

REPORTS AND ACTION PLANS OF THE UBC COMMISSIONS AND NETWORKS

1. Commission on Business Cooperation
2. Commission on Culture
3. Commission on Education
4. Commission on Environment
5. Commission on Health and Social Affairs
6. Commission on Information Society
7. Commission on Sport
8. Commission on Tourism
9. Commission on Transportation
10. Commission on Urban Planning
11. Women's Network
12. Network on Youth Issues
13. Logistics Task Force

COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

General Information/Projects

Tampere, when chairing the Commission, was asked to organise a project:

Developing a Technology Park and Business Incubator Concept in Lithuanian Cities.

The overall aim of that project was to promote and support innovative entrepreneurship in the cities of Klaipėda and Panevezys by improving the services of existing regional support structures, new business development services developed for research-based and technology-oriented small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-up entrepreneurs.

Klaipėda Regional Development Agency was the project leader and the Baltic Institute of Finland was the Finnish coordinator of the project, which was financed by PHARE CBC Small Project Fund (Lithuania).

At this time this “soft” project is successfully finished. There is a strategy for the development of the Science and Technology Parks in Lithuania prepared as a result of this project. The Finnish side of the project has prepared their recommendations and suggestions regarding the creation of infrastructure, laboratory equipment, etc. for the Science and Technology Parks in Klaipėda and Panevezys. Some other applications connected with Science and Technology Parks in Klaipėda and Panevezys were submitted to PHARE 2002 and this might be treated as some sort of continuation of this project.

Commission Meeting, Växjö, June 10-12, 2004

The meeting, chaired by the Commission chairman, Lennart Gårdmark, Head of Växjö’s International Office, was held at the Videum Science Park on the Växjö University Campus. Representatives from 15 cities (Luleå, Växjö, Karlskrona, Kolding, Turku, Tampere, Cesis, Tallinn, Johvi, Elbląg, Klaipėda, Panevezys, Šiauliai, Vilnius and Kaunas) participated.

The presentations covered subjects such as:

- Videum Science Park , establishment and growth
- “Dynamic Växjö”, Växjö City Branding
- InternetCity, the regional IT Cluster, and Web Service Competence Center
- BioEnergy Småland – Expo Växjö, the regional bioenergy export cluster: city, university and companies
- Växjö University including walk (or rather run in the rain) through the campus
- Swedish Business Incubators, examples from the Videum Science Park
- Swedish Industrial Design, promotion of innovation and design
- Young Entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship for the future
- Accelerators versus Incubators

During the second day subjects, decided during earlier meetings, were discussed and representatives from the various visiting cities made very interesting presentations. The new topics on how to attract the EU Structural funds in order to accelerate the development of business cooperation sector, the concept of conglomerate between cities, cooperation between universities and private companies, were presented.

The presentations and discussions concerning the attraction of the EU Structural funds, preparing the documentation, applying for funds, making appropriate projects, as topical for new EU member states, have influenced the decision to continue the theme in the next Annual Meeting of the UBC Commission on Business Cooperation in Tallinn.

The new members gave introductory information about their cities and Tallinn extended an invitation to the 2005 meeting. Turku declared a willingness to host the 2006 meeting.

Finally the Växjö Deputy City Architect covered the importance of City Planning for Business Development and a tour of the city was made ending at St. Sigfrid Junior College where a biodynamic lunch was served.

BCC Secretariat in Kaunas

In the year 2004 a BCC Secretariat was established in Kaunas City. The administration of Kaunas City has appointed Mr. Tomas Darandovas, Senior Executive of the Foreign Relations Department, as the contact person for the Business Commission Secretariat: tomasd@kaunas.sav.lt, phone: +370 37 424011. The Secretariat seeks to enhance the business cooperation among the member cities of the UBC and to coordinate various activities related to this field.

Commission Meeting in Tallinn, May 15-17, 2005

The meeting, chaired by the Commission of the Meeting, Mr. Mart Repnau, Business Development Manager of Tallinn City Enterprise Board, was held at several places, which added more dynamics to our interesting and useful meeting. Representatives from 16 cities (Cesis, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Kolding, Naestved, Narva, Panevezys, Šiauliai, Tallinn, Tampere, Tartu, Turku, Vaasa, Viljandi, Vordingborg, Växjö) participated.

The Deputy Mayor of Tallinn opened the session by making a short welcoming speech and after that the Chairman Mr. Mart Repnau shortly presented to the participants the main objective of the Meeting – "to meet, to learn, to socialize" – giving a good start for a productive work of the day.

The further presentations were made on the following topics:

- Estonia's perspectives in EU (economy, tax system, foreign trade, infrastructures)
- "Dream City for Every Businessman", Tallinn City Branding
- How to Promote Entrepreneurship in the City – The Tallinn Entrepreneurship Day
- Estonia – Innovative IT solutions (e-services, m-services, ID-ticket)
- Development of e-services in the city

After a delicious lunch and a short trip to the next venue in Tallinn University of Technology the session continued on:

- From companies to the citizens (later on announced as a "Star of the Meeting"), penetration of the IT services into the Healthcare Field (doc@HOME concept) and advantages/disadvantages of the Estonian Market.
- TEHNOPOL – Tallinn Technology Park in the process.

After the sessions were over participants visited the Mustamäe Business Incubator and got convinced that everything works in practice, not only in papers.

In the evening participants of the BizCom meeting had an unforgettable possibility to feel the Spirit of a Medieval Merchants and Governors in an ancient Tallinn Town Hall, where a palatable dinner was served and where everybody could enjoy a nice company of a friend or colleague in a unique surrounding. Hundreds of photos were made before starting the dinner.

The Second day was meant for subjects, decided during the previous meetings and the participants had a chance to listen to many interesting and relevant presentations made by representatives from the various visiting cities. Cities from new EU member states (Tallinn, Kaunas, Šiauliai) have shared their basic experience on how to attract the EU Structural funds and how to handle it in order to accelerate the development of business sector and also about establishing Science and Technology Parks (Klaipėda). Cities from older EU member states made some practical advises and also made

presentations about new concepts of business incubators (Kolding), e-services (Tampere) and how to make a City attractive for International Events (Turku).

There were different opinions concerning the topics of the future meetings that were basically connected with a different experience of the states of living in EU. These discussions have influenced other discussions about changing the structure of the Commission. It was decided that during the next year members of the Commission will have to decide if it is sensible to make an appropriate restructuring.

Conclusions made: There is no significant gap between East and West anymore. All cities can learn something useful no matter how long they are in the EU. Narva has noticed that they have got much bigger benefit from the Commission on Business Cooperation meeting that ever before. According the Kolding representatives, few years ago Western members of UBC were only providing information to the Eastern partners, but now there is an exchange of information on equal basis. Representatives from Danish cities have emphasized that only working in joined structures we can achieve good results because going on our own we are too small and have limited markets.

ACTION PLAN 2006-2007

At the end of the Meeting members were invited to the next Commission on Business Communication meeting that will be held in Turku in 2006. Also Estonian City of Narva was chosen as a preliminary BizCom meeting place in 2007.

Members of the Commission have appointed some topics that should be discussed in Turku next year:

- Problems and experience of implementing the projects that gained the EU support
- Development of current and creating new e-Services
- Establishment and development of science and technology parks
- Establishment and development on business incubators
- Establishment of strategies and partnerships to gain support from EU Structural funds for current projects
- Best practices of strategic planning in local level, regional cooperation, conglomerate between the cities
- Encouragement of young entrepreneurs
- Public private partnership
- Development of ship building industry
- Improvement of the business climate in UBC member cities

However, the Secretariat of the Commission on Business Cooperation will have to prepare a questionnaire concerning the restructuring of the Commission and other important questions this way allowing members of the Commission to express their will.

After the Meeting was over everybody could say that we have fulfilled the objective of the Meeting more than 100 percent – we have met and had a pleasant time with each other, we have learnt and gained great benefit and we have definitely socialized in a hospitable, lavish and prosperous Tallinn.

Tomas Darandovas
Head of Secretariat of the Commission
City of Kaunas

COMMISSION ON CULTURE

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

UBC Commission on Culture Board Meeting, Tukums, Latvia, 19-21 March, 2004

The first meeting of the new board of the UBC Commission on Culture (CoC) took place in Tukums. Tukums Museum and its director, Mrs Agrita Ozola, hosted the event.

The board discussed potential topics and sites for the CoC's annual general meetings in 2004-2006. The topic proposed for this year was the means and methods available for sourcing funds from the European Union for local cultural events.

Ars Baltica Forum, Gdańsk, Poland, 23–25 September 2004

The Ars Baltica Forum in Gdansk was the venue where policy makers, cultural operators and artists discussed the conditions and challenges for cultural co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The UBC General Secretary, Paweł Żaboklicki, the Chairman of the Commission on Culture Sławomir Szafrąński and editor of the *Mare Articum* magazine, Magdalena Lewoc, were represented the UBC during this meeting.

Mrs Lewoc presented *Mare Articum*, which since 1999 has held the 'Ars Baltica' logo. Mr Szafrąński proposed to organise a meeting of cultural networks that are active in the Baltic Sea Region. A proposal was made to organise it together with the Les Rencontres association based in Paris at the beginning of 2006 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The CoC vowed to take a more pro-active stance in developing the network of cultural institutions in UBC-member cities. This includes more frequent correspondence with city officials and those from local institutions about ongoing and upcoming cultural events and efforts to improve the frequency of information updates on the UBC web site.

UBC Commission on Culture Board Meeting, Riga, Latvia, 15 – 16 October 2004

This CoC Board meeting took place in connection with the 41st meeting of the UBC Executive Board in Riga. The CoC Board discussed economic, secretariat and actual projects. It was decided that the next session should focus on museum management.

UBC Commission on Culture Board Meeting, Visby, Sweden, 14-16 April 2005

Because of changes in Szczecin's Municipal Office this year, Sławomir Szafrąński, chairman of the CoC since 1993, was forced to resign from this post. Thus, the chairmanship and structure of the CoC Board were among the main topics of this meeting.

The members of the Board chose Tarja Hautamäki, Head of Culture Department of Vaasa, Finland, to be the new CoC chairman and Olov Gibson, Cultural Official from the Department of Culture and Leisure in Visby, Sweden, was chosen as the vice-chairman. The CoC secretariat will continue to be run by the city of Szczecin's Culture and Cultural Heritage Department and Mrs Marlena Chybowska-Butler.

In addition to electing a new chair, the board discussed the CoC annual sessions and other activities that are planned for this year.

***Metropolis*, National Museum in Szczecin, June - July 2005**

This international art exhibition was organised under the auspices of the CoC and opened during the 13th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Szczecin, June, 9-10, 2005.

Artists that took part in *Metropolis* exhibition included:

Danuta Dąbrowska (PL), Miklos Gaal (FIN), Ryszard Górecki (PL), Per Hüttner (S), Egle Rakauskaite (LIT), Robert Rumas (PL), Ari Saarto (FIN), Hein Spellmann (D), Brunon Tode (PL), Twożywo – Captain Europe Society (PL).

Working from the premise that the city defines a matrix on which social processes realise themselves, *Metropolis* presented works that look for relations among spatial form and social structure. The featured artists investigate the city as an organism in which various attitudes and opinions are created and in which a range of interactions – from co-operation to aggression – take place. The exhibition touched on the palpable tensions in modern cities and both the beauty and the pathologies that arise from them.

