

UBC Commission on Education through the years 1998 - 2011

Chairman:

Kurt Pettersson (1998-2011)

kurt.pettersson@ebc.uu.se



Vice-Chairman:

Reet Kokovkin (2011-...)

reet.kokovkin@hiiumaa.ee



Head of Secretariat:

Annely Veevo (2004-...)

annely.veevo@kardla.ee



Anders Olander (2006-2011)

anders.olander@norrtalje.se



When and Why?

The Commission on Education was established at the UBC-board meeting in Klaipėda on the 26th of June 1998. Responsible for the Commission are the cities of Norrtälje in Sweden and Kärđla in Estonia.

The aims for this commission are:

- to offer the member cities good possibilities for exchange of experiences,
- to bring up new initiatives for joint EU-projects on competence improvement.

Commission on Education is dealing with the following main fields of concrete activities:

1. Exchange of pupils and students

There are a lot of initiatives and exchange activities that UBC members are experienced with. The Commission will support and take initiative to organise exchange between pupils and students among UBC members.

2. Distance education projects

We are already experienced with distance education projects between cities and regions around the Baltic. Our experience is that this is a very efficient mean in regional development, interregional cooperation and networking. The commission is open to concrete ideas in the field of distance education.

3. Other adult education projects

Many countries of the Baltic Sea Regions give priority to national and EU-wide adult educational program. The Commission on Education will support joint program for adult education and cooperation between UBC-member organisations. The commission is open to concrete ideas in the field of adult education.

Who?

Norrtälje

Kurt Pettersson - has been many years active on political landscape of Norrtälje Kommun. He was one of the founders of commission and leded it from 1998 to 2011. He is noted limnologist. His favourite subjects were nature and environment.

Cecilia Karlberg – was EU coordinator by UBC. Organised work of commission from Norrtälje side and was “right hand” of Kurt Pettersson. Cecilia left commission on summer 2006 because of change of workplace and move.

Anders Olander – EU coordinator after Cecilia. He took also over her duties in commission. Anders has worked in commission up to the autumn 2011 and will leave because of Norrtälje Kommun decision to leave commission.

Kärđla

Ivo Eesmaa – has been many years active in political landscape of Kärđla city. He has worked as teacher and rector of Kärđla Common Gymnasium more than 12 years. He was one of the founders of commission and acted as vice-chairman from 1998 to 2008.

Mare Aasmaa – worked many years as teacher and rector in Palade Ground School in neighbourhood of Kärđla. She was also active in county council. She has lot of experiences in fields of education and youth work. Worked as vice-chairman from 2008 to 2011.

Reet Kokovkin - Manager of NGO Hiiumaa Co-operation Network and member of Kärđla City Council. Vice-chairman of Commission on Education since 2011. She supports field of young entrepreneurship and environment.

Secretariat

Annely Veevo - head of the secretariat of commission since autumn 2004. She organizes the work of commission and information exchange, she is UBC contact person in Kärđla City. Annely has long-term experiences in fields of youth work and education, has worked as a teacher. She is working in Kärđla Town Government as communication and project leader.

Kairi Priit - worked as secretary of commission from 2007 to 2009. Organized everyday operation of commission. Left for maternity leave.

Mirje Auksmann - worked as secretary of commission up to spring 2004. She started the operation of commission and organized in years 2000 to 2004 big international educational youth camp "The Meeting Point of Different Cultures".

What?

Commission on Education has organized two different types of activities. Some activities are long-term activities which repeat from year to year. Other activities are short-term activities which are organized for particular year.

Long term activities have been:

In years 2000-2004 project: "**The Meeting Point of Different Cultures**". It was an exchange program for students in age 15-18 years. Project gave a possibility for communication, the development of English speaking skills and motivation for learning foreign languages, culture and history around the Baltic. Students who participated in the project became aware of their own roots and understood better the differences between different cultures.

Since 2001: **Erken Laboratory Research School**. The project is ongoing. Every summer come to Erken Laboratory science students (around 15-20), who want to participate in pre-university *Research School*. The laboratory is beautifully situated in the countryside of Norrtälje, Sweden, immediately on the shore of Lake Erken.

The main objective of the Research School is to let the students work with scientific research. This has been done in the projects. Students themselves are responsible for asking and answering the scientific questions that appear. They plan and design field- and laboratory work, they work independently in the laboratories, and they report their results.

