

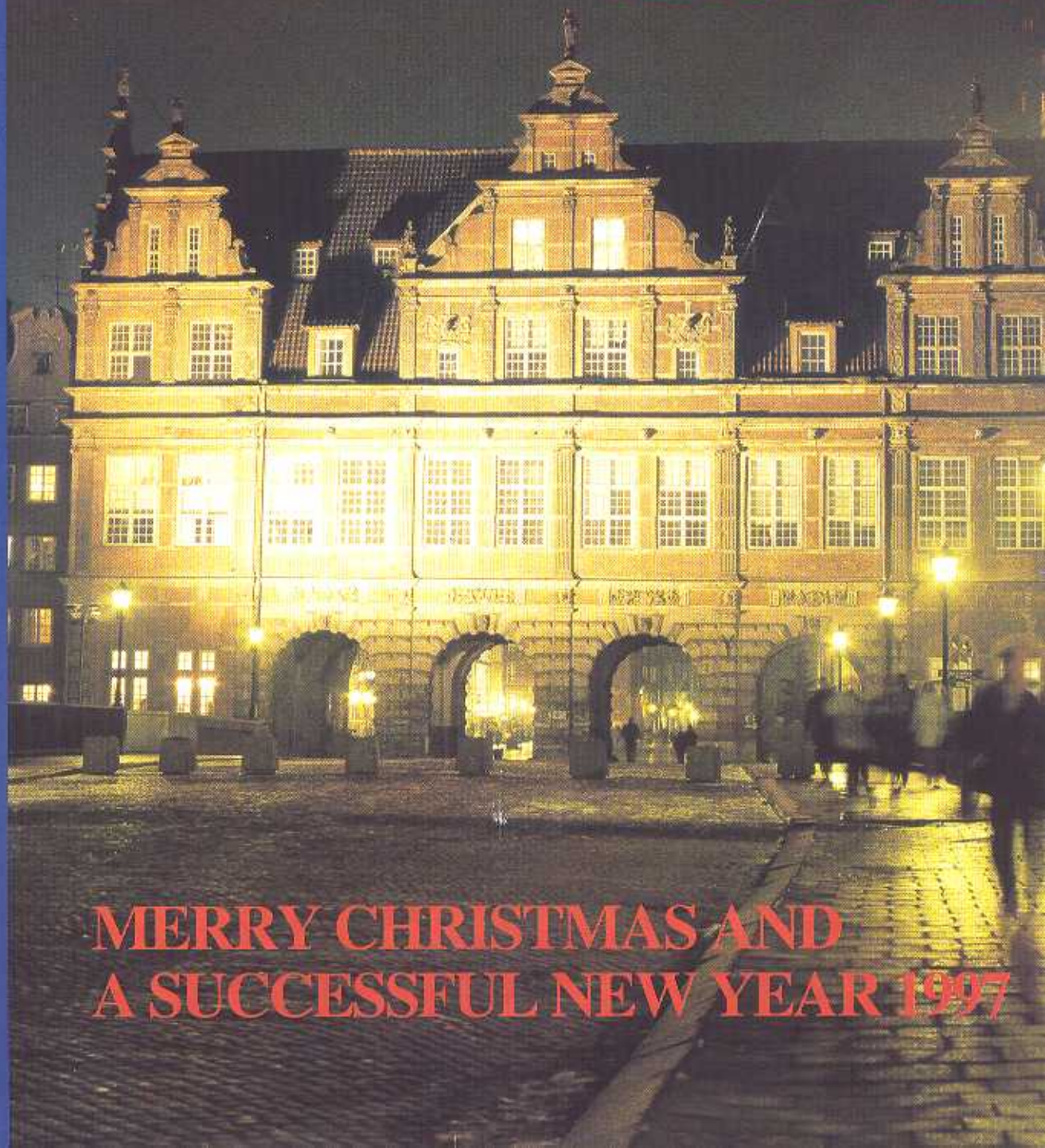


Baltic Cities Bulletin

2 / 1996

PUBLISHED BY THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

UBC TOTALS 65 CITIES
NEW FEES FOR
MEMBERSHIP



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR 1997

AALBORG • AARHUS • BALTISK-BERGEN • COPENHAGEN • ELBIAG • GDAŃSK • GDYNIA • GÖTEBORG • HAAPSALU • HELSINKI • HÖRSSENS • KALININGRAD • KALMAR • KARLSHAMN • KARLSKRONA • KARLSTAD • KAUNAS • KIEL • KLAIPEDA • KÖGE • KOTKA • KRISTIANSTAD • KURSSAARE • LIEPAJA • LÜBECK • LEBÅ • MAMONOVO • MARIEHAMN • NAGGA • NAKKOV • NÄSTED • NÖRCKÖPING • NYBORG • NYBRO • NIMBING • OSKARSHAMN • PALANGA • PANEVYZ • PARNU • REZERNE • RIGA • ROSTOCK • ŠALIAI • SÖROT • STOCKHOLM • STETERSBURG • SUNDSVALL • SZCZECIN • ŚWINOUJŚCIE • TALLINN • TAMPERE • TARTU • TURKU • UMEÅ • VAASA • VENTSPILS • VILNIUS • VISBY • VÄSTERVIK • VÄSTERÅS • VAXJÖ • WISMAR • YSTAD



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NEXT ISSUES

Material for the coming issues

must be sent by the following

deadlines: March 10, August 1

and November 10

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COVER PICTURE

Green Gate in Gdańsk

UBC Office

Baltic Cities Bulletin



Dear Members and Friends,

Some of the most important months for the development of the Baltic Sea Area have just passed since the foundation of our UBC. In May all prime ministers met in Visby to create a common declaration for the Baltic Region. At the same time EU presented the Baltic Sea Region Initiative. In July in Kalmar the Council of the Baltic Sea States agreed on a programme for our region. The context of these three documents in general is very similar, which is encouraging for the future development of the region.

The policy of the governments and the EU has a strong influence on the policies of the cities. The EU and the governments set priorities giving the cities operational space and hopefully also money to act. There is, however, a need for the cities to act in order to influence the national policies and strategies which are important to the cities. Only then cities can increase local self-determination and local democracy. Democracy and sustainable development thrive in a decentralised political system.

Union of the Baltic Cities participated in the Visby and Kalmar meetings and also in the two meetings of our ministers of environment and ministers of planning in Stockholm in October as observers. During all these conferences we stressed that the cities must have possibility to influence the future development. But we also declared our readiness to play an active role in the implementation of a Baltic Sea Programme on the local level.

Finally I want to thank all of you who have taken active part in the work of our Union during 1996. I wish that the information flow between cities will be ever more enhanced with this renewed Baltic Cities Bulletin where all cities are welcomed to send stories and information. I look forward to an eventful and exciting year 1997 with many active cities.

I wish all "Homo Balticus"
a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kalmar, December 1996

Anders Engström
President

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Renewal of the UBC Newsletter

- The process is on its way!

You are now reading the first issue of the Baltic Cities Bulletin which starts a new phase in the development of our common UBC Newsletter. The aim is to gradually transform the UBC newsletter towards a news magazine type of a journal, which can in a better way respond to the needs and interests of the Union.

The major focus of the Baltic Cities Bulletin is still directed to information about the work of the Union and the actions of the member cities. More emphasis will, however, be placed on covering some specific fields of general interest which will be presented as main themes for each coming issue. The cities are invited to address these themes when sending their articles to the Bulletin.

From now on also stricter publication criteria have to apply to the stories that will be published in the Bulletin. The material inflow to the UBC Secretariat is constantly increasing while the printing space remains limited, so even though the editorial board warmly welcomes news and information to the Bulletin it is also forced really to edit the material sent from all the different sources. The aim is

to publish as much of the received information as possible, but sometimes the stories may have to be radically shortened. We believe though that this serves the best interests of readers and the whole information flow within and about the Union of the Baltic Cities.

There is an imminent need to employ a professional journalist to the UBC secretariat, but so far there are still not enough funds for it. The search for funding possibilities has begun. For the time being the editorial board is responsible for assisting the UBC secretariat in the very practical preparation of the Bulletin and so far this is done with voluntary time and effort, so in other words we are doing the best we can. All stories, news articles and information as well as comments and suggestions for improvement of the Bulletin are very welcome! Anyone who is interested in sending stories to the next issues is kindly invited to contact the Secretariat for further details about the format and design of the material.

We look forward to fruitful cooperation with all member cities!

Editorial Board

Production Plan for 1997

Bulletin	Deadline	Theme
1/1997	March 10	Information Society
2/1997	August 1	Cooperation with the European Union
3/1997	November 10	Future scenarios for Baltic Sea Cooperation



The Editorial Board apart from Juhan Janusson from left to right: A.Holmström, S.Hilavuo, P.Żaboklicki, E.Sorakunnas, L.Blomgren.



I. UBC Today

15th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board

- Board approved new membership fees

The 15th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on the 21st of September 1996 in the City of Pärnu in Estonia at the invitation of Mr Väino Linde, the Mayor of Pärnu. The meeting was attended by members of the UBC Executive Board, chairmen of Union's working Commissions, representatives of applying cities and invited guests.

The meeting was opened by Mr Anders Engström, the President of the Union. President Engström emphasized that this day is the fifth anniversary of founding the UBC in Gdańsk on September 21, 1991. Mr Engström summarized the five years of Union's activities pointing out that during this period the number of UBC members has doubled. All participants sang *Happy Birthday* to the Union of the Baltic Cities and raised a toast to the Union's successful future.

The Board accepted the applications from three more Baltic cities and the number of UBC member cities now totals 65!

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Mr Sławomir Szafranski, Szczecin, chairman of the Commission on Culture reported from the IV International UBC Art & Culture Festival "ART OF MUSICA" held this year in Szczecin and informed about the edition of international art magazine "MARE ARTICUM". Ms Barbro Ejendal, Visby, reported from the 2nd Working Session of the Commission on Culture titled "*Freedom of Expression - Information - Libraries*", organized by the city of Visby on May 3-5, 1996.

Mr Mikko Jokinen, the co-chairman of the Commission on Environment, highlighted the Municipi-

pal Environmental Audit project, course on recycling in Gdańsk, Commission's meeting in Kaunas and UBC environmental newsletter. Mr Ulrich Bauermeister, chairman of the Commission on Social Affairs warmly invited all member cities to the conference on "*Social and Labour Market Policy*" to be held in Rostock on 6-7 March 1997.

Ms Sonja Hilavo from Tampere, chairman of the UBC Task Force for Public Relations and Communication reported from the 1st Task Force's Workshop, held in Tampere on 31 May - 1 June 1996, which was attended by 50 participants from 29 member cities.



Board meeting salutes the 5th anniversary of the UBC.



Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC Project Manager, submitted report describing his work since XIV Executive Board Meeting in Kotka, emphasizing the projects: *UBC Member Cities and the EU* and *Integrated Management of Coastal Zones*.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Mr Pawel Zaboklicki, UBC Secretary General, reminded the Board about the proposal to change UBC membership fee system according to the number of city inhabitants which was discussed at the 3rd UBC General Conference held in Aarhus in 1995. The Conference authorized then the Executive Board to examine a new system. In Pärnu the Board decided to approve the following new membership fee system beginning from the year 1997. Mr Zaboklicki also presented the budget proposal for 1997 based on new membership fees. The Board approved the budget.

RENEWAL OF THE NEWSLETTER

The Board discussed also the ways to develop UBC Newsletter. The Secretary informed that so far the UBC Newsletter has been written by the staff of the Secretariat in Gdańsk which has very limited resources and no professional journalistic background. To improve the content

New membership fee system

A proposal to change UBC membership fee system according to number of city inhabitants was discussed by the III General Conference held in Aarhus on 8-9 December 1995. The Conference authorised UBC Executive Board to examine and approve the new system beginning from 1997.

UBC Executive Board at its last meeting in Pärnu, held on 21 September 1996, decided to approve enclosed new membership fee system from 1997.

City (inhabitants)	Fee	
	WEST	EAST
Up to 50.000	2.000	500
Up to 100.000	2.500	750
Up to 200.000	3.000	1.000
Up to 500.000	4.000	2.000
Over 500.000	5.000	2.000

and the layout of the Newsletter there is an obvious need to involve professional journalist(s) in the process of Newsletter production.

Mr Dag Larsson, Deputy Mayor of Stockholm, submitted a proposal of the city of Stockholm to assist in the Newsletter production. The Board appointed the Secretary, Communication Task Force Chairman, UBC Project Manager, UBC Environmental Coordinator and Stockholm's representatives as a core of future Newsletter's editorial board. The Board commissioned Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC Project Manager, to investigate possibilities of external (EU) funding for the development and future production of the Newsletter.