ACTION PLAN 2006 – 2007

The newest initiative of the CoC Board is the creation of the **UBC Cultural Prize**, which will recognize extraordinary achievement by artistic groups or associations working in the field of cultural activity in UBC member cities. The Board is working now on details, rules and application forms and anticipates the first prize to be awarded in 2006.

The CoC will continue to develop network of cultural institutions and organizations in UBC member cities.

Annual sessions of the UBC Commission on Culture:

- **November 2005, St.Petersburg – Isvara, Russia**

The theme of the 8th CoC Session is “The role and value of museums in the modern world.”

- **23-26 November 2006, Vaasa, Finland**

This session will be devoted to cultural festivals and organised in conjunction with the *Wild Life International Film Festival*. The working title of the 9th CoC session is '**Cultural Festivals as Strengtheners of Local Identity**' and it is aimed at both festival producers and municipal culture officials. Vaasa will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2006.

- **The 6th Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art ‘Habitat’, December 2005 – January 2006, National Museum in Szczecin**

This edition of the Baltic Biennial will concentrate on intimate, deeply personal ways that urban dwellers model and shape the social space.

- **The 7th Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art will be organised in 2007**

Mare Articum Online project, the bi-annual magazine is going to be transferred to an Internet-based platform.

Marlena Chybowska-Butler
Secretariat of the Commission, Szczecin

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 - AUGUST 2005

I. Introduction

Mr. Kurt Pettersson, Norrtälje and Mr. Ivo Eesmaa, Kärđla chair the Commission.

The Secretariat of the Commission on Education is located in Kärđla, Estonia. Secretary is Mrs Annely Veevo.

Since the last General Conference in Riga, the activities of the Commission on Education has been focused on projects with young people. The project called "The Meeting Point of Different Cultures" built upon the idea of "UBC school-classes". Secondly, the project idea of Summer School, for young researchers in the field of aquatic ecology, was discussed in the meetings and was favoured by meeting participants.

Exchange of experiences has been a part of every meeting. The teachers and politicians/civil servants have been active to share their experiences in the field of education.

There were discussions about the needs of seminars for the teachers and decisions were taken to have a seminar on September 7-8, 2005 in Norrtälje Sweden. The topics for the meeting were decided to be mentorship and flexible teaching, offered to all school teachers around the Baltic Sea.

II. Meetings

2.1 Meeting of the Commission on Education in Norrtälje, September 8-9, 2004

The meeting of the Commission took place in Norrtälje. Participants were Mr Ivo Eesmaa, Dr Kurt Pettersson, Mrs Annely Veevo and Ms Cecilia Karlberg.

There were four issues discussed:

1. Commission on Education – general discussion/views and experiences of other exchange activities.

In summary, the issues which the commission discussed:

- Educational planning co-ordination – educational boards, professionals; co-operation in teaching of languages as important subjects;
- Internet conference – Commission on Education team (Kärđla and Norrtälje) must discuss how it is possible to use this idea in the commission work; the idea is important today and will be important in the future;
- Three activities of the Commission on Education, which were presented in the meeting to be organised during 2005 – the presidium finds them very interesting and needed.

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

2.2 Meeting of the Commission on Education presidium in Norrtälje, April 23 2005

It was four people from Norrtälje and Kärđla that had a meeting to discuss Commission's activities in 2005. The Chairman Mr. Kurt Pettersson and Vice-Chairman Mr. Ivo Eesmaa took part in the meeting along with Secretary Annely Veevo, and Ms Cecilia Karlberg. The presidium decided to go on with the Summer Research School project in year 2005. The practical matters of the Commission on Education were decided and also the agenda for the annual meeting on September 9 in Norrtälje 2005.

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

- The project "Summer School for potential researchers in the field of aquatic ecology" (June-July 2005) - see below the introduction of the project (3.2)

- Life-long learning and styles of learning seminar 7-8 September 2005

There will be a two-days seminar 7-8 September lead by teachers and headmasters from Norrtälje on flexible learning starting on September 7. It will start with an introduction about the Swedish school system and a possibility to attend a lesson. The seminars will also include distance education, tailor-made educational programs, mentorship, communication systems and infrastructure. Special attention will be given to styles of learning and integration of subjects. We also intend to include an excursion to the new Campus Roslagen in Norrtälje with several higher education programs.

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 can have participants from all member states in the Union.

III. Activities of the Commission on Education

3.1 The project "*Meeting Point of Different Cultures*" (August 20-25, 2004)

The project has been organised 4 times: in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The aim of the project is to become aware of participants' own roots and to understand the differences between different cultures. In present year they study the history and culture of native places from the period 1940s to 1960s. It's a possibility for communication, the development of English speaking skills and motivation for learning foreign languages. It is also important for mutual understanding of European cultures.

In 2003 five schools participated in the project: Norrtälje Rodengymnasiet, Tartu Hugo Treffner's Gymnasium, Tukums Vidusskola NR 2, Šiauliai Didzdvaris Gymnasium, Kärđla School.

Step 1.

Each applicant UBC city formed a group of students called a UBC class. Each UBC class, together with its leader, studied the culture and history of the period between the 1940s-1960s. The 4 students from each group prepared a cultural programme. Each student chose one of these topics: education, music, dance, fashion, and prepared to participate in the workshop during the camp on their chosen topic. Each group prepared a photo exhibition of architecture of the named period in their city/region/country. The joint exhibition was opened during the camp in Kärđla Culture Centre.

Step 2.

4 students (2 boys, 2 girls) were chosen from each UBC class. Together these 20 students participated in the camp. The camp took place on the island of Hiiumaa, in Kõpu Boarding School. There were workshops, presentations and excursions around Hiiumaa. The young people of Kärđla School showed the sights of Hiiumaa. The joint photo exhibition was opened during the camp.

Each group covered the travel expenses to Tallinn and back. Other costs were covered by project budget. The Cultural Endowment of Estonia, Swedish Institute and Commission on Education of the UBC sponsor the project.

The terms of the project: age 15-18, able to speak and work in English.

3.2 The project "*Summer School for potential researchers in the field of aquatic ecology*" (June-July 2004 and 2005)

The research school was organised by the Erken Laboratory, which is situated in the countryside of Norrtälje, Sweden. The students stayed for 4 weeks; they lived together at the laboratory site. The organisers hope that scientific discussions will become a part of life for students. In the research school 16 students participated each year.

In the research school the students had lectures in general limnology and a concluding week where they summarised the students' work. In between, the students worked independently with their research project under the protective wings of international supervisors. The primary objective of the research school is to let the students work with scientific research.

The terms of the research school: age 18-20, must have a background in science but should not yet have started their studies at the university; to be able to read and speak English.

Uppsala University, Swedish Institute, Commission on Education of the UBC and several companies sponsor the project.

ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

The Commission on Education was established to work with aims:

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

According to the named aims, the Commission on Education is going to work with following activities during 2006-2007:

- The running activities of the Commission on Education, research school and teaching seminar
- to make an e-mail list of participants (in all meetings on the commission) in order to have an active network.
- Adult education - to find out the interest and needs in this field and to organise a contact seminar.
- Initiative of students - to encourage students to take the initiative to new projects.
- Water Days for school classes - a possibility for teachers to come to Norr Malma Field Station in Sweden and to look what is happening there, get new ideas how to organise such kind of programmes at home.
- Best Practice Award - schools in UBC cities can manage health and environmental programmes, contact to other schools by Internet. Best practice can be rewarded.
- Practical training for students and summer jobs in an exchange programme.

Kurt Pettersson
Chairman of the Commission
City of Norrtälje

Annely Veevo
Secretary of the Commission
City of Kärddla

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

Focus on the Environment and Sustainable Development

The environmental work of the UBC is organised at the Commission on Environment. The UBC is also running a large cross-sectoral action programme on sustainable development, the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. The management unit serving the Commission on Environment and being responsible for the implementation of the sustainable development programme is the same agency, the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat (also known as the UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat).

This secretariat / agency is being generously hosted by the City of Turku, where it is located by the decisions of the UBC and the City of Turku for the whole programme implementation period of 2004-2009. The basic resources provided by the host city and the UBC combined with the successful project

funding have enabled the secretariat to carry on a strong coordination role with a total current staff number of 10 full-time professionals.

This chapter of the UBC activity report describes both the environmental and sustainable development work of the UBC. The main difference between these two is that environmental work concentrates on environmental issues only, whereas sustainable development aims at combining environmental, social and economic aspects of city development. Consequently, environmental work is mainly co-ordinated and lead at the cities by the environmental administration, whereas sustainable development work is often lead directly under the overall city leadership and is a joint effort of all sectoral administrations. This is also the case at the UBC, where the implementation of the Agenda 21 Action Programme is being supervised by the Executive Board and the environmental work by the Commission on Environment.

In terms of volume of work, the sustainable development programme with a total mobilised budget of 10 MEUR is by far the largest undertaking of the whole UBC.

Implementation of UBC Agenda 21 Action programme

The UBC Statute and Strategy define sustainable development, with full respect to European principles of local and regional self-governance and subsidiarity, to be part of the basic purpose and the key strategic objectives of the Union. For the implementation of this strategic objective, the VII UBC General Conference, Klaipėda 2003, adopted a specific cross-sectoral six-year action programme, the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. This action programme is being implemented under the supervision of the Executive Board. Based on contributions of several UBC commissions and networks, the implementation has proceeded extremely well and the programme is most likely reaching a high concrete impact on the ground, at UBC member cities.

The programme activities target five thematic focus areas:

- Good governance and sustainable urban management,
- Sustainable use of energy and resources,
- Good living environment and nature protection,
- Sustainable economy and transport, and
- Social integration and health

The programme has already reached its volume goal of 10 Million Euros. This total funding is today committed by decisions and contracts of different partners and funding agencies towards the implementation of the projects and other activities of the programme. Implemented and on-going projects are presented in the table below (see end of chapter).

The first programme assessment, the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005 has been completed. The answering rate of 73% both reflects the interest and commitment of UBC members and provides an excellent basis for analysis. According to the results, the member cities highly appreciate the services and projects provided within the programme and consider the UBC to be the most important source of good working models and information in the fields of most of the thematic focus areas of the programme.

The programme activities also support European policy development on urban sustainability. Experiences of several projects have been used for the development of the Thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment within the 6th Environmental Action Plan of the European Union.

Environmental Activities of the UBC

The UBC Commission on Environment, co-chaired by Mr. Mikko Jokinen, Turku, and Mr. Guldbrand Skjönberg, Nacka, has worked very actively during the whole reporting period. Sharing the secretariat resources with the implementation of the Agenda 21 Action Programme has meant that the total team of up to 10 full-time professionals has been available to provide the commission with excellent supporting capacities for its efficient work. The commission has achieved a lot in different policy, networking, capacity-building and information activities.

The basic activities of the Commission on Environment have during the reporting period included several excellent thematic seminar/workshop-type meetings with up to 70 participants in each of them. These were during the reporting period organised in Sundsvall, Sweden, in April 2004, in Turku in December 2004, and in Sopot in June 2005. Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has been developed and thematic editions have been published. Interest of member cities and partner organisations has been great (despite solid editorial work, number of pages has increased continuously).

Many of the Agenda 21 projects have a strong environmental dimension and much of the work on them belongs also to the curricula of the environmental commission. Such projects include for example the New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities as well as EMAS Peer Review for Cities. In such cutting-edge European projects the commission and its active members have contributed remarkably to advancing environmental protection and management not only in the Baltic Sea Region, but also in Europe and even globally.

The commission has continued the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award scheme and has developed further UBC's good practice work. The web-site has been regularly up-dated and contact data-bases maintained. The next large web-update is intended to be operational by the time of the VIII General Conference.

