Union of the Baltic Cities

XII General Conference, Mariehamn, 1-4 October 2013

*“Investing in young people. Combating youth unemployment and marginalization - from words into action”*

PROGRAMME

**TUESDAY, 1 October**

Arrival of participants

17.30-19.00 68th UBC Executive Board meeting

19.30 Get-together dinner at hotel Arkipelag, Strandgatan 35

**WEDNESDAY, 2 October** *Moderator - Anna Sorainen, Ground Communications*

09.00-09.30 Registration at Alandica Culture & Congress Centre, Strandgatan 33

09.30- 10.00 Opening Session – Welcome

- Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC

- Camilla Gunell, Head of the Government of Åland

- Petri Carlsson, Chairman of Mariehamn Executive Board

10.00- 12.30 Plenary Session

Promoting smart development and well-being in the Baltic Sea Region

* Paweł Orłowski, Vice-Minister of Regional Development, Republic of Poland
* Ambassador Satu Mattila, Chairperson of CSO of the Council of the Baltic Sea States
* Pauliina Haijanen, 2nd Vice Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy of the Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on "Evaluation of macro-regional strategies"
* Michael Ralph, Adviser to the Director-General Walter Deffaa, DG Regional Policy, European Commission
* Nina Oding, Head of the Research Department of the Leontief Centre, St.Petersburg

UBC Programme to promote youth employment and well-being

* Matti Mäkelä, Head of the Project Management Office, Turku, Action Plan of Cities for Youth Employment and Well-Being
* Johan Andersson, Falun, UBC Commission on Youth Issues

Private sector and trade unions’ actions in combating youth unemployment and marginalisation

* Christian Weinberger, Senior Adviser SMEs & Entrepreneurship, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission
* Uwe Polkaehn, President, Confederation of German Trade Unions DGB-Nord
* Pirjo Väänänen, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions – SAK
* Mikael Backman, CEO of Viking Line

11.10-11.30 *Coffee & Tea*

12.30-14.00 *Lunch*

14.00-16.30 Plenary Session - Examples of cities initiatives and projects directed to youth

Presentations and panel discussion

* Gunnar Bakke, Commissioner, City of Bergen
* Susanne Gaschke, Mayor of Kiel
* Vytautas Grubliauskas, Mayor of Klaipeda
* Gunars Ansins, Vice-Mayor of Liepaja

Presentations and panel discussion

* Roland Methling, Mayor of Rostock
* Viktoriia Shuvalova , leading specialist of the Department of social programmes and cooperation with NGOs, St. Petersburg
* Taavi Aas, Vice-Mayor of Tallinn
* Marie-Louise Rönnmark, Mayor of Umeå

15.10-15.30 *Coffee & Tea*

18.00-18.50 Could your city be smarter? Informal get-together: Pre-dinner appetizers and short presentation of a new Baltic Sea Region initiative: Urban Forum for Smart Cities

*Venue: Alandica*

19.00 Buses departure from Alandica for the dinner

19.30 Dinner at Smakbyn, Slottsvägen 134, Kastelholm

**THURSDAY, 3 October**

9.00 – 10.00 Open meetings of the UBC Commissions

10.00 – 12.30 Parallel Workshops

11.00 – 11.20 *Coffee & Tea*

**W1. How to prevent & fight unemployment among youth**

Coordination: Commission on Business

Support: Commission on Education

*One of the tragic outcomes of the euro crisis is the high youth unemployment rate in Europe in general and in the Baltic Sea Region in special. More than half of the young people in Greece and Spain are looking for work. Many countries in the BSR are affected by high youth unemployment between 20-30%. Europe is facing a “lost generation” which experiences long periods of unemployment or unstable jobs during their first working years, with serious long-term consequences. The Workshop aims to give an overview of the current situation in Europe and the Baltic Sea Region, present successful examples from UBC member cities and give room for a discussion about possible ways out of the crisis by cooperation between cities, businesses, social partners and institutions.*

**W2. Youth empowerment and non-formal education with gender perspective**

Coordination: Åland Peace Institute

*The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) has created a network of partner organisations working on the civil society level to promote gender equality and prevent gender related violence, such as trafficking and sexual harassment, on Åland, in Eastern Europe and in the South Caucasus. Since 1998 the network develops and promotes methods for empowerment based on a critical, deliberative, non-hierarchical and interactive approach. Examples are the Nordic Girl and Boy Group method and methods for social work developed at the Nendre Center for Women and Children in Lithuania. The aim is to strengthen individuals’ self-esteem and to promote their abilities to question prevailing gender norms, to solve conflicts peacefully and to take an active part in society.*

**W3. Green Growth for UBC Cities**

Coordination: Commission on Environment

*The workshop would focus on the challenges and possibilities with the EU 2020 targets and focus on Green Growth. The Green and Clean Tech Business is one of the fastest growing business sectors globally. The “Green sector” is already a big employer within several sub sectors like, waste and water management, air emission monitoring and, energy efficiency, port management and maritime industry. Cities have an important role in fulfilling the EU 2020 targets and are natural target group for Green Growth. The workshop would bring in different type of expertise such as EU policy expertise, Green Growth funding source expertise and local authority good practice. Focusing on Green Growth is also directly connected to Youth employment possibilities.*

**W.4 Regional INTERREG IV Programmes for the Baltic Sea Region**

Coordination: Central Baltic & South Baltic Technical Secretariats

*Cities and regions around the Baltic Sea, a number of stakeholders including councils, municipal and regional administrations, formal and non-formal educational facilities, development agencies and research institutes have decided to join forces to keep the youth in region. This has been pursued in a two-fold manner: by paving the way for youth-friendly communities offering active participation, education and labour on the one hand and by generating the feeling of “belonging and taking care” on the other hand. The workshop will focus on the findings and results of joint cross-border efforts in youth policy and will invite representatives of UBC cities to discuss future opportunities for joint youth action in the Central and South Baltic regions.*

Commission on Youth will also contribute to above workshops.

12.30 - 13.00 Reports from the workshops to the plenary

13.00 – 14.30  *Lunch*

14.30 – 18.00 General Assembly

Report on UBC Activities, Per Bødker Andersen, President of UBC

Report on UBC Strategy

Amendments in the Statute

Proposal of resolution on Commissions consolidation process

Proposal of resolution on task force to promote youth employment

Proposal of resolution on EU Strategy for the BSR

Discussion

Auditor’s Report

Board of Audit Report

Absolving the Presidium, Board, Secretary

Membership Fees 2014-2015

Executive Board in the next period

President and Vice-Presidents in the next period

Board of Audit in the next period

Auditor in the next period

Venue of the XIII UBC General Conference in autumn 2015

15.30 *Coffee & Tea*

19.30 Dinner at Åland Maritime Museum and Nautical Restaurant, Hamngatan 2

**FRIDAY, 4 October**

09.00-12.00 Guided sightseeing tour

Departures

Conference website: [www.mariehamn.ax/ubc](http://www.mariehamn.ax/ubc)

Conference documents: [www.ubc.net/events\_calendar,229,2194.html](http://www.ubc.net/events_calendar,229,2194.html)