

## REPORTS AND ACTION PLANS OF THE UBC COMMISSIONS AND NETWORK

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## COMMISSION ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

The UBC Commission on Business Cooperation has published a bulletin titled “Science and Technology Park Projects around the Baltic Sea Region” which includes the description of science parks and business clusters established by some of the UBC member-cities. The bulletin was presented in the UBC General Conference in Turku, in October of 2005, and later distributed to the stakeholders around the Baltic Sea region.

The meeting of the Commission on Business Cooperation was held in Turku on June 14 – 16, 2006 and the representatives from the cities of Turku, Tampere, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Gdańsk, Tallinn, Viljandi, Vordingborg, Kolding and Næstved were present. On the 14th of June they participated in the seminars, workshops and other events of the European Day of Entrepreneur. It was an international event closely connected with the work of the Commission on Business Cooperation.

During the meeting, the European Day of Entrepreneur was opened by the introductory speech of Mr. Kalle Euro, the Director of Business Development of Turku Area Development Centre. After the opening speeches of other honorary participants and a nice coffee break morning seminars on environmental protection and Sea Tech started; after lunch the workshops continued. There was the Environmental Protection B2B Meeting, Seminar on Innovations and Cultures in Entrepreneurship, Sea Tech Workshop and Networking and Discussion Forum developing EDE into co-operation involving the Baltic Sea Region. The Feedback Session closed the event. The sitting of the UBC Business Commission was held on the next day and Mr. Kalle Euro, the Director of Business Development of Turku Area Development Centre, chaired it.

All the participants had an opportunity to exchange their opinions regarding the presentation and discussed about other relevant things. Afterwards the presentations of the participating cities pursued. The Head of the Development Programs Management Division of City Development Department of Kaunas City Municipality Mr. Vyintas Grinis presented the project of the science park “Technopolis”, the construction of which is planned in Kaunas City. Mr. Uffe Nielsen, the director of Næstved -Egnens Udviklingselskab A/S presented the activities of this organization. The primary mission of this organization is to promote the business development of the Næstved region.

After the presentations a lively discussion about the activities of the UBC Business Commission took place. The organizational system of the Commission was discussed as well. The problems, such as a lack of interested and concerned members, or the lack of deeper activity were indicated. The Senior Consultant of the Industrial Development Council of Kolding City Mr. Erling Winther suggested that it would be good to improve the work of an organizing committee that consists of three cities - past, present and future hosts of the Business Commission meeting. One more offer was to develop the activity of a permanent secretariat in Kaunas City. Also, it was offered to involve entrepreneurs and relevant representatives in the activities and meetings of the UBC Business Commission. Afterwards there was a selection of the host city for the year 2008. Two cities from Denmark (Næstved and Vordingborg) had kindly offered themselves and were elected as the possible hosts for the UBC Business Commission meeting in the year 2008. The position of the chairmanship for the Commission on Business Cooperation is assigned to Narva, a city in Estonia, where the meeting is going to be held at the end of the year 2007.

Conclusions for the years 2006 - 2007: There is no significant gap between Eastern and Western European countries anymore. The development in the Central and Eastern European Countries is very fast and Western Countries can learn from their achievements as well. Few years ago Western members of the UBC were only providing information to the Eastern partners, but now there is an exchange of

information on equal basis. It is very important to develop the activities of the UBC Business Commission involving more relevant representatives and improving its organisational system.

## ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

The Action Plan 2008 – 2009 for the Commission on Business Cooperation includes the updating of the bulletin titled “Science and Technology Park Projects around the Baltic Sea Region” with an aim to reveal and disclose the expedient examples of the different development as well as formation factors of the science and technology facilities, such as parks, incubators, laboratories, etc. inside and outside municipalities and higher education institutions. In addition, the Action Plan 2008 – 2009 for the Commission on Business Cooperation includes the participation in the meeting with the position of the chairmanship for the Commission on Business Cooperation being assigned to Narva, and the exchange of experience and worth-while future activity ideas. The Action Plan 2008 – 2009 for the Commission on Business Cooperation also includes the constant search for projects that would consolidate and promote the activity of the Commission on Business Cooperation.

Vytautas Juodagalvis  
Secretariat of the Commission  
City of Kaunas

## COMMISSION ON CULTURE

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

**A meeting about cultural cooperation** was made during the UBC General Conference in Turku on 1st of October 2005, with 9 participants from various cities. The meeting was led by the Chairperson of the Commission on Culture, resulting mostly in giving information about the background and activities of this unique Commission.

**The Board of the Commission on Culture** had a separate meeting in connection with the Session in St. Petersburg in 2005, with an evaluation of this Session that was made together with some of the participants. The Board decided, among other things, to move its secretariat from Szczecin to Visby 2006-2007, to accept a proposed Action plan 2006-2007 and the idea of the Chairperson Tarja Hautamäki to establish a cultural prize.

**The 8th Annual Session** was successfully realized by Izvara museum in Cooperation with the city of St. Petersburg 6-9 December 2005 with a focus on the theme “The Role and Value of the Museums in the Modern World”. The Commission on Culture presented a report about this Session in the UBC Bulletin 1/2006, a publication based on the various speeches that was produced by St. Petersburg, printed and distributed with support from the Commission on Culture.

**The Board of the Commission** met in Umeå on 21-22 April 2006, with support from the secretary Georg Gyllenfjell, Visby. The Board discussed the publication about the Session in St. Petersburg, the rules of election of members to the Board, its budget, plans for the future and other matters.

**The Board of the Commission on Culture** met in Vaasa on 23 November 2006. According to the minutes of the meeting, the city of Cēsis was the first to receive the UBC Cultural Prize that is established by the Commission. The Board planned future activities, the election of a new Board etc.

**The Annual Session** of 2006 was also held in Vaasa on 24-25 November 2006 on the theme “Cultural Festivals as Strengtheners of Local Identity” with 11 lecturers and also parallel group works, discussions, etc. The session gathered together 40 participants. All countries around the Baltic Sea except Denmark were represented. The Participants could also experience some of the great Wildlife Vaasa Film Festival during these days.

**The Festival of the Baltic Cities** was held for the first time in St. Petersburg on 15-18 June 2006. The chairperson of the Commission on Culture was invited to the organizing committee of the festival. Board member Olga Cherkasova was representing the Commission on Culture in the opening panel and in the closing round-table discussion of the festival. The Commission on Culture and the organizers of the festival are discussing of different ways to co-operate in the future. The second chairperson Olov Gibson participated in a meeting during the Festival in Kaunas in May 2007 with representatives from various cities and from the Baltic International Festival Centre in St. Petersburg – see [www.baltichouse.spb.ru](http://www.baltichouse.spb.ru)

**The EU Committee of the Regions** had an interesting meeting in Brussels on 20 June 2006 that Olov Gibson could participate in with financial support from the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk that has received his report from this meeting. It was led by the Commissioner Jan Figel on the theme “The European Policy of Education and Culture; its contribution to the success of the Lisbon Strategy, the role of the regions and cities”.

**The cultural network Les rencontres** had a meeting in Rovaniemi on 23-25 August 2006. The Chairman of the Commission on Culture participated actively as the representative of the Commission. Les rencontres is a forum for lectures and discussion about European cultural policies.

**The Catalogue of Cultural Institutions**, presented on [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net) was updated by the Secretariat of the Commission on Culture, Visby. From 2006 it has been completed with a new network of cultural institutions around the Lake Victoria, in order to stimulate contacts with and within the sister organisation of UBC: Lake Victoria Regional and Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC).

**During the 47th meeting of the UBC Executive Board** in Gdynia on 19-20 October 2006 the Commission on Culture was represented by its chairpersons that presented the activities of the Commission and participated in the discussions about the structure and future of the UBC Commissions.

**The Board of the Commission** met in Visby on 3 May 2007 to plan its election of a new Board and one of the workshop named “Culture as a driving force for municipal development” in Pärnu 27 – 30 of September 2007. It also proposed to the next Board themes for the future Annual Working Session: Youth Culture, Libraries, Culture Education, Cultural Tourism and Underground Culture. Also the budget matters were discussed etc.

**The 10th Working Session** in Visby on 4-5 May 2007 was named “European means for cultural cooperation” and had 8 lecturers, among them representatives from Ars Baltica, Les Rencontres, Nordic Council of Ministers and the Swedish National Council of Cultural Affairs. The Session attracted 45 participants all together, which also discussed in groups how to apply for funding from the EU cultural programme Culture 2007 and others.

**The World Public Forum of Civilizations** organized a Regional Conference “European Civilization Space: Baltic Dialogue” in Tampere on 4-5 June 2007. The chairperson of the Commission on Culture was invited to the conference as a speaker.

**The 7th Baltic Biennial of Contemporary Art – transRobota** was opened at the National Museum in Szczecin 4 August – 9 September 2007. The exhibition was themed as an examination of globalization's effect on labour trends and patterns in the new Millenium.

The Board of the Commission participates in **the IX UBC General Conference** in Pärnu on 27-28 September 2007, especially responsible for the Report of the Commission, the workshop "Culture as driving force for municipal development" and for the mentioned election of a new Board for the Commission on Culture 2008 – 2011.

### ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

The Commission on Culture arranged the election of a new Board of this Commission during the IX UBC General Conference in Pärnu 27 – 28 of September 2007. The new members of the Board are: Kim Chirstoffersen (Næstved), Agrita Ozola (Tukums), Tarja Hautamäki (Vaasa) and Charlotte Lundkvist (Umeå). Two other members will be elected later.

The Action Plan for further activities mentioned here, is only to be regarded as suggestions to the next Board, which will take over from 1st of January 2008:

1. 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 idea is that the Board invites the cities to candidate for that prize once a year and that the prize has a special theme each year.
2. The traditional Annual Working Sessions initiated by the Board or by the member cities should continue with focus on a special cultural field each year.
3. The Cooperation with St. Petersburg Baltic International Festival Centre about the "Festival of Baltic Cities" will be developed and better marketed.
4. The Commission will keep the Catalogue of Cultural Institutions at [www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net) updated and develop contacts with other cultural networks, for example Les Rencontres and European Capitals of Culture.
5. The Commission on Culture shall be better known by producing a presenting leaflet.
6. The Commission is cooperating with the UBC Choir Festival 2008, in Vaasa.
7. The present Board will eventually have its last meeting in Cēsis later in 2007.

Tarja Hautamäki  
Chairperson of the Commission  
City of Vaasa

## COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

In 2006 and 2007 there were a number of opportunities to participate in projects and activities by Commission on Education. The commission had planned meetings, teachers' workshop in Norrtälje, research school in Norrtälje, conference in Tallinn, photo competition and practical training for students. The commission on Education achieved external funding for the projects and activities.

#### **1. Meeting in Tallinn January 2006**

Commission on Education had an Annual Meeting on 27 January 2006 in Tallinn in School Kullo. Chairman of the meeting was the chairman Mr Kurt Petterson, organizer was the secretary of the commission Ms Annely Veevo. 28 participants from Latvia, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Estonia were presented at the meeting.

First of all the Director of Tallinn School of Extracurricular Activities "Kullo", Mr. Urmas Uska, welcomed the Commission on Education in Kullo and expressed his gladness that Commission has the annual meeting in Kullo. Mr Petterson, the Chairman of the Commission on Education, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

This year fulfilled 65 years from education of Extracurricular Activities in Estonia. In 8-10 April it was celebrated with international conference and gala concert in Tallinn. The name of conference was „Non-Formal Education – Asset for Youth and Society“. The speech themes were 1. Aspects of non-formal learning today; 2. Compulsory education and non-formal learning; 3. Challenge for local authorities and 4. Asset for youth and society.

How to inspire the members to co-operate? was the important theme of the meeting. The Commission on Education is focusing on mutual understanding between young people from different cultures around the Baltic Sea; on dissemination new information and successful experiences of education and in other UBC subjects and on strengthening of the development of democracy in Europe by fostering the idea of the life long learning. The participants gave some good ideas how to improve the commission work: to make next meeting presentation about co-operation in other commissions and networks; to disseminate information trough contact persons and take an initiative; to have on website of UBC a database, where member cities can log in and have information about commission's work; to make more co-operation between schools and take part in different projects and to have right contact persons. Mr Eesmaa, Vice-chairman of commission pointed a problem – we all want to get information but not to give.

It would be good to know how are the other commissions working – what kind of problems do they have?

#### **2. "Activities for school children after school time", international conference and concert in April in Tallinn. Hobby education in Estonia – 65!**

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

Among the participants there were heads of Estonian hobby schools, representatives of local governments and also foreign guests. International organisations like the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), European Association for Leisure Time Institutions of Children and Youth (EAICY), International Movement for Leisure in Science and Technology (MILSET) and the European Network for the Promotion of Youth Leisure and Voluntary Activities and Recognition of Youth Non-formal and Informal Learning were presented.

The topics were: non-formal education today, diverse nature of education, needs and opportunities, and added value for life. Participants visited Tallinn hobby schools and took part of anniversary concert where the best groups from hobby schools performed.

### **3. Erken Laboratory Research School 2006 and 2007**

These summers we repeated our most appreciated Research School for students of the age of 17-19 at the Erken Laboratory. The laboratory is beautifully situated in the countryside of Norrtälje, Sweden, immediately on the shore of Lake Erken. For the summer of 2006, we presented a course for 16 students, including an introductory week with lectures in general limnology and a concluding week where we summarize the students' work. In between, the students work independently with their Research Projects at the frontline of limnology (ecology of freshwater), under the protective wings of our young international supervisors. We had students from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Western Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland that participated in the Erken Laboratory Research School 2006 and 2007.

