



## UBC Youthful Cities Commission

### Activity Report October 2013 - October 2015

#### **Youthful cities commission's Organization of work.**

In the Meeting in Gdynia, Poland 29<sup>th</sup> of October – 01<sup>st</sup> of November 2012 it was decided that Tallinn will continue as a chair city of the UBC- commission on youth issues until the end of 2013. **Gävle and Turku** were elected as new vice-chair cities until Mariehamn conference. In Mariehamn 2013 it was decided that Gävle would be the next chair and Turku youth services will continue as a vice-chair. Due to some organization obstacle Gävle was unable to take the position of the Chair and Turku youth services became the chair of the UBC Commission on Youth Issues and Gävle remained as a Vice-chair. The secretariat and administration of the Commission are located in Turku and coordinated by Turku youth services.

#### **Mariehamn youth conference:**

In 2013 Mariehamn youth conference was held parallel with the UBC General Conference. The conference brought together 76 young people and youth workers to discuss the youth unemployment with Baltic Sea region's politicians. The main theme of the conference. - "Baltic Youth Project" youth-exchange did mainly involve participants from local youth-councils, and it did prepare the participants for meeting with politicians at the General Assembly of the Union of the Baltic Cities, which at the same took place in Mariehamn, Åland Islands with the overall topic "Youth-unemployment"

The young people arrived a couple of days before the adults and planned a wide range of activities in order to influence the politicians and in order to make the meeting and the dialogue also be a fun and interesting one for the youth.

#### **The Consolidation of the UBC Commissions**

The UBC General Conference in Mariehamn authorized and obliged the Executive Board to decide on the new Commissions' structure to enter into force on 1 January 2015. The Executive Board, submitted the proposal to create Commissions thematically and operationally. The improvement of efficiency of newly structured Commissions was strongly emphasized. The Board meeting in Växjö approved the following Commissions:

- Planning Cities - working on integrated planning for sustainable, inclusive, attractive and prospering cities, through peer review exchange;
- Sustainable cities - dealing with environment, energy, smart urban mobility;
- Safe cities - concerned with civil protection issues - prevention, preparedness, response, restoration;
- Youthful cities - engaged in promoting interests of the young;
- Smart and prospering cities - dealing with business development, employment, co-creation with researchers/universities, procurement policies, links between education and the labour market, smart citizens and governance, etc.;
- Cultural cities - working on issues linked to attractiveness, creativity, cultural heritage including maritime heritage, etc.;
- Inclusive and healthy cities - engaged in smart social and health services and new solutions, social cohesion and inclusiveness, diversity, equality, healthy habits including sport, etc.

In 2014 the member cities were asked to nominate a representative to each Commission they are going to participate during the period 2015-2017.

## **Commission meetings during the period October 2013 – September 2015.**

### **Commission meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania 1<sup>st</sup> of April – 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2014**

On the 1st-4th of April 20 youngsters and 16 civil servants from Kolding, Guldborgsund, Karlstad, Falun, Gävle, Turku, Kotka, Tallinn, Maardu, Kuressaare, Riga, Liepaja, Kaunas and Gdańsk gathered in the city of Kaunas for the spring meeting of the UBC Commission on Youth Issues. The main aim of the meeting was to develop a strategy and action plan for the period of 2015-2017 when the cities of Turku and Gävle will take the responsibility of being chairs. On the arrival evening participants were invited to a reception in the Kaunas city hall by the mayor of Kaunas where the vice mayor of Kaunas and Hasan Habib the chair of the COYI opened the meeting of COYI. On the second day of the meeting all the participating cities got a chance to give a presentation about things the others could learn from their municipalities and the challenges they face regarding youth. The participating cities had to reflect on the inspiring youth projects and programs organized by their municipalities and the challenging issues they deal with concerning youth. The presentations gave a good overview of the current situation on the youth work field in Baltic Sea Region and provided many interesting discussions and ideas. The rest of the first day was dedicated to analyzing the existing strategy and action plan and brainstorming about partnership, burning issues on youth and values and principles among COYI. The second day's sessions gave the participants a good preparation for starting working on the new strategy and action plan. After many discussion rounds the draft of COYI's strategy and action plan for 2015-2017 was finished and adopted unanimously.