NEXT MEETINGS

As regards the next UBC General Conference in Gdańsk, 12-13 September 1997, the Board decided the conference to be a *Baltic Sea Cooperation Forum* during which major actors of Baltic cooperation shall discuss the future of the Baltic Sea Region. UBC shall invite such institutions and organizations as: Council of the Baltic Sea States, European Commission, Baltic Parliamentary Conference, Nordic Council, Conference of Subregions, VASAB 2010, HELCOM, Baltic Sea Chamber of Commerce among others.

Following the proposal of Mr Dag Larsson, the next XVI Meeting of the UBC Executive Board will be held in Stockholm on January 25, 1997.



The 14th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board

- New UBC personnel introduced

The 14th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities took place on April 13, 1996 in the City Hall of Kotka, Finland, upon the invitation of Mr Hannu Tapiola, Mayor of Kotka. The meeting was attended by the Executive Board members, chairmen of UBC working Commissions, representatives of new cities and the guests. The Board accepted seven new member cities after presentations made by the representatives of those towns.



The Board warmly welcomed seven new member cities.

Mr Anders Engström, UBC President, reported from the meeting of the UBC Presidium which was held in Gdańsk. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the UBC Strategy of Work 1996-1997 - Union's ground paper compiled by Ms Sonja Hilavuo, chairman of UBC Communication Task Force. Mr Engström stressed that adoption of mentioned strategic document is of high importance for the whole Union. The Board unanimously adopted the document.

NEW PERSONNEL

The President put forward a proposal to employ a UBC Project Manager. His responsibility would be elaborating and managing different UBC projects including submitting the applications for project financing to various funds

and programmes. Mr Engström informed that salary of UBC Project Manager would be covered by SIDA (Swedish International Cooperation Development Agency).

The city of Kalmar would provide the Project Manager with an office, telephone, fax etc. The President proposed that the UBC would cover the travel, hotel and conference costs of Project Manager during 1.5 year period. Mr Engström proposed the candidature of Mr Juhan Janusson to be the UBC Project Manager and the Board accepted the proposal.

Mr Mikko Jokinen, co-Chairman of UBC Commission on Environment told the Board that the city of Turku decided to allocate certain resources to open the Commission's Secretariat in Turku and to employ the UBC Environmen-

tal Coordinator. Mr Jokinen introduced Mr Esko Sorakunnas who is employed as a coordinator. Among other things his task will be to manage UBC environmental projects, promote cooperation between the member cities on the field of environment and produce UBC Environmental Newsletter.

Additionally, Mr Pawel Żaboklicki, UBC Secretary General, presented the financial report of the Union for the year 1995. The Board described the financial position of the Union as satisfactory and adopted the report.

Mr Żaboklicki also presented the Report from the III UBC General Conference, held in Aarhus in 1995.



Task Force for Public Relations and Communication in high gear !

- The first meeting in Tampere was a success

More than 50 Task Force participants from 29 member cities met in Tampere, Finland on May 31 - June 1, 1996 to discuss communication flow and public relations within and about the Union of the Baltic Cities. The 2-day-seminar included expert lectures on internal and external marketing and communication, publicity and press relations as well as Internet and World Wide Web issues. The idea was to give firm background information for the smaller working groups which afterwards discussed in details the ways how UBC member cities can market themselves and their projects and how they can be active nodes in the UBC communication highway. The number of participants exceeded expectations and the group is constantly growing as more and more cities want to be part of this very functional network.

BRAINSTORMING

All participants received the new UBC Information Folder with slides, contact numbers and other useful background material about the Union. The Task Force brainstormed several concrete ideas and gave invaluable input for several future projects in the field of communication. For example a new UBC in Brief -brochure/folder will be created for the marketing of the Union and the joint press release strategy will be implemented in the future. Also a special Newsflash will appear for rapid information exchange between the cities first by fax and then by e-mail. Also a special Newsflash will appear for rapid information exchange between the cities first by fax and then by e-mail. In order to facilitate project formation between cities a Project Curriculum Vitae will be compiled by each active member city.



Secretary General opened the meeting.

The cities will also gradually be joined together by an e-mail network and a common World Wide Web home page.

BOOSTING TEAM SPIRIT

On the last day of the seminar the Task Force members were in high spirits and ready for the last action. It was time for the great UBC Survival Trip in the wilderness of the Hell Lake Natural Park. No one ventured to actually swim in the brisk water but most daredeviled through the Hell Cleft and some even absailed down the 20 m steep cliff. Mr Sławomir Szafranski the Chairman of UBC Culture Commission was among the first ones to try this speedy downwards way. After hiking, UBC Trivia and an outdoors meal the seminar was concluded and the group remains looking forward to the next meeting in 1997.



Taking a break in the UBC Survival Trip.

The Task Force on Communication and Public Relations is open





IS YOUR CITY ALREADY A TASK FORCE MEMBER?



for one member from each UBC member city and it is an important forum for developing direct communication between member cities. Task Force gives all active cities an opportunity to affect and contribute to the work of the Union and it can also be seen as a fruitful platform for promoting different projects. Each City is strongly advised by the Presidium and the Board of the Union to

enroll an active participant to this network. Ms Sonja Hilavuo, the Chairman of the Task Force from the City of Tampere, together with the UBC Secretariat will answer all questions regarding the Task Force and the membership registration forms can also be obtained from these sources. Do not miss out from this action!

The UBC Project Manager at your service

The UBC is a rapidly growing organisation, with many new demands on service to its member cities. This is the main reason for the UBC to strengthen its organisation with a Project Manager. Mr Juhan Janusson started his work on 15th of April 1996. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Relations has given the UBC funds for his salary, the city of Kalmar has provided all office equipment, including computers, office space etc, and the UBC pays all costs related to travels. The main duty for Mr Janusson is to catch up project ideas from the cities, find partners, formulate the ideas to concrete projects, financing and project leaders, submit application forms to relevant programs, see that projects are started and act as advisor to the project leaders during the projects. Mr Janusson is Estonian but born and

living in Sweden. That makes him a good "Homos Balticus" enhanced by the fact that his wife is Danish. Before starting his work in the UBC, he had his own business as Business Consultant assisting Scandinavian companies to do business in Estonia and Latvia.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE

There is no actual limit on the subject of the projects. However, typical UBC projects have in common the fact that they are carried out from a general city perspective. Many member cities must profit on the project, maybe through dissemination to other cities or participation in large networks. Projects, that are specific to maybe only one or very few cities or where the experiences are not relevant to more than a few UBC member cities, should

be carried out by the cities themselves.

One major aim is to use the expertise that exists in the cities. The cities have a lot of experienced experts of all kind so there is no real need for consultants. That makes the projects cheaper and also more efficient. Funding for the projects will mainly come from EU sources. However, in most of the relevant EU programs the UBC as such is not eligible as applicant. Some UBC member city must be Project Leader on behalf of the UBC.

ONGOING PROJECTS

The project "UBC Member Cities and the European Union" is one of three projects of strategic importance for the UBC member cities. The two others are imple-



mentation of Agenda 21 locally in cities, as discussed at the informal meeting between the ministers of environment in the Baltic Sea Area in Stockholm last October, and the Coastal Zone Management project in the Baltic Sea South-East coast. These three projects are described at another place in this newsletter. Apart from these, there is a number of projects in various stages of preparation. Early December there will be a meeting organised by the UBC Commission on Cul-

ture in Visby, where the project "Freedom of Expression - Libraries" will be discussed. Also, there are project ideas regarding women in cities, a continuation of the UBC Youth Camps Project, and others.

Mr Janusson invites all member cities to contact him on project ideas. Hopefully there will be possibilities to create good projects from the ideas. He can be contacted as follows:

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Preparing member cities for the European Union

- EU funding granted for the project

Among 121 funding applications submitted to the Baltic Small Projects Facilities (BSPF), 11 were approved. One of those was the UBC project "UBC Member Cities and the European Union".

This project is of great strategic importance for the UBC and the member cities. The consequences of entering the EU are substantial for almost all fields of city actions, and it is crucial to be prepared. The need for this project may be summarised as follows:

- More active and motivated actors in the Baltic Sea region are needed to influence the governments during the EU evaluation process, to shed light on the Baltic Sea Region and to secure

that the EU pays more attention to Baltic Sea regional issues.

- For a successful implementation of the possibilities of the EU, it is necessary to be prepared to change and broaden the working methods and ways of thinking in the cities in order to fully utilise the membership. The strategic thinking of the cities must be developed to match the new perquisites a membership gives.
- The EU consists of a very complicated web of various programs, rules, offices and institutions in a complex hierarchy. It is necessary for the UBC member cities in countries that are to enter the EU to learn more about this system.
- The membership of the EU will also mean that the UBC mem-

ber cities in the countries involved will have the possibility to benefit from various programs and financial funds that are available in the EU. More than 200 such programs exist. More knowledge about this is certainly needed.

The fields of interest in this project are strategic as well as specific. The strategic aspects are for example:

- Relation to EU legislation.
- Relation to own national governments compared with the relations to other European nations, regions and cities.
- Relation to European Institutions.
- Participation in EU programs.
- Local government influence on the EU and vice versa.



Each of the CEE members of the Steering Group will arrange a conference or seminar to which all cities in their respective countries (in Poland possibly only North Poland or the Baltic Sea rim) will be invited. The purpose is to disseminate the experiences from the project to other cities. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities has issued a hand-book for

local governments on EU issues from local government point of view. This will be edited and updated and translated to Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian. The financing of this activity will be applied for from Swedish sources, but the hand-book will be an important complement to this project.

One city from each country will participate in the project's steering group. The members of the steering group are: Copenhagen, Rostock, Szczecin, Panevėžys, Liepāja, Tallinn, Tampere, Kalmar, Kaliningrad and Kristiansand. Szczecin will be the project leader together with the city of Copenhagen.

UBC's Coastal Management Project

The Baltic Sea South-East Coast, defined as the coast between Palanga, Lithuania, and Łeba, Poland, is an unique coastal area in Europe. Very few other areas in Europe show such a mix of natural beauty, large industrial cities, holiday resorts, harbours, coastal lagoons, military installations and large river outlets.

However, the prerequisites for cooperation are complicated and unclear. Boundaries of three countries and numerous cities and other local governments split the area into pieces. In order to create a more solid base for a sustainable development, the local authorities in all three countries should take initiative and cooperate to secure that appropriate consideration is given to the whole area as such, regardless of national boundaries. The citizens of the cities must be able to control their destiny in these important questions of future through their city governments and other organisations. Therefore

the UBC has taken an initiative to a cooperation project in the region.

CAN NATURE AND MAN COOPERATE?

All human activity, when utilising coastal natural resources, affects the coast. Therefore it must be made in a way that there is a balance between what nature can offer and what man wishes and needs, uses and misuses. The waters outside the Baltic Sea south-east coast are very important fishing grounds. But fishing is often also competing with other uses of the sea. The most obvious is the use of the sea as dumping ground for pollution from industry, agriculture and human settlements located on the shore or along the rivers.

During the first phases of the proposed project, the scientists and researchers have the initiative, collecting and compiling relevant facts. Gradually the cities start discussing the findings and recom-

mendations and start implementing the proposals in a feasible way into the city system. Thus, a process will start, which will eventually lead to a cooperation also in the future.

One important task is to formulate threats and possibilities that affect nature:

- Causes of existing environmental problems.
- Impact of environmental measures.
- Assessment of the impact on the environment of plans and programmes.
- Evaluation of the effects of socio-economic and natural evolution.

The important aspect with this document is again to create a consensus between the participating parties, and probably there will be some fruitful discussion regarding this.





Baltic Sea Conference

- Labour Market and Social Policy in the Baltic Sea Region

Invitation!

All UBC member cities are welcomed to Rostock on the 6th and 7th of March 1997.

The international conference on labour market and social policy in the Baltic Sea region is organized by the UBC-Office Rostock. The conference is part of the transnational project "Baltic Cities" supported by the European Union's PACTE Programme. Participants of the project are Helsinki, Storström, Kalmar, Lübeck and Rostock.

The focus of interest is exchange of experience about labour market projects, about activities of job promotion, the introduction of ideas and approaches to solutions of existing social problems and

developing of transnational co-operation in these fields in different countries around the Baltic Sea. Approximately 120 participants are expected to gather at the Baltic Conference in order to learn on the spot about various projects, to discuss them and to exchange experiences at workshops and project visits.

In connection with the conference an exhibition "Market Place Baltic Sea" will present labour market projects for job promotion and economy development. Representatives of different countries will be able to provide further details to the exhibited projects. Various EU Programmes will be presented by a representative of the EU Parliament.

