## **UBC Business Commission**

## **Meeting 18-19 April, 2012 in Kolding (Denmark)**

## **The smart city – Science Parks, Creativity and Business Support**

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading city network in Northern Europe, representing over 100 cities of the 10 countries of the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC is a founding member of Europe’s largest city network – CECICN.

The UBC Business Commission links professionals from across the Baltic Sea Region and provides services that drive growth and effectiveness for their members through innovation, entrepreneurship and the transfer of knowledge and technology.

The first meeting of the UBC Business Commission in 2012 concentrated on Science Parks, Creativity and Business Support.

## **Report 18 April 212**

The meeting of the UBC Business Commission was based on ideas and input from the last meeting in Liepaja in October 2011. The goal was to find out, how Science Parks, Creativity and Business Support can bring economic success to the cities. The 20 participants came from Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Poland, Norway, Germany and Denmark.

Wednesday, 18 April was dedicated to the opening ceremony of the Nordic Synergy Park. Business Kolding, the business development agency of Kolding started this new park project called Nordic Synergy Park. The concept is the result of collaboration between the Municipality of Kolding, Scion DTU and Sophia Antipolis in France, as well as the Region of Southern Denmark and Business Kolding. Upon completion is planned to cover a surface of 15 square kilometer and should generate some 25,000 jobs in the coming 25 years. The Science Park shows a strong commitment to business, people and nature – clearly integrating the landscape of the development area and aiming at a place which isn’t only a work area but also a place for people to live and enjoy recreational and cultural activities.

At the following workshop Luis Sanz, Director General of International Association of Science Parks (IASP) together with presentations from Inge Schröder from Wissenschaftszentrum Kiel (D), Anita Orlund from Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm (N) and Steen Donner from Scion DTU, Kgs.Lyngby (DK) gave starting ideas on the theme of the workshop: “How Science Parks, Creativity and Business Support can bring economic success to your city”. In group discussions the participants on the workshop took up questions as:

* How do we create values for companies in Sciences Parks?
* How do we attract international companies?
* How do we create a global network to benefit the companies?

## **Report 19 April 212**

On Thursday 19th of April the meeting continued with presentations of the 2 incubators in Kolding; House of Design and House of Innovation.

House of Innovation – the natural place to start. A stimulating and innovative environment with energy and synergy through networking and interaction with high class reception, meeting facilities, canteen and flexible renting of open and closed offices.

House of Design is Kolding’s professional center of development for design. The house offers office space, studio, meeting and innovation environment in Kolding’s cultural center – the Nicolai-complex. New established companies get counseling, mentoring and become a part of a professional network.

Last stop on the agenda was focusing on City Branding and paid a visit to the town of Christiansfeld and the Christiansfeld Centre. The background for the creation of the Christiansfeld Centre is a partnership agreement the Moravian Church in Christiansfeld entered into with the Realdania foundation in 2002, whereby DKK 30m was allotted for the implementation of the first phase of an ambitious renovation project for the historic town Center in Christiansfeld. Christiansfeld is an old Moravian town founded in 1773, and named after King Christian VII, who granted building permission. The town is special in that it is planned and built following the same pattern as the first Moravian town in Herrnhut in Germany, and did not grow up gradually like many other small towns in Denmark. Most of the plan was built from 1773 – 1812. Today it is easy to see the fine balance between the houses and the green spaces. The entire old town survives as a living reminder of a past culture right in the heart of the town, not as a museum but as an important part of the town’s daily life. It is not possible for a town to survive 230 years without some damage from the weather, and the Moravian buildings have, despite their very solid construction, also been affected by the march of time. They were beginning to fall into a state of disrepair – but luckily aid appeared in the form of a major town renovation project.

## **Useful links**

[www.investinkolding.dk](http://www.investinkolding.dk)

[www.houseofinnovation.dk](http://www.houseofinnovation.dk) (Danish)

[www.houseofdesign.biz](http://www.houseofdesign.biz) (Danish)

[www.christiansfeldcentret.dk](http://www.christiansfeldcentret.dk)

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