The Research School was a boarding school or "scientific monastery". All students lived together and worked together at the laboratory, and the scientific discussions became a part of life. However, as we recognize that science after all is not everything, we also offered other types of activities in the end of the days. These were sports, a barbecue, a visit to the historical village of Storholmen and trips to Stockholm and Uppsala.

The main objective of the Research School is to let the students work with scientific questions and to do research. This was done in the projects. In these, the students themselves are responsible for asking and answering the scientific questions that appear. They plan and design field- and laboratory work, they work independently in the laboratories, and they report their results. The projects were conducted in 100 hours. Two students worked together in one project.

### **4. Photo competition in 2006**

Commission on Education of Union of The Baltic Cities and Kärdla Town Government organized from 15 February to 30 September 2006 a Youth Photo competition of UBC, where 13-16 years old youth from the UBC area participated.

The Project manager was Annely Veevo, the secretary of UBC Commission on Education, who has organized many youth projects. To the team belonged in IT-field Tarmo Kähr and professional Photographer Hanno Luukas. An aim of the photo competition was to develop youth virtuosity and skills and promote a hobby education through international prism. It was made by photos, which describe friendship between young people and their action/ hobby's.

In the photo competition participated youngsters from Union of Baltic Cities, who were born from 1990 to 1993. Every participant could send to competition max. 5 photos that were taken in the year 2006. Photos should be in digital form and photo collage and digital editing was not allowed.

To photo competition came in 55 photos from 15 participants. Represented were Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. In beginning more youth was registered (incl. Sweden and Poland), but for some reason they did not upload their photos.

By rating Jury considered art to catch interesting moments, details and spirits, what would characterise his/her friend. The jury announced 1 first, 1 second and 1 third prize and 5 consolation prizes. The prize fund was 1000 EUR

I prize: Pentax Bino DCF HR II 10x42 binoculars (320 Eur)

II prize: Memory Card Lexar Compact Flash 2 GB Professional or similar, 80x 1(200 Eur)

III prize: tripod Manfrotto 055 DB (150 Eur)

5 consolation prizes (Photo books „Hiiumaa") and as a symbol of gratitude for other participants a small souvenir.

The competition photos will stay in the Photo Bank of UBC. An exhibition was formed from the photos, which was also presented at official places in Norrtälje community (i.e. town library).

Jury has 12 members from Sweden (2), Latvia (1), Poland (2), Estonia (4), Finland (1) and independent experts from England (2).

### **5. Teachers workshop in Norrtälje**

Commission on Education wanted for two years to organise a special workshop for teachers to explore how does the Swedish school system work: a general overview; visit to Rodengymnasiet and joining a lesson; Ideas of flexible teaching, distance pedagogy, subject integration and teaching styles, schedule solutions, mentorship, personal development of the student, student health care, local student

democracy. Unfortunately interest to this workshop was very small and for this reason commission cancelled it. Plans are now definite for a conference in Kärddla, Estonia in October 2007.

## ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

### 2008

**January - December:** Swedish course, Target group: all interested people from UBC

Place: Norrtälje

Other cities will involve with video conference.

**March/April:** Commission meeting in Norrtälje

**June:** Children and Youth Festival, Target group: children and youngsters

Different events for every age group.

Place: Kärddla

**June and August:** Erken Laboratory Research School

Research School for students of the age of 17-19 at the Erken Laboratory. The laboratory is beautifully situated in the countryside of Norrtälje, Sweden, immediately on the shore of Lake Erken.

**August/September:** Commission meeting in Kärddla

**October:** Youth Forum

Target group: Youth Councils of UBC cities; Subject: „European citizenship in Baltic Sea cities.”

Place: Kärddla.

Other cities will involve with video conference.

Result: Cooperation between Youth Councils of UBC members.

### 2009

**January – September** will team prepare a magazine for Youth Councils in UBC.

**January – September:** Youth Photo competition 2; Target group: youth between 13.-16.age.

Place: Internet

**March/April:** Commission meeting in Norrtälje

**June:** Children and Youth Festival; Target group: children and youngsters

Different events for every age group.

Place: Kärddla

**June and August:** Erken Laboratory Research School

Research School for students of the age of 17-19 at the Erken Laboratory. The laboratory is beautifully situated in the countryside of Norrtälje, Sweden, immediately on the shore of Lake Erken.

**August/September:** Commission meeting in Kärddla

**October:** Youth Councils magazine will appear in print.

Kurt Pettersson  
Chairman of the Commission  
City of Norrtälje



## COMMISSION ON ENERGY

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2006 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### Introduction

The City of Oskarshamn got the approval from the Executive board to establish the Energy Commission in October 2006. The focus areas are:

- Reduction of greenhouse gases
- Energy efficiency programs
- Higher self sufficiency and local energy production
- (Dematerialisation of public sector)

#### **The overall Aims and Goals of the Energy Commission**

We have looked at the energy system issue rather than individual sources, and we would like to introduce this to the municipalities. The Energy Commission will raise awareness about projects and take practical use from experience exchanges in projects within the UBC network and promote municipalities to use great examples to get more energy efficient. Our strength is our great contacts with universities where we can bring science and university knowledge closer to the municipal/local level.

#### **UBC Energy Secretariat in Oskarshamn**

The grand opening for the office was in November 2006. The former president for the UBC, Mr Anders Engström held a speech about the history of the UBC and talked about the great importance for the UBC Cities to cooperate further on the energy issues in the Baltic Sea region. Sofie Gunnarsson was appointed head of secretariat.

#### **Competence Board and the Energy Research Program**

The Energy Commission got national funding from the Swedish Energy Agency "To develop an energy programme distinguished by energy efficiency and reduced emissions by greenhouse gases in the Union of Baltic Cities" The research programme was produced by a Competence Board that for now consists of Professor Gunnar Hovsenius, responsible for Research & Development for the Swedish Electricity Industry for three decades and is a specialist in environmental aspects of different energy systems, Björn G Karlsson, Professor in Energy systems at Linköping university, with assistance from Dr. Louise Trygg, Linköping University. The Competence Board presented a report spring 2007 and the Energy Commission now have a strategic program with concrete project ideas to present for the UBC Cities.

The analysis show possibilities for increased energy efficiency and decreased emissions of greenhouse gases and air-pollutions, which has regional significance as well as direct influence on the situation in the UBC cities.

The project started early fall 2006 with several contact creating activities. Among these the Energy Forum should be mentioned, which was a successful event in Oskarshamn that gathered more than 30 participants from all over the Baltic Sea Region. During this seminar a draft for the research programme was shown, which also will be presented in this report.

The work during spring 2007 has mainly consisted of developing and gaining approval for the project ideas of the Competence Board. An international reference group has been established in the Energy Commission and they have contributed with good examples on how to work with energy efficiency measures and decreased emissions of greenhouse gases. The Energy Commission was also represented and gave a presentation at the Swedish National Energy Convention. The work of the commission has also been presented to the local Energy Agency, Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden Ltd, and important connections has been made to among others The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SIDA (Swedish International Development Association) Baltic Sea Unit, The Royal

Institute of Technology, Linköping University, local trade and industry, The Regional Council in Kalmar County, the UBC Commission on Environment and Energie-Cités (A Association of European local authorities promoting local sustainable energy policy).

The main projects have evolved from the programme. One of the projects has focus on electric efficiency in the industries. The other project has biological purification of wastewater as main direction. Both projects have grand potential to be successful in an international perspective. The next step is to prepare a communication plan and strategy for further project development. The Baltic Sea Unit of SIDA, Swedish International Development Association has granted financial support for this.

During fall 2007 the aim for the commission is to disseminate the experiences and best practices that have come to light within this project.

### **Commission Meeting 2006 in Oskarshamn, Sweden**

The very first commission meeting was held in Oskarshamn November 2006. Member cities represented were Örebro, Kotka, Mariehamn, Tartu, Võru, Jelgava, Turku, Kolding, Gdańsk and Oskarshamn.

- What is the most important energy related issue that should be the focus of the UBC Energy commission?

This was the most essential issue for the Energy Meeting and everyone got to discuss this during the group sessions. The delegates present gathered around three focus areas for the Energy Board to proceed working with: energy efficiency, reduction of green house emissions and a strive for higher local self-reliance.

Åsa Fornander and Madelen Charysczak from the UBC Antenna Office in Brussels attended the Meeting and did a presentation about their daily work in Brussels and also about future for cooperation with the UBC Cities and Commissions.

A board for the commission was appointed at the meeting  
Co-Chairman: Stefan Windh, representing Oskarshamn  
Board member: Pekka Sihvonen, representing Kotka  
Board member: Mats Brantsberg, representing Örebro  
Board Member: Jan Westerberg, representing Mariehamn  
Chairman: pending

### **Commission Board Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden**

The first Board Meeting had focus on Action Plan and strategies for the future. There was also a proposal that the Board of the UBC Energy Commission proposes the UBC Executive board to apply for the Energie Cités network. This proposal was accepted by the Executive board and the UBC are now affiliated members of the Energie-Cités.

### **Commission Board Meeting in Mariehamn, Åland, Finland**

The City of Mariehamn hosted a Board Meeting, June 2007.

The meeting had focus on planning for the General Conference, projects in pipeline and communication strategies and tools in the projects and in the overall work of the commission.

### **Cooperation**

The Energy Commission have good cooperation and support from the Commission on Environment. We have meetings regularly and a visible proof of the cooperation is the Environmental Bulletin where the Energy Commission now has a few pages of information and news. The Energy Commission also joined the Commission on Environment at the 5th European Conference on sustainable cities and towns in Sevilla, spring 2007.

## ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2007

### **UBC Action Plan**

The Energy Commission Action Plan is based on the Action Plan for the UBC organisation as a whole.

### **The overall Aims and Goals of the Energy Commission**

From a broad perspective break down the energy issues to a local level and point out a few focus areas where the energy commission can have great impact! We will look at the energy system issue rather than individual sources, and introduce this to the municipalities.

- To boil down the EU-level and national level energy issues to a local level
- To raise awareness about projects and to take practical use from experience exchanges in projects within the UBC network.
- Promote municipalities to use great examples to get more energy efficient!
- To bring science and university knowledge closer to the municipal/local level.

### **Focus Areas**

- Reduction of greenhouse gases
- Energy efficiency programs
- Higher self sufficiency and local energy production
- (Dematerialisation of public sector)

### **Concrete goals for the year of 2008**

- Implement the communication plan for the commission
- Start two project in the Baltic Sea Region
  - Energy Efficiency within industry and commerce
  - Waste water treatment and higher energy production in CHP-plans through heat exchange
- Organize two board meetings and two commission meetings
- To organize meetings and workshops together with the competence board
- Further develop the cooperation with the Commission on Environment and other commissions within the UBC network
- To map out energy statistics from the UBC-cities
- Expand the number of participants in the commission

### **Action Plan – an implementation**

The first challenge for us, as a newly started commission, is to map out people working with energy related issues in the municipalities.

- Organize commission meetings and workshops two times per year. This is a central arena where all cities are invited to give their input to the work of the commission.
- Between the board meeting close contact is still maintained and we are planning to further continue developing the cooperation within the board of the commission through the interactive internet tool called Fronter
- Initiate and promote good project ideas
- Organize meetings with the competence board to narrow the gap between the university knowledge and the work in the municipalities.

Stefan Windh  
Chairman of the Commission  
City of Oskarshamn

Sofie Gunnarsson  
Head of Secretariat of the Commission  
City of Oskarshamn

## COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **Focus on the Environment and Sustainable Development of Baltic Sea cities**

The environmental work of the UBC is organized 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. This report 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.

#### **Implementation of the Agenda 21 Action Programme of UBC**

The secretariat has been actively working as the Agenda 21 Secretariat for the implementation of the cross-sectoral Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities (approved in the General Conference in Klaipėda 2003). The program 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 reached its volume goal of over 10 MEUR. This funding is today committed by decisions and contracts of different partners and funding agencies to-wards the implementation of the projects and other program activities.

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. The second programme assessment, the second survey Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2006/2007 has been undertaken with 71 % answering rate. Results of this survey show that a lot of development steps have been taken among the UBC member cities and our Baltic Sea region is therefore clearly one of the forerunner regions globally. The programme activities and the surveys also support strongly and give valuable data for the 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, and UBC is seen as a key player, a forerunner network and an appreciated partner in the development of the Baltic Sea Region as an important part of Europe.

#### **UBC Commission on Environment Actions**

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. They are assisted by the Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat (renamed Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat in February 2007) that 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 Action Programme period 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 current staff number of 17 full-time professionals (Finnish-Swedish-Estonian-Polish-Russian-German). The secretariat is now located in new premises in the city of Turku and to enable a better functioning service an internal team structure has been created into the Secretariat. Mr Risto Veivo has left the office after a long and

successful period as the Head of Secretariat (1998 - 2006). A new Head of Secretariat for UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat since October 2006 is Mr Björn Grönholm.

The commission has achieved a lot in different policy, networking, capacity-building and information activities. However, the most important resource of the commission is the active UBC member cities who contribute with their knowledge, experiences, motivation and strong involvement for the mutual benefit. The basic activities of the Commission on Environment have during the reporting period included several excellent thematic seminar/workshop-type meetings with. These were during the reporting period organised in Lübeck Germany, in May 2006 and in Liepaja in February 2007. In connection to the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2006/2007 the personnel of the Environmental Commission was in contact with all UBC member cities in order to check up contact information and possibility for participation in the survey. This has been much appreciated among the contact persons in the UBC member cities.

The commission has continued the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award scheme and has developed further UBC's good practice work. The prize winning award 2007 and two special certificates will be published at the UBC General Conference in Pärnu, September 2007. The website has been regularly updated and contact databases maintained. During 2006 and 2007 much emphasis has been allocated to strengthen the Communication strategy of Commission on Environment as an important element of improved quality of UBC services and the network as such. Also a so called Knowledge Management Database is under construction to better serve and collect information, data, good practises etc. from projects, meetings and UBC member cities In such cutting-edge European activities 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.