Policy co-operation on environment and sustainable development

In line with the working principles of the UBC, the Commission on Environment has also contributed strongly to Baltic Sea Regional and European policy co-operation processes on cities' environmental governance and sustainable urban development. The commission has represented the UBC at the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21), Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) working groups, and at European expert and working groups.

In Baltic 21, EnvCom Co-chairman Mr. Guldbrand Skjönberg continued representing the UBC and taking actively up the concerns of cities. The UBC contributed strongly to the implementation of Joint Action 4, City Co-operation and sustainable development issues in local communities. The renewal of Baltic 21 strategy during 2004 was also an important focus during the reporting period.

European Union Policy

During the reporting period, the UBC has been involved in two very important European policy processes on sustainable urban development: (1) the preparation of the Thematic Urban Strategy of the 6th Environmental Action Programme of the European Union, and (2) the Aalborg Commitments and European Networking on the Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. Both of these will be briefly presented below.

The European Union (Parliament and Council) approved the 6th Environmental Action Programme (6th EAP) in July 2002. The programme contains several thematic strategies, which aim at integrated approaches across several policy areas of the European Union. One of these thematic strategies is set for the Urban Environment, and the UBC has, on the invitation of the European Commission DG Environment, contributed actively to its preparations during 2004 and 2005. EnvCom Co-chair Mr. Mikko Jokinen was appointed for the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment (dealing with the whole strategy) and Head of EnvCom Secretariat, Mr. Risto Veivo was appointed for the EU Working Group on Environmental Management Plans and Systems. Both Jokinen and Veivo took an active role in the groups and presented the UBC policies as defined in the UBC Strategy and UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme. The contributions made and positions taken were discussed at the Commission on Environment meetings and were dutifully reported to UBC Executive Board.

Despite the enthusiasm of cities and their networks, the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment has been delayed due to differing opinions of EU member states. Main arguments concern the issue of obliging larger cities to adopt environmental management plans and systems plus sustainable urban transport plans. Through the projects Managing Urban Europe – 25 and BUSTRIP, UBC is now developing models of such plans and carrying out their pilot testing in Baltic Sea Regional and

European co-operation. The results of these projects will then feed into the policy design process on the European level.

During the reporting period, also the European Sustainable Cities and towns Campaign went through an intensive period. European Commission stopped to fund the Campaign office in 2004 but at the same time funded the 4th Pan-European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference (Aalborg, June 2004), and helped to launch the new policy initiative: the Aalborg Commitments. The UBC played an active role in the formulation of these commitments and contributed to their launch and promotion. The core feature of the Aalborg Commitments is that they provide a common framework for the development and monitoring of local sustainability targets. Many UBC members have already started to apply them locally.

Project work

As mentioned above, the project work on environment and sustainable development has been highly successful. Evaluation results show that the member cities have considered the projects to be highly beneficial and want to participate in them very actively. Brief information on the largest projects is presented in the table below.

LARGEST PROJECTS OF UBC AGENDA 21 PROGRAMME, AS OF AUGUST 2005

Name of project	Content and partnership in brief	Timing and budget
BUSTRIP	Developing sustainable urban transport plans and planning methods UBC EnvCom, UBC TransCom, Chalmers Technical University, 14 Baltic Cities	2005-2007 3.4 MEUR, BSR Interreg III B and Finnish Ministry of Environment
Managing Urban Europe - 25	Developing cities' environmental managements systems to address the whole functional urban area UBC EnvCom, ICLEI, UNEP and other European partners (altogether 23 partners, including 14 cities)	2005-2008 2.9 MEUR, European Commission DG Environment, Finnish MoE plus other funders
New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities	Developing and harmonising ports environmental practices at the Baltic Sea Stadtwerke Lübeck, Baltic Energy Forum, UBC EnvCom, 16 ports and port cities, and Finnlines Shipping Company	2003-2005 1.0 MEUR, BSR Interreg III B, Finnish MoE
EMAS Peer Review for Cities	Developing implementation and evaluation of environmental management system EMAS at cities UBC EnvCom, Eurocities, University of the West of England and 17 cities	2003-2004 0.7 MEUR, DG Environment, Finnish MoE
Baltic University Urban Forum, BUUF	Capacity-building and demonstration of good practices regarding all aspects of sustainable development Baltic University Programme, UBC EnvCom, Royal Technical University of Sweden plus 10 cities and eight other universities	2003-2006 0.9 MEUR, BSR Interreg III B
Development Partnership with Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation (LVRLAC)	Co-operation and exchange on development of LVRLAC organization and improvement of sustainable development and environmental practices at Lake Victoria Region.	2004-2006 (started already earlier and will most likely in some form continue longer) Approx. 0.6 MEUR during 2005

In addition to the large projects above, the programme contains several smaller projects plus projects where the UBC is one of the partners with a smaller role and budget. These include for example the European urban sustainable development monitoring projects TISSUE, STATUS and ACTOR as well as the Air Quality Management project INTEGAIRE. Including all the smaller projects, the project budget is already exceeding the programme goal of 10 MEUR. In addition to this budget, the programme naturally includes also network and policy activities, which are not listed in this table and add to the total mobilized budget volume.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2006 –2007

Starting point – challenges of Baltic Cities

Today, the UBC is extremely well placed to tackle the remarkable environmental challenges that the Baltic Cities are facing. At the same time, we also have very good possibilities to contribute to sustainable development at our region. The past years of UBC's environmental work, and the highly successful implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities, have taken us to the point where we have both an explicit responsibility and a wonderful potential to do the job.

This is very necessary, as many of the trends at our region are not pointing towards sustainability. Many serious environmental problems remain unsolved, and cities' environmental work bears new challenges continuously.

A good information basis for our work is provided by the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005, where 72% of UBC members contributed. According to the survey, especially hard challenges are for example climate change, excessive use of natural resources, wealth gaps and demographic changes. Dominance of private car over public transport remains also strong as ever. However, according to the survey, there are also promising sustainable development trends and commitments at the cities.

The mission of the UBC Commission on Environment is to tackle those challenges by all the means provided by an efficient network through sharing of problems, information and knowledge, approaches and solutions. The potential of our network to support the member cities in treating the challenges is good and it is at the moment also fairly well mobilised. The highly successful Agenda 21 Action Programme with its already committed total project budget of 10 MEUR provides an excellent framework of action to address the challenges in practice.

Activities – the network service

Success, good service and network can only be maintained through continuous development of the activities. The network service of the UBC Commission on Environment is a combination of projects, regular meetings and workshops, information work and policy liaison with other organisations, environmental and sustainable development policy processes and policy-makers. Such policy-makers include Baltic Sea Regional actors like national ministries of the environment, Nordic Council of Ministers, Baltic 21 and HELCOM, as well as the European Union – especially European Commission DG Environment.

During the period between the VIII and IX General Conference, the Commission on Environment will put special emphasis on treating the challenges introduced above. In order to do this, the following activities will be carried out:

- **Meetings and workshops of the commission** twice a year – providing opportunity to discuss and plan projects and other activities as well as for direct learning and sharing.
- **Projects addressing the challenges** in Baltic Cities and implementing the thematic goals of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme – the commission is involved in several large co-operation

projects during the period (more information on these can be obtained from the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009).

- **Capacity-building** – organising (mainly through projects) opportunities for the cities to up-date their knowledge and competencies on environmental policies, practices and legislation.
- **Information services** – publishing Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin, maintaining database on environmental contacts in Baltic Cities and partner organisations. Improving the UBC web-services on environment and sustainable development.
- **Good Practice work** – the successful good practice promotion and exchange will be continued by the environmental award scheme, web-site and other information services.

Resources

The Commission on Environment has an effective secretariat with good resources, located in the City of Turku. The secretariat has an international (Finnish-Swedish-Estonian) staff of 10 full-time professionals. The purpose of the secretariat is to serve the commission and to manage and co-ordinate the implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009. However, the most important resource of the commission is the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences and strong involvement for mutual benefit.

Evaluation

UBC's environmental and sustainable development services were thoroughly evaluated as part of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005. Further information on the results can be obtained from the survey report. Next comprehensive evaluation will take place in 2007. Meanwhile, the most important activities will be specifically evaluated case-by-case. For the development of the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin, an evaluation and suggestions form has been launched at the UBC web-site.

Risto Veivo
Head of Commission Secretariat
City of Turku

COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

Meetings:

At the **7th Commissions Meeting on 19 October 2003**, within the framework of the VII UBC General Conference in Klaipėda, it became clear that the Commissions work has to be re-organised and re-orientated towards the needs of the interested cities, on the UBC Social Charter and on EU priorities. The decision was then, besides the regular Commission's Meeting, to organise also task force meetings with selected participants for special concentrate stronger on real interest of the cities. Guidelines of the activities of the Commission should be the Social Charter and the EU Strategy Against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The partner network within the Commission was refreshed.

On **19-20 January the 1st Task Force Meeting on Health and Social Affairs** took place in Rostock. The agenda was prepared in common by Stockholm (chair) and Rostock (secretariat). Representatives of the cities of Riga, Klaipėda, Reda, Helsinki, Turku, Stockholm, Gävle and Rostock and social scientists from Vilnius and Rostock met to define the next working direction and methods.

The representatives exposed the special situations of their cities. As a result of this analysis two specific working groups were set up which will push forward the exchange of experience and the project development in the next future: the *Working Group on Children and Youth on Risk*, chaired / co-chaired by the cities of Riga / Gävle and the *Working Group on Employment*, chaired / co-chaired by Klaipėda and Helsinki. A small *UBC Social Charter Working Group* was also set up, in charge to find a way how to implement its goals within UBC cities.

Further interesting themes under debate were:

- the EU Strategy on Poverty and Social Exclusion broken down to National Action Plans how to work with it in the municipalities,
- experiences in transnational EU project design, application, implementation and follow-up and
- the Open Method of Co-ordination as an Instrument of international co-operation work.

On 14 May the 2nd Task force meeting ('core group'), took place in Riga. Representatives of the Commission's Working Groups coming from Riga, Klaipėda, Stockholm, and Rostock met in order to precise next steps of the Commission's and the Task Force's work and took the following decisions, i.a.:

For the Working Group on ,Children and Youth on Risk':

- Exchange of Experience on Children Crisis Centres.
- Intensive cooperation with Social Hansa. The Commission will propose a joint meeting in Lübeck on *Children and Youth at Risk*.
- Cooperation with partner organisations like CIF (Council of International Fellowship, www.cifinternational.com) in order to take part in international low-budget exchange programs of social workers.

Planning next steps to push forward the exchange of experience and the project development in the future.

For the Working Group on ,Employment':

- Definition of measurements in the cities how to work with the EU Strategy on Poverty and Social Exclusion broken down to National Action Plans (NAPs) and Local Action Plans
- Planning of a meeting dealing with unemployed depending on social welfare.

For the UBC Social Charter working group:

- Discussion of the first working paper presented within the Working Group

For the Commission's Secretariat in Rostock:

- Production of a Commission's Leaflet

On 21 of September 2004 a small team out of the *Working Group on Children and Youth on Risk* met in Stockholm in order to plan the next steps to push forward the exchange of experience and the project development in the next future. Participants at the meeting were active persons from Riga, Turku and Stockholm of the *Working Group on Children and Youth at Risk*. The meeting was co-ordinated and the agenda prepared by Stockholm. Main focus was "Strengthening of networking and more thematic meeting occasions" according to one of the tasks of the action plan 2003-2005. The participants agreed on that the Commissions goals could be put into practice best if they meet the well defined city's commitments/interests to take an active part in UBC, to work with the prioritised fields and to do it within the framework of UBC. A questionnaire on key issues was developed with the purpose of getting a picture of the cities priorities among different fields and the interest to develop transnational co-operation or networking between the cities.

