



I. Cooperation with the EU

EU PROGRAMMES FOR CITIES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA - UBC Project Manager reports

During the last years, the Baltic Sea region has got more into the focus of the interest of the Commission of the EU. This is reflected in the increase of funding and programs available for local and region authorities in the region.

It is difficult to have an overview of the new possibilities. New programs are implemented, and old ones phased out, but as a general there is a steady increase.

This article intends to give an overview of the EU programs available for cities and other local and regional authorities.

In addition to these, there is a number of EU programs where local authorities are not the main targets. LIFE, the EU program for environment, is heavily engaged in the Baltic Sea, and the UBC Commission on Environment has been granted funding from LIFE.

In general, the funding for the projects with cities and regions in the Baltic States and Poland comes from Phare. Projects where Russian cities can take part are funded from Tacis. The participation of cities from the EU is funded from Directorate-General XIV.

The programs listed in the table below are often combination of these sources, and since the general background and rules differ between Phare, Tacis and DG XIV, many of the rules of the programs are influenced by compromises and the often difficult processes inside the Commission to put the programs together.

There are some fundamental differ-

ences between the programs, depending of the source of money. In programmes that are financed only from Phare or Tacis, the main beneficiary shall be the CEC or NIS partners. However, the reason for the EU partner to engage should be mentioned. Otherwise the Commission might wonder why an EU partner is interested of engaging in projects in eastern Europe.

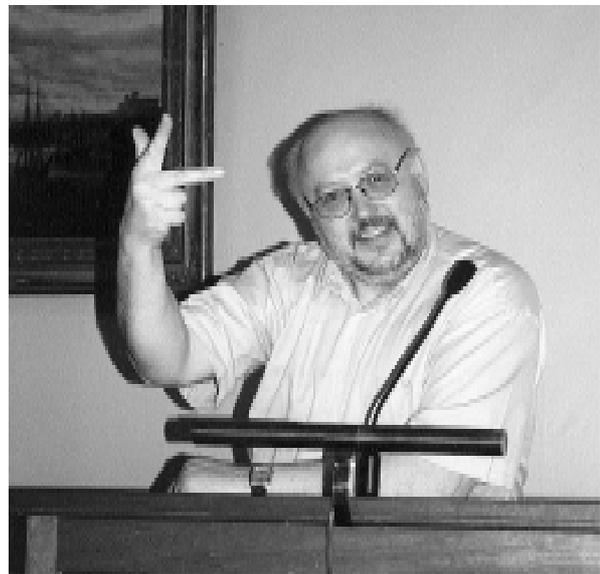
In projects financed by DG XIV, there must be a clear benefit also for the EU partner to engage. The stress is on cooperation, not aid, as in Phare or Tacis financed projects.

The Phare projects should also have a clear connection to the EU enlargement. The focus is set to meet the accession process, only simple aid is not enough. The Commission states, in its Agenda 2000, that:

'The applicant country must have achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;

It must have a functioning market economy, as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the EU;

It must have the ability to take on



UBC Project Manager in action trying to describe intricacies of the EU programmes.

the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.'

Even if the criteria for the projects may differ between each program, there are some general, common characteristics that should be met.

In general, emphasis is laid on cooperation and exchange of experiences. Investments can only be a minor part of the project budget. The exchange should concentrate on the such areas that facilitates democratic and economic development. Projects that has the main goal only to fight poverty as such have limited possibilities to be approved.

In general, there are some main characteristics of projects that are approved by the Commission. One such



is innovative actions. It is clear that when experts in Brussels evaluate maybe 100 applications, and spend maybe 45 minutes on each application, the projects that in some way or another stand out as being more interesting than others have greater chances to catch the eyes of the experts. As one expert told me, if you have read 25 applications on Business Development Centres or Waste management, and find one that have "something special", it is more likely that you feel more interested.

An other good aspect is a "bottom-up" perspective. The projects should be concrete and practical. Also, projects that could give experiences also to others have an advantage. It is very difficult to get approval of a project that is so unique to a special

place, that dissemination of experiences have limited meaning.

The experts, who are never known beforehand, have a very strong influence on which projects will be chosen. Only if the experts recommend more projects than there is money, the commission makes its own selection.

The guidelines for each program are very extensive and should be read with care. The guidelines for the smallest programs, BSPF Micro and Tacis CBC Micro, covers 20 pages, loaded with information. In addition to that, there are 10 pages of detailed guidelines on how to fill the forms, which in turn are minimum 23 pages. However, if read carefully, the guidelines and instructions are of great help when preparing the application.

The table below shows the main programs that are aimed at cooperation between local or regional authorities, and where cities can cooperate.

