



## UBC Cultural Cities Commission

### Activity Report October 2013 – September 2015

The 4th Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) will 11th-12th November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Board took part in the Annual Forum and had a board meeting.

The Commission opened Facebook page in October, <https://www.facebook.com/#!/ubccccc>

During the spring 2014 the commission worked with co-operation other cultural organization round the Baltic Sea. Board members took part in Culturability BSR – seminars in Rendsburg and in Riga. Culturability BSR aims to bring knowledge on culture as a driver for sustainable development – and through showcasing and demonstration encourage multiplication of good/best/next practices for culture and sustainability in the Baltic Sea Region and from that develop a number of high quality high impact projects in the field.

Commission Board meeting was held in Rendsburg during Culturability BSR – seminar.

The Chairperson Lone Leth Larsen resigned in May and vice chairperson Jaana Simula continued as a chairperson.

The Commission arranged Midnordic Culture Days 2014 in cooperation with the provinces of Satakunta and Ostrobothnia. The seminar was held in cities Pori and Rauma during 25th -26th September). Seminar is aimed for cultural field experts, researches, cultural organizations, students and others interested in cultural issues. The seminar had 64 participants from 5 countries: Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. The topic of the seminar was World Heritage and issues of cultural, natural, industrial and intangible heritage. The seminar consisted of lectures, workshops, excursions and cultural program.

The board took part in the EUSBSR PA Culture meeting in Tallin on the 13-14<sup>th</sup> November and had board meeting.

Vice chairperson took part in following seminars as a panelist: 5th EUSBSR meeting in Turku 3-4th June 2014, 15-17th October BSSSC meeting in Jurmala, 13-14th November 2014 EUSBSR PA Culture “Learning from the past – Looking into the Future” in Tallin, 1-2th December, Round Table “Baltic Sea Regional Identity: Is it only a CBSS long term priority?” in Stockholm and also took part in Cool North - Cultural Diplomacy in Nordic Countries 8-9th October in Copenhagen.

#### **2015**

Year 2015 started with the work of the new UBC. The new culture commission – now UBC Cultural Cities Commission presented the Vision and Action Plan made in Tallin in November 2014 at the UBC 72nd General Meeting in Kemi 26th of February, Finland

The first board meeting was during the International conference “Cultural and Creative Crossovers - Partnering culture with other sectors to maximize creativity, growth and innovation “ March 11-12 th 2015 in Riga.

The VI Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, 'Achieving e-Quality by Connecting the Region', 15-16th of June in Jürjala. The chairperson took part in the annual forum and 5th EUSBSR PA Culture Steering Group Meeting.

The Vision and Action Plan of the Cultural Cities Commission was presented at the 73rd Executive Board meeting, Dolina Charlotty, 10-14th June 2015.

The second board meeting was during the Baltic Sea Culture Gathering, 15 -17.9. Gdańsk, The Cultural Gathering was arranged by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the main event was the conference "Culture as a driving force for social and economic development of the region". The chairperson also took part in the 6th EUSBSR PA Culture Steering Group Meeting.

During 4-8<sup>th</sup> of November the Cesis Culture Department (Latvia) made a professional visit to Pori, Finland in September as a part of Nordic-Baltic Mobility program.

## Action Plan

### 2015

- UBC 72nd General Meeting in Kemi 25.-27.2.Finland. Presentation of the action plan of Cultural Cities Commission
- International conference "CULTURAL AND CREATIVE CROSSOVERS" - Partnering culture with other sectors to maximize creativity, growth and innovation 11.-12.3.2015 Riga and first board meeting of the UBC Cultural Cities Commission 12th March in Riga
- The VI Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, 'Achieving e-Quality by Connecting the Region', 15-16th of June in Jūrmala, 5th EUSBSR PA Culture Steering Group Meeting.
- Baltic Sea Culture Gathering, 15 -17.9. Gdańsk, arranged by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland, UBC CCC board meeting. 6th EUSBSR PA Culture Steering Group Meeting.
- UBC XIII General Conference in Gdynia 27.-30.10.2015, UBC CCC board meeting
- Cesis Culture Department (Latvia), professional visit to Pori (Finland) in October, Nordic-Baltic Mobility program. (Vision point 1, Network based cultural cooperation)
- Implementing the Vision presented in UBC Kemi meeting, working co-operative project
- Other activities that strengthen our Vision 2015-2017

### 2016

Board meetings (3-4), including a seminar /annual meeting jointly with partners. Taking part in conferences and seminar that enhance the Vision

- Planning and launching local producer project together with a partner
- Strengthen our communication to and with UBC member's cities in the cultural area with a special focus on our Russian member cities St. Petersburg and Kalingrad
- Empowering Children's Culture
- Co-working with the UBC Commissions

### 2017

Board meetings (3-4), including a seminar /annual meeting jointly with partners. Taking part in conferences and seminar that enhance the Vision

- Local producer project together with a partner
- Strengthen our communication to and with UBC member's cities in the cultural area with a special focus on our Russian member cities St. Petersburg and Kalingrad
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## **The vision of UBC Cultural Cities Commission**

The commission wants to work strategically and cross border with central national and international bodies dealing with policy making for sustainable and inclusive development within the Baltic Sea strategy and EU 2020 strategy. The Cultural Cities Commission wants to be voice for culture on local level in order to have the cultural issues on local level heard and taken into account in all policies for developing the local level on regional, national and international context.

In order to realize the vision four objectives has been developed: 1. Network based cultural cooperation, 2. Professionalization of the cultural field, 3. Strategic partnerships, 4. Research

### **1. Network based cultural cooperation:**

- Develop the exchange program even further, as this program has 3 aims, namely to stimulate professionalization, to develop the UBC cultural network, and to stimulate project making between the UBC cities.
- To promote a more intensive cooperation between the UBC cities on cultural level which has as criteria the cooperation aspect
- To promote the cities to invite cultural project from the other UBC cities for local events like festivals, celebrations or part of the daily programs

### **2. Professionalization of the cultural field:**

- Exchange program to simulate the exchange of knowledge and experience through cooperation
- Sharing experiences at meetings and conferences
- Sharing new knowledge in newsletters, social media and the like

### **3. Strategic partnerships. Partners we want to develop contact to:**

- Nordic Council
- EUSBSR PA Culture
- Ars Baltica
- Others

### **4. Research**

Research is necessary for the cultural field to promote the necessity of culture. We would like to develop programs together with;

- Nordic council
- National or regional universities
- City authorities
- Professional research institutes

Jaana Simula  
Chairwoman of the Commission

1 October 2015