On the last day of the meeting Commission on Youth Issues created a working group for the next Youth Conference which will be held alongside UBC's General Conference. The commission decided on having their autumn meeting in November in Riga which is this year's European Cultural Capital. The autumn commission meeting is open for all the UBC member cities.

### **UBC - Commission on Youth Issues (CoYI) meeting held in Riga, Latvia. 8-11 October 2014**

In Riga 30 Young people and civil servants were gathered to shed light on issues as non-formal learning, social exclusion and also to talk about the UBC General Conference in Gdynia which will be held in there 2015.

14 cities from eight countries participated in the meeting and the cities were as follow: Falun, Gdynia, Guldborgsund, Gävle, Jögeva, Karlstad, Klaipeda, Kolding, Kristiansand, Liepāja, Riga, Tallinn, Turku and Valbo. The main topics of the meeting were non-formal learning, social exclusion and partnership building.

### **UBC – Youthful cities Commission (YCC) Open Meeting in Kolding, Denmark May 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Members of Youthful Cities Commission gathered for a meeting in Kolding, Denmark at the end of May. The topic for the meeting was gender equality. There were participants from 8 different countries and 15 cities from the Baltic region: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany.

On the arrival evening a guided tour were given in the city in which participants had the opportunity to listen to the history of Kolding and also saw interesting places and buildings. In the evening it was time for the welcoming dinner by the host city. A welcoming dinner was served to all the participants. Many had already taken part in earlier Youthful Cities Commission meetings but also many new faces were welcomed. The next 2 days the participants focused on gender equality issue and Gdynia Youth Conference.

On the last day on 29<sup>th</sup> of May an evaluated the meeting was organized and a visit in Koldings library services were organized.

## **Other activities**

Chair city has been focusing on introducing the Commission work more widely and holding meetings in UBC countries from where the interest towards the Commission work has been moderate. As a result of the UBC- Commission's consolidation process 33 cities have joined the UBC Youthful Cities Commission. At the same time it has been important to encourage already active cities who want to introduce their youth policy and youth work and are expressing willingness to host the meetings when locations are chosen.

There were 2 finalizing meetings held for the transfer of the commission's chair position in 2013. One took place in Turku and the other one in Tallinn.

In 2014 & 2015 UBC Youthful cities commission's representatives participated at UBC executive board meetings in Tampere (Finland), Växjö, Sweden and in Poland.

Ongoing Skype meetings, e-mail exchanges and telephone discussions were organized to prepare the commission's meetings and youth conferences.

## **Finance**

COYI received 11000€ from UBC Presidium in 2014. The amount of unused money was 4535,67€ in 2014 which were transferred to 2015. UBC decided that the commission on youthful cities shall receive 11500 EUR for activities in 2015. As we had 4535,67 EUR left from the last year's budget on the Commission account in Turku. Therefore the transfer amount was 6964,33 EUR to Turku youth service (the chair of the commission).

## **Information spreading**

Commission has updated web-page [www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org) and has account in Facebook page.

## Action Plan

### **Influencing youth policies in UBC cities and strengthening of partnership with stakeholders**

- To spread results, decisions and offers to other UBC commissions and involve them in the work of COYI
- Promote and increase awareness of UBC and COYI network among UBC member cities and organizations working on the youth work field
- Creation and implementation of a communication strategy
- Involving new cities in COYI

### **Promoting youth participation and combating youth exclusion and other barriers**

- To let youth express their values, opinions and messages
- Youth is important resource to invest into
- To promote youth co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region and to work towards youth involvement
- Open more dialogs between the youth, adults, including politicians
- Having a youth observer in the executive board

### **Platforms, methods for increasing co-operation and learning**

- To give platform for discussions on youth issues in UBC
- Surveyed and themed commission meetings
- More moderation steps and different methods used during Commission and other meetings, trusting the youth to arrange moderation tasks of the meetings
- Share best practices
- To strengthen youth as a resource in Baltic Sea Region. More co-operation between the UBC Cities

### **COYI working approach**

- team work
- trust and honesty
- innovative
- equality and solidarity
- quick responding approach

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