The Interreg IIC differs somewhat from the other programs in many respects. In terms of funding available it will be the largest, 24 million Ecu for EU partners. Also the time-perspective is longer, the projects may continue for one or two years into the next millennium.

Additional funding for Interreg IIC CEC or NIS partners must come from Phare. This process is not yet clear, and at the UBC Board Meeting in Kotka, the Board member cities urged to write to the Phare authorities in their respective countries in order to show the demand for funding for Interreg also for CEC and NIS countries.

Also the CREDO programme differs in the sense that an EU partner in the project is not needed.

Program	EU Contribution	Maximum EU contribution
BSPF-Micro, Tacis CBC Micro	< 10 000 ECU	80%
European Twinning Grant	< 20 000 ECU	77%
Tacis Twinning Grant		
CREDO	< 50 000 ECU	80 - 90 % (depending on project)
Phare Micro/Ecos Ouverture II	< 50 000 ECU	80, 75, 50% (depending on partner)
BSPF (Phare)	<100 000 ECU	80 %
Tacis CBC SPF	<200 000 ECU	80 %
Ecos-Ouverture II	<500 000 ECU	80, 75, 50% (depending on partner)
Interreg IIC	Not decided	

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SIX CITIES MASTERING THE METHODS OF EU COOPERATION

City board meetings all over the region frequently deal with EU related matters, and BCB interviewed people behind these decisions. Seems that the UBC cities on both sides of the sea are successfully paving their way for ever-increasing international cooperation. This small comparative study reveals many similarities and some differences in cities' approaches. Summing up one can conclude that EU is part of daily office work equally within and outside the Union and the UBC is seen as one tool for it.

This was asked:

1. Is your City presently involved in EU financed projects?
2. Name one of the main goals of your City regarding cooperation with the EU?
3. What difficulties has your city administration encountered regarding international cooperation? How to solve them?
4. How are the international affairs organized in your city?
5. Wishes for UBC in terms of international cooperation?

Mr Bart³omiej Sochański, Mayor of Szczecin, Poland.

1. Yes. Szczecin is involved in, e.g. Ecos-Ouverture programme through the UBC as well as in Phare Cross-Border Programme regarding water purification and road modernization. We see communication and environment as important issues for cooperation.

2. One of the main goals is to prepare the city administration and the citizens to the EU membership, which is an issue reaching far beyond the financial terms only. We need to learn and be prepared to live within this new structure with all its complexities and potentials.

3. There has been some reluctance to invest in international relations by some city politicians. The lack of in-

formation about EU structures and procedures is sometimes a problem, which also can create exaggerated hopes towards the European Union. We are presently putting quite a lot of emphasis on information flow and communication with people to overcome these difficulties.

4. The international office has four employees and is placed under the Department of Organisation, which is led by the Secretary of the City. The Mayor is mostly responsible for representation. Different international projects are managed and followed-up in the departments of the projects' respective fields. Soon there will also be appointed a person who will be responsible for overall policies and operations towards the EU. City employees are also sent to training courses to keep up with these issues.

5. The UBC should claim a more re-cognized position in the EU. The present focus on EU as a financing source should be shifted to the strengthening of the relative importance of the whole Baltic Sea Region in Europe.

Mr Michael Bouteiller, Mayor of Lübeck, Germany

1. Yes, even though not being able to use the EU structural funds is a problem for Lübeck. In general, we regard employment projects as particularly important.

2. One of the main goals is to develop Lübeck as a European town within networks on regional, European and global level. The city departments need to have a European perspective in their operations. The Lübeck companies must be competitive to European competition as well as the municipal expertise also needs to be able to match the international competence in their respective sectors. It is also important to build up and monitor European democratic processes.

3. Because of several shortcomings the European region needs reorganisation on town level and particularly new emphasis on the bottom-up approach regarding projects. Also, city officials need to be involved in life-long-learning processes in order to manage the constantly changing situations. In general, there is a need to emphasize more the role of schools in European education for different issues and possibilities. Schools can be used to tackle different problems through, e.g. implementing anti-violence programmes.

4. The international affairs are decentralized to the city departments, and there is one person in the Mayor's office, who acts as the coordinator for all this information.

5. The UBC should nourish the Baltic tradition and heritage as well as emphasize the idea of "European town" identity. The UBC can build the bridge between east and west and close the gap of possibilities between cities.

Mr Ingmar Ljones, Mayor of Bergen, Norway

1. Yes. Norway cooperates with the European Union through the EES, The European Economic Space arrangement. One of the largest undertakings is the nomination of Bergen to become one of the cultural cities of Europe in the year 2000. We also emphasize the importance of environmental cooperation.