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has been developed and thematic editions on Air Quality Management (2005), Aalborg Commitments in Action (2006) and Practical Tools and Methods for cities (2007) have been published. Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has an edition of 2500 copies and it receives a high interest from member cities and partner organisations. UBC Commission on Energy has had their own pages in the Environmental Bulletin during year 2007. Also, the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005 was published in autumn 2005 as separate posters of the results of each of the survey focus points and the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2006/2007 was published both in short and long version in September 2007. A leaflet of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 – Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities was published in summer 2006 in English and Russian. A full poster material representing UBC was produced for the 5th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in March 2007 in Seville. The Commission website has been further developed and changed into UBC Action 21 website ([www.ubc-agenda21.net](http://www.ubc-agenda21.net)). Analyses on how to improve the network services have been carried out and there will be further improvements in this area in the near future.

### **European Union 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) and European Sustainable Cities and towns Campaign and at European expert and working groups such as in EMAS revision.

The renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy adopted in June, 2006 (Document 10117/06) acknowledges the important role of local and regional levels in delivering sustainable development. Furthermore, it emphasizes that approaches like Local Agenda 21 and other processes with broad public participation must be strengthened and promoted. The Strategy also stresses that municipalities, cities and towns should be invited to sign and implement the Aalborg Commitments (<http://www.aalborgplus10.dk/>) and highlights the important role that networks at different levels have in supporting these activities. Launch of the EU SDS gives supports the Agenda21 Programme and provides a good basis for the future work of UBC.

In October 2006 UBC Executive Board accepted a statement where "Union of the Baltic Cities stresses the importance of addressing the Aalborg Commitments as the common element for the work promoting sustainable development". Since January 2007 UBC Commission on Environment is also

responsible, together with the Finnish Association of Municipalities and Regions, to coordinate and support the “Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitment Network” activities. This goes well in line with the statement mentioned above. UBC Commission on Environment has also been approached by several national, regional and EU level authorities for commenting on strategies and new EU programmes.

During the reporting period the European Sustainable Cities and towns Campaign is still going through an evaluation period. Despite this ongoing evaluation the Campaign managed to arrange a mayor conference the 5th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in 21-24 March 2007 in Seville. This was one of the biggest milestones during the last two year period for UBC Commission on Environment and we were actively planning and participating in the conference. The conference was one of the main forums for cities being forerunners in sustainable development in Europe meeting up with approximately 1700 participants. The conference was a success from an UBC point of view as high number of participants was present, UBC representatives had several key note speeches and the impact and visibility of UBC member cities were in all respects very strong.

Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (UTS) was finally adopted by the Com-mission in January 2006. EU Commission encourages local authorities to use integrated environmental management (plans and systems) and sustainable urban transport plans and has initiated a process to further develop this. Through our projects Managing Urban Europe-25, BUSTRIP and Sustainment, UBC is developing models of such plans and systems and carrying out their pilot testing in Baltic Sea Regional and European co-operation. The results of these projects will then feed into the technical guidance to implement UTS.

#### **Main Projects of the UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat**

- **Managing Urban Europe -25** (MUE-25), Developing cities’ environmental managements systems to address the whole functional urban area. Partners: EnvCom, ICLEI, UNEP etc (altogether 24 partners, inc. 15 cities), 2005-08. 2.9 MEUR - DG Environment, Finnish Ministry of Environment + other funders.
- **SUSTAINMENT** (Integrated solutions for the sustainability management in the Baltic Cities), Partners: EnvCom, Baltic University programme, 12 partner cities in the Baltic Sea Region, 2006-2007. 1.4 MEUR – BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood programme, TACIS, Finnish Ministry of Environment
- **BUSTRIP** (Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation and Planning). BUSTRIP - Developing sustainable urban transport planning. Partners: EnvCom, TransCom, Chalmers Technical University, 14 Baltic Cities, 2005-2007. 3.1 MEUR - BSR INTERREG III B and Finnish Ministry of Environment.
- **LVRLAC – UBC co-operation**, facilitating sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Region through Local Authority Action. Phase I and II, and a new phase III started, - Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency.
- **Asia Pro Eco**, developing policy formulation and implementation tools for providing support for ecological forest management in China’s urban and Peri-urban areas (2006-2008).
- **MATRUSCHKA** – Integrated Management System for Russian Cities. Partners: EnvCom, 8 partner cities and Åbo Akademi University, 2007–2009. Funded by BSR INTERREG IIIB Neighbourhood Programme TACIS on 0,7 MEUR.
- **Support Facility**. Meetings and coordination of the Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitment Network. Funding from Nordic Council of Ministers for year 2007.
- **Actor** (Aalborg Commitments Tools and Resources). (January 2006 - September 2007). Funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme, Priority 8.1: Policy-orientated Research. Partners: Sustainable Cities Research Institute, Northumbria

University, Åbo Akademi University, ICLEI European Secretariat, Ambiente Italia, Regional Environment Centre, Poland, UBC Env-Com, MedCities.

- **Status** (Tools and Targets for the Urban Thematic Strategy), Partners: University of Northumbria, Åbo Akademi University, ICLEI Europe, The Provost Fellows and Scholars of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Ambiente Italia, UBC EnvCom

## ACTION PLAN 2006 –2007

### **Starting point – challenges of Baltic Cities**

Today, the UBC is extremely well placed to tackle the urgent 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 and we want to be a preferred partner in different tasks, projects and events. 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 potential to make an impact, if we so want to. This is very necessary, as many serious environmental problems remain unsolved, and cities' environmental work bears new challenges continuously.

As mentioned before, good information basis for our work is provided by the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005 and 2006/2007, where a clear majority of the UBC member 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 in the cities. The state of the Baltic Sea and increasing effects of Climate change are perhaps two of the main challenges to work on with during the upcoming years. We also know that several of our cities will face challenges with these issues and will need all the assistance that can be mobilised. As a regional city network we have all the possibilities to act together and be efficient.

The mission of the UBC Commission on Environment is to tackle those challenges by all the means provided by our efficient network through sharing of problems, information and knowledge, approaches and solutions. In order to work more effectively we must improve our performance in all the fields. From knowledge based analyses, technical solutions, improved political planning and decision making processes to improved information and dissemination strategies. As one important task the UBC Commission will continue to develop and put into practise its Communication Strategy, developed during 2006 – 2007 in order to improve actions and performances for the benefit of our member cities. For this task the whole network and all levels of the UBC organisation are needed.

The potentiality of our network to support our 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 is already committed total project budget of 10 MEUR provides an excellent framework of action to address the challenges in practice. Even though we have already reached the budget goal we will continue to build up new projects and activities where we will work together with our member cities.

### **Activities – the network service**

Success, good service and a strong network can only be maintained through continuous development and improvements of all the activities among those involved in the activities. Interaction and good communication is one of the key elements of continuing development and improvement. The development of Baltic Sea cities has been long and successful. Starting from Agenda 21 activities, continuing to sustainable development processes and now more closely focusing on sustainability management in cities! 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 and

foreign affairs, Nordic Council of Ministers, European Environment Agency, Baltic 21 and HELCOM, as well as the European Union – especially European Commission DG Environment and DG Region. The UBC Commission on Environment builds its activities on principles of stable continuing development. For us it is important that the whole region develops in a balanced way. During the period of the next two years 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. In addition other supporting activities will take place such as the Nordic Baltic Aalborg Commitment Network meetings.
- **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 and will continue to create development projects supporting our member cities.
- **Capacity-building** – organising opportunities for the cities to update their knowledge and competencies on environmental policies, practices and legislation, communicating different target groups and organisational setup, strengthening efficient Sustainability Management..
- **Information services** – publishing Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin, developing, launching in year 2008 and maintaining of the Knowledge Management data-base on sustainable development issues in the Baltic Cities and partner organisations. Improving the UBC web-services on environment and sustainable development. Aiming to support UBC member cities more closely and with an aim to be in direct contact with all UBC Agenda 21 contact persons in the member cities.
- **Good Practice work** – the successful good practice promotion and exchange will be continued by the environmental award scheme, website and other information services. Improve our surveys and find more use of the work put into the collection of data by liaison activities with other similar activities with Universities, evaluating and supporting sustainable development.

### **Resources**

The Commission on Environment has an effective secretariat with good resources, located in the City of Turku. The secretariat has an international staff of 17 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. The activities and services of the UBC Commission on Environment are closely tied to funding possibilities and the secretariat is therefore put under pressure of the EU funding programmes.

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. The best motivation for the secretariat and staff is therefore the motivation and positive spirit we meet among the UBC member cities.

### **Evaluation**

UBC's environmental and sustainable development services have been evaluated as part of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005 and 2006/2007. These evaluations are extremely valuable as they provide our city network with information on development trends, possible problems and good practises all important for a balanced and dynamic development of the Baltic Sea Region. Next comprehensive evaluation will take place in 2009. Meanwhile, the most important activities will be specifically evaluated case-by-case and fed into the Knowledge Management Database. With this database we expect to be able to use data and information more thoroughly and systematic than before.

### **Action Programme for 2010-2015**

UBC Commission on Environment and its Secretariat will actively support the network in planning for the new Action Programme for 2010-2015.

Björn Grönholm  
Head of Secretariat of the Commission  
City of Turku



## COMMISSION ON GENDER EQUALITY

### ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **From network to commission**

The UBC Executive Board at the 48th meeting in Gävle, 9 March 2007, decided to transform the UBC Network on Gender Equality to the UBC Commission on Gender Equality with Umeå as the lead city. The Commission on Gender Equality focus on three main areas promoting gender Equality.

- Combating prostitution and trafficking
- Issues of the labour market
- Social planning, urban planning and planning work

#### **Activities**

Most activities have been done over e-mail. At first all members of the earlier UBC Network on Gender Equality was informed that the network has been transformed to a Commission. Members of the network were also asked to reply if they still were interested in continue being contact persons and members of the new Commission. An e-mail was also sent to all contact persons in UBC to inform them about the new commission and to ask them to be a part in it. The mail also invited old and new members to meet in Pärnu at the IX UBC General Conference, 27-28 September 2007. About 10 persons from different member cities replied, and were interest in being contact person in the Commission on Gender Equality. Some of them also planned to meet in Pärnu. The commission has recently become a commission and will therefore start (in Pärnu) to create a board and working-groups.

#### **March-September 2007**

- E-mail lists have been updated
- Develop website
- Annual meeting in Pärnu in September 2007
- Umeå, as lead city, will have an exhibition during the Pärnu conference
- Start to create a board and working-groups

### ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

The UBC Commission on Gender Equality presents possible themes and activities for 2008-2009. The commission has recently become a commission and will therefore start to create a board and working-groups.

The UBC Commission on Gender Equality shall according to the UBC Executive Board at the 48th meeting in Gävle, 9 March 2007, focus on three main areas promoting gender equality.

- Combating prostitution and trafficking
- Issues of the labour market
- Social planning, urban planning and planning work

These three focus areas are of great importance for the development of our region and for the well-being of the citizens of the UBC cities and regions. An equal labour market, social planning including all citizens, and securing the future for our youngsters and children, to eradicate prostitution and trafficking, will give our citizens a better quality of life, and our towns and regions can become hopeful and growing centres in our Baltic area.

## **UBC Commission on gender equality – some ideas for continuing the work of promoting gender equality.**

### Theme: Awareness-raising

Promote awareness-raising within the field of gender equality; for instance within the field of gender mainstreaming as strategy, combating trafficking and prostitution, gender issues on social planning, urban planning and planning work, labour market and social inclusion/exclusion.

### **Activities**

Inspire the members to do a survey in their own city/region to attain knowledge on the “gender landscape” there. Statistics are a useful tool in making gender inequality visible.

Seminars

Campaigns: Gender equality in school

Conference: Gender planning Conference in Umeå (June 2009)

Gender course for interested politicians, civil servants etc conducted by University in region Newsletter 2-3 times/year from the commission on relevant topics in the UBC area regarding gender equality.

### Theme: Cooperation

Developing cooperation promoting gender equality - network, benchmarking, good practice, collaboration with other organisations, projects, local community development projects etc.

### **Activities**

Meeting: Commission meeting on gender mainstreaming at a local level. The European Charter for Equality (CEMR:s) on men and women in local life will be invited to meet commission members to talk about the declaration.

Benchmarking: Invite experts from other cities within the EU, from universities and research institutions and from the private sector to hold lectures and participate in workshops.

### Theme: Website

Increase of UBC website on gender equality issues for immediate flow of knowledge, calendar, links etc for the UBC Commissions and networks, as well as for the member cities politicians and local governance level. (One way of supporting process of gender mainstreaming).

### **Activities**

Develop the website and inform members of UBC about it.

### Theme: Trafficking and prostitution

Possible transnational project concerning trafficking and prostitution – awareness-raising campaigns, addressing root causes (the Baltic Sea campaign against prostitution and trafficking has been in Umeå and we would like to invite more UBC members to have a leg in the campaign).

### **Activities**

Get information about the problem of prostitution and human trafficking.

Aurora Moberg  
Chairperson of the Commission  
City of Umeå

Helena Österlind  
Coordinator of the Commission  
City of Umeå

Helene Brewer  
Project Manager  
City of Umeå

## COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

### ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### Meetings:

Since the 45 Executive Board Meeting on 11 February 2006 the Commission could welcome a new city member in the board, the City of Kristiansand. In Rostock in August 2006, it was discussed how and into which direction the Commission's work could be impulsed. As a result it was planned the

#### Workshop on 'Migration in Baltic Cities – Problems, Possibilities, Perspectives' and Annual Commission's Meeting in Rostock on 05 – 07 October, 2006.