Short term activities:

Every year we will work out activities, to which we can hook up member cities of UBC, included one big meeting for all UBC member cities and 2-3 commission board meetings.

2004

Meeting in Pärnu

7 teachers met in Pärnu, Estonia to do the preparatory work for the summer camp "The Meeting Point of Different Cultures". The topics for the camp were as discussed music, dance, fashion and hairdo, objects and manners. Further discussions topics were also the total program of the camp, a review of the commission's work and the new UBC strategy.

Meeting in Norrtälje

Norrtälje municipality enjoyed a visit from the twin city of Kärddla on the 8-9 September 2004.

Topic for the discussions was signing the new twin city contract and also the further co-operations between the cities.

On commission meeting were four issues discussed:

- Educational planning co-ordination –educational boards, professionals; co-operation in teaching of languages as important subjects;
- Internet conference – Commission on Education team (Kärddla and Norrtälje) must discuss how it is possible to use this idea in the commission work.
- Three activities of the Commission on Education:
 - a) The project "Summer School for potential researchers in the field of aquatic ecology", summer 2005
 - b) The project "Meeting Point of Different Cultures", Summer 2005
 - c) Adult Education seminar, September 2005

2005

Meeting of the Commission on Education board in Norrtälje

There were two main activities of the Commission on Education introduced on the spring meeting in Norrtälje:

- The project "Summer School for potential researchers in the field of aquatic ecology" (June-July 2005)
- Life-long learning and styles of learning seminar on 7-8 September 2005

Also the possibility of EEA funding from the EU was discussed. This is a great possibility for the new member states in the European Union only, but participants can come from all member states in the Union.

2006

Photo competition "My Friend in My City"

UBC Commission on Education organized in co-work with Kärddla Town Government International Youth Photo Competition for young people in age 13 - 16 years. When choosing the theme for Competition, organizing team searched for a slogan, which could be understood in many ways. - chosen was "My friend in My City".

55 photos came in to the competition. Among them there were a lot of very good photos. The work of international jury was difficult, because the level of the photos was very even. After long and exhausting work were announced winners:

1. place - **Valdur Roosenvald** from Estonia
2. place - **Roberta Tranizaite** from Lithuania
3. place - **Anna Hodjutsenko** from Estonia



1st place



2nd place



3rd place

The Team of UBC Commission on Education printed Top 30 photos on paper and from them was organized a Photo Exhibition. The exhibition "My Friend in my City" was opened in Kärddla on 8th of October, 2006 and later was installed in Germany and Poland.

2007

Conference "What kind of guidance need the youngsters?" in Kärddla

On 9th October 2007 the Commission on Education had a conference "What kind of guidance need the youngsters?" in Kärddla. Around 100 participants were presented at the conference, most of them youngsters.

The conference was built up in 4 parts: policy, expectations of youngsters, expectations of enterprisers and expectations of universities.

Policy

From Republic of Estonia was represented Edgar Slümmer (Estonian Youthwork Center), who spoke about EU policy about youth and guidance. He said there is no EU policy in classical way but is only "White Paper: A New Impetus for European Youth."

Ülly Enn from European Youth Estonian Office spoke about attracting young unemployed through non-formal study.

Expectations of universities

Kurt Pettersson as a representative of Uppsala University spoke about what expects University from youngsters after High School. He brought out examples from youth research school in Norrtälje.

Expectations of youngsters

Students from Rodengymnasium in Norrtälje, Annika Barnard and Hogir Aslan, spoke about youngsters expectations before they starting to work.

"Are young people in Estonia ready to enter into job market?" was spoken from Anetta Kütt, Hiiumaa Youth Council; Margit Kagadze, Hiiumaa Councelling Center).

Expectations of enterprisers

From enterprisers were represented Mr Enn Veevo (M&P Nurst, Estonia), Ms Anu Pielberg (OÜ Hiiu Autotrans, Estonia) and Ms Liina Simm (Fontes Personnel Company). E.Veevo brought forth rhetorical question: "The Young Employee - Yes or No?" A.Pielberg spoke about "Does Young worker meet expectations of employer?" and L.Simm about expectations of employers in generally. Reflections from students about the conference were very positive.

2008

"Small Town Inhabitants - Educated or Uneducated People?"