2. The implementation of the Agenda 21 together with other environmental issues is important. The standard of living in Norway is high, but it is important to care for the environment, too.

3. Companies in Bergen face some difficulties in taxation, but in general, more contacts to other countries are necessary. For the export of salmon and other merchandise the EU is the nearest market.



Six views from around the Baltic unite in promoting international cooperation within the UBC. From left to right: Mr Bart³omiej Soc-hañski, Mayor of Szczecin, Mr Michael Bouteiller, Mayor of Lübeck, Mr Vello Järvesalu, Mayor of Pärnu, Ms Hjördis Höglund, member of the City Board, Sundsvall, Mr Ingmar Ljones, Mayor of Bergen and Mr Timo Kvist, Vice-Mayor of Turku.

4. The international affairs are divided in the city to different sectors. The knowledge of these activities is collected into the international office, which has 4-5 persons and is lead by the municipal counsellor of economy and trade. There is an ongoing process of restructuring and building a database of international projects. There is also an overall international training programme in the city.

5. Contacts between cities and countries are important for mutual learning of best practices. UBC opens up a good informal way of communication.

Mr Vello Järvesalu, Mayor of Pärnu, Estonia

1. Yes. There is Phare financing for e.g. water purification projects. Tourism is also one of the focal areas for cooperation.

2. We wish for EU assistance in implementing several highly necessary environmental projects.

3. The national bureaucracy regarding EU operations is very time-consuming. It is good to get direct contacts to other partners for instance through the UBC.

4. The office of international relations is directly under the Mayor and a contact person is nominated to each UBC commission. Otherwise, each municipal sector is responsible for projects and their follow-up.

5. It is important to assure the continuity of UBC activities and contacts in individual cities, so that there are several persons who know about the benefits of this organisation. The UBC offers many possibilities for utilization and its up to the cities to play an active role in this cooperation.

Mr Timo Kvist, Vice-Mayor of Turku, Finland

1. Yes, Turku is involved in many undertakings even though it belongs to the so called "white areas" in terms of EU. We regard youth unemployment as well as other social and environmental issues as key areas for cooperation.

2. One main goal is to utilize the wide development potential offered by the EU. By using the networks it is possible to get new ideas for city development, which possibly also can be partly financed by the EU.

3. There is some lack of knowledge and capability to work with these new developments and therefore there is a systematic training process going on. EU and the networks form a new element to the traditional twin city cooperation.

4. There is a small international office in the central city administration reporting directly to the Mayor. This office supports the decentralized international activities of the city and produces international expertise on

political level for the Mayor. There is a plan to collect a database of city's international projects.

5. UBC's role should be to facilitate networking and partner search and to act as an umbrella for Baltic Sea Cooperation. The main idea is, however, to have very concrete project-level cooperation.

Ms Hjördis Höglund, City board member of Sundsvall, Sweden

1. Yes. The focus is particularly on employment and environment.

2. One of the main goals is to cooperate within the region to promote private sector, particularly the SME's.

3. There is some lack of knowledge about adopting the new rules and procedures, but there is also a training process going on.

4. At the moment the international affairs are divided among different municipal sectors, but there is a need for coordination. Therefore a new international office will soon be opened in the city administration. The city also works with a joint regional representative, who is located in Brussels.

5. UBC is a network and every member city is responsible for supporting this cooperation. Sundsvall seeks for mutual exchange of experiences in e.g. environmental sector. It would also be important to involve more women in the UBC work, and UBC Women's Network is formed to support this development.

AALBORG WELL SETTLED IN BRUSSELS

In 1951 Aalborg established its first twin town relation and since then the number has reached 25 twin towns all over the world. These international links have provided Aalborg with a great experience in carrying out international contacts and projects and in 1990 the international involvement lead to the establishment of an EU-organisation in Aalborg Local Authority as well as the opening of our representative office in Brussels. Furthermore in 1991 the City of Aalborg, Aalborg Commercial Council and 20 private firms

agreed to establish an office in Riga, Latvia.

This international/EU organisation and the close cooperation between the three offices means that we can offer highly specialised assistance on EU-matters and are able to pursue EU-initiatives and projects which can strengthen the internationalization of business, education, environment, research and culture etc. in Aalborg.

The EU prospects and efforts until 1998 will concentrate especially on:

- EU environmental and urban environment projects
- EU projects in education and research

- EU projects in Central and Eastern Europe and with special attention to the Baltic states

- establishment of EU-financed networks, including the strengthening of relationships with Scandinavia

- EU projects with the purpose of strengthening SME's in the region

- generally increased cooperation with Eastern Europe.