Within this meeting migration experts from five countries around the Baltic Sea got together. Additionally, representatives of foreigners' assessment council, municipal administration bodies and citizens' initiatives followed the invitation. In co-operation with the University of Rostock the participants won a general overview of migration in the Baltic Sea Region and exchanged their experiences concerning the treatment of immigrants.

The participation of representatives from the North East of Germany, from Scandinavia and the Baltic states made the workshop enormously attractive since in the course of the last decades each region experienced migration in a different way and has its own migration history. In order to discover potentials and track down perspectives, it was useful to envision the particular backgrounds and problems. Among others, it was discussed what kind of institutions deal with concerns of the local immigrants, and in which way.

The workshop was followed by a publication gathering the contributions which is meant to provide further interested persons, institutions, authorities etc. with the experiences and helpful suggestions exchanged.

A further result was the creation of a new network on xenophobia and migration issues, which agreed to work on the possibility of a common project for deeper exchange of best practices for more specialists within UBC.

The Board / Project group, now consisting of members from Kristiansand, Karlskrona, Gdynia and Rostock met for conversations on 13 April 2007 in Copenhagen. The group reinforced the wish to continue working on the theme of xenophobia. Furthermore, the theme of the next commission's meeting was precise: 'Combating poverty and social exclusion of children, in a holistic approach focussing as well on their families'

#### Workshop on 'Combating poverty and social exclusion of children and their families' and Annual Commission's Meeting in Kristiansand on 15 – 17 May, 2007.

Poverty and social exclusion of children and their families are among those problems that seem to be very out of place in European societies with annual sky-rocketing GDPs. Yet, despite several action plans and resolutions of numerous states, organisations and communities, they remain unsolved.

The lack of reliable surveys and numbers makes the discussion of poverty and social exclusion of children tricky and as it is also an emotionally fuelled topic it should be discussed with reason. Children and families facing social obstacles and struggling to make ends meet do not need pity but determined actions from those in charge of funds, knowledge and political competence and legitimacy. And: actions should be more than financial relief. The 12 participants from 9 cities agreed, that it would be necessary to identify existing data about the child wellbeing in UBC cities and, if they are not satisfactory, to plan some measurement projects which should show the children's situation. This could be a way to establish milestones for the development of policies to improve children's lives in UBC cities.

The Workshop will be followed by a publication of all statements still in 2007.

The participants decided to design a project structure in order to be ready to apply for funding in 2008.

Visited Conferences:

5th UNDP Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty's (WACAP), Valencia, 29-31 March, 2006

More than 1,000 participants attended this Forum as representatives from central and local governments, Parliaments, International Organizations, NGOs and academic world. For resources mobilization, UNDP could either sign or conclude several high level agreements during this Forum. The 5th Forum started the dialogue between the United Nations agencies gathered by UNDP on the matter on local governance and urban development, and cities associations coordinated by United Cities and Local Governments to mobilize all these actors around UNDP in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Several meetings between existing and potential partners of ART GOLD programs underway (Colombia, Libya, Uruguay, Morocco, Mozambique, Sri Lanka) or about the programs considered (Chile, Senegal, Mali, Brazil) were held. The region of Provence Alpes Côtés d'Azur, jointly with CRPM, announced the holding of the first international conference of the ART/GOLD program in Marseille in March 2007, where a possible meeting was planned to take place (5+5) on decentralized cooperation between Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya.

New themes of cooperation were discussed in order to develop and implement innovating partnerships with local governments through a territorial approach of development, focusing on recognition of the role of local authorities in prevention, risk management and rebuilding, fight against HIV/AIDS, prevention and management of conflicts, access to sources of international financing, local economy and employment.

ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

- Strengthening of the mutual exchange of experience on good/best practices in the local communities
- Strengthening of Networking with other Commissions and Networks based on the efforts of implementation of the UBC Social Charter in the Commission's and Network's work.
- New policy of support of cities' cooperation projects on social issues
- Strengthening of cooperation and exchanges with other transnational organisations, networks and projects.
- The Commission shall make its network and activities more visible.

At the UBC General Conference in Pärnu, Estonia, it was decided to move the secretariat of the Commission to Kristiansand. The city of Kristiansand will hold the chair. The co-chair is Gdynia. Kristiansand, Gdynia and Karlskrona are members of the Board of the Commission, which will be open for more interested cities.

Karin Wohlgemuth  
Coordinator of the Commission  
City of Rostock

## COMMISSION ON INFORMATION SOCIETY

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **The 4th IS COM meeting “*Contribution of the cities in creating the common information space of the Baltic Sea Region*” in St. Petersburg on 26-28 October 2005**

The overall objective of the meeting was 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, and to the IS COM activities. New initiatives for the IS COM projects – by using an IS COM project “Challenge of eCitizen” as an example – were also discussed. The meeting was organized in connection with a meeting of Senior Officials on Information Society of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (SOIS of CBSS). The meeting gathered around 20 representatives of UBC member cities.

#### **Implementation of an IS COM project *Challenge of eCitizen***

An Interreg III C project “Challenge of eCitizen: Promoting eGovernment Actions in European Cities”, prepared and coordinated by the Baltic Institute of Finland in the framework of the IS COM, was launched in January 2005. Several UBC member cities participate in the project, as well as the cities of Sheffield, Bologna and Trento. This three-year 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.

The eCitizen project has been in very active implementation stage between October 2005 and September 2007. Pilot services have been developed and implemented in the partner cities, and good eGovernment practices have been exchanged and benchmarked between the partners. Study tours to partner cities have been organized as follows: Sheffield in November 2005, Bologna and Trento in December 2005, St. Petersburg in October 2006, Turku in December 2006, Odense in March 2007 and Tartu in September 2007. The following two highly interesting studies introducing top European eGovernment expertise from the Baltic Sea region and UBC member cities were published in spring 2006: The city of Tartu prepared and published a study on public mobile services, and the city of Tampere released a study on smart card applications in European cities.

The project will end in December 2007, and the final seminar will be held in Vaasa in November 2007. Representatives of the UBC member cities outside the project partner cities will be also invited to the seminar. The project evaluation will be carried out by the Finnish consulting firm NetEffect Ltd.

The eCitizen project will be among a few Interreg IIIC projects to be presented as good Interreg IIIC project examples in the Interreg IVC programme’s kick-off conference in Lisbon in September 2007. eCitizen follow-up projects are already under preparation, and the IS COM provides the overall framework for preparation processes.

### **The 5th IS COM meeting in Tartu on 30 March – 1 April 2006**

A joint IS COM and eCitizen steering committee meeting was hosted by the city of Tartu between 30 March and 1 April 2006. In the IS COM meeting, internationally renowned Estonian eGovernment policies and practices were introduced, and used as an inspiration for the elaboration of new IS COM project ideas. More than 10 UBC member cities were represented in the meeting, as well as eCitizen partner cities. IBM and Enion companies sponsored the IS COM meeting in Tartu.

### **IS COM seminar in Brussels on 6 March 2007 - “New programming period 2007–2013 - New information society cooperation opportunities for Baltic cities”**

IS COM organized a seminar called "New programming period 2007–2013 - New information society cooperation opportunities for Baltic cities" in the premises of Finland's Permanent Representation in Brussels on 6 March 2007. The seminar was successful and gathered over 50 representatives of the different organizations from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Italy, United Kingdom and Germany.

The main goal of the seminar was to bring together representatives of UBC member cities to discuss new EU financing opportunities for European cooperation on information society development, and to present an outlook on the recent development of IS performance in Russia, especially in St. Petersburg.

### **Preparation of the 6th IS COM meeting to be organized in Vaasa in November 2007 in connection with the eCitizen final seminar (to be confirmed)**

The next IS COM annual meeting will be tentatively held in Vaasa in November 2007 in connection with the eCitizen final seminar. Results and experiences of the eCitizen project and possible themes for its follow-up projects are the main issues to be discussed in the meeting.

### **IS COM website**

The IS COM web site, opened in October 2004, is maintained by the Baltic Institute of Finland. The website can be found at [www.baltic.org](http://www.baltic.org).

## ACTION PLAN 2008-2009

### *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 the EU i2010 initiative, eRussia, Northern eDimension and various national e-initiatives promoting the Information Society development in the Baltic Sea Region.

### *IS COM activities 2008-2009*

1. Preparation of the Challenge of eCitizen follow-up projects (2008)
  - evaluation and utilization of the eCitizen project results, experiences and good practices
  - dissemination of the eCitizen results

- establishment of a project preparation task force
  - applying of financial support for project preparation
  - project preparation meetings/workshops/seminars (Brussels, Tampere, St. Petersburg)
  - calls for partners
  - preparation of project plans and financing applications (Interreg IVC, Baltic Sea Region Programme, IST, others)
  - lobbying
2. Elaboration of new IS COM project ideas (2008)
    - special sessions in connection with the IS COM annual meetings
    - potential project themes:
      - o local WiFi networks and hotspots
      - o public online services
      - o mobile solutions for eGovernment and eDemocracy
      - o multifunctional city smart card schemes
      - o government-to-business services for SMEs
  3. Launching and implementation of new IS COM projects (1-3 projects in 2008-2009)
  4. Maintenance and further development of the IS COM web site (www.baltic.org)
  5. IS COM seminars on current issues of information society development, eGovernment and the EU funding opportunities (2 seminars in 2008-2009)
  6. 7th IS COM annual meeting in autumn 2008
  7. 8th IS COM annual meeting in autumn 2009

Esa Kokkonen  
Coordinator of the Commission  
City of Tampere

## COMMISSION ON SPORT

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **I. Annual Meetings of UBC Commission on Sport**

Between October 2005 – August 2007 Commission on Sport organized 2 annual meetings:

##### **1. Gdynia (Poland) 04-06.05.2006 – *Active Living***

The 2006 UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting entitled "Active Living" gathered representatives of 17 cities from 11 countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Belarus. The meeting consisted of two thematic blocks: the first one was devoted to multifunctional sports arenas. There were presentations of sports arenas in the cities of Gdynia (Poland), Rostock (Germany), Karlskrona (Sweden), Gladsaxe near Copenhagen (Denmark). The presentations consisted in demonstrating a management system of sports facilities as well as ways of promoting sport among inhabitants of all age groups from the a/m cities.

The second block dealt with best practices connected with active living programmes – "Cities on the Move". This part of the Annual Meeting was prepared in cooperation with the Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association. The first presentation entitled "One step - better than nothing" showed how Turku (Finland) promotes healthy lifestyle as well as encourages its inhabitants to be active. Moreover, the representatives of Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association presented the programme "Schools on the

move" whose objective is to make schooldays (especially school breaks) more physically active. Next, a representative of Polva (Estonia) presented the town's experiences in developing healthy and active strategies. The following presentation was focused on "Exercise and Diet on Prescription" – the initiative implemented in Copenhagen.

## **2. Karlskrona (Sweden) 19-21.04.2007 – Sport – a Healthy Alternative**

The 2007 UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting entitled “Sport – a Healthy Alternative” gathered representatives of 8 cities from 7 countries: Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and Sweden.

With sport as a healthy alternative being the main subject of this year’s meeting, Karlskrona speakers (among whom there was a Sweden’s Governmental Drug Coordinator) presented ways of preventing unhealthy and addictive lifestyles (such as drug addiction, doping), whereas in the second part of the meeting speakers from Turku (Finland) and local ones from Karlskrona focused on methods of promoting healthy habits. Additionally, meeting participants had an opportunity to see the implementation of healthy lifestyle polices in practise, and thus visited the Karlskrona Indoor Athletic Arena and Telenor Arena Karlskrona.

Moreover, during the meeting Mrs Beata Łęgowska (Gdynia) was re-elected the Chairperson of the UBC Commission on Sport, and Mrs Camilla Brunsberg (Karlskrona) was nominated the Commission’s Vice Chairperson.

## **3. The 2008 UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meeting**

It was the city of Liepāja (Latvia) which was chosen as the place for the Commission’s next annual meeting in 2008. The meeting will coincide with the opening of a new sports arena in Liepāja, and therefore will exceptionally be held in autumn (not in spring).

## **II. Grant Sessions of UBC Commission on Sport**

### **1. “Cities on the Move” Grants allocated by UBC Commission on Sport in 2006**

In the year 2006 the UBC Commission on Sport allocated grants of total amount of 5 000 EUR. By allocating the grants the UBC Commission on Sport awarded those projects which allowed people (especially sedentary ones) to keep fit all the year round (first of all during autumn/winter season) as well as to encourage people of all age groups to be active all the year round and to develop their active living habits. As usual the Commission’s grants were addressed exclusively to UBC member cities.

NO	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	DATE	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	“Fit as a Fiddle”	Haapsalu (Estonia)	12 February 2006	1 000 EUR
2.	“Active and Healthy Afternoon for the Office Workers”	Tartu (Estonia)	10 October 2006	1 000 EUR
3.	“Winter Sport Delights”	Šiauliai (Lithuania)	1 January – 26 February 2006	1 000 EUR
4.	“Integration with help of sport and youth club”	Karlskrona (Sweden)	4 – 6 November 2006	1 000 EUR
5.	“Keila Rull 2006”	Keila (Estonia)	7 October 2006	1 000 EUR



## 2. “Always Active” Grants allocated by UBC Commission on Sport in 2007

In the year 2007 the UBC Commission on Sport allocated grants of total amount of 5 000 EUR. “Always Active” grants were awarded for those projects which encouraged elderly people to keep physically active and increased their functional capacity as well as promoted sport as a way of preventing various illnesses. As usual the Commission’s grants were addressed exclusively to UBC member cities.

