

LOCAL AGENDA 21 PROGRAMME FOR UBC

On 27-28 February 1998 the Commission on Environment organised a meeting in Nacka, where a Local Agenda 21 programme for the UBC was discussed. Nine persons representing member cities and universities discussed and came up with ideas for a common programme.

Proposed activities for the programme

The Local Agenda 21 work can differ very much from city to city. The participants agreed on four general criteria for Local Agenda 21 work. The work should (1) include participation of citizens and (2) deal with their lifestyles. Furthermore, it should (3) involve all sectors of the city and (4) be a democratic process. It was also stressed that Agenda 21 is an ongoing process and that the time dimension is not one or two years but instead generations.

The participants proposed many activities for the programme. For example environmental indicators, a mobile exhibition, bicycle projects and education were proposed to be included in the programme.

Local Agenda 21 in the UBC

The participants discussed also how Local Agenda 21 could be integrated into



UBC Local Agenda 21 being discussed in Nacka.

the work of other commissions of the UBC. It was stated that the work for a sustainable development should be included in the work of all the commissions. Sustainable development should also be integrated into the statutes of the UBC, and therefore these have to be revised. It should be pointed out that Local Agenda 21 is not connected only to the environment and that this work has to be done in cooperation with all sectors. The commissions have to be invited to take part in the work and the Local Agenda 21 - concept has to be cleared out for all partners.

The Commission on Environment Secretariat in Turku will prepare a first draft of the programme. The goal is to have the programme ready before the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Conference in Turku on 3 - 5 September. The next meeting where the programme is discussed will be held on 17 - 18 May.

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SEMINAR ON CONTAMINATED SOILS



On February 20-22 the Commission on Environment arranged a seminar on contaminated soils in cooperation with ECAT Lithuania and with financial support from the Nordic Council of Minis-

ters. Altogether 110 persons representing cities, universities, companies and organisations took part in the seminar which was held in Birstonas, Lithuania.

The contamination of soils is a large and expensive problem in all countries round the Baltic Sea. Polluted sites can be found practically anywhere in industrialised countries, being any kind of industrial sites, agricultural areas, military facilities, former and current waste dumps; areas where spills have happened or where pollution from another source

has migrated to. Frequently the polluting activity have taken place several years or even decades before.

The programme for the seminar was divided into two different parts; 1) an introduction to soil pollution and 2) cleaning methods for contaminated soils. In the first part definitions, methods for surveying and monitoring potentially contaminated sites, contamination profiles as well as prioritization of contaminated sites were presented. The presentations gave a good basis for the second part of the

programme, which started with a brief introduction to common remediation methods and their costs. The methods presented after that were containment and stabilisation methods, thermal cleaning methods, use of air for cleaning contaminated sites, phytoremediation as well as in-site and off-site bioremediation. The participants were pleased to hear that there are many different solutions to solve the problem with contaminated soils. However, there is still much work to do in this field. On the third and last day of the seminar the participants visited the former military fuel storage Valciunai, which is a contaminated site south of Vilnius.



Participants on an excursion to the Valciunai oil terminal.

UBC WOMEN'S NETWORK - CALL FOR COOPERATION

It is found to be necessary to involve the women in the UBC cooperation. Women's participation and influence of the work at all levels will strengthen the Union and is a democratic need. UBC Women's Network is established to support and ensure this development. The base for the Network is contact persons from the member cities and there is an address list of their names.

Use the UBC membership

The message to the women is to see and use all the possibilities of the Network and the UBC for getting in touch with women in other member cities, for searching partners in a project, for sending or receiving information, invitations to seminars, conferences and meetings, writing articles in the UBC Bulletin. Ideally one should search, identify and cooperate with other persons in one's own city, who are active in the UBC work, e.g. the representative for the Task Force for Communication and Public Relations. It is of great importance that there are both women and men in the different commissions and working teams. When both women and men contribute with their experiences, expertise and knowledge, we will also have a stronger UBC.



Mrs Hjördis Höglund, Coordinator of the UBC Women's Network.

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Commission on Culture calendar of events

5-7 May, Visby
MARE ARTICUM session

8-9 May, Stockholm
MARE ARTICUM seminar within
the programme of ArtGenda

28-31 May, Szczecin
Baltic Choir Festival Szczecin'98
"Choir Music in the UBC Cities -
problems and possibilities"

24-26 July, Klaipėda
Action of the Earth and art "Games
in sand"

27-28 August, Riga
MARE ARTICUM session

Further information

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