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AARHUS EU OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

Within the last 5-10 years many municipalities and regions have established their own representation in Brussels. What drives this development and what do such representations achieve with their different mandates and strategies. The Aarhus EU Office in Brussels is a succes - here is why.

Background and tasks

The overall objective of the Aarhus EU Office is to work for growth and job creation which in practice means that the work of the office mainly is directed towards project financing with emphasis on the EU budget. The Municipality of Aarhus, with a population of about 300,000, set up the Aarhus EU Office in 1990 as part of a new strategy for local economic development and growth within the municipality of Aarhus. This strategy was decided by the city council in cooperation with the local trade unions and industrial organisations. Since the start of the Aarhus EU Office the scope of operation has been enlarged by agreements in 1994 with 9 smaller municipalities around Aarhus and in 1995 to cover Aarhus County, in all counting approxi-

mately 700,000 inhabitants. Today three persons are permanently employed at the Aarhus EU Office in Brussels. The Aarhus EU Office is mainly dealing with project financing, legal aspects, international contacts and information serving companies, institutions and municipalities.

Results

In terms of direct economic results the Aarhus EU Office generated more than 60 mill. Danish kroner from the EU-budget in the period of 1990-96 in cooperation with its clients in both the private and the public sector. As the EU normally finance 50% of such projects, the total figure of project financing amounts to more than 120 mill. Danish kroner. More uncertain but still positive are many other economic results which have been facilitated by contacts created or information produced by the office. Finally it is also worth noting that the office generates an income of one third of its budget as mainly clients in the private sector pay for the services offered.

Conditions for success

A number of conditions are of im-



portance in order to secure the success of a Brussels representation. First of all, political consensus is necessary before such a project is decided upon. Secondly, clear objectives and a clear operational strategy are highly relevant for the day to day work of the office. Regarding the Aarhus EU Office, being part of the Economic Development Department means that the overall objectives are quite clear - to contribute to growth, economic development and job-creation in the region. Thirdly, a strong and supporting home base is very significant. Again our position as part of the Economic Development

Department ensures the right forum for activities and projects and easy contact with the local business environment. The fourth condition, to have good relations and support from the business environment, is absolutely essential. In the case of the Aarhus EU Office, positive indications from the business environment were already

obtained before deciding to start the office. The fifth condition is to choose the right people with the right combination of skills to translate the world of Brussels into a language understood by the business community and vice versa to the benefit of local economic development. Finally, an office in

Brussels cost money.

In conclusion, the work and outcome of representations in Brussels are very different - depending on their initial objectives, strategies, the people behind, etc. From a cost-benefit point of view it will rarely be advantageous to set up a Brussels representation just because the neighbour-region has done so - it takes more to make it a success!

THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY OF GDAŃSK

Poland is preparing to become a member of the European Union, Gdańsk has always been an European city. Nevertheless this is still a work to be done on different levels of economic, political and social life. So that they have been taking many activities to enhance cooperation between Gdańsk and European countries and cities. This is very important to make citizens understood the significance of European integration.

European direction:

participation in the East-West Committee of Eurocities with the Lord Mayor of Gdańsk as a president, which is to co-ordinate co-operation between Eastern and Western European cities, participation in the IULA (International Union of Local Authorities), participation in the CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions)

Baltic direction:

Secretariat of the Union of Baltic Cities, the Secretariat of VASAB 2010 in Gdańsk, cooperation with the Baltic region cities in the framework of the ICLEI to protect the environment of the Baltic Sea, cooperation with the partner cities: Bremen, Sefton, Turku included

European programmes

ECOS-Ouverture programme - the Polish office established in Gdańsk as the next step in developing the inter-

regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea area taking its place beside other ECOS-Ouverture offices in Denmark, Sweden and Finland. All these offices' main task is to provide a complete support for regional and local authorities to help them in implementation of European projects, British Know How Fund to improve municipal administration, MATRA programme - the Dutch government programme for local authorities „Communication management and Community Development for Social Innovation and Administrative Reform”, PRELUDE - to prepare an strategic plan for Gdańsk urban development and to establish a strategic policy for the Tri-City Agglomeration.

Millennium celebrations - culture and sport events on European range

New Hansa Days from the 26 to 29 June 97 - meeting of the representatives of over 100 European cities, European Championship in Kyokushin Karate on the 24 May, World Sailing Championships: Finn Class, ILC 40 Cup Royal Cup from the 3 to 13 July, European St.Dominic Fair - between 2nd and 16th August.