The different National Action Plans on social inclusion and the CBSS action plan were the starting point in this process of priorities' identification. It is planned to organise workshops on the prioritised fields by the cities, also including representatives of CBSS and other relevant international organisations in order to profit from their work on social issues. The workshops will be the starting-point to establish the working group.

Another team out of the *Working Group on Employment* is planning a first meeting in purpose to prospect the next step to push forward the exchange of experience and the project development in the near future. The work is being done in co-operation by Stockholm, Klaipėda and Helsinki.

Cooperation with other UBC Commissions and Networks:

Womens' Network

During the reported period, intensive conversations have taken place with the UBC Women's Network in order to combine forces in a common project concerning gender mainstreaming, regarding one of the target groups the Commission is dealing with. A first trial at the beginning of 2004, the project application *Combating the Silence and Invisibility of Trafficking Locally* at the EU Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs/Horizontal and international issues/Equality for women and men, unfortunately, was not successful. The UBC Social Charter was discussed during the Network Meetings

Commission on Sport, annual meeting, 02-04 April 2004 in Narva / Estonia

The following common aspects were found: The Commission is emphasising the social aspect of sports and, especially, the involvement of handicapped persons in sports activities. *The UBC Social Charter* is one of the basic documents, both Commissions have strong connection with. The very successful *Hansetour Sunshine 2003*, project under the umbrella of UBC and the Commission on Health and Social Affairs, was respectfully mentioned (next international itinerary: 2005 or 2006).

Commission on Environment, annual meeting, 22-25 April 2004 in Sundsvall / Sweden:

In the workshop *Social Integration and Health* was pointed out that the cooperation of both Commissions should be strengthened on the common base of the BLA21. This document could also be a good leading conception for the discussion about the implementation of the UBC Social Charter. Sundsvall could deliver excellent examples of how to handle BLA21 in a community. One interesting item was the visit of the Nacksta quarter with a lot of measures of social integration of persons from different nationalities

Karin Wohlgemuth
Secretariat of the Commission on Health and Social Affairs
City of Rostock

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION SOCIETY

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

1. Meetings

IS COM preparatory meeting in St. Petersburg on 17 December 2003

The guidelines and contents of the IS COM Action Plan 2004-2005 were further elaborated in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the new IS COM Chairman, the Chairman of the Committee for Informatization and Communications of the St. Petersburg Administration, *Dr. Sergey Zhdanov*. Representatives of the cities of St. Petersburg, Tampere and Turku as well ICT experts from the cities participated in the meeting. Based on the guidelines agreed in the meeting, the IS COM Action Plan was prepared by the IS COM secretariat (The Baltic Institute of Finland) and presented to the UBC Executive Board in its meeting in Vaasa on 6 March 2004.

IS COM meeting for the preparation of an Interreg III C project proposal “Challenge of eCitizen: Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities” in Tampere on 24 March 2004

As presented in the Action Plan, IS COM with coordination from the City of Tampere / the Baltic Institute of Finland started to prepare a project proposal “Challenge of eCitizen: Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities” for Interreg III C Programme. A call for partners was submitted to all UBC member cities on 15 March 2004. A project preparatory meeting was organized in Tampere on 24 March 2004 in connection with the *Tampere eGlobal Conference*. The cities of Turku, Tartu, Kaunas, Vaasa, Odense, St. Petersburg and Tampere participated in meeting, as well as the cities of Sheffield and Bologna.

The 3rd IS COM meeting in Tampere on 20-21 October 2004

The meeting was held in connection with the seminar “Baltic Sea Cooperation in the Changing Europe - the 10th Anniversary Seminar of the Baltic Institute of Finland” organized in Tampere on Wednesday 20 October 2004. The IS COM meeting took place in Tampere after the BIF seminar on Thursday 21 October, and consisted of a general session and the following three workshops under the main theme “Promoting eGovernment in the Baltic Cities”:

Workshop 1: eCards

Workshop 2: eParticipation

Workshop 3: eInfrastructure

The main aim of the workshops was to discuss and elaborate new eGovernment related project initiatives between the Baltic Cities. There were 15 persons representing five UBC member cities participating in the meeting.

2. Activities

Interreg III C project “Challenge of eCitizen: Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities”

The project preparation started in the beginning of 2004 with the City of Tampere (the Baltic Institute of Finland) as the project leader. A preparatory meeting between the project partners was held in Tampere on 24 March 2004, and the application was submitted for the 3rd call for proposal of the Interreg III C North programme on 30 April 2004. A commitment of co-financing (maximum 315000 €) was granted by the Ministry of Interior in Finland, but unfortunately due to a minor technical reason the proposal was rejected for Interreg III C funding. As the proposal was very positively evaluated by various experts, all the partners were highly committed to the proposal, and as also very positive feedback was received in Interreg III C consultation sessions, the new improved proposal was submitted to the 4th call for proposals of the Interreg III C North programme (deadline 8 October 2004). A commitment of co-financing (maximum 315000 €) was granted by the Ministry of Interior in Finland also for this new proposal.

Evaluated as the best project proposal submitted to the 4th Interreg IIIC call, *the Challenge of eCitizen* project was granted for Interreg IIIC funding at the programme steering committee meeting on 10 January 2005. The project will be implemented in 36 months in 2005-2008, and its total budget amounts to 1,3 million euros. The Baltic Institute of Finland acts as the Lead Partner in the project. The project partners cities are Tampere, Turku and Vaasa from Finland, Tartu from Estonia, Vilnius and Kaunas from Lithuania, IS Fyn representing city of Odense and county of Fyn from Denmark, Sheffield from the United Kingdom, Bologna and Trento from Italy and St. Petersburg from Russia.

The Challenge of eCitizen project is designed to support innovative on-going local eGovernment actions and strategies. The project activities are focused to facilitate development and piloting of innovative and advanced outputs including eManagement systems for city administrations, online public services for citizens with web-based, mobile and smart card applications as well as new eParticipation services with interactive consultative applications. As a cross-cutting issue, awareness of citizens on eGovernment actions is raised through implementation of information distribution strategies and local campaigns as well as publishing studies and reports on eGovernment actions in Europe and key results of the project components. Capacities and knowledge of local policy-makers, officials and experts on design and

management of local eGovernment actions will be enhanced through extensive training and consultancies. A follow-up strategy to ensure sustainability of the project results in the partner cities will be developed.

A kick-off seminar of the *Challenge of eCitizen* project was organized in Tampere on 17-20 May 2005. More than 40 persons from all the 11 project partner cities participated in the kick-off. The next project steering committee meeting will be held in Turku in connection with the VIII UBC General Conference.

IS COM web site (to be developed into an Internet portal for Baltic best practices on local information society development)

The IS COM web site was developed by the Baltic Institute of Finland in spring-autumn 2004, and it was introduced at the 3rd IS COM meeting in Tampere on 21 October 2004. The IS COM web site will be developed into an Internet portal for Baltic best practices on local information society development by utilizing a questionnaire to the UBC member cities concerning local information society development activities, and the outputs of *the Challenge of eCitizen project*. A comprehensive questionnaire has been prepared by the City of St. Petersburg. The website can be found at www.baltic.org.

Preparation of the 4th IS COM meeting to be organized in St. Petersburg in October 2005

The next IS COM annual meeting will be held in St. Petersburg in late October 2005. The meeting themes and agenda have been elaborated by the St. Petersburg City Administration and the Baltic Institute of Finland in spring-autumn 2005. The overall objective of the meeting is to encourage and activate UBC member cities to participate and contribute to the information society related cooperation in the Baltic Sea region and Europe wide, especially in the framework of the UBC IS COM. This objective will be promoted by introducing Baltic best practices and success stories on local information society development. New initiatives for the IS COM projects – by using *the Challenge of eCitizen* project as an example – will be also discussed.

ACTION PLAN 2006-2007

IS COM objectives:

The UBC Commission on Information Society aims at promoting and accelerating development of information society in the UBC member cities by facilitating exchange and dissemination of experiences, information, best practices and successful applications of technical innovations acquired in local information society activities. The goal is to enhance knowledge and capacities of the local authorities responsible for information society issues to design, develop and manage innovative information society policies and activities.

The activities of the UBC Commission on Information Society will follow and support the guidelines, strategies and general objectives set out in eEurope, eRussia, Northern eDimension and various national e-initiatives promoting the Information Society development in the Baltic Sea Region.

IS COM activities 2006-2007:

1. Implementation of the Challenge of eCitizen project (2006-2007):
 - development of pilot services
 - exchange of experiences, benchmarking of best practices
 - seminars, workshops
2. Further development of the Internet portal for Baltic best practices on local information society development (2006):

- questionnaires
 - outputs of the Challenge of eCitizen project (developed pilot services, best practices)
 - technical and visual development of the portal/web site (new domain)
3. Elaboration of new IS COM project ideas (2006) and preparation and launching of two new IS COM projects (by 2007):
- special sessions in connection with the 4th IS COM annual meeting in St. Petersburg in October 2005 and the 5th meeting in autumn 2006:
 - potential project themes:
 - local WiFi networks and hotspots
 - public online services
 - mobile solutions for eGovernment and eDemocracy
 - multifunctional city smart card schemes
 - government-to-business services for SMEs
4. Survey on financing opportunities for information society related projects in the Baltic Sea region and the European Union (with a special focus on cooperation between local authorities):
- EU programmes
 - Nordic financing sources
 - National financing sources for bilateral cooperation with Russia
5. 5th IS COM annual meeting in autumn 2006
6. 6th IS COM annual meeting in autumn 2007

Esa Kokkonen
Coordinator of the Commission
City of Tampere

COMMISSION ON SPORT

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

I. Annual Commission Meetings

Between November 2003 – August 2005 Commission on Sport organized 2 annual meetings:

I.1. Narva (Estonia) 02-03.04.2004 – Education through Sport

The Annual Meeting of the UBC Commission on Sport was attended by representatives of 12 cities from 7 countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. In response to the announcement of European Year of Education through Sport by the Council of European Union, the Commission on Sport devoted its meeting to this particular subject. Among the presentations, there were examples of projects on education through sport carried out in the fields of sailing, rugby and kick-boxing. The main objective of the sporting activities organised is to encourage young people to develop themselves both physically as well as socially. This aim is obtained through teaching such abilities as team work, solidarity, tolerance and fair play rules. As a part of the celebrations of the European Year of Education through Sport, the Commission also decided to award grants for the organisation of sporting events with special emphasis put on counteracting social exclusion of socially disadvantaged groups. The a/m grants aimed at raising awareness among educational and sporting organisations in order to stimulate their cooperation in the field of education through sport. Awarding

rants also aimed at promoting values of sport and increasing the number of school and sports exchanges among young people.