NO	NAME OF SPORTING EVENTS	ORGANISER	DATE	GRANTED AMOUNT
1.	“Nature Route in the Town Wood”	Chojnice (Poland)	23 June 2007	1 000 EUR
2.	“Save points – win health”	Karlskrona (Sweden)	1 June – 30 September 2007	1 000 EUR
3.	“Physical activity of elderly people”	Panevežys (Lithuania)	June – October 2007	1 000 EUR
4.	“The Islands of health”	Šiauliai (Lithuania)	1 August – 30 November 2007	1 000 EUR
5.	“Gym at home!”	Turku (Finland)	October 2007	1 000 EUR

In the years 1996-2007 the **UBC Commission on Sport granted 36,775 €** for the organisation of **54 projects** in which over **31,700 sportsmen** participated.

### III. UBC Commission on Sport Co-operation with Other Organisations:

- **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.

### IV. Initiatives of UBC Commission on Sport

#### 1. UBC Commission on Sport Website

The UBC Commission on Sport regularly updates its website so that it contains topical information about the Commission, its actions and undertakings.

#### 2. UBC Commission on Sport Leaflet

The UBC Commission on Sport published an updated leaflet presenting the Commission’s activity as well as produced promotional gadgets.

## ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

The general goal of the UBC Commission on Sport is to achieve sustainable development with a special focus put on social integration and health.

It is the UBC Commission on Sport objectives for the years 2008-2009:

- to further develop and intensify co-operation among UBC member cities in the field of sport
- to strengthen links among sports clubs, associations and institutions to create city partnership
- to build partnership with international organizations and other UBC Commissions within the area of social integration and health
- to promote sports events and sports exchange in the Baltic Sea Region with special emphasis put on the youth, the disabled, the elderly, socially disadvantaged groups and gender equality
- to raise awareness and promote healthy lifestyle through sport
- to promote active lifestyle among all age groups
- to organize the UBC Commission on Sport Annual Meetings
- to announce grant allocation sessions.

Beata Łęgowska  
Chairperson of the Commission  
City of Gdynia

Joanna Leman  
Coordinator of the Commission  
City of Gdynia

## COMMISSION ON TOURISM

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

During this two-year-period the Commission on Tourism was chaired by Koszalin. The Commission has focused on information exchange, education and promotion of tourism all around the Baltic Sea Region.

The Commission adopted its goals as follows:

- integration of the Baltic Sea Region communities through
- promotion of active and healthy lifestyle in which tourism plays better understanding each other, exchange of tourist information and support of tourist traffic;
- better coordination of tourism in the Baltic Sea Region through creation of a cooperation network between the cities, development of interpersonal relationships and use of the Internet;
- permanent development of the tourist infrastructure through initiation of projects based on the European Union programmes; a significant role.

The goals were to achieve through the activities listed below, adopted as the Commission's action plan:

- 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).

### **Commission activities**

There were numerous articles and newsletters provided by CoT secretariat in Koszalin to the UBC Bulletin last two years.

The Commission on Tourism organized two working meetings last two years:

The first one was held on the 5th of May 2006 in Koszalin. The meeting was attended by the representatives of members' cities of the Union of the Baltic Cities, as well as the tourist organizations from Estonia, Russia, Germany and Poland - in general 14 persons. Guests of the CoT were the representatives of associations „ACE Uckermark”, „Speed”, **“Europa-Zentrum-Brandenburg-Berlin (EZBB) des Regionalen Förderverein e.V.”** and **„The Baltic Companionship Poland-Scandinavia”**, as well as the **Local Tourist Organization**. The object of the meeting was to discuss the action program of the Commission for upcoming years 2006-2007, as well as presentation of two international projects. There was also a brainstorming session devoted to the question: „what about the tourism in Baltic Sea Region after the summer season?”

During the period of 21-24 March 2007 a working meeting of the Commission on Tourism Union of Baltic Cities was held in the town of Palanga, Lithuania. The meeting was dedicated to summing up of the subsequent Commission work period and presentation of the projects scheduled for accomplishment this year. In total, 8 delegates of UBC member cities from 4 countries – Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland participated in the meeting. Based on the presentations being made, the following issues were proposed to be discussed – how to identify the best attractions of given town/city, how to prepare the local tourist product based on those attractions, how to promote the product and how to assess effectiveness of the action taken.

The Commission on Tourism developed three projects:

An Interreg III A based project called **“Europa Er-leben, Europa Er-fahren”** in co-operation with Europa-Zentrum-Brandenburg-Berlin (EZBB) des Regionalen Förderverein e.V., ACE Uckermark and the city of Koszalin. The result of this project was the tourist undertaking under the name **“Fotosuch und Quizfahrt”**, which is a kind of contest or rally. The first edition of this undertaking took place in the year 2005, and the initiative of the event continuation was a consequence of its success. So, the second and third edition took place in the years 2006 and 2007. Every person, who has the readiness to travelling and knowledge acquisition about the transborder region over Oder river and Baltic seaside, can become the participant. The most important aim is to get the feel of the history and culture of people living in the above-mentioned region. The essential condition of the participation is ordering so called „Book of the participant”, where the information are given about the places which have to be found on the way and wherein the gained points are recorded. Points you may gain for the answers on the questions concerning visited places. The winning depends on the score. The allotment of prizes took place in Berlin (2005) and Szczecin (2006). Every participant received the memorial medal, and the best persons or teams received also additional material prizes. The ever growing number of participants and territorial expansion proved high popularity of this project. It's been planned to gradually extend its geographic scope to include further regions so that in future the entire Baltic Sea Region be covered with it. The project will be continued in following years, including also the region of southern Sweden. More about the project: <http://www.fotosuch-quizfahrt.de/>

The project, initially called „The Contest of knowledge about Poland and Scandinavia” changed its name to **“Meet the Baltic Sea Region – your homeland”** after its conception was discussed and developed. The purpose of the contest is to promote knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region which should

contribute to growth in tourism intensity in this area. Promotion of the Baltic Sea Region and development of learners' own interests in it are additional targets. The contest is open to non-academic 15 – 20-year-old youth from schools in states where Union of the Baltic Cities is active. The topic range of the contest encompasses basic knowledge of geography, nature, history, politics, culture and sports in the Baltic Region states. The contest will be conducted in English, and will last from September (eliminations) to December (finale) 2007.

More about the project: <http://www.baltic-contest.koszalin.pl/>

The project called **“Baltic Sea Region – Perfect Tourism Zone”**. CoT has worked out and edited the first edition of catalogue of UBC member cities tourist information centres/offices/welcome centres together with member cities description. CoT has financed the catalogue throughout – the advertising, as well as further distribution of the catalogue. The main aim, which has been achieved, was to build the network of tourism information centres from all over of Baltic Sea Region. The result of this project was 5 500 UBC member cities catalogue copies intended for tourists visiting BSR. The catalogue is also aimed at increasing interest in this region among potential tourists. The publication was very positively perceived by UBC member cities and the Commission already announced issue of the IInd extended and updated edition. The catalogue has been distributed among the member cities, through the UBC office at Brussels, the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk, during G-8 Summit in Heiligendamm near Rostock and, as well as during UBC General Conference at Parnu.

### **Annual open Commission meetings**

During the period of 27-29 September 2006 an annual meeting of the Commission on Tourism Union of Baltic Cities was held in Jūrmala, Latvia. The meeting was devoted to a debate on Commission's work during the last year as well as to presentation of the actions planned for the next year. The Jūrmala meeting was attended by 14 delegates of UBC member cities from 6 countries – Finland, Norway, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland.

The sessions were chaired by Mr Ryszard Zdrojewski – The Chairman of the Commission on Tourism Union of Baltic Cities. At the beginning all participants shortly introduced themselves and their cities. Than Mrs Gunta Uspele took the floor and spoke, on behalf of the hosts, about development of tourist infrastructure, spa history and the biggest attractions of Jūrmala. The next presentation, made by Mr Ryszard Zdrojewski, pertained to the CoT activities report for the last year. He presented the report from Commission's working meeting held in May 2006 in Koszalin, the adopted new Commission's objectives and the projects concerning tourism that had been commenced at that time. Then, particular participants were presenting the achievements in tourism of the cities represented by them. Furthermore, problems hampering development of tourism, as well as actions and projects taken up, were presented. Questions were asked and some issues were being discussed on the ongoing basis. In the following part of the programme Mr Ryszard Zdrojewski presented accomplishment of two projects. He announced also continuation and development of those projects next year as well as publication of the UBC member cities information tourist centres catalogue financed by the Commission. During further discussions use of the EU funds, that would be available in 2007 instead of the Interreg III initiative, was considered. The cross-border cooperation is supposed to become a new third objective of the European cohesion policy named „European Territorial Cooperation”.

It is a tradition that the Commission has been asking all sea-side member cities to take up efforts to get the “Blue Flag” status for their beaches. The Commission considers that UBC representing cities should lead in implementation of high quality standards and should set a good example for other cities located near the Baltic Sea. The appeal authors are convinced that clean and safe beaches are one of the most important factors having impact on development of tourism in the Baltic Sea Region.

The annual CoT meeting in 2007 is connected with UBC General Conference in Pärnu.

## ACTION PLAN 2008-2009

Activities planned by the CoT for the period 2008-2009:

- to arrange at least one meeting per year
  1. spring 2008 in Kalmar, Sweden  
(the aim: updating of Commission's strategy and discussion about the ways of realization of Commission's goals and possible EU projects)
  2. autumn 2009 along with UBC General Conference
  
- 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 continue such projects as "Fotosuch & Quizfahrt" and "Meet BSR – your homeland"
- 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 create and update the CoT's homepage based on the project called "**Baltic Sea Region – Perfect Tourism Zone**"
- to increase the acquaintance of the range of Commission's activity (leaflets, newsletters)

Ryszard Zdrojewski  
Chairman of the Commission  
City of Koszalin

Kyrre Dahl  
Vice-Chairman of the Commission  
City of Kalmar

Joanna Wilczek  
Secretariat of the Commission  
City of Koszalin

## COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### I. ANNUAL MEETINGS OF UBC COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

##### 1) **Gdynia (Poland)** 20th – 21st October 2005

The 2005 Annual Meeting took place on 21st October. The focus of the meeting was on the change of Commission's chairmanship. It was decided that the leadership would be shared by the cities of Gdynia (Poland), Mr. Marcin Wołek being the Chairman and the city of Örebro (Sweden), Ms Carinne Lancereau being the Vice-Chairperson. During the meeting the work of the Commission under the leadership of Göteborg (Sweden) was presented by the former Chairperson, Ms Lisa Sundell and the future objectives and activities were discussed.

The meeting was preceded by a Public Transport Seminar on Trolleybus Systems also held in Gdynia on 20th October and organised in cooperation with CIVITAS TELLUS project. Presentations were given by Marcel Rommerts representing European Commission, DG TREN, Guido Bruggeman from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Klas Sörensson (Skånetrafiken) and Leila Nielsen (Arriva) presenting the trolleybus system

of Landskrona (Sweden) as well as Bernt Nielsen, Director of Public Transport of Göteborg. The second part of the seminar included presentations of cities having a long tradition of developing and maintaining trolleybus systems: Lithuanian city of Kaunas (Mindaugas Kucinovas), Romanian city of Bucharest (Florin Dragomir) and Polish city of Gdynia (Olgierd Wyszomirski and Marcin Wołek).

2) **Gdynia (Poland) 29th September 2006**

During the Commission's meeting in Gdynia the TransCom members reviewed recent initiatives, discussed future activities and the choice of the venue for next year's meeting. Apart from organisational matters, the participants were also provided with the information about the progress in the BUSTRIP Project.

The meeting was combined with a seminar devoted to the question of transport system integration in the Baltic Europe as well as intelligent transport systems. Speakers from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany (Mr. Ulrich Peters, Department of Railways/Public Transport, Ministry of Economy of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Region), Stockholm, Sweden (Mr. Björn Dalborg, AB Stockholms Lokaltrafik, European Metropolitan Transport Authorities) and Tri-City, Poland (Mr. Olgierd Wyszomirski and Mr. Marcin Wołek, University of Gdańsk) presented the experiences of their regions connected with public transport planning and the integration of transport systems. Representatives of European Commission, DG TREN (Mr. Keith Keen), Göteborg Traffic and Public Transport Authority (Mr. Daniel Ulfheden) and University of Gdańsk (Mr. Jacek Oskarbski) talked about the deployment and practical benefits of intelligent transport systems in EU.

## **II. INITIATIVES OF UBC COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION**

### **1. Transport Questionnaire**

Wishing to update the information about the interests of its members as well as to identify transport needs and problems of UBC member cities, the Commission on Transportation sent out a questionnaire to UBC contact persons in June 2006. 28 cities from Denmark (4 cities), Estonia (4 cities), Finland (2 cities), Germany (1 city), Latvia (5 cities), Lithuania (5 cities), Poland (2 cities) and Sweden (5 cities) responded to the questionnaire. It turned out that

the responding cities are mostly interested in such issues as traffic safety, pedestrians and cyclists, local public transport, accessibility, mobility management as well as transport planning and methods. 16 cities have participated in different EU transport projects financed among others within INTERREG IIIA, INTERREG IIIB, CIVITAS I and CIVITAS II. The scope of the projects included development of sustainable urban transport plans, public transport priority system, transport policy and management, mobility management, construction of bicycle lanes as well as the modernisation or reconstruction of roads. Most respondents intensively promote the use of bicycle as healthy and environmentally friendly means of transport.

### **2. UBC Commission on Transportation Website**

After the change of the UBC Commission on Transportation Chairmanship in October 2005, the Commission's website was redesigned and its contents were reviewed and updated. New sections were added to the homepage. In "Best Practices" section there are published articles about interesting transport projects and initiatives carried out in the member cities. Newsletters of different projects may also be found there. It was the Commission's aim to make the website an information platform and that is why it includes links to many international organisations dealing with transport. The website also provides its visitors with automatically updated EU transport news from EurActiv portal.