We ask you to show your interest in participation in time because the hotel room capacity is limited. The participation fee includes all

meals, visits and amounts to 120 DM for participants from East European countries and 180 DM for West European countries. Accommodation will be reserved in the conference hotel "Trihotel", single room 140 DM, double room 100 DM. An official invitation will be mailed to you.

For further details please contact:

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4th Art Festival of the Union of the Baltic Cities

- Art of Musica in Szczecin 1996



The aim of the Art of Musica festival was to present jazz, rock, folk, choir music and street theatres performed by young musicians.

Total budget for the event was over 60.000 USD and it came mainly from Szczecin's municipal sources and from some sponsors.

"Art of Musica" was organised by "Bejster, Przybyłowicz" company in cooperation with culture clubs "Słowianin", "13 Muses Club", "Kantaro" Art Agency, students clubs "Pinokio" and "Trans". Music groups were mostly recommended by The Baltic Music Network Association and its country branches.



Bands and choirs from Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Estonia, Russia, Latvia and Norway gave very good concerts. The events took place in clubs, open air stages and streets in the city. The festival in-

cluded open air and club concerts, rock and classical music, break dance, jazz and many other attractions in beautiful surroundings.

In 1997 Festival will come to

Gdynia where baroque music, textile exhibition and sculpture workshop will be the main part of its programme. In 1998 Festival will be organized by the City of Kalmar in Sweden.

Freedom of Expression - Information - Libraries

- Baltic libraries join forces

"The freedom of expression and ideas is a powerful tool for change. Never before have we been as aware of this as now. Modern technique has suddenly given thoughts electronic wings. They have flown across the globe like never before. Free thoughts are threatening." This was how the Swedish Deputy Foreign Minister, Pierre Schori opened the conference Freedom of Expression - Information - Libraries in Visby on the Baltic island of Gotland in May 1996. The conference was attended by politicians, cultural affairs directors, librarians and

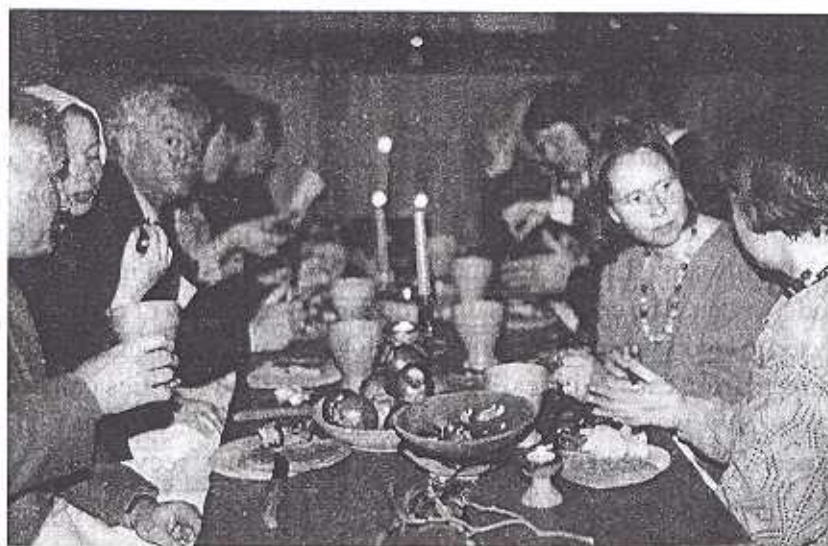
writers from ten countries around the Baltic Sea. The focus of the conference was on the role of libraries in encouraging freedom of expression and entering the information society.

The Minister believed that public libraries have a central role in realising this culture of full and free thought. In libraries everyone can enter a wider world, free of charge. The library is the home of wisdom and views, fantasies and fables, novels and news. He pointed out that public libraries can play an important part in consolidating democratization and

nation building since they carry the national memories. Why else bother to bomb the National Library in Sarajevo?

Jaan Kaplinski, Estonian writer, stated: "I would not agree with the idea of being a freedom of expression fundamentalist". Freedom of expression does not necessarily and always lead to positive changes in a society. The world would be a better place if some extremists didn't have freedom of expression for example the Nazis. In the West the gaps and setbacks in the freedom of expression is not a burning issue, more important is the advancing commercialisation and concentration of media. The Internet gives people in rich countries real freedom of Expression to reach an audience. The result is that we are already drowning in information we neither need nor want - noise.

Peter Curman, a writer from Sweden, spoke of the advantages of Internet. It's like a huge city - it contains both garbage and challenges. On the Internet you can build up forums for information



Medieval feast after the Visby session.



and discussion. The Internet in libraries provides an enormous opportunity.

ROLE OF LIBRARIES

Ivi Eenma from the Estonian National Library, started and talked about the importance of a national library for a small nation. During the Soviet period literature was destroyed or hidden. The National Library opened up the hidden collections of literature again as early as 1989.

Tuula Haavisto from Finnish Library Association, stressed that libraries must offer their users ac-

cess to Internet and other electronic media. If they do not they will become marginalized.

Audrone Glosiene from University of Vilnius, explained that for Lithuanians the book is deeply connected with the struggle for national and political independence. Today incompetent local authorities have used their power to close libraries.

Barbro Thomas from Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs said that libraries in the future will play an important role in the development of IT, by making it available and accessible to the end-users.

TO WHOM DO LIBRARIES BELONG?

Some thought they belong to authority, some that they belong to the users. Others were afraid that they will not belong to the future if the interaction between librarians and the decision makers does not improve or if libraries lose the fight with commercial information providers. Participants also decided to establish a network of public libraries in UBC member cities.

The next working session of the UBC Commission on Culture will be held in Kaliningrad on September 26-28, 1997.

Lots of environmental action taking place

Course on Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management

The courses and seminars on environmental issues are UBC contribution to the HELCOM's Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme - especially to its 2nd component on "Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development". The Nordic Council of Ministers granted UBC with 550.000 DKK to implement the project.

The course on "Recycling as an Element of Solid Waste Management" was held on 28-31 August 1996 in Gdańsk. It was a con-

tinuation of the seminar held in March in Riga under the same title. The organizers of this course were the cities of Gdańsk and Turku in cooperation with the UBC Secretariat.

The Gdańsk course was attended by 40 participants representing 17 cities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Sweden. The course was directed to environmental decision-makers from eastern cities. The know-how was transferred by experts from scandinavian member cities.

LECTURES AND CASE STUDIES

The programme of the course included interesting lectures on european policy of waste reuse and recycling. Results achieved in Denmark, especially in the city of Aarhus, can serve as an example of succesful implementation of this policy described in the EU document "Strategy of common activities in waste management". The following priorities can be found in this document: reduction of waste amount, recycling, secure dumping.



Second part of the seminar was foreseen for the presentation of the waste management situation in participating western and eastern cities. All cities have started the work on modernizing their waste management. These cities have realized the necessity of recycling and the role of ecological education, which is a prerequisite for involving the citizens in source separation of waste.

EXAMPLES OF VILNIUS AND TURKU

A good example is the city of Vilnius, where four districts were equipped with separate bins for paper, glass and plastics. All inhabitants in those districts received letters informing about the action. Every two weeks there is a special radio broadcast devoted to recycling issues. The city of Turku

has also done a lot in the field of ecological education. The purpose of this education is to convince the citizens about the necessity of their active participation in modern waste management.

Finally all participants visited the landfill in Gdańsk Szadółki. They showed a big interest in oil contaminated waste composting technologies, in which special bakeries are being used.

Working meeting of the Commission on Environment

The Commission on Environment held its work meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania, 13-14 September 1996. It was attended by 30 participants from 11 member cities. Main themes of the meeting were energy issues, the UBC's Municipal Environmental Auditing - project and the activities of the Commission on Environment.

ENERGY ISSUES

During the first day, Lithuanian energy specialists presented the situation in their country as well as plans for promoting energy saving, increasing the use of renewable energy sources, etc. Representatives of the Danish company I/S Midtkraft provided a presentation on the use of combined energy production plants using straw, biomass and even municipal waste as fuel.

The meeting decided that the Commission on Environment, together with the City of Kaunas, should invite UBC member cities to a meeting in spring 1997 dealing with energy issues. The purpose of this meeting should be to investigate the need for as well as initiate cooperation among cities on more specific energy projects. This could be the starting point for a special Task Force on energy issues - provided the necessary specific projects and cities are represented.

ACTIVITIES

The main activities of the Commission on Environment are the Municipal Environmental Auditing Project, which was started in March 1996 and is proceeding as planned. UBC's training programme will be finished once the last of four courses and seminars

is held in Liepāja in the end of October. The first environmental newsletter will be ready in November.

EXCURSION

The participants visited the new Kaunas waste water treatment plant, presently under construction. Once it is operational it shall greatly improve the ecological situation in Kaunas. The hosts also presented Kaunas' "Babies' Home", where a project on energy-saving and utilization of renewable energy sources is planned to take place.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The chairman, Mr Carl Nielsen from Aarhus, closed the meeting by saying that this was the first actual meeting of the Commission



on Environment and from now on such a meeting should be organized once a year, perhaps in connection with the general meeting.

For further information on the meeting or other activities of the Commission on Environment, please contact UBC's environ-

mental coordinator, Mr Esko Sorakunnas in Turku, Finland, fax: +358 2 253 8613 or e-mail: esko.sorakunnas@pp.weppi.fi.

Municipal Environmental Auditing - project



UBC's Commission on Environment has, on March 1 1996, launched a project, which aims at developing a system for auditing environmental performance in the cities. In the long run the plan will support the development of city specific environmental strategies and their planning. The project is directed towards preventing environmental problems and it supports sustainable development in the cities of the Baltic Sea area.

The project is being financed by EU's Life-program and partly by the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. It is a part of HELCOM's Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Plan (JCP) and it is another concrete input from UBC as a lead party in implementing of the second point of the latter plan.

The MEA-project is based on the concept of environmental audit, which was originally developed in the business world. In this project the concept is revised to better suit the cities of the Baltic Sea region and the problems typical to them. The objective is to create a

reliable, comprehensive and impartial method to be used in evaluating the state of environment and environmental consequences arising from different actions.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

Municipal environmental auditing is a part of the environmental management scheme, in which the environmental performance of a city is revised by external auditors in an objective and documented way. The auditing will produce feedback relative to the environmental policy and management system of the city. Two basic types of auditing are internal and external audits. An external audit is basically a report of the effects of urban activities on the state of the environment, while internal auditing concerns the city itself, its officers, regulations and even public awareness and participation in environmental matters.

The project will develop the means of evaluating the level of awareness the citizens and officials possess on the state of their

environment. Furthermore, it will provide insight into whether or not the level of knowledge enables the reliable assessment of projects which have an influence on the environment. MEA will also help to make environmentally sustainable investment decisions in the municipalities, detect the critical environmental issues and reveal the weaknesses in the environmental behaviour of cities.

The cities of Turku and Helsinki in Finland and Tallinn in Estonia will, as members of the UBC, be responsible for the project. The first result of the project will be a handbook on environmental auditing for Baltic Sea area cities. The second goal is to carry out the environmental auditing of Tallinn, which will set an example for other cities. The results will be disseminated to other Baltic Sea cities for utilization in their own activities. This will be achieved by organising seminars and workshops in various cities.

For further information, please contact Mr Ilppo Vuorinen, fax: +358 2 253 8613 or e-mail: ilppo.vuorinen@pp.weppi.fi or Ms Kaja Hannus, fax: +372 6 579002.



Women at the Baltic Wheel

The third UBC Women's Conference took place in Karlskrona on May 8-10, 1996 and was dedicated to "The daily life for women in the countries around the Baltic". The conference was organized in connection with the "Women Can Exhibition" held at the same time in Karlskrona.

The meeting was attended by around 40 women from Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Denmark and Sweden who raised and discussed the following questions:

- abuse of women in the nowadays society,
- alcohol and drug problems among women,
- treatment of drug addicts.

Moreover the conference participants took part in the seminars arranged within the "Women Can Exhibition" as well as visited Datorteket - the computer center which handles the computer training of unemployed young



Welcome words of Birgitta Törnqvist to the participants of Karlskrona conference.

people in order to give them competitive skills on the labour market.

The Women's Network of the UBC is a voluntary group of women which deals with the female affairs within the Union of the Baltic Cities. Until now the Network organized two meetings of that kind: the first UBC Women's Conference titled "Women and the Labour Market" was held in Kaliningrad in May 1993 and the second one on

"Women around the Baltic - our role in Agenda 21" took place in Sundsvall in October 1995.

Already now we can announce the next UBC Women's conference which will take place in Kalmar in May 1997 in the association with 600th anniversary of Kalmar Union and "Nordic Women 1997" week.