“Move your body, stretch your mind” Grants Allocated by UBC Commission on Sport in 2004

In the year 2004 UBC Commission on Sport allocated grants of total amount of 5 000 EUR. “Move your body, stretch your mind” grants were awarded for the organisation of projects combining sports values with educational aspect:

NO.	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	DATE	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	“Healthy Mind and Sporty Body”	Jõhvi, Estonia	01.06-30.08.2004	1 000 EUR
2.	"European Mobility Week 2004 in Chojnice"	Chojnice, Poland	16-22.09.2004	1 000 EUR
3.	"Education and Sport - a Task for Everybody"	Rostock, Germany	06-07.08.2004	1 000 EUR
4.	"My yard - a different yard - crackdown programme against social maladaptation of difficult youth"	Gdynia, Poland	25.06-29.08.2004	800 EUR
5.	"Sports and Community - Manifest of Successful and Targeted Partnership"	Šiauliai, Lithuania	02.2004-09.2004	700 EUR
6.	"Days of Narva"	Narva, Estonia	11-13.06.2004	500 EUR

I.2. Klaipėda (Lithuania) 14-16.04.2005 – Healthy Lifestyle Through Sport

One of the questions posed during the 10th Jubilee Annual Meeting of UBC Commission on Sport organised in Klaipėda on 14th-16th April 2005 was how to motivate people to be more active. Participants from 13 UBC member cities from 6 countries discussed the issue of physical activity and health promotion presented by professor H. Löllgen (Germany) and Mr. D. Kepenis from Palanga School of Health (Lithuania). Moreover, two practical examples were shown by Ms H. Parkkunen (Finland) – Healthy City Programme carried out in collaboration with WHO and by Ms B. Grüner (Germany) – Interreg III C SportUrban Project.

During the meeting of the Commission on Sport Ms Beata Łęgowska (Gdynia) was re-elected Chairperson for the next term of office and Ms Lena Ryge (Karlskrona) was elected the Vice-chairperson.

Furthermore, there was a presentation of the 10 years of Commission’s activity made by Ms Ewa Depka (Gdynia) as well as of 2005 grant awarding procedure entitled “Healthy Lifestyle through Sport”. By awarding grants for sports projects, the Commission on Sport wanted to demonstrate the importance of a healthy lifestyle. It is known that regular physical activity reduces mortality by 36 %, improves the quality of life and slows down the aging process. Even 30 minutes daily of physical activity prolongs your life, reduces overweight and decreases medical and economic costs.

“Healthy Lifestyle Through Sport” Grants Allocated by UBC Commission on Sport in 2005

In the year 2005 UBC Commission on Sport allocated grants of total amount of 5 000 EUR. “Healthy Lifestyle through Sport” grants were awarded to raise awareness of the importance of sport as an integral element of healthy lifestyle and to promote healthy lifestyle practices.

NO.	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	DATE	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	“International Youth Day 2005”	Pärnu, Estonia	12.08.2005	1000 EUR
2.	Go in for Sports and You Will Live Healthy	Panevėžys, Lithuania	06-08.2005	1000 EUR
3.	Liepāja Sporting Weekend	Liepāja, Latvia	16.07.2005	1000 EUR
4.	“Table Tennis – a Way to Healthy Lifestyle”	Koszalin, Poland	15.05.2005 - 11.06.2005	1000 EUR
5.	Summer Beach Tournaments	Gdynia, Poland	01.07-31.08.2005	1000 EUR

II. UBC Commission on Sport co-operation with other organizations

The Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association – WHO Collaborating Centre for Healthy Cities and Urban Health in the Baltic Region. It coordinates and promotes the goals of Healthy Cities operations in the region. Its aim is to improve public health through healthy diet and physical activity.

SK GARANT – kickboxing club in Tallinn (Estonia). It organises activities for children, youth and adults. These activities put emphasis on physical and emotional development, teach how to control emotions and help to relieve stress.

Finnish Rugby Federation – the Commission established cooperation with the President of this organisation. Finnish Rugby Federation associates rugby clubs of Finland and is a member of European Rugby Federation.

Estonian Rugby Federation – It aims at preventing drug abuse among school children by offering them sports activities and other after school activities. It encourages a healthy life style by playing rugby

Rugby Club Arka Gdynia - organises a number of events which are meant to propagate rugby both in Gdynia as well as in the region. Apart from organising matches, it has also prepared a special programme entitled My yard – a different yard whose objective is to take care of disadvantaged groups by means of organising various sports activities for children living in Gdynia districts.

III. Initiatives of UBC Commission on Sport

III.1. Annual Calendar of Sports Events

In response to the announcement of the year 2004 – the European Year of Education through Sport and in compliance with its Action Plan 2004-2005, the Commission on Sport decided to create **Annual Calendar of Sports** Events on its website in order to spread information about sporting initiatives having educational aspect which are taken in member cities. Commission’s website was updated and information about international sports events open to all was put on this website by UBC member cities together with the information about contact persons. The same initiative was realised in the following year, i.e. 2005.

The Annual Calendar of Sports Events is available at <http://www.ubc.net/commissions/sport.html>

III.2. Continuation of UBC Social Campaign “Dreams Without Limits”

a. Calendars:

Children’s works sent for the international art competition “Dreams Without Limits” organised in 2003 (within the UBC Social Campaign) were used for other projects such as 2004 Calendar and 2005 Calendar as well as the material for travelling exhibitions.

The 2005 Calendar was published in cooperation with Merck Company.

b. Art Exhibitions:

Since January 2004, the exhibition has been available for expositions in UBC member cities. In March

2004 the works of disabled children were presented in:

- Gdynia (Poland): Gallery "Ratusz" in Gdynia City Hall and Hotel Nadmorski Gallery
- Szczecin (Poland): Szczecin City Hall
- Rostock (Germany): Rostock City Hall
- Tallinn (Estonia): Tallinn City Hall
- Vilnius (Lithuania): Vilnius Gallery For Children And Youth

III.3. UBC Commission on Sport Leaflet

As a part of preparations for the 10th anniversary of the establishment of UBC Commission on Sport, an updated leaflet was prepared and published and promotional gadgets were produced.

IV. 10 Years of UBC Commission on Sport Activities

The Commission on Sport was established in September 1995 in order to meet the following objectives:

- to create and promote contacts among young and elderly people in the area of sport and physical education
- to improve a network for international cooperation in the area of sport
- to promote exchange of experience and information among sports clubs, societies and cities in the Baltic Sea Region
- to popularize sporting events among youth, the disabled, elderly people and integrate them through sports activities
- to support financially sporting events in UBC member cities

Within the 10 years of its existence the Commission has attempted to achieve the a/m objectives. Consequently, the Commission has held 11 meetings (held in 9 cities from 5 countries) and in the years 1996-2005 **it granted 26,775 €** for the organisation of **65 projects** in which over **25,000 sportsmen** participated.

ACTION PLAN 2006-2007

The general goal of the UBC Commission on Sport is to achieve sustainable development by implementing the UBC Social Charter and Agenda 21 Action Programme with a special focus on social integration and health.

The specific goals for the years 2006-2007 provide for further development of co-operation among UBC member cities in the field of sport focusing on the topics of:

- strengthening the links among sports clubs, associations and institutions as a part of creation of city partnership and mobilization of UBC network,
- building partnership with international organizations and other UBC Commissions within the area of social integration and health,
- promoting sports events and sports exchange in the BSR with special emphasis put on the youth, the disabled, the elderly, socially disadvantage groups and gender equality,
- raising awareness and building capacity for leading healthy lifestyle through sport,
- supporting projects and undertakings which build city partnership for urban health and social sustainability.

Beata Łęgowska
Chairperson of the Commission
City of Gdynia

Ewa Depka
Coordinator of the Commission
City of Gdynia

COMMISSION ON TOURISM

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

During this two-year-period the Commission on Tourism was chaired by Kalmar. The Commission, leading its members through a steering committee with 4-5 member cities represented, has focused on information, education and training in tourism. The Commission early decided its goals:

- to increase the value and understanding about questions concerning tourism in the political system
- to build up a network of people working in the field of tourism
- to develop activities in exchange
- to focus on education and to be a helpful hand in initiating EU - projects and eventually strengthen the projects by using UBCs as a tool to inform the member cities about possibilities and other international networks dealing with the same kind of questions and to cooperate with them.

Commission activities

The Commission developed several projects on sustainable tourism. The way all these projects were financed, has been spread around in the Baltic Sea area and its UBC member cities. Newsletters, project work and the annual meetings of the Commission, around the Baltic Sea, have been the most common and successful ways of spreading news in tourism.

Annual open Commission meetings

From the very start the Steering Committee realized the importance of keeping these annual meetings informal. No extra formality was ever added. The meetings were usually planned to last for 2 -4 days. You could normally find the following parts in the programme: Welcome dinner on the behalf of the hosting city, Commission meeting, Educational study meetings/trips, Special local activity (sauna, canoeing etc), and Farewell dinner. The meetings gathered from 15 to 50 participants each time, from all over the Baltic Sea region. The Commission on Tourism carried through two annual Commission meetings. Programmes and minutes from these meetings are to be found and read on www.ubc.net

Open meetings of the Commission on Tourism:

1. Kalmar, Sweden November 2004
2. Jurmala, Latvia September 2005

Information about EU development and subsidies in tourism

During the annual meetings of the Commission, representatives from different information bureaus and consultant firms, such as Interreg IIIB, Council of Nordic Ministers, Animare Tourism Project Management etc were invited. These people informed the participants about possibilities for subsidies and project development within their frameworks. The Commission has also, to some extent, used the UBC e-mail network to inform about news in tourism.

Common project development and realization in sustainable tourism

The Commission finds project development important. To realize theory, to put knowledge into action, is of utmost importance. Therefore the Commission actively seeks problems to solve and partners to solve the problems with. Through the fantastic network of the UBC and knowledge in subsidies and regulation systems, the Commission handed in a number of project applications. The result of these applications is outstanding, one must admit. Welcome Centre (TIC) development, historical-site development, training in tourism and promotion of cycling are some examples. It has been important to the Commission to involve partners from all over the Baltic Sea in its projects.

Secretariat function with contact guidance to the UBC member cities

The secretariat in Kalmar has been occupied mainly with answering questions from all over the world. These questions concerned the Commission, UBC and whom, within the UBC network, to contact in specific matters. Project development has been important of course, as well as management of these developed projects. Preparing the annual meetings of the Commission has been time consuming, but also very interesting.