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GDYNIA FOSTERS EU COOPERATION

Since 1990 many initiatives have been taken in Gdynia to promote union, cooperation and understanding among the people of Europe. The main economic events include: EUROPARTENARIAT Polska 1994 - a largest economic meeting of European SME and undertaking of similar kind, and the Baltic Sea Partenariat 1996, both initiatives of the European Commission.

Also the City Hall of Gdynia has undertaken several concrete initiatives aimed at developing society awareness about the EU.

- The City Board of Gdynia has carried out a competition “Gdynia ways to Europe” for all our inhabitants in 1996 and 1997. Participants had to submit projects, which will ensure popularisation of European solidarity, institutions and friendly cooperation between Gdynia and its twin cities inhabitants. The awarded project are realising e.g. organising of workshop for Gdynia’s teachers focused on the theme of European integration and education.

- Many brochures, folders and magazines about the EU institutions have been distributed to all schools in Gdynia and to Gdynia NGO’s office (there was established a small, opened for everyone reading-room) and to Municipal Public Library. The European schools and libraries collections

are permanently completed with new publications.

- European Clubs were established in six schools, the activities of which develop knowledge about European integration among youth.

- Gdynia has celebrated the Europe Day on the 5th of May for the last two years. A special edition of the Ratusz-newsletter of Gdynia City Board and Council including some basic infor-

mation about the EU was published on this occasion. In addition to this, short articles focused on the EU theme started to be published in the weekly edition of the RATUSZ.

The town of Gdynia has also been recognised twice for its achievements in EU cooperation. The first award was from the European Commission called The Golden Stars of Twining in 1995, and the second time Gdynia received

the Flag of Honour of the Council of Europe in 1996 for its efforts on the field of promoting European integration.

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KALININGRAD & TACIS

The City of Kaliningrad appeared on the world map only in 1991; for nearly 45 years it was completely closed for foreign visitors. Today Kaliningrad is the capital of the smallest and westernmost region of the Russian Federation, which, after the split of the Soviet Union, is separated from the main land of Russia. One of the best possibilities to learn from our western partners alongside with bilateral relations is participation in EU projects.

The City of Kaliningrad has participated in four projects funded by Tacis City Twinning Programme. They are:

- ”Improvement of the environmental situation in the harbours of Kaliningrad through training and exchange of experience and foundation of an environmental protection unit within the port administration of Kaliningrad” - in partnership with the City of Copenhagen in Denmark

- ”Support of SMEs” - in partnership with the City of Aalborg in Denmark

- ”Energy saving in the Central District Heating Network of Kaliningrad” - in partnership with Bremerhaven in Germany

- ”Support in creating sustainable transport system” (is still going on). EU Project Leader Authority is Southampton City Council in the UK.

The City of Kaliningrad has also participated in two projects funded by the Ecos-Ouverture programme. The

first project - TROS - “Training of retired officers” gave us the possibility to solve at least partly the problem of re-training of the officers, who retire not because of age, but because of the reduction of the army. The results of the second project - RUSSTI (Russian Short Sea Transport Investigation), were also very effective. A team of Russian and foreign scientists, experts and business people had the possibility to investigate the cargo and passenger flows in the Baltic Sea and propose the optimal - from their point of view - model of the short shipping in this area.

We must also mention one of the most successful projects in partnership with Aalborg (DK) and Bremerhaven (D), funded by the EU’s Life-fund and ECAT-Kaliningrad (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology), which, in its turn, generated more than 20 projects on the most vital problems of the city.

Participation in EU projects gives the City Hall a possibility to solve simultaneously a wide range of issues. It gives us a chance to strengthen the existing relations with local authorities and promotes the development of the new ones. Also, it provides good training opportunities for our specialists.

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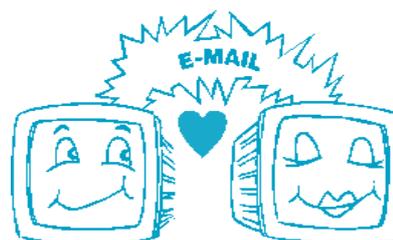
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NET FOR NETS IN KOTKA

Kotka is a city with about 56 000 inhabitants on the southern coast of Finland near the Russian boundary. Kotka has been one of the pioneers in developing the idea of an information society. A proposed service office project, “NET for nets”, has been presented to the Telematic Applications Programme of the European Commission by the city of Kotka together with the city of Kouvola, Kouvola Region and Regional Council of Kymenlaakso.

The location of Kotka is of great importance in the proposed project, since one objective has been to develop a consistent network around the Baltic Sea. The definite decision-making of the Commission takes place in the autumn 1997.