For more information about the UBC Women's Network and the list of addresses, please contact:

The Union has new Members !

The number of Union Members now totals 65 cities.

More cities decided to join the Union:

Horsens, Karlstad, Mariehamn, Tartu and Vaasa.

We would like to warmly welcome these new cities and wish them fruitful cooperation with all other UBC Members.

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Sweden
Tel./Fax + 46 60 122241

Mrs Birgitta Törnqvist
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371 37 Karlskrona
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II. News and Views

Agenda 21 in the Baltic Sea Region

- Ministers Meetings in Stockholm

The Ministers of Environment in the Baltic Sea States met in Stockholm on October 21st. That meeting was followed by the conference of the Baltic Ministers of Spatial Planning held on October 22nd.

Mr Anders Engström, President of the UBC, was invited to speak at both of the ministerial conferences. He was very warmly received by the ministers and of the rest of the delegations.

The main topic during the discussion between the environmental ministers was implementation of

Agenda 21 in the Baltic Sea Region. The Agenda 21 must be implemented locally. UBC is a very good network to reach the cities and Mr Anders Engström stressed in his speech the need for the governments to co-operate with the cities in this important task.

UBC will probably get an assignment from the ministers to implement Agenda 21 through the UBC network. The exact method will be decided later. In his speech to the Ministers of Environment, Mr Anders Engström also specially emphasised the Baltic Sustainable Cities Programme, at present carried out through the Commission

on Environment. Also, strong support was given to the Helsinki Commission.

Mr Anders Engström also delivered a speech to the Ministers of Planning. He emphasized the UBC network and the need for bottom-up perspective in physical planning. He also specially mentioned the UBC Coastal Management Project Proposal.

The Ministers of Planning adopted a common recommendation for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region. This is a detailed set of recommendations, mainly worked out by VASAB.

Prime Ministers meet in Visby



Ten Prime Ministers from all Baltic Sea States met in Visby last May to discuss the development in the Baltic Sea region, together with the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission.

The meeting was unique in the sense that there was a strong con-

sensus regarding key elements in the development of the Baltic Sea Region. They affirmed their support for the Baltic Sea region to get its proper place in the new Europe of co-operation and integration and recognised the importance for European stability of ever closer links between the Baltic Sea Region and the European Union.



In the declaration of the meeting, areas such as democracy and human rights, stability and sustainable development were enhanced. They agreed to facilitate contacts between individuals, organisations and government bodies at all levels, and considered sub-regional contacts and dia-

logue to be a particular characteristic of the Region.

The importance of the meeting was very much to enhance the already very positive tone of the Baltic Sea co-operation. The meeting showed that there is a strong commitment from all states

to further enhance a co-operation on all levels, including city level. The ministers recognised the CBSS as the forum for guidance and overall co-ordination among the Baltic Sea States and the European Commission.

CBSS Action Programmes

At the meeting in Kalmar on 3rd of July 1996, the Council of the Baltic Sea States - the foreign ministers of eleven states in the Baltic Sea region and the European Commission - drew up an action programme, giving the direction for co-operation between the states in the Baltic region until the 2000.

The aim of the meeting was to launch an action programme to increase people-to-people co-operation and civic security within the region, to speed up economic development and integration and also to strengthen efforts in the environmental area. The European Commission's Baltic Sea initiative is also an important part of the programme established at the Kalmar meeting.

THREE FOCAL FIELDS

In the introduction to the programme, it is stated that people-to-people contacts are one of the foundations for understanding between the Baltic Sea States.

Among others, the ministers state that dialogue and contacts between towns and municipalities will be encouraged in various ways. Also fighting of organised crime, education and increased cultural exchange in enhanced in the statement.

The second main subject are questions related to economic integration and prosperity. The aim is to develop the Baltic Sea region into a dynamic and competitive area with sustainable growth and free trade.

The third important subject in the programme is environment. The Kalmar meeting established that restoring ecological balance in

the Baltic Sea is one of the biggest joint tasks for the Baltic Sea States. The Joint Comprehensive Programme (JCP) which was decided in Ronneby in 1990 will be updated and reinforced under the leadership of HELCOM. Special attention was drawn to water-quality in rivers and lakes, hazardous waste, waste from previous military activities, agricultural discharge of fertilizers and fishery.

The UBC acts as observer in the CBSS and has direct contacts with the foreign ministers. This gives the UBC possibilities to enhance the city perspectives and to strengthen local democracy.



Foreign Ministers meet in Kalmar.



4th Conference on Baltic Sea Subregional Cooperation

- UBC chairs the Communication Workshop

The Fourth Subregional Conference was convened in Vaasa, Finland on October 17-18, 1996 to discuss perspectives of Baltic Sea Cooperation.

Nearly 400 participants attended the event, and as guests the Conference welcomed Minister Valdis Birkavs, Chairman of the Council of the Baltic Sea States as well as the presidents of the Union of the Baltic Cities and the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association, the Secretary General of Helsinki Commission and the representative of VASAB.

As a result the Conference asks for a rapid enlargement of the European Union by allowing the interested Baltic Sea states to join as soon as possible and for a strengthening of the partnership between the Russian Federation and the European Union. The Conference demands from the European Union a flexible programme for the Baltic Sea Region with easy and unbureaucratic access on equal terms for all subregions in EU member and non-member states.

For the first time a "Partner Search Forum" was organised to discuss cooperation projects of joint interests between subregions at the conference. Altogether 35 subregions prepared and

searched for cooperation projects and approximately 150 appointments took place during the two days. Various EU programme advisors were also present to assist in project preparation.

Minister Gerd Walter will continue as a Speaker for the Subregions for one more year, and the Speaker will establish a secretariat in Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein. The 5th subregional conference will be held in Gdańsk in 1997.

BALTIC SEA ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNICATION

Mr Anders Engström and Ms Sonja Hilavuo chaired the Communication Workshop during the Conference. Issues of particular interest were information sources and distribution possibilities regarding various project information, past-project experiences, potential partnerships, newsletters, events calendars and EU-information. The Workshop welcomed and strongly supported the formation of Baltic Sea Alliance between state, local and regional actors in order to establish a joint information system and to enhance the communication flow in the region.

The primary partners in the Alliance, i.e. the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC), the Baltic Sea Cham-



bers of Commerce Association (BCCA) and the Union of the Baltic Cities with the assistance of the Baltic Institute of Finland are responsible for joining forces in creating a World Wide Web based information system which will be open to all users in the region. Close cooperation between the Alliance and all other Baltic Organisations and offices is essential.

YOUTH COOPERATION AND ENERGY ISSUES

Workshop on youth cooperation agreed on the proposal of the Nordic Youth Committee to organize a conference on Baltic Sea youth cooperation in Helsinki in May 1997. The aim is to reach a declaration and action plan between national and regional NGO's and public administrations to support a common youth strategy for cooperation in the region. The workshop on energy and sustainable development agreed on the following three priority areas in terms of future regional cooperation: exchange of know-how and technology related to the use of renewable energy, establishment of the network of regional contact persons and preparation of regional energy balance studies and energy plans.



Local Agenda 21 in Lisbon

- From Charter to Action



More than thousand participants from 37 European and 6 non-European countries, 26 workshops, 30 roundtables and 40 exhibitors on the Market Place - these are the key figures illustrating the dimension of the Second European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns held in Lisbon, Portugal from 6-8 October 1996.

The Conference served not only as an intermediate evaluation of

municipal activities in terms of urban development and the Local Agenda 21 process since the First European Conference held in Aalborg, Denmark, in May 1994, but also as a milestone event for the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign. The presence of numerous Mayors and Heads of Departments evidenced the political importance of this massive exchange of information and sharing of experiences between European local authorities.

More and more European local authorities are on the right track, but a long way from reaching their goal. Just as it is too early to expect "completed" Local Agendas, it is premature to ask for proof from local authorities dedicated to the LA 21 process that the philosophy of sustainability is already the general guideline in making municipal policy. The approaches to LA 21 which were presented to be holistic limit themselves, to a very large extent, to concepts of how to introduce instruments

The Lisboa Action Plan: From Charter to Action

1. We believe that the adoption of the Charter of European Cities & Towns Towards Sustainability (Aalborg Charter) is one of the best starting points for a Local Agenda 21 process.
2. We believe that the local authority should be the main facilitator of the Local Agenda 21 process.
3. We believe that the Local Agenda 21 process requires the involvement of the entire local authority - whether city, town or rural community.
4. We shall enter into consultation and partnerships with the various sectors of our community to create synergy through cooperation.
5. We shall seek to get our own house in order by implementing the principle of negotiating out.
6. We shall carry out systematic action planning to move from analysis to action.
7. We shall integrate environmental with social and economic development to improve health and quality of life for our citizens.
8. We shall use advanced tools for sustainability management.
9. We shall establish programmes to raise awareness among our citizens, interest groups, as well as politicians and local government officers of sustainable development issues.
10. We shall gain strength through inter-authority alliances: associations, networks and campaigns.
11. We shall build North-South and West-East alliances for sustainable development.
12. We shall go ahead in concert with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign.



and methods into the environmental sector. It is impressive and inspiring to witness that, despite the financially trying times, the essential message of the Aalborg Charter, i.e., the call for an integrated ecological, social and economic development is valued as an absolutely correct and worthy aim. Finally it was good to see that North-South and East-West projects are integral parts of the LA 21 projects of many European cities.

The "Partner Forum" was a new element created for the purposes of the Lisbon Conference. Participants were invited to take the initiative and involve themselves in round-table discussions. At 30

such round tables over 200 participants forged plans of cooperation, be it in terms of reducing motorised traffic, increasing public awareness/participation or developing sets of environmental indicators. 11 representatives from 7 Directorate-Generals of the European Commission were available for discussions and well-equipped with information and advice.

During the Conference, five cities were given the European Sustainable Cities Award: Albertslund (DK), The Hague (NL), Dunkerque (F), Graz (A) and Leicester (UK). Approximately 100 municipalities participated in this competition sponsored by the CEMR.

The second conference ended with the approval of the "Lisboa Action Plan: From Charter to Action". Twelve core statements help cities identify the partners with which they should work and forecast the instruments required and the steps to be taken along the path to achieving sustainability.

The full text of the Lisboa Action Plan is available on the Internet in English and German and will soon be available in further languages. Please, visit "Local Sustainability", the European good practice information service: <http://cities21.com/europractice>.

More Sustainable Towns and Cities in the Baltic Countries

Invitation!

The towns and cities around the Baltic are the focus of a conference in Stockholm next spring. For three days, 28 - 30 May 1997, approximately 300 delegates will gather in Stockholm to discuss planning strategies for the development of more sustainable settlements in the Baltic region.

The conference brings together urban planners and managers, decision-makers, researchers and

representatives of the business sector from Scandinavia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Belarus and Russia. The issues are thus being debated by professionals from all sectors across national boundaries.

The main approach of the conference is the conclusions and recommendations set forth in the Habitat Agenda, adopted at the Union Nations' conference Habitat II in Istanbul last summer. The Baltic Cities Conference will discuss the impact of the Agenda on



BALTIC CITIES

Global Aspects on
Urban Settlements
in the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic towns and cities, emphasizing aspects especially relevant to the development of the Baltic region.

MAIN THEMES

The Conference deals with the following six central themes: city



networking and cooperation for sustainable settlements in the Baltic region, safeguarding cultural values and diversity in the built environment, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, social integration and equality of opportunity, the management, development and improvement of the buildings and infrastructure, local democracy, popular participation and empowerment, the interaction of urban and rural areas, urban green space, water conservation and the phosphorous ecocycle.

These themes are being debated in parallel sessions and illustrated by successful examples of local practice mainly from the Baltic countries. All delegates are invited

to contribute with cases from their own towns and other materials.

In order to create opportunities for conference participants to find partners and discuss common projects, the programme includes a session with several round table discussions in small groups. The programme also allows for festivities and social arrangements, such as a boat trip and study visits.

The organisers are the Swedish Council for Building Research, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities, the Swedish Board of Housing, Building and Planning and the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Re-

search. Among the supporters are the Union of the Baltic Cities.

For further information and application form, please contact:

Conference Secretariat
Ms Gun Frank
The Swedish Council for
Building Research
Box 12866
S-112 98 Stockholm
Sweden

Tel. + 46 8 6177300
Fax + 46 8 6537462
e-mail: baltic.cities@bfr.se

Pomeranian Exhibition during the Gdańsk Millenium

Invitation!

To celebrate its millennium in 1997, Gdańsk is organising a great Pomeranian Exhibition. The event has received patronage also from the Union of the Baltic Cities.