Presentation of Commission projects

HOLM Pearls of the North

The project aimed at common marketing. The participants should market their destinations through common marketing material. Local development in tourism, such as organisational reconstructions and brochure productions were also included. Project participant cities:

Germany: Wismar, NordWest Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Lübeck, Schleswig, Ostholstein

Sweden: Kalmar, Karlskrona, Växjö

Norway: Östfold

Total project budget: 1.137.562 Euro

Baltic City Tourism

This project mainly focused on the following 4 topics: Baltic Event Calendar (Common event calendar, printed and on the Internet), Baltic Tourism Academy (Travelling seminar series on how to organise an event), Baltic Point (Common physical platform for gathering of project experience) and Common Marketing Network. Project participant cities:

Sweden: Kalmar, Karlskrona

Germany: Rostock

Denmark: Turisme Region Syd

Poland: Gdynia

Lithuania: Vilnius

Estonia: Tallinn

Total project budget: 848.000 Euro

Baltic Welcome Centre & connected projects

Interreg IIIB project

The main cooperation topics within the Interreg IIIB project have been divided into the following 5 work packages: International Standard, Spatial & Tourism Planning, Visitor Centre Investments, Information Technology, and Marketing & Communication. Project participant cities:

Sweden: Kalmar, Växjö

Norway: Halden kommune & Östfold len

Germany: Schwerin

Denmark: Turisme Region Syd (East Denmark)

Total project budget: 1.500.000 Euro

The Phare projects

3 Phare partners joined the main Baltic Welcome Centre project at a later stage, but participated as observers from the very beginning. The following sub-projects are linked to the main Interreg-project, financed by Phare SPF:

- Project *Baltic Welcome Centre LAT*

- Project “*Development of tourism information system in Palanga resort while integrating into the network of Baltic Welcome Centre*”

- Project “*MALBORK WELCOME CENTRE - Baltic Welcome Centre for a high quality sustainable development of cities and regions in the Baltic Sea Region in the frame of spatial planning aspects*”

Total Phare project budgets: 345 259 Euro

The Tacis projects

The Tacis project Baltic Welcome Centre INFOTOUR RUS joined the main project in October 2002. Lasting 18 month plus a prolongation of 4 months, it expired at the 26th of August 2004. The main activities and outcomes of the project have been:

- Feasibility study with situation analysis in tourism sector of North-western Russia and Kaliningrad area, interlinked with maritime border of other partners of the BWC project
- Setting up of Tourist Development Agency (TDA) at municipal fund “Ivangorod Centre of Sustainable Development”
- Establishment of a Tourist Information Centre in Kaliningrad
- Development, publishing and dissemination of presentation and marketing materials
- Pre feasibility study for “Waterjoy” project (leisure complex at the border between Narva and Ivangorod as future tourism attraction)
- Study Trips / Meetings / Training
- Partners Strategy in tourism for cross border cooperation

Partners in the Tacis projects were: Ivangorod, Leningrad oblast, Russian Federation

Narva-Jõesuu, Ida-Virumaa, Estonian Republic

City of Kaliningrad, Kaliningrad region, Russian Federation

Municipality of Kalmar, Kalmar Län, Sweden

Total Tacis project budgets: 235 168 Euro

Ancientimes

The ANCIENTIMES running project is a pilot project on how to integrate culture, history, education and tourism in one concept. The project aims at establishing a basis for an authentic heritage site, and at developing Ancient Times’ villages/museums into successful tourist attractions. The ambition is to set up a minimum standard to run a heritage site. The concept of “edutainment” is central within the project – offering both education in history and entertainment value. This will be realized by interactive exhibitions, historical scenarios, visitor involvement and do-it-yourself elements. Project participant cities:

The Municipality of Kalmar Sweden (lead partner); The Medieval Centre Experimental Museum, Nykøbing F., Denmark; The Lofotr Viking Museum, Lofoten, Norway; The Slav Village Passentin, Mecklenburg Lake District, Germany; and Cesis City Council, Latvia.

Total Interreg IIIB project budget: 1.800.000 Euro

Total Phare project budget: 253.718 Euro

Baltic Sea Cycling

The Project aims to enhance sustainable urban mobility in Baltic Sea Region by developing urban bicycle transport and combining it with other modes of the urban transport. Bicycle transport is efficient and more environmentally compatible for the city than motorized transport modes as already proved by some cities in north-west BSR. In order to elaborate urban cycling development strategies at municipal and regional scale network among the participating cities will be established involving actors from governmental, public, private and NGO sectors. Project participant cities:

22 participants: Örebro, Sweden is acting Lead Partner.

Total Interreg IIIB project budget: 2.300.000 Euro

Final conclusion from the Steering Committee of the Commission on Tourism

The Commission believes it has been successful in its efforts to enhance knowledge in Baltic Sea tourism. It feels like the Baltic Sea itself has become more narrow, making it easier to travel, making business and to spend time with our Baltic Sea neighbours, at least in our minds. We hope that the efforts of the Commission have been helpful to as many of our UBC member cities and citizens as possible.

ACTION PLAN 2005-2007

Activities planned by the CoT for the period 2006-2007:

- to arrange at least one meeting per year

1. spring 2006 in Koszalin, Poland
(the aim: updating of Commission's strategy and discussion about the ways of realization of Commission's goals and possible EU projects)
 2. autumn 2006 in Jurmala (Latvia)
 3. 2007 in Kalmar, Sweden ?
- to work together with other member cities on the EU projects concerning the development of tourism and infrastructure of the BSR cities
 - to continue accomplishment of former EU projects and ideas and initiate new ones
 - to build and consolidate a network of people working in the field of tourism
 - to build up the cooperation between UBC Commissions in the field of gaining the BSR cities aims (especially with Commission on Transportation because of related goals)
 - to help the UBC member cities to take more active part in Commission's work
 - to support the activities, ideas, initiatives aiming to development of tourism awareness
 - to make more effective the exchange of experience in the field of tourism (case studies, strategies)
 - to update the CoT's homepage
 - to increase the acquaintance of the range of Commission's activity (leaflets, newsletters)

Kyrre Dahl
Chairman of the Commission
City of Kalmar

Ellinor Ivarsson
Secretariat of the Commission
City of Kalmar

Ryszard Zdrojewski
New Chairman of the Commission
City of Koszalin

COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

The work of the Commission on Transportation, led by Traffic and Public Transport Authority, City of Göteborg, has since 2001 been focused on three areas in order to encourage sustainable transport solutions:

- public transport - how to develop the management of public transport systems
- cycling - to learn why and how to improve the conditions of cyclists and pedestrians
- mobility management - exchange of information on the potential for mobility management-tools to develop efficient, sustainable transport habits

Activities carried out during the reporting period:

Development of the TransCom Working Group

In August 2003 a questionnaire was sent out to all UBC contact persons and to the TransCom network where the individuals representing the member cities were asked to indicate what subjects they are interested in and what could be topics for the commission to work with. They should also indicate if they would like to be involved in a working group supporting the Commission on Transportation. In order to develop the work and to make the activities as interesting and useful for as many cities as possible, there is a need for closer co-operation and new ideas and input. The result was the forming of a working group of initially 6 cities: Göteborg, Tartu, Gdynia, Örebro, Norrköping and Nyköping. The group has during the period met three times: in Göteborg 6 February 2004, 11 June 2004 and 6 September 2004.

The TransCom Network

The TransCom network is continuously growing. Information about the members is registered on a contact list, which today contains 47 cities from 9 different countries. The members have been well represented at the activities and seminars up until now, and the aim is to use the network also outside the arranged TransCom meetings. The contact list is available on the TransCom website.

External funding

TransCom has intensified the work with finding external funding for the network. One application together with the City of Riga has been submitted within Interreg. The project aim was to optimise the public transportation system in favour of environmentally friendly public transport, to decrease the level of pollution and to increase public transport accessibility. Unfortunately it was not successful.

An application for Interreg III B Baltic Sea was sent in together with the UBC Commission on Environment. The application has been approved and the project will run between July 2005 and December 2007. BUSTRIIP – Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport and Implementation Planning is the name of the project and UBC EnvCom will be the lead partner and TransCom will be part of the steering group. The aim of the project is to develop and improve Sustainable Urban Transport Plans in the partner cities as well to start implementation of pilot projects. The peer review method will be used for the development of the plans.

New chairman for the Commission on Transportation - announcement

During autumn-04/spring-05 the search for a new chair for the Commission on Transportation begun. A letter was sent out to all UBC cities explaining the possibility to express interest in taking over the chairmanship. A number of applications have been received and the new chair will be elected at the Annual Meeting 2005.

External contacts with other networks

In December 2003 there was a close collaboration with the INTA (The International Network for Urban Development) network about the invitations for their Mobility seminar in Paris in February 2004. Close collaboration with the CIVITAS initiative and POLIS has also been carried out.

The following seminars and meetings have been held during the reporting period:

1st TransCom Working group meeting 6 February 2004 in Göteborg

The first introduction meeting took place in Göteborg during one day with 6 cities present: Göteborg, Tartu, Gdynia, Örebro, Nyköping and Norrköping.

The newly founded group discussed in detail the future meetings, future topics to work with, new working methods etc.

European Transport Projects seminar 10 June 2004 in Kaunas

55 participants from 22 different cities in the Baltic Sea Region came to the City Municipality Hall in Kaunas to participate in the conference. Since the Baltic countries just entered the EU, it was now the right time to discuss and exchange ideas about what funding possibilities there are in the sustainable transport field. The first two speakers, Marcel Rommerts from the European Commission and Håkan Ottosson from Swedish Association of local Authorities/Swedish Federation of County Councils, gave an insight in priorities within EU and Interreg funding possibilities. After the more “theoretical” aspects, speakers from the Guidemaps project, Göteborg, Tallinn, Malmö, Gdynia and Kaunas showed some practical examples and their experiences from different types of European projects.

After the seminar, a sightseeing tour was arranged and in the evening, the City of Kaunas invited all participants to a reception in Kaunas City Hall in the old town.

Annual meeting in Kaunas 11 June 2004

11 June the Annual Commission Meeting took place, also in Kaunas. The participants discussed, among other things, how the commission could work, how to use the network as efficient as possible, future topics for seminars etc.

Working group meeting in Örebro 6 September 2004

The working group met again on 6 September to discuss possibilities for TransCom to be involved in EU-projects. External funding would allow the network to develop and the cities to work more closely together with experience exchange etc.

Bicycle workshop in Örebro 6 – 7 September 2004

In the beginning of September 2004, 18 persons from Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Sweden gathered in Örebro to participate in a bicycle workshop, organised by the city of Örebro together with UBC TransCom. The first day started off with a lunch and then a presentation of Örebro as a “Bicycle friendly city”. Then the National Road Administration presented a project where a 4 km long bicycle lane has been planned and built, as an example of how you can handle all kinds of problems in a city centre, along busy streets and in housing areas. In the afternoon the whole group were taken on a bicycle tour around Örebro, to see and test the bicycle network and also to make the discussions easier the following day.

Day 2 was dedicated to the workshop. After a presentation of some practical examples from Malmö, the group discussed intensively. Issues such as the bicycle network, the need for single/double directed bicycle lanes, safety, security, road signing, information, marketing and influencing behaviour were treated.

3 preparation meetings for BUSTRIP application

The commission on Transportation met with UBC EnvCom twice, in August 2004 and in January 2005, to discuss and elaborate the application that was sent in to Interreg, first for application of Seed Money. After approval of the Seed Money project, another meeting was held to develop the main application for BUSTRIP.

In January 2005, a BUSTRIP project preparation meeting was held in Riga, where most of the future partners met for the first time. Exchange of experiences within the transport field took place already at this meeting.

ACTION PLAN 2005-2007

- Annual Meeting 21st of October 2005 in Gdynia.
- Seminar in connection with the Annual Meeting (20th of October). The topic of the meeting is Trolley bus systems.
- Election of new chair for the Commission on Transportation at the Annual Meeting 2005.
- Continuous collaboration within the BUSTRIP Interreg project together with Commission on Environment and all the partner cities.
- Continue to develop the network in different ways
- Creating a website as an information platform for all of the members of the TransCom
- Strengthening the network of cooperating cities by sharing the leadership with Örebro (Deputy Chairman Carinne Lancereau of Örebro, Sweden),
- Involving other organizations into the network,
- Cooperation with other UBC Commissions, especially EnvCom and Tourism Commission led by Koszalin (Poland);

Lisa Sundell
Chairman of the Commission
City of Göteborg

Sofie Vennersten
Commission Coordinator
City of Göteborg

COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

The main activities of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning and Public Design during the period have taken place within the ABC project.

ABC – Alliance of Baltic Cities – is a project run by the UBC Commission on Urban Planning and Design. The project started March 2003 and lasts for three years. The project engages 27 UBC cities from 7 countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The project is supported by BSR Interreg IIIB. The Polish partners achieved financial support from EU PHARE fund, but not the partners from Estonia and Latvia. This caused some financial difficulties, but the commission have never the less managed to run the project as originally planned. Lead part is the City of Malmö, with architect Lars Brattberg as project leader.