“NET for nets” was initiated by telematic companies from Finland (Novo Group), Germany, Italy and Spain, which are part of the European Local Authorities’ Telematic Network ELANET. “NET for nets” was presented to selected innovative cities, which joined the project enthusiastically.



cally.

The main aim of the project will be to produce and demonstrate municipal telematic platforms, a consistent package of public-oriented telematic services such as kiosks (self-service touch-automat) and telematic counters

for the citizens. These services will be presented in the Internet. The citizens have 24 hours access to the political apparatus and administration. By constructing telematic services for the future, Kotka and the other project partners will be on their way to a future

information society.

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CITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Since spring 1995 the two UBC member cities, and at the same time twin-cities, and Nykøbing F. (Denmark) and Liepāja (Latvia) are running a project to establish a City Development Planning for Liepāja with the headlines: Requirements, Chances and Perspectives. The German twin-city Darmstadt of Liepāja and its contact-city Freiberg (Saxonia) also participate in the project. The ECOS/Ouverture-Programme of the European Union is the main financier.

The preparations for the project have taken some time, but the project is now approved by the ECOS/Ouverture-Programme in the Winter 1996/97.



The project consists of the following elements:

- Land use plan
- Green area concept
- Traffic
- Environment

The work has been going on for some time. There will be some seminars and work-shops, before the

project is completed, probably at the end of May 1998. The total budget inclusive the co-financing from the EU is at the amount of 380.900 ECU.

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LÜBECK INTERPRISE 1997

7 Business Development Institutions Join Forces Under EU Programme.

Under the project management of datalink LS Lübeck, a business development project originally initiated between the Hanseatic City of Lübeck and the county administration of Malmöhus lan/Skurups kommun, 7 business development institutions around the Baltic Sea have joined their forces with the help of the EU INTERPRISE programme.

The aim of datalink LS INTERPRISE is to identify, match and invite SME's in the participating Bal-

tic Sea regions which have an interest in cooperating with each other. This is supported by DG XXIII as part of their INTERPRISE programme. Although it took nearly one year from the first meeting of the project group to the final approval of the European Commission the cooperation with the Brussels office has been extremely smooth in comparison with other EU programmes.

Our project is split into a project management group with reps from Kotka (FIN), Lübeck (D), Naestved (DK) and Skurup (S) and a project partner group with participants from Panevėžys (LIT), Sopot (PL) and St.

Petersburg (RUS). Apart from arranging the venue as such a multi-language Internet presentation has been created with is outlining the project and above all the participating companies (<http://www.datalink-ls.com>). Further regions especially from the Baltic States are welcome to join us.

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NORWEGIAN EU COOPERATION

The European Office in Hordaland

The County of Hordaland is situated on the west coast of Norway with the City of Bergen as its centre. In January 1996 the County of Hordaland established the European Office to inform and advise companies, municipalities and private individuals about European matters. The European Office assembles different kinds of European services and project-administrations. The concept of the European Office is unique as it assembles all these services in one place.

Norway's membership in the European Economic Area (EEA) has given us access to various programmes in the European Union. The European Office informs about the different EU-programmes in its Newsletter, offers support in application-procedures, and is active in finding partners. This has resulted in several favourably evaluated EU-projects, like RITTS (regional technology transfer), THERMIE (energy control), TERRA (local and regional development) and student and youth exchanges. Many projects are

still in the preparation phase, such as Ecos/Ouverture and Interreg IIC.

The European Office is still enlarging its network of contacts and welcomes new partners of cooperation. Hordaland has opened its view to the east and is also interested in formal cooperation with Baltic regions.

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The Local Association of Greater Bergen Area and the TERRA Programme

In 1989 the City of Bergen, the second largest city in Norway, and its 10 neighbouring local authorities established a local association (RBO), with about 300.000 inhabitants. The vision of the RBO is to create a regional identity and make the inhabitants accept their responsibility for a sustainable

development in the region.

In the autumn 1996 the RBO was accepted in a partnership consisting of four regions from Finland, Sweden, Spain and England, who had applied for financial assistance from the EU's TERRA program to "forward strategies for the physical and economical development of the participating regions based on the criteria of sustainable development". The objectives of the project are to link spatial planning to economic development using sustainable criteria in each region, to use the experience of the partners to develop transferable procedures, to have economic development agencies taking part in the work and to create an organisational structure that will support the linkages even after the project has been closed.

The project is due to start in September 1997, given the Commissions final approval, and will last for two years.