In the ten centuries of the history of Gdańsk its greatest, most powerful and prosperous years came at the time when it was Poland's largest business and trade centre, linked economically and culturally with the rest of Europe and the whole world. In the history of the world, Gdańsk is associated with

two key events - it was here that World War II started, and it was here that "Solidarność" was born, whose emergence and activities largely contributed to the changes in the political map of this part of Europe.

However, it is Gdańsk's present position on the map of business rather than its modern history contributions, that makes the city economically attractive. On this map, Gdańsk attracts the attention of the business world as the capital city of the province which is among Poland's five most attractive regions for foreign investors.

There is one interesting thing, though. Research conducted by the Institute for Market Economy shows that a considerable proportion of those who invest their money in the region of the Gdańsk coast are not only driven by economic motives but also by sentiments.

The Pomeranian Exhibition is, therefore, an interesting proposal for both the "interest-minded" and the "sentimental" ones - an interesting proposal for all prospective exhibitors. The purpose of the Exhibition is to present the achievements of the municipali-



ties, cities, associations, and companies of the region, and their potential in industry, trade, maritime economy, agriculture, tourism and culture.

It has to be added that not only the achievements and potential of Polish municipalities, companies, and businessmen are to be shown. Geographically, the Exhibition is to cover the whole of Pomerania as well as the European cities and regions cooperating with it, particularly those situated around the Baltic Sea. It will thus present an excellent opportunity for establishing international contacts and cooperation in industry and trade exchange. This will be made

easier to achieve as the Exhibition will also include the Maritime Economy Fair, and the Communal Fair.

It should also be noted that a Business Forum of representatives of municipalities will be an integral part of the Pomeranian Exhibition. This will be accompanied by the Polish Towns and Cities Exhibition, attended by representatives of local government international associations.

The Exposition will be held in Gdańsk, from 18 - 21 June 1997. It will mainly be organised by Gdańsk International Fair Co. The fee for foreign exhibitors will

be an equivalent of 145 DM per 1 square metre of exhibition space, and 35 DM for 1 square metre of stand structure.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Katarzyna Szypillo
Gdańsk International Fair Co.
ul. Beniowskiego 5
80-382 Gdańsk
Poland

Tel. +48 58 520071, 523600
Fax +48 58 522168, 522243

IRIIC/BSR in brief

The above head-line shows one more of these combinations of letters one has to learn in order to be in touch with the development in Europe. The European Union is launching this new program Interreg II C for the Baltic Sea Region. This program promotes cooperation between regions across national borders.

At present the programs are being compiled by the governments in Sweden, Finland and Schleswig-Holstein. A proposal will be sent to Brussels early January. Decisions will probably be taken very soon after that, which means that application may be submitted hopefully late spring or early summer 1997.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives of the programme can be identified:

- Contribution to strengthening the development potential of the Baltic Sea Region
- Contribute to increasing the economic and social cohesion
- Contribute to a sustainable development of the region as a whole

- Contributing to a regionally balanced development.

The strategy should focus on developing spatial planning as a tool to encourage multi-sectoral integration and co-operation, taking physical, economic and environmental aspects into consideration.

PRIORITIES

It is the ambition that the joint Operational Programme shall consist of a limited number of priorities. The main priorities of relevance currently being considered are the following:

- City and urban networks
- Trans-Baltic Sea networks
- Communication, transport and human resources development
- Tourism, islands and coastal zones (environment)
- Explorative projects

The IRIIC/BSR-programme will probably have great importance as a source of financing for projects in the Baltic Sea region, also for UBC members.



ICLEI - association, movement, network and agency

Who has not heard of ICLEI can hardly imagine what idea and momentum this acronym stands for. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives is a still young but versatile organisation.

ICLEI is a movement and network of cities, towns and counties. ICLEI is an international community of more than 250 local authorities, dedicated to achieving tangible improvements in the global environment. In Europe, some 100 local authorities and 8 national municipal associations have joined ICLEI. ICLEI members are interested in and working towards measurable environmental performance. These members work together to develop new models and tools for addressing priority environmental problems, and disseminate these results through ICLEI's networks and international campaigns.

ICLEI also coordinates a number of thematic municipal networks, the Local Agenda 21 Network, the Cities for Climate Protection, the new Nature Cities network in Europe, and the emerging Green Purchasers network of municipal procurement officers in Europe. Advanced electronic communication tools are used for disseminating information and conferencing. Since the Rio Agenda 21 includes a proposal made by the ICLEI to

mandate local authorities worldwide to develop their own Local Agendas 21, the organisation has been developing a variety of activities to support these processes.

SERVICES

ICLEI offers contractual services to member authorities and governmental agencies. In Europe, these services are also provided by the ICLEI International Training Centre (ITC). The types of services provided by ICLEI on a contractual basis include: pilot and demonstration projects, research, development projects as well as studies; organisation of international conferences, seminars, workshops, study tours and exchanges; development assistance projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America; fee-for-service technical consulting in key management areas to individual local authorities.

PROJECTS

For example, ICLEI co-organised the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Conferences (Aalborg 1994 and Lisbon 1996), the Mediterranean Local Agenda 21 Conference (Rome 1995) and has produced a European Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide which is available in English, French and German and gives orientation to



meanwhile hundreds of local authorities throughout Europe. Editions in Latvian and Polish languages are almost ready for printing. 40 ICLEI member authorities are supporting each other in their work towards sustainability in five WorkNets ICLEI is facilitating in the framework of its European LA 21 Guidance & Training Programme that is supported by the European Commission. Finally, ICLEI is involved in the Coordination of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, a concerted activity of those local authorities that signed the Aalborg Charter.

ICLEI would be happy to liaise with UBC in supporting the Local Agenda 21 efforts of cities, towns and counties round the Baltic Sea.

For further information please contact:

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Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe (AMRIE)

The Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe (AMRIE) was formed in 1993. It is a cross party initiative to give the maritime regions in Europe a higher political profile and a stronger voice. It seeks to influence developments which affect people's employment and quality of life. This is done by taking action to shape longer term developments and protect the skill and technology base.

In 1991, the Commission of the European Communities proposed the creation of a Maritime Industries Forum to identify actions which would benefit to all commercial and industrial interests and improve their competitiveness. This initiative has been very successful, bringing together a wide range of activities including oil and gas offshore exploration and production, fisheries, ports, shipping, shipbuilding and maritime equipment suppliers, together with other parts of the maritime infrastructure.

MISSION

A separate but parallel development was the recognition of the increasing importance of the maritime regions. The need for a higher political profile for maritime issues has been recognised by four Members of the European Par-

liament and this led to the formation of the Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe (AMRIE) whose main fields of activity are employment, environment and centres of excellence within the framework of improving competitiveness.

The mission is to ensure that there is the political will and drive to implement the measures to which are identified as being beneficial to the regional maritime activities. The Steering Group or Board consists of senior political representatives from maritime regions and a leading trade union official from the European Transport Workers Union. They are advised and supported by Specialist Working Group dealing with: regional aspects of short sea shipping, shipping quality, centres of excellence, ports and regional interests and marine environmental care. This guarantees practical and realistic reflection in the political action priorities.

PROJECTS

Among a number of different maritime projects initiated there are Mediterranean Project (ARCMEDPLUS) and Maritime Information Society (MARIS). The latter was accepted as a pilot project by the G7 summit and its principal objective is to increase political awareness of the impact



AMRIE

which information technology has in such areas as maritime safety, transport, industrial activities and marine resources. It has been very successful in raising the political profile of the maritime industries and improving coordination on these matters across the Directorates of the European Commission.

Membership of AMRIE provides a number of opportunities. Through close contacts maintained with the European Commission and representatives of Member States, a contribution can be made to the development and discussion on European Communications, Regulations and Directives. It is possible to work with a wide range of organisations involved in maritime affairs and benefiting from the increasing influence of maritime regions.

For more information, please contact:

AMRIE
The Alliance of Maritime
Regional Interests in Europe
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III. Member Cities in Action

CONFERENCE ON THE ELDERLY AND THE SOCIETY IN COPENHAGEN

The conference "The Elderly and the Society - What can Elderly do for the Society?" was held on 20-25 September in the city of Copenhagen. The meeting was organized by the Municipality of Copenhagen in cooperation with the Danish Association of the Elderly Welfare. The Union of the Baltic Cities was a coorganizer of the event. The conference was attended by one hundred and forty delegates representing 31 UBC member cities from 10 Baltic countries.

The event was divided into two parts. First one was foreseen for pensioners and retired who visited social centers established especially for elderly people in Copenhagen. Participants spent two days in those centers observing their daily life. The guests were particularly interested in the care and treatment provided for elderly.

The second part of the conference was directed mainly to politicians, directors and decision-makers. Participants exchanged opinions on study visits made during first two days and listened to the lectures presented by representatives of Danish Ministry of Economy and welfare organizations. During the workshops the problem how to improve the social conditions in the Baltic countries was discussed.

CONCLUSIONS

The conference conclusions were formulated as a list of cooperation

proposals. These were:

1. create a social information sections in various magazines and newsletters,
2. create home pages in the Internet devoted to social projects, events and initiatives in the Baltic cities,
3. initiate the projects on the social field which could be financed from EU-funds,
4. launch cooperation between NGO's in order to arrange exchange of social staff, equipment, clothes etc.

Moreover the participants stressed the necessity to strengthen cooperation between the cities, social departments and welfare organizations in order to exchange experiences on social issues.

The next conference will be organized in 1997.

For more information please contact:

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Social Hansa
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TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN GDAŃSK

In postwar Poland the needs of handicapped were ignored in the development of public transportation.

Fortunately the times are changing. A good example is the city of Gdańsk, where the situation has been improving since 1993.

The city's transport system is based on regular train service between the main station, Sopot, Gdynia, Rumia and Wejherowo. This is accompanied by tram lines and buses. The number of passengers has significantly grown since 1993. However, in the meantime the fleet has continued to decrease.

NEW PROGRAMME

These problems have been taken into consideration in the programme for transporting the handicapped. It includes assessment of the situation, analysis of the fleet and the planned purchases, analysis of the choice of a route for one-floor tram, plan for the modernization of stops and introduction of phonic and visual information systems inside the trams. The programme assumes the purchase of 15 low-floor buses and 8 trams with a separate low area by the end of 1997.

Up till now 15 Mercedes 0405 N buses were bought. This however constitutes only a first step towards the realization of the programme.

FINANCING

The realization of this programme in full depends on non-budgetary subsidies that are granted by the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped. The City is not at present capable of bearing expenses connected with purchase of the complete fleet, let alone the completion of the construction of tram routes to two new Gdańsk districts, Morena and Chelm, each of them with a population of several tens of thousand.



GDAŃSK - AN OPEN CITY

In 1997 the city of Gdańsk will be celebrating its Millennium. The first record of the city's name appeared in a biography of Bishop Wojciech Sławnikowicz by Joannes Canaparius of the Monte Cassino Monastery. This biography, *Vita Sancti Adalberti*, recorded the city's name as *Urbs Gyddanyzc*. To commemorate and celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the oldest record of Gdańsk, the Gdańsk City Council declared 1997 the Year of the Gdańsk Millennium. The beginning of our second thousand years will be an occasion of great joy. For this special jubilee we are going to invite all our friends!



GDAŃSK 997 - 1997

GDAŃSK MILLENNIUM CALENDAR 1997

APRIL

- 5-6 European St. Wojciech Day
- 18 Grand Session of Gdańsk City Council - Official Opening Of Millennium Celebration
- 21 International Conference on Non-Roman Catholic churches and other religious groups in Gdańsk in 1945-1995 and their contribution to the development of the Gdańsk region
- 22/04 Exhibition "St. Adalbert in
- 31/05 Iconography and Literature"
- 23 Grand Conference on Gdańsk in European Economy and Culture

MAY

- 2/05-31/08 Exhibition Aurea Porta Rzeczypospolitej
- 3 Exhibition 1000 Years of Gdańsk - in the light of excavations
- 5-25 3rd All-Polish Youth Indoor Sports Competition
- 8-10 International musicological conference Musica Baltica
- 10 Boat race WATERBIKE'97

JUNE

- 5-8 Gdańsk Millennium Sailing Coup, Olympic and preparatory categories
- 18-21 Pomeranian Exhibition
- 20 Inauguration concert of the International Organ Music Festival
- 22/06 Vistula Rally 997-1997
- 12/07
- 23-26 Baltic Cities and Polish Emigrants Yacht Meeting (ICCY)
- 26-29 New Hansa conference

JULY

- 1-31 All-Polish Canoeing Rally
- 1-31 Festival of monumental and mural painting
- 3-13 Finn World Gold Cup

- 5-26 Craft Fair
- 5-6 Goldwasser Festival
- 17-20 International Academic Millennium Hobie Cat Cup - Catamaran Sailing Race
- 26 International Athletic Meeting
- 26/07 International Baltic Scouts
- 2/08 Jamboree

AUGUST

- 1-31 Community Play
- 2-16 European St. Dominic's Fair
- 2 4th International St. Dominic's Run
- 2-9 Gdańsk Shakespeare Week
- 15 11th Solidarity Marathon
- 16 The Millennium Feast Table
- 16-17 Show of Contemporary motor-boat sports
- 20-22 Gdańsk Maritime Song contest
- 21-25 Sail Gdańsk '97 Yacht Meeting
- 30-31 Motocross elimination to World Championship (CLASS 250cc)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Festival of Youth
- 1-7 International Meeting of Youth
- 1-8 Seminar "Gdańsk - An open city"
- 12-13 Union of the Baltic Cities General Conference
- 14 Festival of the Thousand
- 24-27 International Symposium on Boats and Vessels in Archaeology

OCTOBER

- 17-18 International Conference on Maritime Transport and Economic Reconstruction
- 31 Premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's work - Official Closing of Millennium Celebration

For further information please contact:
Organising Committee, ul. Wały Jagiellońskie 1,
80-853 Gdańsk, tel. +48 58 319755, 313972;
fax +48 58 310181.