The project engages city planners and architects working in municipalities and local regions. The main activity in the project is two international seminars per year. The participants work three or four days at every seminar with these main issues:

- Learning the local circumstances in the host city and country, as well as the planning legislation in that country
- Lectures on some burning planning questions of today
- Work shops on how to solve local city planning problems,
- Dealing in the work shops with local applications of one of three specific common planning items (two seminars per item):
 - developed urban management,
 - cities as regional engines,
 - renewal of city districts.

The project aims to result in:

- Networking and exchange of best practice between colleagues in UBC cities,
- Examples/proposals on how to deal with city planning problems of today and tomorrow,
- Small Scale Investment proposals.

Seminars have been held in Kolding and Vaasa in 2003, in Liepaja and Viljandi in 2004 and in Gdynia 2005. The last seminar will be held in Malmö in October 2005. From each seminar a report is produced and presented at the next seminar.

The preparation of the seminars and the production of seminar reports is organized to the responsibility for three Work Packages (WP), with together some 20 persons from 14 cities in 7 countries. The following cities have been involved:

WP 1: Helsinki (chair), Kolding, Riga, Viljandi.

WP 2: Umeå (chair), Vaasa, Gdynia, Tartu, and Jurmala.

WP 3: Malmö (chair), Liepaja, Rostock, Nyköping F. and Pärnu.

The seminars have been as follows:

Kolding seminar, April 2003

The basic theme was Developed Urban Management, City Renewal and Development towards sustainability. There were 39 participants from more than 26 cities and the seminar report was presented in October 2003.

Vaasa seminar, October 2003

The main theme was Cities as Regional Engines - Urban design and regional development. There were 46 participants from 22 cities and the seminar report was presented in April 2004, at the next seminar in Liepaja.

Liepaja seminar, April 2004

The main theme was Renewal of City Districts. Reuse of coastal and central residential areas towards sustainability. There were over 50 participants from 24 cities. The seminar report was presented at the next seminar in Viljandi.

Viljandi seminar, September 2004

The main theme was Culture and Nature meets the Built Environment. The seminar started in Tallinn with a short study-tour, looking at the urban structure of Tallinn. In Viljandi information was presented about the city and the Estonian planning system. In three workshops proposals were worked out for solutions and small scale investments on three themes: Connecting the historical town with the town centre, Development of lakeside area of Viljandi and Wooden ecological housing. Some best practice examples were also given from Porvoo and Helsinki. The seminar group also visited the city of Tartu, studying the renewal of wooden house areas.

The last day, back in Tallinn, the seminar was summed up. The seminar group also gave feed-back on the ABC-project so far, and discussed the future of the ABC-method of working in cooperation between professional colleagues.

The seminar had over 40 participants, from about 25 cities. The seminar report was presented by the WP1 group at the Gdynia seminar in April 2005.

The 5th seminar of the ABC-project, Gdynia, April 2005

The main theme was "Cities as regional engines - Improving the city core". 45 city planners from 27 cities in 8 countries participated.

After welcoming from the mayor of Gdynia, Mr Wojciech Szczurek and from the UBC secretariat by Mr Paweł Żaboklicki the seminar focused on Gdynia and the Tri-city region Gdańsk-Sopot-Gdynia. Deputy Mayor Marek Stępa informed about the Gdynia city development and its role in the Pomeranian region. Professor Maria Jolanta Sołtysik gave a historical view of Gdynia architecture. Mr Feliks Pankau, from the Pomorskie Voivodship, gave an overview of the Polish planning system. Consultant architect Jacek Dominiak spoke about analysis of measures of architectural building-elements. Marek Karzyński, head of Gdynia city planning department, took the seminar group to a very interesting excursion through the Gdynia city and its surroundings.

The seminar held three workshops. One group studied how to redevelop a harbour area close to the city centre and a waterfront area between the pier and the city centre. Another group worked with how to improve and revitalise a number of inner city housing quarters. The third group worked with how to make best use of a green corridor near the City Hall and how to combine the needs for more office space and parking with qualities of the green area. The proposals from the workshops were presented in plenum and to representatives from Gdynia city.

The seminar also held an excursion to Hel, a spectacular long and narrow peninsula outside of Gdynia, as well as short visits to Sopot and Gdańsk.

The responsible WP2 group have produced a seminar report that will be presented at the next seminar in Malmö in October 2005.

Other activities of the Commission

The leads of the Commission have, besides of meetings at the seminars, had a number of telephone meetings during the period. There have also been a meeting in Malmö 1.9 – 3.9.2004 for evaluation of the results and economy in the ABC-project after half of the project period.

The Commission has begun to investigate the possibilities to continue and develop the ABC project after 2005. The new project aims to develop the educational parts of the seminars and to create a Baltic Academy of City Planning. The method of work within the ABC-project has been found successful and the value of the established network is well worth taking care of. Funding of the new project is going to be applied for from the Interreg IIIB program. Two representatives from the Commission attended Interreg IIIB partner search meeting in Vilnius in May 2005. Almost 30 cities from 8 BSR countries have stated interest of participating in the new project and the application documents are being outlined. Deadline for an application is September 23rd 2005.

The lead of the Commission held, together with the WP leaders, a meeting in Copenhagen in June 2005 to discuss the future activities of the Commission and to make preparations for the Interreg IIIB application.

There are also ongoing activities with preparations for the seminar in Malmö in October 2005.

ACTION PLAN 2006–2007

The Commission on Urban Planning and Public Design plans at first hand to go further on the way of working that has shown good results during the last two years.

The present Commissions lead has done a great work for over six years, and a renewal is now appropriate to do. At the Malmö seminar in October 2005 there will be a decision taken about a new steering committee for the Commission. (A new lead did also get appointed, as follows: Lead City is Riga, represented by Gvido Princis, the Chairman of the Commission. The steering committee also includes Peter Hee from Kolding, Jonas Jakaitis from Vilnius, Sirpa Kallio from Helsinki, Marek Karzyński from Gdynia, Gunilla Kronvall from Malmö and Lars-Göran Boström from Umeå.)

The aim is to develop the established active network of planners from UBC cities and use this network to enable urban planners to broaden their competence and knowledge. The Commission will focus on today's most important questions for the future of our cities, as well as on necessary new working methods for urban planning.

The cities of Europe are playing increasingly economic roles in their regions. The cities are also increasingly important for sustainable regional development and growth, as well as for the surrounding rural areas. In this process of transition the work of city architects and planners is essential. They make important development factors understood and taken into action, which increases the qualities and attraction of the city and of city living. This work has to be done during a period of decreasing public economy. Development of partnerships and new working methods between private and public participants in the cities will become necessary.

This is the background for a planned project called A Baltic Academy of City Planning. It is a free-standing development of the ABC Project.

The project will focus on four themes:

- City - Region: The city as the distinguished growth engine in its functional region
- Revitalizing qualities in urban life, socially sustainable city development
- PPP: Partnership between city planners, land owners, economists and other stakeholders
- Urban planning as a tool to enhance democratic qualities. Preparing to establish a permanent institution - The Baltic Academy of City Planners

The project will try to create a forum - an Academy - where young or less experienced city architects and planners can learn to handle and solve problems together, and in exchange of experience, with elderly colleagues. The project will:

- Use seminars with workshops as a way of completing the basic education of planners and to further develop the cities own expertise competence.
- Invite experts from other cities within the EU, from universities and research institutions and from the private sector to hold lectures and to participate in workshops.
- Work on actual problems in seminar host cities.

The main objective is to further develop the professional skills and experiences of planners from the partner cities. The method of work also produces proposals for solutions to local issues for the benefit of the host cities. The principle structure of each seminar is divided into two parts: First there are highly qualified lectures by invited experts on the themes of the seminar. Second there are learning and exchange of experience by practical work with local problem/city areas. The seminars will also include presentations of the work shop results to the local representatives and a general discussion over the results.

The number of partner cities will be about 25-30 cities. As of today 28 partners has stated interest of participating. All cities will belong to a “work package” (WP). There will be four WPs, each of them responsible for arranging one of the four seminars.

To achieve this first hand action plan of the Commission, a substantial additional financial support is necessary. The Commission therefore will apply for funding from the Interreg IIIB program, in Priority 3: “Transnational and bilateral institution and capacity building in the Baltic Sea Region”.

If necessary financial support is not granted, from Interreg IIIB or other sources, the ambitions of the Commission must be reduced. This action plan then must be revised.

Lars-Göran Boström
Chief planner, City of Umeå
UBC Commission of Urban Planning

WOMEN’S NETWORK

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

Aims

In Klaipėda 18.10.03 UBC Women’s Network decided to consolidate the network and to increase the knowledge about the situation of women in Europe. As important areas to follow up was adopted violence against women and trafficking, women’s entrepreneurship and women’s situation on European labour market.

What has been done?

E-mail lists have been up-dated and maintained and information has been collected about people working with gender equality questions in the member-cities.

Contact and knowledge has been supplied using Internet.

The gender equality situation in the member cities has been followed:

- Enquiry to member cities 2004
- Enquiry to member cities 2005
- Steps taken to promote women candidates to UBC Presidency
- Pointed out the importance of open appointment procedures within the organisation
- A report model for gender equality in the municipalities has been developed

Women's Network seminars and meetings

- Meeting in Klaipėda 18.10.03 (VII GC of UBC))
- Annual meeting in Turku 14.8.04
- Seminar in Turku 14.8.04: *Theme: Gender Equality in BSR municipalities and as a Nordic Dimension*. Two representatives from Lake Victorian LVRAC Women's Network participated:
- Riga, Latvia - UBC Board meeting, with the commissions and networks, 15-17.10.04: The co-ordinator's report was presented by Loreta Stelbiene, Moletai, Lithuania
- Annual meeting in Narva, Estonia 26.8.05
- Seminar in Narva 26.8.05; *Theme: Women and Men sharing decision-making in municipalities*
- Meeting in Turku 30.9.05 (VIII GC of UBC)
- Meeting in St. Petersburg 7.10.05

International events

- 10th Anniversary Seminar of the Nordic Forum, Turku 12-13.8.04
- 4th International Conference "WoMen and Democracy", Pietari 6-9.10.05

Projects

- As partners: *LIBRA 2003-2005*

The project maps how gender equality is implemented in local and regional administration/organizations and develops a method that can be used in Europe. It ended 2005.

- A project of our own: The idea was created in the seminar in Turku 14.8.04 and has been developed further during 2005.

2003-2005 (some specifications to the list above)

FOLLOWING UP THE GENDER EQUALITY SITUATION IN UBC AND MEMBER CITIES ENQUIRY 2004

Enquiry to the member cities to collect information on responsible persons appointed by the city-administrations to deal with gender equality issues. We also collected information about resource (yearly budgets). Additionally we asked for information about women's organisations.

As a result we got a list about the people in charge of gender issues and some information about women's organisations in the municipalities.

The answers indicated that the member cities vary considerably in the degree of human and material resources appointed to gender equality issues. Especially in the member cities located in the "new" EU member states many municipalities reported that nothing (visible) had been done. But within UBC we also can find cities which have used both human and financial resources to develop good practices.

The results were shortly reported in UBC Bulletin and mailed to the network.

ENQUIRY 2005

2005 a new enquiry was sent asking for the representation of Women/Men in Municipal Councils and City Administration. The result was presented to the Network in the Annual Meeting in Narva 26.8.2005.

The result was sent to all member-cities and to the network. It can also be found from Femina Aboensis web-site www.feminaaboensis.com.