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TARTU - WORKING WITH EU PROJECTS

Tartu, the second largest town in Estonia, is one of the newest UBC members and well on its way with the cooperation with the European Union. Tartu has experience in participation in different EU programs and today two of them are in progress

At the beginning of this year formally started a PHARE-ECOS/Ouverture energy saving project, where the aim is to raise consumers' awareness and to improve insulation of block buildings for rising heating efficiency. In this particular project the partners are Deventer, Zutphen, Uppsala and Tartu. At the same time it should be mentioned, that the money from PHARE has not yet arrived us,

although the ECOS/Ouverture has already stopped the financing for EU partners, because their 12 month of project duration is over.

The other EU project is DEMCON (Demilitarisation and Conversion) with the following partners: Athens (Greece), Liperi (Finland), Legnica (Poland), Arad (Romania) and Tartu. The goal of the project is to find civil use for the former Soviet military airfield in Tartu, which today is out of activities. Although the contract was signed a few months ago and the start-conference in Tartu was carried out successfully, the ECOS/Ouverture money has not yet arrived Tartu.

As can be seen from the above

named examples, often a very big problem for the partners is enormous bureaucracy in dealing with the EU. Confirmation of accepted projects and signing of contracts takes too much time and financing often comes too late. Of course, these failures decrease optimism of partners towards EU. Despite of these obstacles, the City of Tartu is always ready to share its experience with our friends and neighbours and this way contribute to the development of future Europe.

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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.

EU-PROJECTS IN TURKU

There are some 40 ongoing projects partly financed by the EU in Turku. Their part-financing by the city of Turku is altogether about 17 million USD. In the following a couple of examples of the projects in the fields of health and environment are being introduced.

Health

There are five projects in progress in Turku concerning health matters.

Supporting Clinical Outcomes in Primary Care for the Elderly works within the frames of the programme BIOMED 2 / SCOPE. The aim of the project is to create inter-European standards for estimating the quality and productivity of the care for the elderly. These standards will be tested by the participants of the project. By means of the standards an expansion of a target-oriented culture in the care of the elderly will be supported.

A good example of combining health and environment is provided by the LIFE project *Hospital Waste Management* taking place in St Petersburg. The project aims at creating a model for a better processing of hospital waste. The good results of the project will certainly be utilized in other cities as well.

Another example of sustainable development is the project "*Environment and Health in the Baltic Sea Region*", working within the frames of the programme PACTE. Being based on the fact that the state of environment and the health of people are strictly bound to each other, the project concentrates in investigating this interdependency in the Baltic Sea Region.

Environment

The city of Turku participates in several projects concerning environmental matters. The special interest of any of them is to investigate and take care of the environment in the Baltic Sea Region. Quoting Co-Chairman of the UBC Commission on Environment *Mikko Jokinen* in the editorial of the *UBC Environmental Bulletin* 2/97: "*In this work everyone will be rewarded — by the improvement of our common Baltic Environment.*"

Considering the Baltic Sea Region, perhaps the most important project in which Turku is involved is the project *Municipal Environment Auditing Project* in the LIFE programme. The aim of the project is to develop a model for conducting environmental audits in Baltic cities. For more information,

please see a separate article on page 16.

Clean food by clean production methods is the motto of the LEONARDO project *FRIENDLYFOOD - Environmental Training for Food Industry Employees*. It is about the participating food industry companies internal adult education, which consists of a relatively large packet of environmental concerns, containing both basic level environmental matters as well as those specially directed to the needs of food industry. Special themes are water protection, packages and food industrial waste. The aim is to reduce the food industry's burden to the environment.

The amount of environmentally orientated projects in our region is remarkable. For example, out of the EU-projects with Turku involved, 20 per cent deal with environmental questions and many more include ecological aspects. In addition to these there is a large number of other projects in progress where the City of Turku is involved, concerning e.g. cultural exchange and language education, technology, commercial points of view etc.

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Turku City Information Office
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COPENHAGEN - TRADITIONS IN EU

Denmark became a member of the EEC in 1972. Consequently, there has been set up an administrative unit that is dealing with EU-policies. Furthermore, it - like many other regions and cities in Europe - has established a permanent representation in Brussels.

Copenhagen is going to be "the European Capital of the Environment". Already now, the EU Environmental Agency is situated in Copenhagen.

The INTERREG II programme, aiming at increased cohesion between border areas, has designated 15 MECU's to strengthen ties between the Greater

Copenhagen Area and the South Scania Region of Sweden.

In May the European Commission released the communication "Towards an urban agenda in the European Union". This communication can be seen as the starting point for a debate on future EU initiatives within urban development. It is our belief that there is a need for goal oriented and coherent urban policies, mainly because this clears the way for future urban development, but also because urban development is a precondition for sound regional and national development.