EUROPEAN FLAG FOR THE CITY OF GDYNIA

The Honorary Flag of Europe was awarded to the city of Gdynia on 15th August 1996. Every year the European Council awards the Honorary Flag to a selected city for its efforts in promoting European integration. The Honorary Flag of Europe is the third most prestigious distinction after the European Prize and the Honorary Plaque. The decision to award the Flag to Gdynia was made in April 23rd 1996, at a sitting of the Committee on the Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg. It was presented to the authorities of Gdynia by Mrs. Kerstin Ekman, Honorary Member of the Parliamentary Assembly. The flag is awarded to those administrative bodies which have previously been granted other European distinctions. In 1995 Gdynia received "The Golden Stars of Town Twinning" which enabled the city authorities to apply for the European Flag.

We feel very proud of this award and we are conscious that without wide cooperation with our sister cities any new initiatives coming from organizations like UBC, it would not be possible to get the prize. We would like to express our thanks to all those who helped us in receiving the honourable distinction.



BALTIC SEA PARTENARIAT 1996

Baltic Sea Partenariat 1996 took place on 19-20th September 1996 in Gdynia in the premises of the fair and

exhibition center World Trade Center Gdynia Expo. Baltic Sea Partenariat had the formula of a two-day partnering event, with approximately 190 host companies (123-Poland, 24-Estonia, 20-Lithuania, 24-Latvia) and approximately 500 visiting companies participating.

The important feature of the event was the fact that all companies represented one branch of the economy - the maritime sector and related. The main task of Baltic Sea Partenariat 1996 was to stimulate the development of small and medium-sized firms of the maritime sector from Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by enabling them contacts with their counterparts in the European Union countries and in Slovakia, Czech republic, Norway, Hungary and Russia. During these two days about 5.500 meetings took place.

Baltic Sea Partenariat 1996 was an initiative of the European Commission. The event was financed through Phare Programme - COOPME and the Cross Border Cooperation Programme Poland - Baltic Sea Region and co-financed by Governments of Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Co-organizers of Baltic Sea Partenariat were: European Commission, World trade Center Gdynia, World Trade Center Vilnius, the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

For more information, please contact:
Gdynia City Hall
Foreign Relations Division
Economic Policy Department
Al. Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego 52/54
81-382 Gdynia
Poland

Tel. +48 58 208312
Fax +48 58 209798



EUROPEAN MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL IN HORSENS, 1996

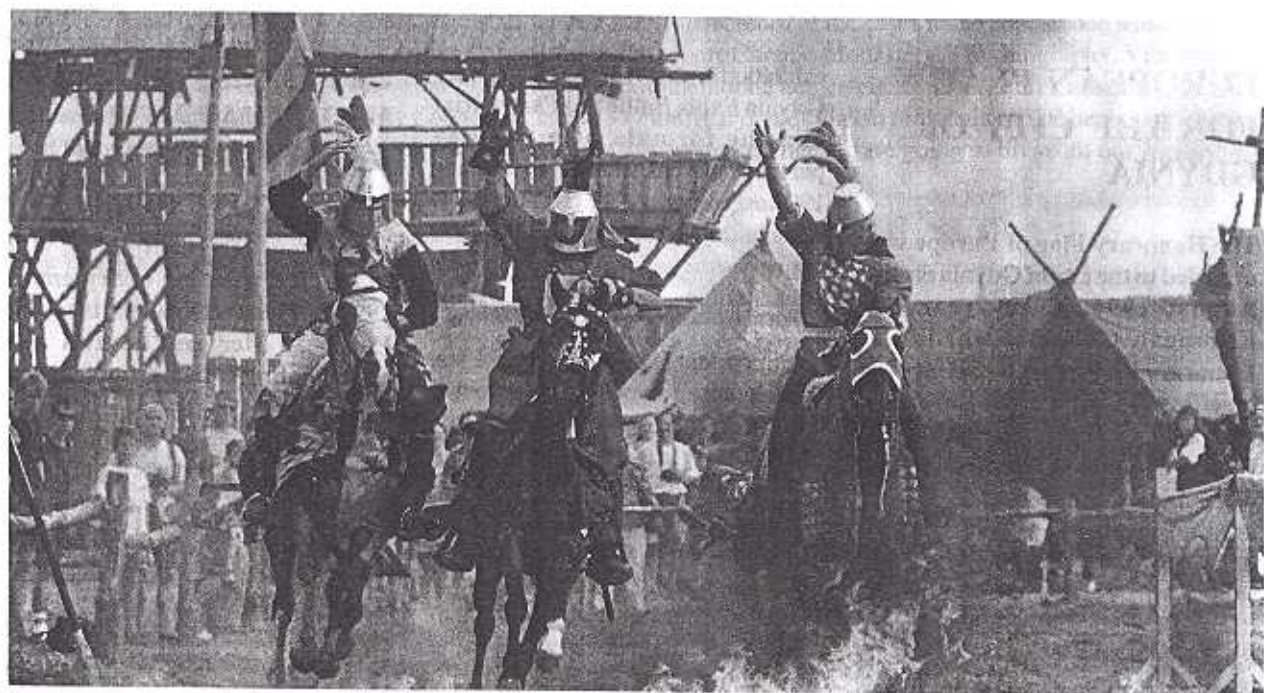
In the first weekend of September 1996 Horsens celebrated its second European Medieval Festival with participating artists from Sweden, Russia and Germany. During the weekend the center of the town was transformed to a town as it could have been in 1350 - no street lights, all contemporary items covered with wood, workshops, processions, market places, taverns, mead, performers, musicians, pilgrims, pegeants, drunkards, fortune tellers, mounted knights duelling for the princess, and much more.

During the two days more than 80.000 - almost twice the population of the city - visited the festival.

"It seems that the middle
ages are in - again."

The reasons for this are obvious. At the brink of the computer era humanity faces big changes and this is a perfect time to take a look at the past. The rapid change of technology demands a reflection of the origin: the fire. We don't think so much about it but now as then fire is and was the main prerequisite for production and progress.

The festival is facilitated by the city council, but without the enthusiastic involvement of the citizens, organizations, unions, commerce etc. the event would not have been possible. In fact collaboration is a keyword, because a big project, like a medieval festival, makes new parties work together and thereby contributes to the creation of new networks and contacts. Thus, a comprehensive festival is not only an event for two days but an important tool to the development of the town.



Horsens city officials on their way to work?

BALTIC INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE FLEETS

The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets devoted to the 300th anniversary of the Russian Fleet was held from July 26 to 31, 1996 on the coast of the Baltic Sea in Kaliningrad.

The official participants of the festival were 11 warships and launches from seven countries of Europe and the USA.

There was the international regatta which gave the start to the festival. About 60 crews from Germany, Denmark, Holland, Poland, Great Britain and Kaliningrad took part in the cruise races. For the first time the sailing vessels and yacht entered the center of Kaliningrad creating a picturesque decoration for the holiday. For the first time the Kaliningrad commercial port was the place to moor the warships and it was open to the citizens and guests of the festival who had an opportunity to visit the vessels.

Six days of the festival jubilee celebrations made exciting and unforgettable impressions on Kaliningraders and guests of the festival. There was a fascinating and cultural programme which included official ceremonies, festive concerts, marches, sports competitions, Vanishing days, fairs, spectacles and entertainments.

The main festival stage was in the centre of Kaliningrad on the Kant Island near the Sports Complex "Junost". The stages of the mass festive events were connected by a special bridge across the Pregolaya River. There was also a solemn and colourful festive march of the brass bands and parade groups of the countries participants along the main prospect of the city.

16 warships of different classes cruised the Baltic canal. About 10 thousand spectators watched the parade. The foreign observers and representatives of the national delegations marked high professionalism of the Russian Navy as well as admired the mastership of the Navy landing ships and pilots.

The folk craft fair, an event which always attracts people of all taste and age, was impressive and exhibited works made of pottery, woodglass, birch-bark, plaited straw, metal and stone.

The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets was crowned with the pyrotechnical spectacle "Great Sailing", rock-opera "Yunona and Avos", the procession of torch-bearers, "Light on the water" performance and festive fireworks.

The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets initiated a new tradition, it will be held every year in Kaliningrad and will be a destination for ships and yachts of the Union of the Baltic Cities and from all over the world.

We are looking forward to meeting you in the festival; "Sails of Hope" devoted to the 300th anniversary of the Great Embassy of Peter I from June 5 to 8, 1997 in Kaliningrad.





JOBS FOR WOMEN - TWIN TOWN COOPERATION BETWEEN KALMAR AND GDAŃSK

Kalmar and Gdańsk join forces in project to combat unemployment of women.

The city of Kalmar has prepared an application to Sida (Swedish International Development Authority) regarding a project involving education and vocational visits in the field of unemployment for women and equal opportunities. Discussions have taken place between the twin towns Kalmar and Gdańsk about exchange of experience in the field of women's unemployment. The problem has been stressed in Gdańsk in connection with the situation at the Shipyard in Gdańsk. Many women have lost their jobs lately and the Gdańsk county labour board is interested to find methods to solve the problems.

An American organisation has set aside money in order to establish a centre in Gdańsk. This centre shall provide service, education, information etc. for unemployed women. Other important parts are to strengthen women's self-confidence and to carry through education and information on equal opportunities. The head of Gdańsk county labour board, Mrs Grażyna Zielińska, visited Kalmar in connection with a meeting between the Mayors of Kalmar (Mr Anders Engström) and Gdańsk (Mr Tomasz Posadzki) in Kalmar 7-9 of August this year. Then she had the opportunity to meet with her colleague in Kalmar county labour board, Kenneth Herder, and to get information on the work with unemployed in Kalmar county. She also paid a visit to LO (Swedish Trade Union Confederation), which is also interested to take part in a project.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Modern local government in focus on both sides of the Baltic Sea. Initiated from the Town Hall of Gdańsk through the Secretary of the City, Mr Andrzej Jankowski, "Public business" is a project between Kalmar and Gdańsk. The aim with the project is to provide education in modern ways of work in authorities such as a local government administration. The parts in the project are the cities of Kalmar and Gdańsk, trade unions, the university of Gdańsk and Szczecin and Folkuniversitetet in Sweden (connected to the University of Lund). An application will be sent to EU as soon as possible.

THE MAYOR OF GDAŃSK VISITS KALMAR

During 7-8th of August Mr Tomasz Posadzki and his assistant Mr Marcin Kowalski visited Kalmar, the twin town of Gdańsk. The head of the Kalmar office in Gdańsk, Mrs Elżbieta Jacewicz, also accompanied the Mayor as Swedish-Polish interpreter. During the visit discussions about the co-operation between the two twin towns took place. Many projects are of immediate interest such as environmental projects concerning some cleaning of the Motława river, the sewage problems on the island Cześć Wschodnia and heating system on the Sobieszewska island.

Golfing a newly found common interest. Mr Posadzki had also the opportunity to visit the guest harbour, the sewage treatment plant, the environmental office, the tourist office and the town planning department. He also had discussions with Jan Herstad who is responsible for the 600 year celebration of the Kalmar Union 1997. In the evening the two mayors had the opportunity to learn the first steps

in playing golf before a lovely dinner at the restaurant at the Kalmar golf-club. In the summing-up the mayors declared that the visit had been of great importance and that Kalmar and Gdańsk shall continue and develop their co-operation with advantage for both cities.

