



UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
76TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
Kaunas, Lithuania, 7 June 2016

AGENDA (draft as of 30.05.2016)

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.
2. Welcome words by the Mayor of Kaunas, presentation of the City of Kaunas.
3. Application for membership from the City of Darłowo, Poland. Presentation of Darłowo. (application is attached)
4. UBC Work Plan to Support Youth Employment and Well-Being, Matti Mäkelä, Chair, UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being.

In 2013 UBC established a Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being to collect best-practices and highlight the challenges and solutions in the field. The Task Force produced final report called 'The Good, The Bad and The Next Practices'. The report serves as a handbook for professionals and others interested in the topic. It presents concrete suggestions and raises questions to be solved in the future and is a valuable tool to combat youth unemployment and marginalization.

In February 2016 the report was sent out by secretariat to all kind of stakeholders, including respective ministries, EU institution and organisation, and received very positive responses and proposals of cooperation in this important field. The report sums up the results of the two year's work of 27 experts from 15 member cities and six countries.

Draft UBC Work Plan to Support Youth Employment and Well-Being is attached.

5. 'Youth leisure time as one of the instruments that prevents social and economic exclusion', Lena Hernandez Modin, Gävle, Chair of Youthful Cities Commission.
6. 'Developing an integrated and attractive urban entrance to the town centre, on the example of the city of Söderhamn', Mara Liepa, Riga, Member of Steering Committee, Planning Cities Commission.
7. Introduction of the concept of Open Spaces, Jarosław Józefczyk, Vice-Chair, Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission.

Open space is a place where a community can get together, work and play together, talk to each other and discuss matters important for the community, and act together in order to make a their living better.



8. Baltic Executive Programme “Unboxing the sandbox”, representative of the Swedish Institute.

The Baltic Executive Programme: Unboxing the Sandbox is a new leadership programme designed to help organisations unlock the full potential of transnational cooperation. The programme is initiated and funded by the Swedish Institute as part of its work with Horizontal Action Capacity; development and recruitment has taken place together with the Norden Association, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission and the Union of the Baltic Cities.

The programme targets the local and regional level in the BSR; in particular senior elected officials (politicians) and the head of administrations (administrators), representing the strategic level of “owners”, with the position to redesign existing governance structure that has endorsed the “sandboxing” of transnational cooperation.

The programmes are explicitly non-technical in nature, seeking to empower officials and administrators to be more active in the world of projects that is often dominated by project specialists with their own discourse of project terms and acronyms.

A result of this cooperation is that more than 15 UBC members are enrolled in the pilot three module programme together with an equal number of representatives from regional bodies in the eight EU-member countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The first module took place in Warsaw (22-24 February), the second in Riga (11-13 April) and the final module will take place in Tallinn (13-14 June).

9. UBC work on refugees issue.

9.1 Proposals from Task Force on Refugees how UBC could follow the results of the conference on refugees in Rostock and promote exchange of know-how between the member cities in question.

The UBC conference on the refugees situation in the Baltic Sea cities was held in Rostock on 15-16 March 2016. The conference gathered around 70 civil servants from the region. The conference aimed at sharing ideas and practical solutions on how to integrate the newcomers.

The conference adopted the resolution entitled “Refugees - a challenge and a chance for the cities of the Baltic Sea Region”. The resolution calls for solidarity between EU countries and stresses that the UBC cities take the immigration not only as a challenge but also as a chance for further development – all inhabitants contribute to the local well-being.

We are aware that the refugees’ integration process is long-lasting one and should get continuous attention. The conference was a first such opportunity to present the cities’ experiences and also a good starting point to further discussions. The UBC’s idea is to collect the best practices and solutions and spread them across the region and Europe.

At the 75th UBC Executive Board meeting in Rostock held on 16 March 2016 in conjunction with the conference on refugees, the Board decided to authorise the Presidium to create a Task Force



to discuss how UBC could follow the results of the conference on refugees in Rostock and promote exchange of know-how between the member cities in question. Presidium created a Task Force which met in Kaunas on 6 June 2016.

9.2 Baltic Cities Bulletin 'Refugees - a challenge and a chance for the cities of the Baltic Sea Region'.

The latest issue of the Baltic Cities Bulletin is devoted to the refugees' integration. The cities share their experience in welcoming the newcomers, present best practices and measures that can be helpful in the integration process, e.g. education or access to the labour market. Also, the speakers from the Rostock conference contribute with their thoughts and advices. The Bulletin brings also the information on latest UBC meetings and activities, news from the member cities and more.

10. Information from the Task Force on implementation of the UBC Strategy 2016-2021.

UBC Strategy 2016-2021 was adopted at the UBC General Conference in Gdynia 29 October 2016. Later on it was slightly adjusted after receiving comments from member cities and commissions. At the 74th UBC Executive Board meeting in Rostock held on 16 March 2016 the Board decided to authorise the Presidium to create a Task Force to discuss implementation plan of the Strategy. Presidium created the Task Force to be chaired by Strategy Coordinator.

11. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, UBC involvement.

- EUSBSR Horizontal Action 'Capacity' work programme 1 May 2016 – 30 April 2018

Horizontal Action Capacity (HA Capacity) was established in 2015 as part of the second revision of the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

The aim of horizontal action 'Capacity' is to offer capacity building support for the implementing stakeholders, using multilevel governance as an overall guiding principle. In practice, this will be carried out by means of:

- developing and operating a capacity building platform for the implementing stakeholders
- involving and utilizing networks across sectors in the Baltic Sea region, supporting involvement of local- and regional authorities, NGOs, business and academia.

The HA Capacity is coordinated by the Baltic Sea NGO Network, the Union of the Baltic Cities and the Swedish Institute. (work programme is attached)

- 7th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the BSR, Stockholm, 8-9 November 2016, proposals of seminars to be co-organised by UBC
(proposals are attached)

12. Information from Communications Manager on the new UBC website.

13. Responsibilities of the Secretariat.

According to UBC Internal Regulations the responsibilities of the Secretariat include, inter alia:



- administration of the institution
- production and distribution of Union documents
- organisation of Union meetings and events
- management of Union finances
- publication of the UBC bulletin, other publications and promotional materials
- Union representation at conferences and meetings (if delegated)
- assistance to Commissions and other Union bodies, as appropriate
- other tasks commissioned by the General Conference, the Executive Board or the President.

The Secretariat is also responsible for updating the UBC website and for the social media namely UBC facebook site.

Communications Manager is also part of the Secretariat team.

14. Any other business.

14.1 Cooperation between UBC and Carbon Disclosure Project.

15. Next 77th UBC Executive Board meeting.

Proposal to hold the Board meeting on 10 November 2016, in connection with the 7th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the BSR, Stockholm, 8-9 November 2016.

The documents are available at:

<http://www.ubc.net/documentation,58,3539.html>