeme - a stage of European Championships and one of the broadest chess tournaments in the Baltic States - "Castling of the Liepāja".

Each summer artists of Liepāja organise an international painting City and See, an exclusive entertainment offer is the Beach party, and the European DJ Festival. A wonderful opportunity for entertainment is the Festival of Songs about See organised by most popular Latvian composer Raimonds Pauls in the middle of the summer.

The city celebrates its own festival "In my and your Liepāja" each year in July, offering various entertainment and cultural programs for different ages,



*Festival "In my and your Liepāja"*

interests and feelings. During the city festival there are special days for children, youth, middle-age people, and cultural integration days with participation of various ethnical groups. This is one of our largest international projects open for all creative people. We kindly invite professional artists from different countries that have creative ideas and innovative projects to develop them in our city of Liepāja.

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## To Educate Environmentally Conscious Generation

**Being a large city St. Petersburg has got a lot of ecological and social problems. To shape the future of our environment right now we need to bring up a new generation of environmentally conscious citizens. A unique structure called Complex training-research expedition of the schoolchildren of St.Petersburg "ECO-21" is just created.**

The project represents an original model of continuous ecological education closely connected to state system of science education. The main object of the expedition is to form an ecological outlook of the schoolboys on the basis of their research activity. Experienced researchers from the Universities of St.Petersburg teach young people a lot of techniques of studying the environment but their main task is to form an appropriate approach of children towards environment, to make them having civil responsibility for the future of their city.

The expedition has two main tasks. First – social, that means cultivating among youth civil responsibility and ecological outlook, second – environmental as the researches of pupils under the guidance of professionals are of big interest for ecological institutions and organisations. In years 1996-1999 the expedition has collected and analysed a lot of objective data in the Valdai National Park, the map of landscapes of the preserve was made, two rare plants from the Red Book were



*In years 1996-1999 the expedition has collected and analysed a lot of objective data in the Valdai National Park*

found, a social profile of the territory was described. The expedition also provides a wonderful intellectual summer rest for children.

Today the pupils work on seven scientific directions: geological botany, geology, cartography, hydrology, hydrochemistry, sociology, and ethnic ecology. Field researches take up to one month. After the field researches members of the expedition process the data and write a scientific report, which then is defended at the open session of the Russian Geographical Society. On the basis of this report the schoolchildren write their own articles and projects to participate on every possible competitions and contests.

Especially important for the socialising of a person appear to be the two directions of research: sociological monitoring of studied territory and ethno-ecological researches on location. Here the pupils learn to understand opinions of different people of various social positions, to analyse them from ecological point of view. The directions of research for years 2001-2002 are studying the role of St.-Petersburg in life of Valdai region (Valdai National Park is located about 400 km. from St.Petersburg, most of summer population here are citizens of St.Petersburg) and development of a new direction of researches – gender ecology.

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## The Multi-Storey Car Park for Everyone

Umeå municipality has set as a primary goal the integration of equal opportunity in all aspects of the municipality's operations. In December 1998, the Umeå city council directed all committees, administrations and city-owned companies to begin in 1999 the implementation of a basic approach to equal opportunity in all their operations.

Umeå Parkering AB's board of directors and personnel decided to evaluate Nanna, a multi-storey car park located in the centre of Umeå. The first step was to determine who uses the car park. The next step was to study how much of the company's resources were devoted to Nanna. And finally, it was time to visit the car park and to analyse it based on the needs of different persons and to find out if the car park Nanna is safe.

The conclusions were as follow:

- The ramps between each deck sloped steeply making it difficult and dangerous for visitors with prams or wheelchairs.
- Pedestrians walking to and from their cars were forced to walk on the drive with the cars. This was especially problematic for visitors with children.
- The car park gave a false sense of security since the visitors are indoors.
- Grey concrete gave a dark and gloomy impression.

• The stairwell outside of the building gave a shut-in feeling and was unpleasant. Visitors could not see or be seen, hear or be heard.

• There were no signs pointing to the lifts.

Based on this evaluation, the company board unanimously approved a renewing of the multi-storey car park. In 1999 the car park's lighting was improved, graffiti was removed, and signs pointing to the lifts were installed. In the year 2000 the stairwells' brick walls were replaced with glass walls at two stairwells.

Umeå municipality and UPAB in particular attempted to integrate a basic approach of equal opportunities into daily work. This small step led to major changes and this is just the beginning.

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## Teachers in the World of e-learning

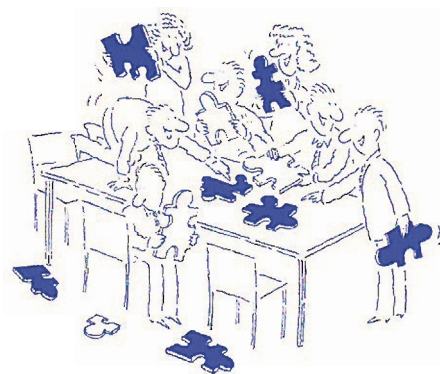
As a part of internal Teacher-In-Service Training and EU's Leonardo Pilot Programme EAC teachers and administrators in the City of Vaasa familiarised themselves with the business principles and the factors affecting profitability of a company. They also took a closer look at the network learning tool used by the global ABB/PTO, in which one learns to create a common view on skill and information based business principles by making and implementing decisions on one's own business.

A business simulation based on four playing teams-companies (3-4 players). Each team had a tutor from ABB. After the presentation of the game each team planned company's business principles, personnel policy, vision of the future, procedures and strategies. After each business year company's strategy was evaluated and new procedures and actions were planned. An essential part of the business simulation was interaction in each team. Company's competence was emphasised and factors like know-how capital, education/training, personality

*When teaching is not enough...*



*Try learning !*



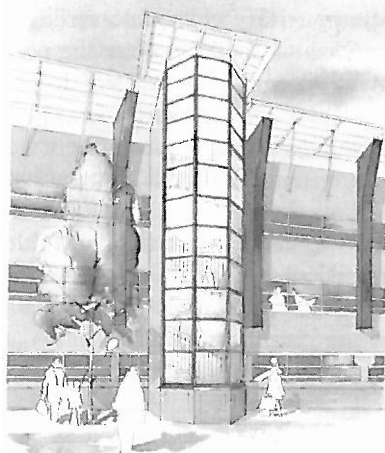
and intelligence of the personnel are important. Company's image capital, external networks and reputation are promoted.

The business simulation followed by the common discussion after which the performance of each company/team was evaluated and the tutors assessed the procedures of the teams.

Teachers found the experience useful and interesting and listed following advantages of that simulation:

- Possibility to have a look at the teaching methods of the working life
- More experience of teamwork
- Information about business principles
- Factors affecting profitability
- Closer look at the network learning tool
- Got familiar with the challenges and demands of the working life
- Co-operation with students schools teachers and the company.

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PAKERINGSHUS KV NANNA UMEÅ  
after andy sponat

*Renovated multi-storey car park Nanna*



## UBC COMMISSIONS & NETWORKS:



*UBC Executive Board on the courtyard of the Teutonic castle in Malbork*



*On 1 January 2001 UBC Secretariat has moved to the new premises in the residence of Gdańsk City Council*

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 100 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 to have 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.**