### **3. UBC Commission on Transportation Leaflet**

The TransCom issued a new updated edition of an informative leaflet and produced new promotional gadgets.

### **4. "Sustainable Mobility in the City" – UBC Commission on Transportation Grant Competition**

Public transport and mobility management are the key areas of activity of the UBC Commission on Transportation. The Commission is involved in actions promoting effective transport solutions aimed at improving life quality of city inhabitants in the Baltic Sea Region.

Aware of the importance of sustainable transport issues, the Commission on Transportation decided to support actions dedicated to restricting the use of cars and increasing the use of public transport or other alternative modes of transport. Therefore in 2007 the UBC Commission on Transportation announced a grant competition for UBC member cities. The projects had to fulfil one of the below mentioned priorities:

- encouraging city inhabitants to use public transport or other alternative modes of transport (walking, cycling, car-sharing and car-pooling, etc.)
- raising awareness of the negative effects of increased use of private cars (growing air pollution, increased noise, traffic congestion, accidents, etc.)
- promoting traffic safety rules in order to decrease the number of traffic accidents (“traffic safety” classes for children, campaigns against drink driving, speeding, etc.)

Six cities have sent their applications (Chojnice, Poland; Kaunas, Lithuania; Kiel, Germany; Kristianstad, Sweden; Palanga, Lithuania; Tallinn, Estonia). Among the received applications four best projects have been awarded grants:

<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Applicant (in alphabetical order)</b>	<b>Date of Event</b>
School Travel Plan (STP) Regional Awareness Campaign	Kaunas (Lithuania)	June - August 2007
Ride Sharing Website (Pendlerportal) in the Technology Region of K.E.R.N. (Cities of Kiel, Neumünster and the District of Rendsburg-Eckernförde)	Kiel (Germany)	November 2007
Alternative transport - clean Palanga resort	Palanga (Lithuania)	June - October 2007
School bus	Tallinn (Estonia)	August 2007

### **5. Road Safety Contest**

In October 2007 the Commission on Transportation will organise the Road Safety Contest addressed to primary schools in the UBC Member Cities. The city willing to participate in the contest will have to choose one school that would prepare a project concerning the road safety education for its children. The Commission on Transportation will assess all the received project proposals and will choose three best projects that will be awarded each a 1000 euro prize for their realization. The project proposals should be sent to the UBC Commission on Transportation Secretariat by the end of November. The detailed description of the contest will be sent out at the end of September 2007. The decision on awarding the prizes will be made in December 2007.

### **III. BUSTRIP Project**

The UBC Commission on Transportation is one of the core partners of the BUSTRIP Project which was launched in Örebro (Sweden) in December 2005 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. 12 partners from the Baltic Sea Region participate in the project: Bremen, Gdynia, Göteborg, Kaunas, Kouvola Region, Liepāja, Pärnu, Sundsvall, Tartu, Turku, Vilnius, Örebro. Project coordinator - UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat together with TransCom and Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg forms the Project’s Steering Group. The main aim of BUSTRIP is to initiate, review and implement Sustainable Urban Transport Plans (SUTPs), being guiding documents for all transport planning in the city, and thus systematically move towards sustainable transport. The project will produce a SUTP toolbox of techniques, collecting all learning experiences and best practices from project partners.

The BUSTRIP project uses “peer review” method to help partner cities learn from one another. The peer reviews were conducted for all partners. Each city taking part in the project prepared and published a self-assessment report on its progress towards sustainable urban transport. The report was evaluated by a team of experts from other partner cities. Then the peer review team visited each partner city to

interview local authorities as well as interest groups and to examine the city's urban transport in detail. At the end of the visit the experts present their findings to the decision makers and write a report. The cities' self-assessment reports together with the peer review reports help partners elaborate and develop their SUTPs.

Another element of the project providing help for the SUTP are pilot actions, which the cities have chosen to conduct. The themes which were chosen can be divided into groups: public transportation, infrastructure and freight and awareness raising and mobility management. The pilot actions are now at the stage of completion and evaluation.

Project partners are now mostly at the stage of finalizing drafts of SUTPs and have to prepare the final version by the end of the year 2007. The Project Steering Group held regular meetings every few months. All participants were able to learn from each other, exchange ideas and experiences during several seminars and workshops. A Peer Review Training Workshop was organised in Kaunas in February 2006 to teach and prepare experts for the forthcoming peer reviews. In the days 8-10.11.2006 the city of Göteborg hosted a workshop devoted to peer review findings. Between 29.05-01.06.2007 a SUTP and Pilot Action Workshop in Bremen was organized, providing cities with many practical examples and elements of SUTP. In November 2007 the BUSTRIP Final Conference will be held in Turku.

### ACTION PLAN 2008-2009

In the coming years 2008-2009 Commission on Transportation will deal with transport-related issues connected with public transport, cycling, mobility management as well as with the road safety. The planned activities include:

- Annual Meeting of the Commission on Transportation
- Seminar in connection with the Annual Meeting
- Co-operation within the BUSTRIP II project together with the Commission on Environment and the partner cities (co-financing the project application within the TransCom budget)
- Organisation of the grant competition concerning transport issues
- Assisting cities (practical and knowledge transfer) with organising transport related events, for example Car Free Day
- Updating the website of the TransCom as an information source for the Commission members
- Development of co-operation with UBC Commissions on Environment and Tourism

Marcin Wolek  
Chairman of the Commission  
City of Gdynia



## COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **Background**

The Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) started its work in 1999. During the years to follow the CUP built a network of urban planners coming from a large number of cities around the Baltic Sea. Between 1999-2002 six seminars were arranged, mostly exchanging best practice planning examples and professional experiences between the participants.

The main activities of the UBC Commission on Urban Planning (CUP) during the period between October 2005 and September 2007 have taken place with the ending of the Alliance of Baltic Cities (ABC) project and preparing and providing the cooperation within the CUP after the project.

#### **ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE ABC PROJECT**

##### **Producing the Malmö seminar report**

The report from the Malmö seminar became also a Summary Report from all our six common seminars. This report has been presented to the BSR in Rostock November 2005.

The seminar in Malmö was held October 5th-9th 2005 with 52 colleagues from 8 countries participating. As this seminar also was a so called annual meeting for the UBC CUP, the Commission invited one participant from each of the cities in Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Lithuania using economic support from the UBC organisation (approximately 5000 €).

As scheduled in the ABC project programme the report from the Gdynia seminar, held in April 2005, was presented at the Malmö seminar.

##### **Organising the Baltic Academy of City Planning**

In addition to the ABC project activities, the Commission worked for preparing an application of a next project called the Baltic Academy of City Planning. An application to the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) – 8th round – was produced and accepted by all 30 participating cities (including in Russia). Unfortunately the Commission's application was rejected by the Interreg III B Steering committee.

##### **Ending the ABC project**

The ABC project was ended with a seminar in Riga in April 2006. This seminar was arranged mostly by the UBC CUP steering committee. At this seminar the Commission worked on formulating an operative program for our continuation of the ABC project and also included in the seminar some lectures and discussions on sustainable city planning.

The ABC project has resulted in a steady network of city planners around the Baltic. For each person that participated in the seminar the benefit has been an improved knowledge of other cities, a greater experience in working with colleagues from other countries and the knowledge achieved by working together and "learning by doing". Also, the lectures have given a good basic understanding of planning legislation, local issues, and common and relevant planning topics in most UBC member countries and among a good spread of UBC member cities.

Each seminar host city benefited by receiving a great amount of work input into their local planning problems. Inviting local stakeholders to participate in the seminars often proved successful for the continuation of planning work in the host city.

For each of the seminars a report was been produced presenting the host city, some local issues and the results of the workshops. These reports were distributed widely. Each seminar host city presented at the final seminar the results that had been achieved since their own seminar. Several of the cities could show physical changes and small scale investments carried out as the result of the ABC seminar taking place in their city. These ‘footprints’ are described in the ABC final report.

## **COMMISSION ON URBAN PLANNING SEMINARS 2006 -2007**

### **UBC CUP&ABC seminar in Riga, Latvia, April 26th – 29th 2006**

The Riga seminar was in the aftermath of the ABC-project. During this seminar one of the most burning questions in urban planning of today was “how to achieve sustainability when working with practical and actual urban planning situations?” The seminar included lectures about sustainability in urban planning context.

For three days 36 participants - architects and planners from 8 countries around the Baltic sea discussed issues on long-term architectural development, and they evaluated proposals for the architectural development of the panorama concept for the left bank of the Daugava River. The results of the seminar were integrated in the Daugava River Left Bank Silhouette Concept Project that was submitted for public debate summer 2006.

A week after the Riga seminar, the ABC Project Leader Mr Lars Brattberg was hospitalized and on June 9th, 2006 he passed away. Lars was for many years a valued member of the CUP steering committee and a driving force within the CUP. He managed to involve a great number of cities and colleagues to the CUP network. His sudden death also left the rest of the CUP steering committee confused since much information about the Commission’s finances and agreements were in Lars’s hands. He is greatly missed.

### **UBC CUP seminar in Rostock, Germany, September 20th – 23rd, 2006**

The Rostock seminar concentrated in Brownfield Regeneration. Some 25 urban planners from 8 countries participated in the seminar. The seminar lectures were about Sustainability in Brownfield Regeneration, and the workshops concentrated on the site of the Rostock Museum and its possibilities to enlarge, on the former “Neptunwerft”-shipyard area and the possibilities to create new use for the old industrial arena and on a former fishermen’s and leather maker’s shore on the river Warnow. The appreciated “ABC-method” was applied also during this seminar, though the lacking of outside financing was visible in the amount of the seminar participants. The seminar participants supported strongly the idea of the Commission continuing to work using the seminars and workshops as the method of cooperation.

### **UBC CUP seminar in Vilnius, Lithuania, April 19th -21st, 2007**

The Vilnius seminar concentrated in two of the most common and interesting questions in urban planning of today: how to create attractive public space and how to achieve involvement and public participation when working with urban planning. The seminar keynote speeches included interesting examples of public participation in urban planning cases, and experiencing public spaces in urban environment. The workshops involved all the 40 participants and concentrated about renewing an old culturally and historically valuable housing area called Zverynas and involving the local inhabitants in the renewal process, as well as creating possibilities of activities on the River Neris bank on the business city side. Public participation and information were seen as vital issues in modern urban planning.

## ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

Among the CUP cities a clear interest to continue the cooperation and also to develop it further has been expressed. New partners to the cooperation are also of interest and welcome.

A new project was discussed already at the Viljandi seminar in 2004. An Interreg IIIB application was set up and made for a project called "Baltic Academy of City Planning". Unfortunately the BaltAcad was not among those few projects that were approved in the last call of the Interreg program period, which ended 2006. The UBC CUP has nevertheless continued its work by arranging three more seminars, in Riga and in Rostock during 2006 and in Vilnius 2007. During these seminars the future of the CUP has been discussed and the CUP Steering Group has been given the task to outline a proposal for activities during the next coming years.

### **"Sustainable Baltic Cities"**

In the coming years, the goal of the Commission will be to increase the capability for us as urban planners to find ways and methods that can promote a development towards sustainable cities that also at the same time will develop them as attractive cities.

- Create attractive cities and regions through sustainability.
- Define the elements of sustainability in the context of urban planning. (Economical, Ecological and Social sustainability)
- Develop the ways we are working with sustainability in urban planning.
- Evaluate the situation of today for the partner cities and find out what is needed in that specific city to be "sustainable and attractive"

Most probably there still is not enough knowledge among the UBC planners what "sustainable development" really is, and there is a wide spread in the opinions of what it could be. The Commission on Urban Planning should therefore keep on with the task of increasing the knowledge level and the professional skills among the UBC CUP group within the field of sustainable urban development. The methods to be used could be combinations of following elements of activities:

- Lectures on "burning questions of today" from well qualified persons – "the best ones"
- Presentations of "Best practice examples" in the field of sustainable urban development.
- Workshops, dealing with qualified planning situations.
- The lectures and examples should be dealing with all three dimensions of sustainability – Economy / Ecology / Social factors.

### Possible seminar themes

- Democratic planning processes for sustainable city development
- Using new tools for Visualisation, as Google Earth or/and Microsoft Virtual as an example of modern tool for public participation
- How to put the citizens in focus – "Europe for Citizens"
- How to create attractiveness through sustainability
- What are the elements (factors) of attractiveness for a city
- Quality of life – what requirements for that can be made possible by urban planning, and how
- Social aspects on urban planning
  - Integration
  - Segregation
  - Safety and security in public space – and in other parts of the society
- Making new attractive sustainable areas out of brown field areas
- Sustainability as a way to attractiveness and competitiveness for cities.
- The effects on/from climate change.
- Economic sustainability in city (urban) planning - how will that influence planning results and processes.

It is possible for the Commission to also have additional partners of other kind than only the UBC cities. These could be Universities, national institutions, other European cities etc. It is important that the partners in a future project are actively participating because of joint interests, not only because they are members of a certain organisation, like UBC.

A Commission on Urban Planning seminar will be arranged in Kotka October 2007 on the theme of City Identity. The Commission has already agreed to arrange seminars in Aarhus in April 2008 and in Turku during the autumn of 2008, while also preparing a future project on Urban Sustainability.

Sirpa Kallio  
Chairperson of the Commission  
City of Helsinki

## COMMISSION ON YOUTH ISSUES

### ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2005 – SEPTEMBER 2007

#### **Youth conference in Vilnius, 13-16th of October 2005**

In October 2005 the second youth conference took place in Vilnius, Lithuania. Almost 100 youngsters and civil servants/politicians participated.