OPINIONS COMING THROUGH TO THE CO-ORDINATOR

Women's Network has discussed the equality issues of UBC organisation pointing out the importance of just and open appointment procedures.

The messages have stressed that because UBC today still is so much male-dominated as organisation it is most important to have just and open procedures in all appointments. There has also been suggestions that in order to reach a more balanced situation it should be taken into consideration to give priority to female candidates when the candidates are equal and that this could be considered as well in case of the planned appointment of a new policy officer.

After Chojnice (11.6.05) the minutes came out, the messages have expressed a clear satisfaction because it signals that the Board is aware of the need to get a more balanced situation.

The messages also express satisfaction because Lillian Westerberg from Sweden, who also has been participating in Women's Network, is part of the WG working with organizational renewals and that that Swedish member cities have agreed on a female candidate for the Presidency.

The Co-ordinator has written about this and other issues concerning the network activities in the spring-05 UBC Bulletin.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

10th Anniversary Seminar of the Nordic Forum in Turku 12.-13.8.2004

Sirpa Ruisniemi from the organisation which co-ordinates the Network – Femina Aboensis -and the co-ordinator Ulla Lundqvist took part in the committees preparing for the event and Women's Network got invitations to participate in the Forum.

In 2005 Ulla Lundqvist also has participated in the international planning committee preparing for the 4th (and final) Conference Women and Democracy. This Conference is organized by St Petersburg Social and Economic Institute with the support of the City of St Petersburg and the Nordic Council of Ministers and takes place 6-9.10.2005 expecting to gather over 600 participants from all Baltic Sea Countries. (The co-ordinator participated also in the preparations of the preceding conferences, Hjärdís Höglund in the 2nd Conference Women and Democracy in Vilnius and Ulla Lundqvist in the 3rd Conference Women and Democracy in Tallinn 2003.)

From each country 30 delegates are invited to this important (gratis) conference. UBC as an organization participating in the planning has been given the benefit to invite 20 participants from the UBC Women's Network. Ulla Lundqvist is the contact person for the UBC delegation.

PROJECTS

LIBRA 2003-PROJECT was co-ordinated by the City of Barcelona. The organisations from the following municipalities and regions participated: Italy (Lucca, Avellino, Savona, Mantona, Ancona, Rozzano, Asti), Hungary (Budapest), England (Torfaen), Finland (Jyväskylä), Spain (Barcelona, Jaen, Cordoba, Badajoz). As Networks participated UBC Women's Network through Femina Aboensis, Arco

Latino (58 municipalities from Spain, Portugal, France and Italy), Urb-Al (200 European and Latin American organizations) and Partenalia (a network for 2. level local decision-makers).

The project has ended and the results spread to the Network

THE PLANNING OF THE NEW PROJECT

The idea grew in the Network's seminar in Turku 2004. As was the case in LIBRA it would become a project for municipalities, regions and networks. The Project would be co-ordinated by Femina Aboensis in Turku with Women's Network as one partner - if possible also the women's network in LVRAC and Lake Victoria Region.

During 2005 several discussions have taken place and new useful contacts been made. As a result Ulla Lundqvist was invited together with gender equality officials from Poland, Estonia and Nordic Countries to a high level seminar on Gender Mainstreaming for Vice-Governors of the North-West Russia in St Petersburg 27.5.05. The next day a discussion on the prospects of gender equality co-operation around the Baltic Sea in the future took place, where the participants presented their views on what kind of projects promoting gender equality they looked forward to. The event was held in Smolna and chaired by vice-governor of St Petersburg, Lyudmila A. Kostkina. From August-05 Femina Aboensis Turun Naisten Keskus has one person working on a project proposal.

ACTION PLAN 2006 –2007

How do we go on?

Women's Network continues on the chosen path in the following way:

- Maintaining e-mail lists
- Supplying contact and knowledge using Internet
- Following with the development of gender equality steps in UBC and its member cities
- Pushing for implementation of a report model for gender equality issues within UBC and its member cities
- Pushing for a use of native languages when information is sent out to the member cities about events
- Preparing for a name change - a name that better describes the aim and that includes all who are alert on the social advantages gained by gender equal societies
- Organizing one seminar, 2 meetings (the other in connection to the seminar)
- Participating in international events
- Preparing and hopefully carrying out the project in planning

All this provided that the City of Turku supports the co-ordinating NGO with sufficient financial resources to carry out the tasks.

Ulla Lundqvist
Coordinator of UBC Women's Network
Femina Aboensis, Turku

NETWORK ON YOUTH ISSUES

ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003 – AUGUST 2005

11th-12th February 2004, Kalmar, Sweden

This was our first real Working Group meeting where we actually created our Working Group. Our main agenda was to give the participants a background of UBC, which Anders Engström introduced very well, to get to know each other and to create a Working Group. We also discussed our aims with the Network and our ideas. We decided to work towards a Youth Conference in 2005, where several young people outside of the Network will also have the possibility to take part. Our Action Plan for the next WG meeting was to produce a booklet with chronicles written by young people around the Baltic Sea, set up a website of the Network and to keep working on inviting participants from countries that are not participating today.

17th-18th May 2004, Kolding, Denmark

We started our second WG meeting by looking at the draft of our Booklet and everyone was very positive with the result so far. Aurimas Simkus, who is responsible for the website, could unfortunately not participate in Kolding but promised that we will see the result. Anna Olsson, our EU-advisor spoke about the possibilities of funding sources for the Youth Conference in 2005. Another important point that was discussed was how to “watch over” the other networks and commissions and to increase the youth perspective in their work. It was decided that each participant within the WG shall acquaint themselves with the information from the networks and commissions. The members of the network are supposed to monitor the agendas of “their” commission. It is important that all youth-related topics should be discussed via e-mail by the entire WG before a comment is sent to the commission.

Future events and issues to be discussed:

- The Youth Conference in September 2005.
- The Youth Chronicle Booklet.
- The network website.
- Efforts of the WG to contact representatives from Norway, Finland, and civil service representatives from Lithuania.
- Discussions on future projects.
- Planning for the UBC General Conference in Turku, Finland.
- Planning for discussions between the UBC Executive Board and young people, and letting them have a dialogue with each other in every town where meetings are being held.

14th-15th of October 2004, Riga, Latvia

At the meeting in Riga the members of the Network on Youth Issues mostly discussed the network homepage and of course, the big conference. The topics for the conference were discussed and “youth participation and influence on a local level” was chosen to be the main topic.

4th-6th of February 2005, Rostock, Germany

In Rostock the main discussions were also about the Vilnius Youth Conference. The conference should produce a catalogue of requests and demands, which will be sent to the local and national authorities, the UBC and other supporters. Results and project ideas should be implemented by the network and the conference participants. The catalogue shall act as documentation from the conference. It was also discussed that we needed a Project group who would meet more often, to discuss only the conference. Six of us decided to take part in that group and we planned to have our first meeting in Vilnius 8th-10th April.

A new project, The Urban Youth Project was also discussed. It was decided that every member city should make an analysis on why young people have so little influence in their city, this analysis will be the basis for future activities of the network and future steps in the project.

Questions to be answered:

- a) What kind of influence do young people have in your city?
- b) What measures did or should your city take to give young people the possibility of influencing decisions?
- c) How can they participate in decision making processes?
- d) What are the obstacles for participations?
- e) What are your cities' experiences with youth influence? – good and bad practice examples

10th-12th June 2005, Kurressaare, Estonia

In Kurressaare it was decided to call the Vilnius conference “Young and Active in the Baltic Sea Region” and a logo for the conference will be developed by a Swedish designer who is also developing a logo for the Network on Youth Issues. The network has now chosen to employ a project administrator who will work full time with planning and evaluating the conference. Tina Jönsson from Kalmar showed interest and the other members approved her appointment as the administrator. Her employment is from 8th August to the 8th November. The Swedish Board for Youth Affairs approved the application from Kalmar and provided approx. 40 000 €

Miscellaneous on the conference so far:

- There will be 4-5 workshops depending on the number of participants:
 - a) Youth influence at school and university
 - b) Youth influence in the city
 - c) Priorities in life
 - d) Demographic change
 - e) Intercultural learning
- the participants will be divided into the workshops by the organisers, taking into account nationality, gender and age
- in the invitation letters to the conference, participants should be asked about best practice examples on youth influence from their experiences

Later at the conference in Kurressaare Tina Jönsson was elected to represent the Network on Youth Issues at the General Conference in Turku, Finland.

ACTION PLAN 2006-2007

The Action Plan for Network on Youth Issues the upcoming two years will be settled after the Vilnius Conference, since that conference will be used as a foundation for our future work. However our Youth Urban Project will continue and get a more central role in our work.

Tina Jönsson
Network on Youth Issues, City of Kalmar

LOGISTICS TASK FORCE

ACTIVITY REPORT

The Logistics Task Force of the Union of the Baltic Cities was asked to create a new maritime logistics policy for UBC. The aim of the policy is to help the UBC Member Cities define their position on

maritime transport issues and promote transport business in the area. The policy is built only for the UBC and responds to its members' needs. The work was done in co-operation with the Centre for Maritime Studies of the University of Turku (CMS), Finland.

The policy includes selected key aspects of maritime logistics, which were viewed as most important by professionals working in the field of maritime logistics in the Baltic Sea area. The material for the policy was collected in different ways from various sources: a small-scale questionnaire inquiry was made to experts of three selected areas of logistics (Transport and Infrastructure, Safety and Environment and Logistics IT), a compilation report on similar policy work already done by other Baltic Sea organisations and projects was written, and expert group meetings were organised.

The Task Force and CMS were also asked to organise the "Maritime Logistics Corridors in the BSR" forum of the "Towards a New Baltic Sea Agenda" seminar arranged as part of the VIII UBC General Conference in Turku, Finland on 29 September – 2 October 2005. The UBC maritime logistics policy developed was presented at the General Conference.

Maritime Logistics Policy Paper

Material for the maritime logistics policy was compiled for the use of the expert discussions:

- A small-scale questionnaire inquiry into the most important questions in the three theme areas was conducted in March–May 2005 and the results were summarised.
- A document outlining Baltic Sea organisations that deal with transport issues and their transport policies was prepared.
- A document outlining transport-related programmes, projects and initiatives in the Baltic Sea area was prepared.

Meetings, conferences

Logistics Task Force representatives took part in international conferences: the New Hansa partner meeting in Szczecin, Poland (23–25 May 2005), the "Motorways of the Sea and Nature Conservation" seminar of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions in Naantali, Finland (26 May 2005) and the BPO General Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark (8–10 May 2005) to meet with experts in the areas of "Safety and Environment" and "Transport and Infrastructure".

A meeting with Logistics IT experts in Kemi, Finland in conjunction with the Mid-term Conference of the Integrating Logistics Centre Networks in the Baltic Sea Region (InLoC) project took place on 20 June 2005.

Three Expert Group Meetings in the theme areas were held in Turku on 22 August 2005.

The forum "Maritime Logistics Corridors in the BSR" was arranged at the "Towards a New Baltic Sea Agenda" seminar on 30 September 2005.

The maritime logistics policy was presented to the UBC Executive Board before the VIII UBC General Conference.

Contributors to the project and their roles

UBC Logistics Task Force: steering the work and drafting the policy.

Three Expert Groups: defining the basic elements for the policy.

Questionnaire respondents: providing practical information from the field.

Experts interviewed at meetings: providing practical information from the field.

Centre for Maritime Studies of the University of Turku: co-ordination and implementation of the tasks.

Christian Ramberg
Chairman of the Logistics Task Force