Can small town inhabitant be successful? Has small town inhabitant a chance to make success in the world? What is success? What makes a person successful? What does it a person need for success? What does it mean education by success? What kind of possibilities small town inhabitant has for self education? Is the "real life" only in big towns? - were the questions for the youth essay competition in the end of 2008 that was arranged by Commission on Education. First prize went to Karl Haljasmets (Tartu, Estonia), second prize to Elīna Lītvīnova (Saldus rajons, Latvia) and third prize to Maciej Mateusz Wencel (Gdynia, Poland).

"Activities for school children after schooltime", international conference and concert in April in Tallinn. Hobby education in Estonia - 65!

On April 8th-9th 2008 the conference Hobby education - added value for youth and society took place and related topics were discussed in Kanutiaia Youth House in Tallinn (Estonia).

Among the participants there were heads of Estonian hobby schools, representatives of local

governments and also foreign guests. International organisations like the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), European Association for Leisure Time Institutions of Children and Youth (EAICY), International Movement for Leisure in Science and Technology (MILSET) and the European Network for the Promotion of Youth Leisure and Voluntary Activities and Recognition of Youth Non-formal and Informal Learning were presented. The topics were: non-formal education today, diverse nature of education, needs and opportunities, and added value for life. Participants visited Tallinn hobby schools and took part of anniversary concert where the best groups from hobby schools performed.

Annual Meeting in Stockholm

On 3rd of April the UBC Commission on Education had the Annual Meeting in Stockholm. Representatives from UBC member cities and UBC Commission on Environment and Energy were invited.

The representatives from commissions on environment and energy spoke of possibility of cooperation between commissions.

Youngsters from Kärđla presented an idea to organise in Autumn the international conference for small towns: "Small town citizens - educated or uneducated people?". The conference should concentrate for educational possibilities what citizens in small towns have: Where are our roots? What kind of culture do we have? What are our possibilities?

Mare Aasma from Kärđla conducted a brainstorm to find new ideas for next years. The main results were: youth involvement (arenas for exchange youth/ teachers Outdoor school, etc) and joint projects (non-formal education, projects for adults, CTE Catalogue, environmental sustainability, vocational education; practical seminars, camps, etc).

At the end the members of commission elected the chairman and vice-chairman for next two years. Kurt Pettersson, who has been a chairman from beginning of commission, will continue as chairman. Mare Aasma from Kärđla was elected to the post of vice chairman.

2009

Qualified Vocational Education, Norrtälje

A seminar was held in Norrtälje on 21-22 April 2009 with participation of 20 persons from Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania. According to the points of view and experiences that were presented in the seminar, the aim is to draw up a proposal/application to EU's Leonardo da Vinci-programme with alignment on a TOI-Transfer of Innovation- project on the main theme "Develop vocational skill considering the labour markets needs". The seminar was partly financed by the education Commission and partly by SIDA in Sweden.

Annual Meeting of the Commission on Education in Tallinn

Main topic of the meeting was to create a network of Youth Nature Schools and Centers around the Baltic Sea.

Kurt Pettersson opened the meeting and presented budget and activities project for 2009, and reports for 2008. The idea of a Network of Nature Schools and Centers was described by Annely Veevo, Head of Commission Secretariat. Possibilities for cooperation with other commissions and the Project of Lake Viktoria was presented by Guldbrand Skjönberg, Commission on Environment and Ilona-Evelyn Rannala talked about cooperation with Youth Commission. The day was finished with a Visit to the Nature House of Nõmme Youth House.

Nature school network – meeting in Riga

On 17 December 21 people met in Riga. It was a start for Nature School network. After welcoming words from Mare Aasma, Vice-Chairman of UBC Commission on Education, there was information about the Erken Laboratory and the Färsna Farm by Karin Beronius, Uppsala University and

Susanne Jansson, Norrtälje Nature conservation foundation. The Nordplus application for the nature schools network – terms and draft application was gone through by Karin Beronius, Uppsala university, Erken Laboratory.