The conference contained of five different workshops: "Youth influence at school", "Youth influence at a city level", "Priorities in life", "Demographic changes" and "Intercultural learning". The youngsters, together with the civil servants were divided into five groups. The groups rotated after each workshop so that each person had the opportunity to participate in every workshop.

The conference was financially supported by the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, the Vilnius Pedagogical University, the city of Kalmar, the Kumulus project and the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs. The conference resulted in a "Book of Demands" which can be downloaded from the Commission's website: [www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org)

#### **Commission meeting in Kalmar, 28-29th of November 2005**

The commission meeting in November began with an evaluation of the Vilnius conference and the results. A first draft of the Book of Demands was presented.

As a result of the Network on Youth Issues being "upgraded" to a Commission on Youth Issues the new Commission began the work of an action plan for 2006-07. The working group also looked into issues about core values of the Commission work.

The City of Kalmar also presented a new project "EVS in the Baltic Sea Region" as an offer for UBC cities to cooperate around European Voluntary Service (EVS). The project, which is financed by the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, will have a coordinator working full time in 2006 with activities and information related to EVS. For more information about the project, please visit: [www.evs4u.net](http://www.evs4u.net)

#### **Commission meeting in Kalmar, 21-22nd of February 2006**

The meeting in February was a continuation of the work in November to establish the new Commission. An action plan for 2006-07 was finalized (which can be downloaded from the Commission website). The next big event will be a new youth conference at the same time as the next General Assembly in Pärnu in 2007.

It was decided that every city that wants to be part of the Commission core working group shall sign a "letter of intent" between the mayors of the city and the coordinating city of the Commission, the City of Kalmar. It was decided during the meeting that Kalmar will be the coordinator of the Commission for the period 2006-07 and the City of Tallinn will be the co-coordinator with the ambition to become the coordinator after 2007

The final printed version of Book of Demands from the Vilnius conference was presented and handed out. The Book of Demands was sent to the mayors of all UBC cities in spring 2006 as well as to those that participated in the conference.

#### **Commission meeting in Tallinn, 12-14 May 2006**

There were about 30 participants from 15 cities attending the Commission meeting in Tallinn and the interest in the Commission work was higher than ever. The Commission meeting started with a reception by the deputy mayor of Tallinn, followed by a presentation of Tallinn youth work and youth policy by Jaak Raie, head of Tallinn Sport and youth department.

One of the main points on the agenda was the planning of the next youth conference, planned to take place in Pärnu in 2007. It was proposed that the next conference could be an answer to the Book of Demands from the Vilnius conference. Hence cities will be invited to present their "best practices/solutions" to the demands made by the youth in Book of Demands.

The Commission on Youth Issues website was one of the topics in Tallinn. It was decided that a new website should be done, preferably in the same design as Book of Demands. Therefore, the city of Kalmar was asked to work on this and present something during the summer.

Those cities interested were also invited to discuss the possibility to write an EU application to the Youth programme with deadline 1st of July. The application can partly be seen as an opportunity to finance two more youth conferences. Cities interested to join the application were Tallinn, Liepāja, Kalmar, Kolding and the UBC secretariat in Gdańsk.

#### **New website launched [www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org)**

The Commission's new website was launched in August 2006 [www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org)

The aim of the website is to act as the updated source of information about the Commission's meetings and activities as well as a resource where cities can share best practices from their cities related to youth influence issues.

#### **Commission meeting in Liepāja, 7-9 of November 2006**

About 30 people attended the Commission meeting in Liepāja, Latvia.

Charlotte Gustafsson, chair of the Commission, opened the meeting and gave a short background of the Commission and the work since 1997. The main topic of the Commission meeting was to plan for the next youth conference in Pärnu in September 2007.

During the Commission meeting it was decided that no open Commission meetings should be arranged in spring 2007 in order to save the Commission budget for the youth conference in Pärnu.

On the 9th of Nov. Vilis Bruveris from Liepāja youth centre, Agnese Knabe from Civic Alliance-Latvia in Riga and Meldra Kivlena from Liepāja University held a workshop on the future and importance of youth NGO's for youth and for society. They presented the Youth as a resource to the society model used in Liepaja where youth are considered as resources to economics, politics and culture.

The Commission on Youth Issues was also represented by Mr. Vilis Bruveris at the international Conference of International Council of National Youth Policy (ICNYP) in Vienna, Austria.

### **EU - project “Different History – Common Future”**

In spring 2006, the Commission offered UBC cities in the Commission on Youth Issues to join an application to the EU Youth programme. City of Tallinn, City of Liepāja, City of Kalmar, City of Kolding and the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk are partners in this project. Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth affairs is seen as supportive partner. Our common project, called “Different History – Common Future – Youth as a resource for a sustainable future in the Baltic Sea region”, was approved for founding by the EU Commission in November 2006.

### **Steering group meetings 2007**

#### **Tallinn**

Steering group meeting on the 22-24 of January. All partners in the EU-project were present.

#### **Copenhagen**

Steering group meeting on the 7th of May in Copenhagen. Attended by City of Tallinn, City of Liepāja, City of Kolding, City of Kalmar and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (BSSYA).

#### **Riga**

Steering group meeting in Riga 13-15 of June. Attended by City of Tallinn, City of Liepāja, City of Kolding, City of Kalmar and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (BSSYA).

#### **Kolding**

Steering group meeting in Kolding 27-29 August, Attended by all partners, City of Tallinn, City of Liepāja, City of Kolding, City of Kalmar and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (BSSYA).

For minutes from the meetings please visit our webpage: [www.abc-youth.org](http://www.abc-youth.org)

### **European voluntary service (EVS) volunteer at the secretariat in Kalmar**

During 2007 the Commission on Youth Issues secretariat in Kalmar is hosting an EVS-volunteer (financed by the EU European Voluntary Service programme). Vilis Bruveris from Liepāja was selected for this position. Vilis has mainly worked as coordinator for the youth conference in Pärnu in September 2007.

### **“Under the surface” Youth Conference in Pärnu Tallinn**

27-29 of September the Commission on Youth Issues and the project “Different History – Common Future are organizing a youth conference in the City of Pärnu. The youth conference is going to be held in interaction with the IX UBC General Conference. The youth conference is going to be attended by around 120 youth, civil servant and decision makers from around the Baltic Sea. The conference is going to result in the “book of possibilities”.

During the youth conference, the City of Kalmar and The Commission on Youth Issues will hand over the chairmanship to the City of Tallinn.

### **Tolerance Trip with youth from Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark and Germany into the German-Danish border region, 29-31 august 2007.**

The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs bears the responsibility for the development of a Tolerance Trip into the German-Danish border region. This will later be used as a model for similar trips with international youth groups from the Baltic Sea countries. The Tolerance Trip will bring youth, youth workers and teachers together and foster an atmosphere of intercultural, historical learning. It will facilitate processes of experiencing tolerance. The Tolerance Trip is thought to contribute to the campaign “All Different – All Equal” with a defined international action in the Baltic Sea region.

## ACTION PLAN 2008 - 2009

### **Organisation**

From October 2007, City of Kalmar, Sweden, is handing over the chair of the Commission to the City of Tallinn, Estonia. The secretariat and administration of the Commission work is however still staying in the City of Kalmar.

### **Commission meetings**

The commission on Youth Issues is planning to host two Commission meetings in 2008.

In spring 2008, the City of Tallinn, as the new chair holder, will host an open commission meeting in Tallinn. During this meeting the structure, future work and cooperation will be discussed and established. For the following two years, the aim is also that the Commission on Youth Issues will further develop the cooperation with the other commissions.

In the autumn of 2008 the Commission on Youth Issues will host its second meeting. The hosting city has not been decided yet. Information will be sent out to the UBC contact persons and as well published on the Commission website ([www.ubc-youth.org](http://www.ubc-youth.org)).

### **Activities**

Commission activities during the period 2008-09 is coordinated and managed as part of the EU project "Different history – Common future". Project partners are the UBC cities of Tallinn, Liepāja, Kalmar, Kolding and the UBC secretariat in Gdańsk. Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth affairs is seen as supportive partner.

The Commission on Youth Issues will continue to work with the concept "micro projects". A "micro project" is a way for young people to start up new projects and ideas. The youth will be able to apply for a smaller amount of money to carry through the project.

During 2008- 2009 the Commission on Youth Issues will, in cooperation with the project Different History – Common Future, develop the possibility for other Cities around the Baltic Sea to work more with the EU "Youth in Action" programme and especially European Voluntary Service (EVS). In 2008, the Commission will invite organizations around the Baltic Sea Region to take part in an international network on how to improve and develop local and regional work with EVS.

In 2009 the Commission on Youth Issues will start planning the second Youth Conference within the project Different History – Common Future. The Commission hopes to arrange this conference in interaction with the next UBC General Conference in Norway. One of the aimed results of the conference is to publish a "Book of Results" as a follower to the previous two books: Book of Demands (Vilnius conference) and Book of Possibilities (Pärnu conference).

Charlotte Gustafsson  
Chairperson of the Commission  
City of Kalmar

## UBC EU-COORDINATORS NETWORK

### ACTIVITY REPORT MARCH 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2007

On 9 March 2007, at the meeting in Gävle, the UBC Executive Board decided to reactivate the UBC EU-Coordinators Network, following the proposal of the city of Rostock.

#### **Importance of a Network**

Undoubtedly, there is a strong necessity for cooperation between the UBC and the EU. Nowadays EU concerns affect practically every field of local authority activities and policies, EU Institutions need to work with municipalities to get in contact with European Citizens and UBC members, in this way, will have the chance to bring more and more of their own interests and emphases into European institutions.

The UBC must have a vital interest on participating in European debates. But that is only possible, if UBC officials and members are well informed about European matters and discussions.

The different regions in Europe get more and more into the political focus of the European Union. Regions like the Mediterranean or the region around the black sea will be very present on conferences about the regional development in Europe, because they are already linked in cooperation with the European Union. Such cooperation should be an important goal for the UBC.

Aside from this the UBC-EU cooperation might help to enforce the integration of Baltic countries that has become members of the European Union just a few years ago or it might help to espouse the work of the European Neighbourhood- and Partnership Instrument, for example the neighbourhood with Russia.

#### **Aims of the Network**

The UBC-EU-Network wants to embed the European context into the Baltic region in an appropriate way as much as it wants to emphasize the importance of the UBC members for the EU. Directly linked to these two aims is the necessity to converge the UBC with institutions and political authorities of the EU.

By implementing the EU project “plan D” or the “Lisbon strategy” into the BSR the network will try to help UBC-members to gain by such programs. In order to promote the UBC, the network is planning to use different events (for example the “Open Days”) to expose the variations of UBC activities. Along with that the UBC-EU-Network wants to enforce the public relation work of the UBC.

But - a network with just one or two members can not do excellent work, so we encourage all interested UBC members and officials to participate in the network.

#### **Development of the UBC-EU-Network**

As already mentioned this strengthening of the relations between the BSR and Europe has been assessed as necessary since about ten years. Programs and initiatives to cooperate with EU-institutions had been initiated since then but several of that trails did not last very long.

This year the Executive Board of the UBC decided to undertake another effort to revitalize the EU-Network. The European Integrationcenter Rostock (EIZ), located in the Hanseatic City of Rostock, is now in charge to rebuild the network.

The EIZ is an association, founded in 2004, that tries to encourage European integration by informing, advising and researching in European matters. It is an official centre for education and the host organization of Europe Direct Relais.

A new program for the UBC-EU-Network was set up by the EIZ this summer (see below at Action Plan) and new activities are planned for the next year.



## **Activities so far**

The first task for the EIZ was to discuss with officials and municipal authorities the idea of the network. Aims, tasks and perspectives were mooted preparing the new UBC-EU contact person to its new duty. These negotiations also set up the principles of the new UBC-EU-Network.

In preparation of a UBC-EU-Network Meeting in August 2007 the EIZ designed a new Logo for the UBC-EU-Network. It combines the UBC sign with stars and colours of the official flag of the European Union. In addition to that there is also a new slogan that emphasizes the idea of the network.

Along with that the EIZ started an information campaign that will promote the UBC to European institutions, like the European Commission and to local authorities in Germany. That marks the first step to an ameliorated public relation strategy.

## **Planned Network Meeting, Rostock, August 29-31, 2007 - postponed**

In June 2007 the EIZ started to plan a meeting which should be the restart for a joint work of UBC members on European matters. It was planned to last from August 29th to August 31st and to take place in the Hanseatic City of Rostock.

The aim of this meeting, besides the re-vitalizing of the UBC-EU-Network, was to set up an action-plan for 2008. The meeting was also planned to give participants and officials a chance to get to know each other, which is important for a long lasting joint venture.

Several Guests from the UBC, the European Commission, representatives of the European support program INTERREG and local authorities were invited. For example Mrs. Madelen Charyszak (UBC Antenna in Brussels), Mrs. Sabine Schreiber (member of the European Commission), Mrs. Uta-Maria Kuder (Minister of Justice of the federal state of Mecklenburg Vorpommern and member of the Committee of the Regions) or Mr. Roland Methling (Major of the Hanseatic City of Rostock).

Unfortunately many of our guests got into unexpected trouble with other appointments in that time so that we had to postpone the planned meeting to the end of 2007.

## **Tasks and Action-plan**

As we lost the chance to set up the agenda for the coming period together with other participants and officials, the action-plan for the next years had to be created by the EIZ itself. This is not as easy as it seems, because such a Network needs assistance and promotion from more than one side. Nevertheless we figured out a plan that enables the network to move on.

The first step will be a survey at the IX UBC General Conference in September 2007. This survey will give us an overview about the expectations and hopes of the UBC members and officials concerning the UBC-EU-Network.