PANEVĖŽYS - KALMAR: TWIN TOWNS IN CLOSE COOPERATION

Railway line and sculpture inaugurations in Kalmar with a royal touch. On the 17th of August the mayor of Panevėžys visited their twin town Kalmar. The visit took place in connection with the opening of the twin town park in Kalmar and the inauguration of a sculpture made by the well-known artist Mr Algirdas Vytenas from Panevėžys. The Mayor of Panevėžys, Mr Tomas Josas and the Mayor of Kalmar, Mr Anders Engström, participated, also on the 17th of August, in the opening of the railway line between Kalmar and Linköping and had in connection with that the opportunity to meet the King of Sweden. Together with Mr Josas was the interpreter Vilma Kučytė and the artist with family.

Trade and recycled tyres. The co-operation between Kalmar and Panevėžys is very intensive. In the environmental field there are projects going on concerning tyre recycling, dangerous waste and oil damages. An Lithuanian enterprise has visited enterprises in Kalmar to discuss co-operation about tyre recycling. The environment department of Kalmar is working on a project concerning dangerous waste and the county administrative board has received money to carry through education and purchase of equipment for control of oil damages. Kalmar and Panevėžys are working together with the chamber of commerce in Panevėžys to develop the trade and industry in the two



regions. Next year in May the Hansa Trade Fair Days in Kalmar will invite enterprises from Panevėžys, and in the middle of October a school class from an upper secondary school in Panevėžys is going to visit one of the upper secondary schools in Kalmar.



BALTIC BUSINESS CENTRE

Baltic Business Centre in Karlskrona was inaugurated on August 30th, 1996 and has fully started all its activities. The centre today has ten companies as tenants in the "merchant-house" and will besides being a place where Swedish and foreign businessmen who want to develop business on the other side of the Baltic Sea can meet, also can get all kinds of service and know-how.

You can get juridical advisory service, economical advisory service and also interpreters and help with translations as well as secretarial and telephone/fax service.

There are conference- and exhibition rooms available, and the Baltic Business Centre can arrange conferences and educational courses. Baltic Business Centre can assist you with your planning and booking of journeys as well as planning your visits to companies. Baltic Business can inform about consultants.

Baltic Business Centre is one of the meeting places in the network created around the Baltic Sea. The "Deutsch-Schwedisches Kommunikationbüro in the Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Rostock" in Rostock, Germany is opened.

A chain of trading houses around the Baltic Sea are being started. There are already houses in Karlskrona (Sweden), Klaipėda (Lithuania),

Gdynia (Poland) and Rostock (Germany). When the network is completed there will be trading houses in Kaliningrad (Russia), Liepāja (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), Lovisa (Finland) and Bornholm (Denmark).

Swedish companies, which want to establish business on the growing market in the other countries around the Baltic Sea, can get help and access to expertise via the network. Corresponding service will be given to companies from other countries around the sea. In order to make the centre as effective as possible, Baltic Business Centre works together with other Karlskrona communes, Företagarna and ALMI-Företagspartner in Sweden.

This cooperation between these and other interested parties will guarantee that the establishment of companies and trade exchanges are connected to the development of for example communication and education.

For more information, please contact:

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e-mail: info@bbck.se



URBAN CENTRE ECO-CLEANUP IN KARLSTAD

An attractive, milieu-friendly city centre is now under development, within the city of Karlstad. Surrounding streets and the Main Town Square are being reconstructed into pedestrian avenues which are interspersed with areas for public gatherings and smaller sections for

relaxed outdoor meetings and conversations. The goal, in a project spearheaded by the Community of Karlstad's Transportation Advisory Service, is to eliminate 30 per cent of the automobile traffic in the central district by the turn of the century.

For more than three years, diligent work has been in progress to create an appealing, rejuvenated and environmentally-friendly urban centre in Karlstad. This came on the heels of a startling report the same year in Dagens Nyheter, the nation's largest newspaper, which revealed that the city recorded greater measurements of dangerous air pollutants than any counterpart in Sweden. Because these noxious and hazardous fumes are released only from automobile exhaust emissions, the identity of this four-wheeled environmental culprit was evident.

In swift reaction to the article, the Community of Karlstad began investing in methods to solve the problem. Since that time, both politicians and community planners have worked intensely and in bipartisan unity toward the goal of reviving Karlstad's attractive centre as an naturally-harmonious cityscape. A study entitled "An environmentally adapted plan for traffic" laid the groundwork for the reconstruction, which carries a price tag of approximately SEK 25 million.

Karlstad's Main Town Square has been given a major facelift with decorative brick paving, pleasant seating alcoves, trees and shrubbery. The central bus stops, formerly a block away on Drottninggatan (Queen Street), have been relocated directly adjacent to the Main Town Square. Special designs also minimize disturbances and irritations from this peripheral public transportation.

Because this new plaza is accessible only to bus traffic on its outskirts, the spacious area of the Main Town Square will regain its traditional



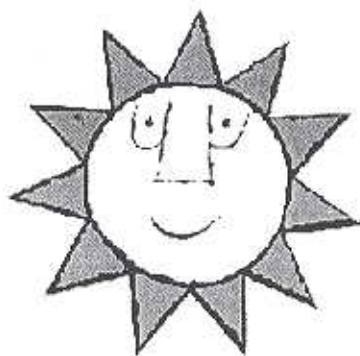
functions as a meeting place for the Karlstad's citizenry, a market place for small merchants and craftsmen and also as a location for staging culturally-oriented events.

A large portion of Drottninggatan itself will, later this autumn, be rebuilt to exclusively permit pedestrian traffic. However, the Community of Karlstad realizes that significant progress in the urban centre will only occur when automobile traffic is drastically decreased. For this reason, the project conducted by the Transportation Advisory Service has undertaken discussions with private Karlstad residents and local companies to enact programmes such as the reduction of commercial deliveries and commuter automobile traffic within these central sections of the city. A campaign entitled "The Environmental Passenger" is included in this project.

In order to obtain additional expertise for this environmentally-adapted traffic planning, the Community of Karlstad will join a European network called "Car-free-cities", the initiative for which has been put forward by EU Commissioner Ritt Bjerregard. In April 1997, Karlstad will host a conference with the theme "The city's environment and traffic". Among others, the conference is being arranged in co-operation with some Swedish state departments. New experiences within the field will be presented at the conference along with a description of Karlstad's environmental activities. Further information regarding the Community of Karlstad's investments in this environmental project and the conference in April, 1997, can be obtained by contacting Martin Edman, Project Director, telephone international +46 54 29 50 00 or e-mail: martin.edman@karlstad.se.

Some brief statistics about Karlstad: 80,000 inhabitants. Provincial capital and principle city in Värmland (Wermland). "Sunshine" is our

symbol... a motto standing for our cheerfulness. Karlstad is the administrative hub of this region. Here are many major consulting and IT-oriented companies. The College of Karlstad offers advanced education along with several excellent secondary schools.



Sunshine, the symbol for Karlstad and representative of the good humour of the people who live here.



KLAIPEDA FREE ECONOMIC ZONE (FEZ)

After having regained independence five years ago Lithuania started transformation of its economy to correspond free market requirements. This was an extraordinary and unbeaten path, the country failed to avoid the cataclysms and decline economy. The present day situation makes us look for new means and forms to bring industry and business to revival. One of these ideas is to create "economic oases" attractive to investors and manufacturers. The appearance of living standards. These goals originated the idea to establish free economic zones in Lithuania.

In summer 1995 the Law on Fundamentals of Free Economic

Zones in the Republic of Lithuania was adopted. The order of creation of such zones and investments there, the spheres of activity, privileges and guarantees were defined in it. Klaipeda Free trade zone will have its own law with the indications of its territory, management structure and other peculiarities.

On September 14, 1995 the Municipality of Klaipeda submitted a proposal to establish a free trade zone in the city. The aim of its establishment is rational and optimal utilisation of the harbour-city potential, the promotion of economic development in Klaipeda. The Municipality of Klaipeda, Klaipeda Region Administration, 14 large enterprises of the city and BALTIC FUND from America established a Lithuanian-USA Joint Stock Company Ltd. "Klaipeda Development Group" which will prepare the project for Klaipeda free economic zone.

Klaipeda FEZ will cover the area of 1028 ha. There is a proposal to give a possibility for the management company to rent this territory for the period of 49 years. The management company of FEZ will be selected by way of competition on the basis of the best business plan. The management of the FEZ will be based on the principles of private ownership and the management company of the zone will hold 51 % of the shares. Commerce, trade, manufacturing, export, business, banking and other types of activity that do not contradict the Law on Fundamentals of Free Economic Zones will be executed. The conditions and privileges on taxes, customs operations, currency and finance will support attraction of investors to the zone. Goods that will be brought or sent from the zone will be free of customs payments, the enterprises functioning in the zone will be exempt from VAT and will be responsible for paying only 5 from 15 existing in the Republic of Lithuania



types of taxes. The dividends of foreign investors will not be rated, there will be no limitations to take their profit away from the country. The law says that the management company is responsible for order inside the zone. Thus the enterprises functioning in it will have to observe the requirements of the zone Statute.

Conditions of Investment to Klaipėda Free Economic Zone

ORDER OF INVESTMENT

- is determined by the Lithuanian Republic laws on Fundamentals of Free Economic Zones and Klaipėda Free Economic Zone;
- the verification of the nature of capital is determined in accordance with Lithuanian Government's resolutions;
- Form of investment - participating in the zone governing company, purchasing shares or founding companies.

GUARANTEES

- all guarantees are applied for the companies operating in Lithuania are applied for all companies that are registered in the zone;
- conditions that were during the investment period would not be changed for 5 years.

PRIVILEGED

- no custom taxes for imported and exported goods;
- no added value tax;
- dividends will not be taxed.

MANAGEMENT

- the zone is governed by the management company of zone (management company will hold 51 % of shares by private property right).

MONEY

- Litas and convertible currency.



EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION MEET IN KRISTIANSAND

In June 1997 Kristiansand will be the host city for 19th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education (CEME'97).

The last conference was held in Madrid 1994. The conference is central for forming the pan-European educational cooperation, and the aim is to establish closer contact between the ministers. Between 200 and 250 delegates from approximately 50 countries are expected to come to Kristiansand.

The programme of CEME'97 will be made out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Oslo. A preliminary invitation has already been sent to the member countries. It has been a wish to involve students in the process and a competition to design the logo for the conference has been carried out in the schools in Norway. The winner will get the chance to visit Starsbourg and the Council of Europe. The main topic of CEME'97 will be education in the future.

In connection with the conference Agder College, Faculty of Engineering, Grimstad, will arrange an open international seminar - A Tool to Improve the Learning Process. The aim of the seminar is to focus on the major developments in the areas of evaluation and quality assessment of higher engineering, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience.

Agder College, Faculty of Arts, Kristiansand, will also organize the Nordic researcher symposium - History of Nordic Women's Literature. The aim of the symposium is to focus on the results from a research project that has been going on since the early



1980's and to stimulate to more research within the same field - which is all literature written by women in the Nordic countries.



ŁEBA - SMALL CITY, BIG ORGANIZER



Łeba is one of the best known and the most attractive Polish maritime resorts. The town is located at the open sea, at the estuary of the Łeba river and between the Łebsko and Sarbsko Lakes. It is literally surrounded by water. Łeba with its population of 4 000 inhabitants can accommodate over 50 000 visitors in the tourist centers, guests-houses and camping-sites, providing services that range from exclusive to popular standard. Coffee shops, bars, restaurant and fast food outlets also offer their services.

The open sea waters are a perfect place for water sports, especially for windsurfing. For this reason in the nearest future the following windsurfing competitions are planned in Łeba:

***UBC CUP Łeba'97 North One Hour Classic on the 7-8th of June 1997**



*European Windsurfing Championships IFCA formula on the 14-23rd of June 1997

*Days of the Sea on the 21-23rd of June 1997

*Leba Day on the 8th of July 1997

*Sails of Polonia in Omega Class on the 15-18th of August 1997

*International Painter's Meeting for artists from the Baltic states on September 1997

The year 1998 is the opening date for the marina designed according to the European standards for 130 yachts. The end of June 1998 is the time of the International Camping and Caravaning Rally. 1600 caravans are expected in Leba during this biggest annual event for the fans of camping in the world.

Leba lies in the vicinity of the Słowiński National Park with its main attraction; mobile sand dunes. It is possible to get there by bike, electric truck or hackney cab. One will never forget this experience.



