

BALTIC CITIES PROJECT

An exchange of experience on labour market policy and employment development

This project, granted by the EU PACTE Programme for Exchange of Experience and managed by the DG XVI, started in the beginning of 1996 and is coming to its end in September 1997. In five micro-seminars in Rostock, Helsinki, Kalmar, Storstroems Amt and Lübeck the project partners presented their local initiatives to fight against unemployment. In an informal atmosphere executives of the city administrations and workers in independent social institutions interactively discussed and learned from each other. A social conference in March 1997, connected with the exposition "Market Place Baltic Sea" opened the discussion to a wider public. In September 1997, the last event, a workshop in Rostock, has the aim to point out what can be achieved by different methods of job mediation and how far it could help to solve the situation of unemployed people.

All the methods, projects, institutions, ideas etc. discussed during the BALTIC CITIES project will be presented with a brief description in a brochure at the end of the project period.

All UBC member cities are invited to have a look into it. Please, order your exemplar as from November 1997.

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NORRKÖPING - PARTNER IN 60 APPLICATIONS

Since Sweden became member of the European Union, the city of Norrköping has been very active in co-operating within this new framework. Until today the city of Norrköping has been a partner in about 60 applications to various funds and programmes in the European Union. These applications cover a vast domain from small local projects concerning care of elderly people via school projects up to multi-million transnational projects.

The city of Norrköping has also been successful in its applications, more than half of the applications have turned out with a positive response. As a help in this work Norrköping can rely on the work of the East Sweden-office in Brussels, that helps to find information and to provide contacts.

One successful example of cooperation across the borders is a PACTE-project where the city of Norrköping takes part. This project, "Environmental Effects of Structural Changes in Old Industrial Cities", was initiated in 1995 by Tampere in Finland, that is the coordinator. The other partners are Odense in Denmark, Chemnitz in Germany and Hernani in Spain.

The purpose of this project is to exchange experiences, as well as to compile and disseminate information concerning the re-use of centrally located industrial sites that are being vacated in old industrial towns. To assure that the conversion of these old industrial sites is made as swift as possible, is-

sues such as finances, business policy, infrastructure, functionality, cityscape and the identity of the city has to be taken into account.

Norrköping has a somewhat special situation here, as a whole industrial landscape from the textile industry epoch is situated around the river in the centre of the city. For example this area now contains knowledge and know-how intensive enterprises, university education and museums.

As new activities are taking place where totally other things has been going on, lots of things have to be thought of. The solutions for re-using old industrial sites should also fulfil the standards of sustainable development. Seminars in various cities have been extremely worthwhile in this work, where cooperation networks have been established.

Through valuable personal contacts, people have been able to see and compare different ways of solving the change of the city structure and at the same time watch the compliance with targets set for inner-city zoning.

Working in this project on both a national and an international level has helped the cities to perceive the importance of understanding the environmental impact. As all levels of planning staff, authorities and decision-making bodies are taking part in the project, relevant information is compiled, and spread in the organisations.

As a final result, case examples will form a report suitable both for the public and the private sector. This report will also contain information about specialists in the field.