Contemporary the EIZ will get in contact with UBC officials and EU Coordinators of other UBC cities at the General Conference to establish a network for EU topics. Therefore the EIZ is promoting the EU Coordinators of other UBC Member Cities to contact the UBC-EU-Network as well if they are interested in participating. Especially the members of the previous EU Co-ordinators network are requested to yield their experience into the new agenda-setting process. The UBC-EU-Network itself will be a contact point for professionals in UBC member cities dealing with EU issues and EU policies and will support the persons holding a position as a EU Coordinator in the city. The network will also provide a channel for every UBC member to exchange information about the EU.

In order to establish an effective UBC-EU network it is necessary to cooperate with the various bodies and institutions at a European level. In addition, the UBC will closely cooperate with the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Both these bodies have already promoted the dialogue with the civil society on European political issues at regional and local levels. The European Commission has also signed co-operative agreements with these bodies.

The future UBC-EU networking will also involve organisations of the civil society (NGO) in co-operation with the respective administrations of the single member cities in the discussion on European issues.

Furthermore the UBC-EU-Network will be going on to amend the relations with other networks and organizations working in the Baltic Region and with regional networks from other parts of Europe.

To get in contact with partners and participants, the EIZ is planning to have at least one big UBC-EU-Network Meeting per year. The work on special projects will be done in smaller meetings and workshops.

Concerning the contents of the agenda the network is trying to implement the European context into the Baltic region. The implementation of the “Plan D” and the “Lisbon Strategy” are as well matters of high importance as with the approach of the UBC to institutions and programs of the EU like the European Commission and the INTERREG Program. Upgrading the PR of the UBC will be another important task for the network.

### **Next Network Meeting, Rostock, End of 2007**

As the last meeting was postponed to the end of this year the EIZ is now planning a UBC-EU-Network Meeting which will be held in Rostock. A final date for this meeting has not yet been decided.

The topics will be taken over from the planned meeting in August. Furthermore, the planned survey and discussions from the General Conference in September will be discussed.

Alexandra Kienzle-Andrejew  
City of Rostock

## **UBC ANTENNA IN BRUSSELS**

### **ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2006 – SEPTEMBER 2007**

#### **Introduction:**

During the meetings in Chojnice (June 2005) and Kaunas (February 2006), the Executive Board discussed how to strengthen the UBC position in Brussels in order to have a greater impact on EU decision-making processes and to involve member cities in EU-affairs. The city of Stockholm, as the main stakeholder of Stockholm Region Representation offered to function as UBC Antenna office in Brussels. Since 1 October 2006 the UBC Antenna office is hosted by Stockholm Region.

#### **Organisation of Stockholm Region:**

Stockholm Region was established in 1996 by an agreement signed on cooperation in EU matters by the City of Stockholm, the Stockholm County Council and the Association of Local Authorities in Stockholm County. The agreement addressed the need for greater co-ordination of activities on the EU level.

The role of the organisation is defined in terms of facilitating the international work of the stakeholders and promoting the Stockholm Region in Europe. According to the agreement the organisation is an information exchange forum on EU related matters with significance for the Stockholm Region. Stockholm Region stimulates international activities of municipalities and counties in the Stockholm-Mälars Region by monitoring prioritised thematic areas and EU programmes related to those areas. Moreover, in order to spread the information on various EU topics and increase the competence of civil servants in the Region, the Stockholm Region is organising numerous conferences and seminars. Stockholm Region has 5 full-time employees, 3 part-time employees and 2 internals in the Brussels office. At the moment 3 new cooperation agreements are under development and may enter into force in the beginning of December 2007.

### **Organisation of UBC Antenna office:**

The UBC Antenna in Brussels is hosted by Stockholm Region since 1 October 2006. In Stockholm Region Representation, UBC has its own office space and working premises, which can be used by UBC member representatives whenever needed.

Stockholm Region has one person working part time with UBC Antenna office, utilizing also the expertise and work force of the other employees in the Stockholm Region whenever needed.

General objectives of the UBC Antenna in Brussels hosted by the Stockholm Region are;

- raising awareness of EU policies, EU-funding and legislation having impact on UBC member cities;
- increasing and supporting UBC's visibility and lobbying activities towards EU-institutions;
- provide support for UBC member cities in their EU-related activities.

### **Activities 2006-2007**

The activities of UBC Brussels Antenna should be decided by the relevant UBC bodies as well as a Brussels Steering Group representing the UBC member cities. The members of this group should have been nominated by the UBC. For 2006-2007 there has been no Brussels steering group and no working programme decided by the UBC.

#### **1. Administrative support desk – facilitation of practical functioning**

##### **1.1 Visits**

UBC Antenna Office has had several visitors during the year. These visitors came mostly from UBC member cities, countries around the Baltic Sea, or from organisations particularly interested in the network:

Some examples of groups who visited UBC Antenna and received a presentation of its organisation and activities are:

City of Kolding, 28 September, 2006  
Tallinn European Office, 6 October, 2006  
Tallinn Delegation, 12 October, 2006  
Municipality of Oskarshamn, 12 October, 2006  
UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat, 2006  
Kiev delegation, 31 October, 2006  
Vice President of UBC, Mayor of Tartu, 30 November, 2006  
WINNET Europe, 30 January, 2007  
Association of Estonian Municipalities, 7 June, 2007  
Barcelona Provincial Council/Latin Arc Secretariat, 13 June, 2007

In addition, Stockholm Region has yearly around 4000 visitors. About half of these are politicians or civil servants from Stockholm Region. All visitors receive information and a short presentation about UBC and the purpose of the Antenna Office.

## **1.2 Visiting programme (intermediation and booking/use of office facilities)**

The UBC office space and working premises such as meeting rooms has been used several times during the year.

Some examples are:

### *6 December, 2006, Energy Commission*

The UBC Energy Commission used the office room for one day and had also meetings with Madelen Charysczak and Jessica Rabenius from Stockholm Region in order to learn more about the EU-agenda and energy policy.

### *13-14 December, 2006, UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat*

The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat used the UBC office and meeting rooms when the steering group of the project MUE-25 met. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and examine the steps the cities have been taken until now, in order to give recommendations to each city.

### *15 March, 2007, UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat*

Annika Claesson from UBC Environment and Agenda 21 secretariat used the office space and had a meeting with Madelen Charysczak from Stockholm Region. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the arrangements of a Breakfast seminar/meeting in June.

### *13 June, 2007, UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat*

The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat used the UBC office and meeting room. The objective of the meeting was to present the project MUE-25 to representatives from EU-institutions and European regional offices.

## **1.3 Contact list database**

Stockholm Region has developed a database which contains useful contact information to the EU institutions, regional offices, NGO, lobby organisations etc. Whenever requested support has been given to UBC Commissions in order to contact EU institutions concerning various matters.

Some examples are:

### *15 November, 2006, UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat*

Support in finding contact persons within the EU-institutions responsible for urban issues.

### *10 December, 2006, Energy Commission*

Support in finding and contacting persons responsible for energy issues within the EU-institutions.

### *18 January, 2007, Commission on Culture*

Support in contacting and inviting representatives from the European Commission DG EAC to a session in Visby 4-5 May, 2007.

## **2. Policy Monitoring and Information/Communication**

### **2.1 UBC Antenna News**

UBC Antenna Office has been monitoring relevant EU-policies, legislation and EU-programmes and informing UBC about important initiatives and decision-making processes. This has been done through "UBC Antenna Newsletter" which has been sent every month to the UBC Secretariat and from there distributed to the member cities. Specific information has also been given to different commissions upon request.

## **2.2 Other information**

In December 2006 a UBC supplement was produced and distributed together with Stockholm Region News, which is a newsletter that reaches around 50 countries. This supplement reflected the objectives and priorities of UBC and the UBC Antenna Office.

Articles about the Stockholm Region and the Antenna Office as well as about the inauguration have been produced for the Baltic Cities Bulletin.

A specific page on the Stockholm Region website dedicated to the UBC Antenna Office has been developed. This website gives visibility to the priorities and aims of UBC and its activities in Brussels.

## **2.3 Thematic Seminars**

*13 June, 2007, UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat*

One thematic seminar has been organised together with the UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat. The seminar took place in the Antenna Office and was organised as a breakfast meeting with the purpose to present the project MUE-25 to representatives from the EU-institutions and other European regional offices.

The Antenna Office gave support to the UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat in planning the seminar, writing and distributing the invitations. The Antenna Office was also responsible for the arrangements in the office such as preparing the room, badges and catering.

## **3. Event Organisation, meetings & seminars**

### **3.1 Yearly event**

*6 December, 2006, Inauguration of UBC Antenna office*

The official inauguration of the UBC Antenna Office took place on the 6th of December 2006. Two months after the settlement of UBC on the Brussels arena, representatives from member cities and different Commissions of UBC, gathered in Brussels to give visibility to the organisation and to the decision of strengthening UBC's significance within European Affairs. About 75 persons attended the opening event, which took place at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the European Union.

### **3.2 Other events**

*Open Days*

Information regarding participation in Open Days 2007 was communicated to the Secretariat of UBC.

*6 February, 2007, Seminar: "New programming period 2007-2013 – new information society cooperation opportunities for Baltic Cities."*

The Commission on Information Society of the Union of the Baltic Cities organized a seminar called "New programming period 2007-2013 - New information society cooperation opportunities for Baltic cities " in the premises of Finland's Permanent Representation in Brussels on 6 March 2007. The main goal of the seminar was to bring together representatives of UBC member cities to discuss new EU financing opportunities for European cooperation on information society development, and to present an outlook on the recent development of IS performance in Russia, especially in St. Petersburg. During the seminar, Mr Thomas Friis Konst, Managing Director of Stockholm Region, presented the UBC Antenna Office.

*5-6 June, 2007, "Communicating Europe: Going local", Committee of the Regions*

On the occasion of the CoR's 70th Plenary Session, held the 5-6 June this year, a forum with the title "Communicating Europe: Going local" was organised in the CoR. The forum was organised with the aim to re-launch the much debated institutional reform within the EU and was a direct response to the European commission's communication plan, launched in 2006 by Commissioner Margot Wallström. Ms. Wallström, CoR president Michel Delebarre and other prominent speakers discussed how the EU

can improve the communication of Europe to its citizens. A special focus was put on how regional and local authorities can help to provide information about Europe to the citizens. UBC was represented at the forum by the UBC Antenna Office in Brussels. Other exhibitors at the forum were actors such as CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), AER (Assembly of European Regions), AEM (Association of Elected Representatives from Mountain Areas), AEBR (Association of European Border Regions), Arco Latino and representatives from the party groups in CoR.

### **3.3 Representations at Conferences/Seminars**

The UBC Antenna Office has been representing UBC and its Commissions at conferences and meetings whenever asked.

*9 November, 2006, "Baltic Sea Region Perspectives - innovation, mobility, integration"*

Union of the Baltic Cities was represented by the Antenna office at the Conference "Baltic Sea Region Perspectives - innovation, mobility, integration, which was held in Brussels the 9 of November. The conference discussed how the Baltic Sea Region contributes to the common European Agenda and identified initiatives to be implemented by the EU with a view to ensure further development of this area. The representation was asked by the UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat.

*10 December, 2006, IBSG Briefing on EU's Maritime Policy*

The Informal Baltic Sea Group organised a briefing with some experts from the EU-institutions on EU's Maritime Policy. The representation was asked by the UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat.

*5 February, 2007, "Liveable Cities"*

On 5 February in Brussels, Members of the European Parliament, representatives from EU Member States and officials from leading European cities discussed the outcomes of the project "Liveable Cities". The representation was asked by the UBC Environment & Agenda 21 Secretariat.

*7-9 June, 2007, "From Reaction to Action"*

Stockholm Region and Sörmland Regional Council hosted the Lisbon Regions Network General Assembly and Conference in Stockholm Region 7-9 June 2007. 160 politicians and civil servants interested in discussing the regional role in the Lisbon Strategy, from more than 10 different countries attended the conference. The main objective with the Conference was therefore to discuss common challenges for regions in implementing the Lisbon Strategy, with the aim to go further and put good intentions into practice.

Information about UBC was exposed in the Conference Hall during the meeting days.

### **3.4 Bilateral promotion**

*22 June, 2007, Latin Arc*

Meeting with Head of Office of Barcelona Provincial Council, which is also the Secretariat of Latin Arc. The purpose of the meeting was to inform Latin Arc about UBC and discuss future cooperation. The results of the meeting were communicated to the UBC Secretariat.

## **4. UBC Meetings**

### **4.1 UBC Executive Board Meetings**

*9 March, 2007, 48th UBC Executive Board Meeting, Gävle*

During the 48th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board in Gävle, Jessica Rabenius from the UBC Antenna Office presented the European Commission work programme in 2007, priorities of the German Presidency, perspectives in 2008 and EU related funding possibilities.

## **4.2 UBC Commissions Meetings**

*21-23 November, 2006, UBC Energy Commission, Oskarshamn*

The municipality of Oskarshamn and the recently launched Energy Commission hosted the first UBC Energy Meeting. During two meeting days Åsa Fornander and Madelen Charyszczak represented the UBC Antenna Office. They made a short presentation of the Stockholm Region and its function as an Antenna Office.

*29-31 August, 2007, UBC EU-coordinators Network, Rostock*

UBC Antenna Office accepted the invitation to the first UBC EU-coordinators Network meeting in Rostock and was going to be represented by Thomas Friis Konst, Managing Director, Stockholm Region and Madelen Charyszczak, UBC Antenna Office. Unfortunately the meeting was postponed.

## **4.3 General Conference**

*27-28 September, 2007, IX General Conference, Pärnu*

UBC Antenna Office will be represented by Madelen Charyszczak.

Madelen Charyszczak

UBC Antenna in Brussels