ROSTOCK GOES ONLINE

Information about Rostock is now available on Internet:

<http://www.uni-rostock.de/rostock/rostock.htm>

e-mail-address:

100073,321@compuserve.com

Newspapers, magazines, tourist offices, city administrations offer more AMD more telephone and fax numbers, contact persons and information on Internet. As since July 1996 you can get information about Rostock world wide. That is possible due to the kind support by the University of Rostock.

So far quite difficult to find this information because we have to do

without graphics or expensive lay outs.

But anyhow you can read on c. 100 pages, one third of them in English, about interesting information and events in Rostock and the sea bath Warnemünde.

This media has got the advantage to be up-to. The presentation of Rostock will be definitely improved by the time. Rostock as UBC member and leading commission on social affairs will be mentioned there as well very soon.



INTRODUCING THE CITY OF ŠIAULIAI

The year of 1236 is the date when the name of Šiauliai was mentioned in historical chronicles for the first time. Šiauliai is situated on the crossing of two roads, which were beaten by hunters, warriors and merchants in the times much older than the city itself and which now connect Tallin and Warsaw extending to the East and West from the seaport of Klaipėda.

Due to its perfect geographic location Šiauliai became the trade and industrial center of the Northern Lithuania. The fastest economic and cultural development began in XIX century when Šiauliai was given as a present to the Russian Count Zubov. Footwear and nail factories as well as male and female gymnasiums were built. Since the Soviet times Šiauliai produces TV-sets, bicycles, leather goods and footwear, knitwear, machine tools, metal items and furniture.

Good geographic location did not always bring luck and success to Šiauliai: the town was twice burned

to the ground, and during the World War II 85 % of the town was ruined. The strategic importance of Šiauliai was the reason why the town was always rebuilt time after time. As a consequence the biggest military airport in the Eastern Europe was established there in the Soviet period. This airport was the background to the idea of creating the Šiauliai Free Economic Zone, which is a good base for sustainable development of industry and other activities in Šiauliai. Another reason to create FEZ is the challenge of utilizing a large and highly skilled labor force as well as other resources - plants, land etc. The international tender for Zone Management is already announced, and at the end of this year the Commission of the Tender will choose the best proposal.

Šiauliai with its current population of 147 000 people is the fourth biggest city in Lithuania and economical, cultural and educational center of Northern Lithuania. It has 23 secondary schools, 6 colleges and a private business school. Kaunas Technological University Šiauliai Branch and Šiauliai Pedagogical Academy which have both more than 4 000 students and will be reorganized into Šiauliai University the next year.

Šiauliai is included into National Tourism Development Program, and there will be established a closed stock company "Tourism information center", which will prepare a program of tourism in Šiauliai City and Area and create tourism development infrastructure.





NEW PHYSICAL THERAPY CENTER TO OPEN IN ŚWINOUJŚCIE

A new physical therapy treatment center is opening in Świnoujście. The new facility will be able to conduct 1200 various treatment each day. This will greatly enhance the already thriving health spa industry in the city.

The salt mineral baths, which Świnoujście is famous for, will be offered here as well as the popular mud treatments. The major physical therapy programs are for heart and lung diseases and for arthritis treatments. Many other ailments can be relieved with a complete physical therapy program including the latest in a variety of water therapy, massage and laser treatments.

The new facility will make it possible to welcome more foreign visitors into the programs. The Świnoujście Health Resort services the Nation Health Service, however, there are usually attractive rooms with private baths available in one of the Health Resorts guest houses. Additionally, there are 11 hotels that remain open year round and various guest houses with all levels of accommodations available.

German and English speaking doctors are available, making treatments easy to arrange for our foreign visitors. One may simply want to indulge oneself with massages, water therapy and mineral bathes under the direction of doctors and physical therapists.

The information and reservation office, +48 91 3214452 has German Polish and English speaking staff members. The Świnoujście Promotional Department also has German and English speaking staff and will be glad to be of assistance to you. You may reach them by calling +48 91 3215623.

REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE IN ŚWINOUJŚCIE

The Centre for Mentally Handicapped People is to be constructed in Świnoujście. This Centre is to secure the necessary care for local needs and as well for rehabilitation treatment of individuals from the Region and abroad.

The Centre will comprise the following parts: Children and Adults rehabilitation workshops and treatment facilities to serve approx. 100 people, hostel with 10 double rooms, offices and personnel living quarters. It will also include open air rehabilitation, garden allotments etc. The plot for this Centre has been given by the town, the design is prepared free of charge by UNV Architect Mr. S. H. Rymaszewski, attached to the Town Board. Financing of this Centre is sought from the following sources: National Fund for Handicapped, Phare - with support of Crossborder Pomerania Group (Germany) and Ecos - Ouverture with help of our friends from the municipalities of Ystad - Sweden and Bornholm - Denmark. The basic design for the Centre should be completed by the end of this year to make the funding applications possible.



UPPSALA MAJA IN TARTU

The connection between Uppsala and Tartu date back to the 17th century when Estonia was under Swedish rule. To this period also belongs the foundation of the University in Tartu

by Gustav II Adolf, the second Swedish University after the University of Uppsala.

Today Tartu and Uppsala are connected by an agreement concluded between the twin towns. The agreement includes cooperation in different spheres of activities - economical, cultural, educational etc.

One project in the agreement was renovation of one of the oldest (more than 250 years old) wooden house in Tartu. Now the house is known under the name Uppsala Maja (Uppsala House). The house's 18th century look has been nicely combined with the 20th century conveniences inside the house. Uppsala Maja is meant as a guest house, in the first place for the representatives of the institutions who initiated and greatly contributed the renovation of the house: the City Governments of Tartu and Uppsala, the University of Uppsala and the Agricultural University of Sweden. It is also open to other guests. Uppsala Maja also pretends to be an informational and cultural centre between Uppsala and Tartu.

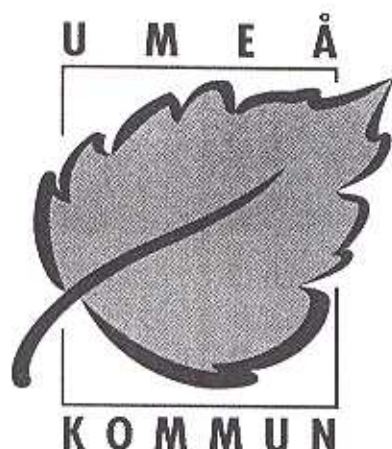


UMEÅ - NEW MEMBER CITY ON THE NORTHERN COAST

Umeå - the city by the coast - the new member of the Union of the Baltic Cities - is the biggest city in the north of Sweden with 102.000 inhabitants (1996). Recently the population has grown with more than 2.000 inhabitants each year. The fact that Umeå attracts mostly young people is due to the University and the University Hospital and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Furthermore there are a great number



of rapidly growing enterprises connected to future markets such as biotechnology and information technology.



Truck cabins from Umeå. The largest in Umeå is "Volvo Lastvagnar AB" with somewhat more than 2.000 employees. The company produces truck cabins originating from the very successful FH-series. The reason for the production being located in Umeå is due to the fact that the first load-bearing steel coachwork ever made was developed by an Umeå Enterprise in the 1940-s. The average Umeå citizen is several years younger and is more educated than the Swede in general. Approximately 54% of the inhabitants in Umeå are "immigrants" from other parts of Sweden or from other parts of the world. Criminality and unemployment rates are lower in Umeå compared to other larger cities in Sweden.

An important port. The violent fire of June 25, 1888 destroyed half of the city and many of the existing shipyards. But still today Umeå is an important port along the Gulf of Bothnia, in the northern part of the Baltic Sea. This is mainly due to the big outport which was founded in the 1920-s. Big ferries run all year round from Umeå to the sister community Vaasa in Finland - a distance of 70 km across "Kvarken".

Airport almost in the centre. The communications to and from Umeå are well organised. The airport of Umeå is situated just a few kilometers from the centre and flying time to Stockholm is less than an hour. Two European highways E4 and E12 run through Umeå. The trains going north pass Umeå daily. Thanks to big investments during decades Umeå has a flourishing cultural life, the Norrland Opera, the Umeå Symphony Orchestra, theatres and the annual recurrent festivals for jazz, chamber of folk music and film.

The biggest rounders cup in the world. If one looks at Umeå from a sport point-of-view, the city has won, an Olympic Gold Medal for skiing and the Swedish Championship of ice-hockey. Starting from the summer of 1996 Umeå has two teams in the Swedish football series to cheer for. Umeå has for many years arranged the biggest rounders cup in the world, with 1100 players and tens of thousands of viewers from different countries.



The bust of king Gustav Adolf II – the founder of Umeå.

River rafting and seal safari. For the tourist the main objective is Umeå. The city has many attracting congresses, fairs, festivals and sports event. Umeå is also a city for shopping and camping, a city of hotels and a city for bathers. The summer nights are light, pulsating with events and "gimmicks" from "innovative locals". River rafting and seal safari is really something to try out for the adventurous tourists. The winters offer sparkling white snow, skiing, dog team and snow scooter safari.



VAASA - THE ADMINISTRATIVE, EDUCATIONAL AND TOURIST CENTRE OF WESTERN FINLAND

Vaasa is not a very old city, it was founded in 1606 by King Charles IX, the youngest son of King Gustav Vasa. We are bold enough to declare that Vaasa is the only city in the world that has got its name after a royal family. As the capital of the province of Vaasa the city is in the centre of a service area of about 450.000 inhabitants. The number of inhabitants in Vaasa itself is a bit over 55.000, of which 26% have Swedish as their mother language.

The city was founded around the oldest harbour and trading point in Ostrobothnia. In 1852 Vaasa was burnt to the ground and the new town of Vaasa was built closer to better port conditions because of a special phenomenon in this area: the ground is rising about 1 meter in 100 years. Among Vaasa's strong sides I want to begin with Vaasa as centre of expertise. Vaasa has been an educational city through history.



Higher education has been provided since 1968. Today there are three institutions of higher education with about 5.000 students. The newest institutions are the two schools of vocational higher education. Training is also given on several other educational stages.

Vaasa's position as industrial motor of the province is unquestionable. Especially the multinational enterprises (ABB, Wärtsilä Diesel and KWH Pipe) which together employ over 5.000 persons, enjoy considerable success on the global markets.

The many cultures and the biliguity are of advantage to Vaasa. Vaasa has a strong position as a many-sided cultural centre of the region. Vaasa's importance as leading tourist and congress centre in Western Finland

is increasing. The amusement park in the summer and the bathing paradise all the year round are refreshing for mind and body of both old and young people. The clean nature, the several archipelagos and the many-sided cultural choice offer several programme services for tourists.

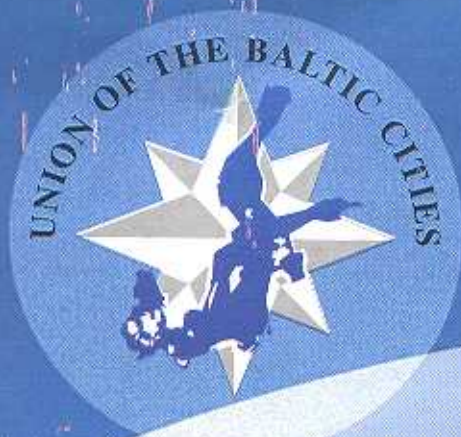
Vaasa's geographical location next to Sweden is also an advantageous factor. The ferry traffic has connected Vaasa with Sweden during several decades. In the last years we have got direct flight connections to Stockholm, which have become very popular in a short time. The long traditions in the contacts to Sweden have also borne fruit in that sense that the Kvarken region (with Vaasa as chief city in Finland and Umeå in Sweden) has been accepted by the EU as an Interreg-region.

Vaasa's interests in the Baltic region also date from decades back. Umeå has been sister city for almost half a century. The 40th anniversary of the sister city activities between Pärnu and Vaasa was celebrated in August this year. Sister city contacts with Schwerin and Kiel have existed for 30 years. Thanks to the many good contacts with Kiel, the province of Vaasa has had for a year its own office in Brussels, which has made it easier to e.g. look after the interests of the of the municipalities in the Vaasa province in relation to the EU.

More information is available on:
Internet homepage www.Vaasa.fi



An aerial view of the city of Vaasa with the Baltic Sea on the background.



Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 65 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with the following mission:

"The Union was initiated for the purpose of developing cooperation and exchange between the Cities - Union members."

- ★ The overriding goal of the Union is to contribute to democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.
- ★ The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).
- ★ The Union is governed by the General Conference, the President, two Vice-Presidents and the Executive Board consisting of one member city representative from each Baltic Sea country.
- ★ The Union has based its operational activities on seven working Commissions on Communication, Culture, Environment, Social Affairs, Sport, Tourism and Transportation.
- ★ The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.
- ★ The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

Please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.