In the meeting was prepared a joint project. It was planned to arrange three, one week long pedagogical courses for teachers during three years. In connection to the courses, course material, in the shape of a pedagogical handbook, will be constructed and also distributed to the different partner institutions and participants. The courses and the material will be on three different themes:

- Outdoor teaching
- Humans and nature, where nature is represented by 3 different biotopes – 1) water, 2) the forest and 3) acre land
- Pedagogic in teaching climatic effects

The Base for courses will be The Erken Laboratory and Färsna Farm Nature School in Norrtälje Region, Sweden. The course material will have different editors depending on focus of the course.

2010

Board meeting of the UBC Commission on Education in Stockholm

On the agenda there were 3 topics: activities 2010, budget 2010 and other questions. Participants were chairman Kurt Pettersson, Norrtälje, vice chairman Mare Aasma, Kärddla, Anders Olander, Norrtälje, Kadri Randmaa, Kärddla and head of commission secretariat Annely Veevo, Kärddla.

Research for education in UBC

The goal of the research was to have information about the education system in UBC countries. UBC Commission on Education is the first place where people will ask about education in UBC cities and countries. It is elementary to have such information. The Research comprises an overview about:

- 1) European Union and nation-state policy of education (commission will collect juridical documents, law etc for the policy);
- 2) school systems: steps of education, selections and choices. Syllabuses of education institutions in every country are needed as well as to establish contacts with UBC cities;
- 3) analysis and report.

Environmental project for youth

Kadri Randmaa from Kärddla started preparation of an environmental project "Interactive Baltic Sea Program for Youth". The concept was worked out during the year 2010. The project started on January 1, 2011.

Nature school network

Network of nature schools and centers applied for support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The deadline was 1st of March and reply came in the end of May. In the application there are 5 partners from different countries and coordinator is Karin Beronius, Norrtälje.

Promote young entrepreneurs

UBC has made proposals concerning the Baltic Sea Strategy in year 2008-2009. European Commission has made an action plan for the strategy where there are many different flagship projects to support the strategy. On the General Conference in Kristiansand last September, it was called for proposals for flagship projects where UBC could participate. Commissions and cities made around 30 proposals and UBC Board decided on four projects for UBC. Annely Veevo, Kärddla, made five proposals from the Commission on Education and Kärddla town and the Board of UBC decided to go forward with "Promote young entrepreneurs".

Vocational education

Anders Olander, Norrtälje was working on creating a network for vocational education, similar to the network for nature schools and centers. The aim was to apply for support in the Leonardo program.

Annual meeting in Tallinn

On 27-28 September the Commission on Education had its annual meeting in Tallinn. There was an overview of educational research, nature school network, the environmental project and the flagship project "Promote young entrepreneurs".

2011

Nature school network

Network of nature schools and centers started in august 2010. The 5 partners from different countries had one common course at Färsna Farm and Erken Laboratory in august 2011 with Karin Beronius, Norrtälje as coordinator.

Promote young entrepreneurs

Commission on education prepared a project "EDEN4YOU – Entrepreneurship Development through a European Network for Youngsters and Women". Lead partner is Province of Piacenza from Italy.

Main objective of the EDEN4YOU is to support the birth of a shared policy strategy for the development of the youngsters' and women's entrepreneurial activity and self-employment. EDEN4YOU intends to activate a network of European partners exchanging experiences dedicated to the identification and analysis of good practices for models of development policies targeting new entrepreneurship, confronting with knowledge society. The main focus is to create relationships with other common European realities, so the Component foresees in short:

- mapping of models and policies in Europe about the self-employment and self-entrepreneurial activities of youngsters and women, and their visibility in a joint database, by means of the detection and action of ad hoc working groups, including: policy makers, public officers, local stakeholders' representatives (category associations, universities, research centres, bank institutions, etc).
- This activity will take to the identification of good practices and start up of training sessions for the people part of the working groups, with the final aim to reach the consolidation of competences in the field (training being differentiated according to the user and mode – in class or eLearning)
- From training and detected best practices analysis, there will be the agreement on a shared innovative model for youth and women entrepreneurship, promoted by means of online guidelines.
- The last step will be the development of implementation plans in order to activate the transfer of detected knowledge and competences and experiment pilot actions on the basis of the good practices identified – application of the shared model.

Vocational education

Anders Olander continued working on creating a network for vocational education this year. He is still looking for contacts and interest from UBC member cities.

Environmental project for youth

Environmental project "Interactive Baltic Sea Program for Youth", led by Kadri Randma, Kärddla, started in the beginning of year.