In the central and coordinating in-

ternational unit of the City of Copenhagen, International Affairs office, around 10 people are working with international cooperation. Of these, three are situated in the Copenhagen EU Office in Brussels.

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II. UBC today

17TH MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 17th meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on the 6-7th of June 1997 in the City of Bergen, Norway, upon the invitation of Mr Ingmar Ljones, Mayor of the City of Bergen.

The meeting was divided into two days. The first day was attended only by the members of the Executive Board. The second day was attended by the members of the Board, chairmen of the Commissions and invited guests.

The Executive Board meeting was opened by Mr Anders Engström, UBC President. Mr Engström indicated that last Executive Board meetings were attended by the large number of participants which made it difficult for the Board to perform its functions optimally. On the other hand the President stressed that participation of interested member cities in the Board meetings boosts activity of the cities.

After discussion the Board decided to maintain its sessions at the week-ends. The Executive Board will meet at the closed sessions on Friday afternoon. Saturday will be an open day to which all member cities are allowed to send one representative.

Mr Paweł ³aboklicki, the Secretary of the Union, presented the programme of the IV UBC General Conference "*Baltic Sea Cooperation Forum*". Mr ³aboklicki emphasized that EU Commissioner for Regional Policies, Foreign Ministers of Poland and Sweden as well as the chairmen of CBSS, Nordic Council, BSSSC, CPMR, BCCA accepted UBC invitation to speak at the conference.

The President introduced possible subjects of the workshops to be carried out during the conference. The aim



These are the persons behind the decisions made in Bergen.

to organise the workshops is to enable a more efficient work at the conference. The Board decided the conference workshops will deal with the following subjects: Agenda 21, EU expansion in the BSR, local government role, the Baltic Actors.

The Board decided to recommend the General Conference to make some changes in the UBC Statute. For example the Board expressed the opinion that other organisations and institutions interested in UBC work may become the supporting members of the Union. The Executive Board shall be authorized to decide upon the acceptance and fees for supporting members. As regards the membership fees for member cities it was recommended that fees shall be proposed by the Executive Board but decided by the General Conference.

Mr Kari Salmi, Mayor of Lahti, made a presentation about his city and asked the Board to accept Lahti as UBC member. The Board decided to accept the City of Lahti as a Member of the Union of the Baltic Cities and wished Lahti successful cooperation with other UBC members. The number of Union member cities reached the figure of 70.

Furthermore representatives of seven UBC working Commissions submitted reports and answered questions on Commissions' activities since last Executive Board Meeting in Stockholm, 25 January 1997.

The Commission on Communication proposed to organise a seminar for city officials and politicians interested in Internet, to be held in October in Kalmar.

Mr Mikko Jokinen, Turku, Commission on Environment, informed about successful implementation of *Municipal Environmental Auditing* project and introduced the next issue of *Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin*.

Mr Ulrich Bauermeister, Rostock, Commission on Social Affairs, reported from the Conference on Labour Market and Social Policy, held in Rostock and attended by 120 participants from 35 cities.

Mr Jussi Kautto, Helsinki Planning Office, referred to the last meeting of Executive Board where it was decided that UBC should become active in the field of urban and spatial planning. Mr Kautto presented an action plan proposing to start the work as a project



to prepare background for future commission. The Board accepted the proposal and authorized Helsinki together with Elbląg, Malmö, St. Petersburg and Umeå to go on with project implementation.

Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC Project Manager, reported on the present status of ongoing UBC projects. Mr Janusson informed also about the rules and deadlines of present EU programmes related to the BSR such as

Ecos-Ouverture and CREDO. Project Manager mentioned that UBC submitted a letter to the European Commission pointing out, from the user perspective, the advantages and disadvantages of existing EU programmes directed to BSR.

Secretary Paweł aboklicki introduced the last issue of *Baltic Cities Bulletin* devoted to *Information Technology and Communication*. Besides the general articles introducing the

subject, the member cities had an opportunity to present their projects and achievements in this field. The Board expressed its satisfaction to the Editorial Board for the professional level of the bulletin and strongly encouraged all member cities to actively contribute to the next issues.

Mrs Hjördis Höglund, Leader of UBC Women's Network, reported from the seminar organised by the Network in Kalmar on 24 May 1997, in association with the *Nordic Women Week*.

The Board decided to hold its next meeting in the eve of the General Conference in Gdańsk on 11 September 1997.

THE UBC-EU INFORMATION PROJECT ON THE MOVE

Interim results and perspectives from the "take-off" seminar in Copenhagen

Referring to the previous presentation of "The UBC-EU Information Project" in the *Baltic Cities Bulletin*, the main purpose of the project is to prepare the UBC member cities for the enlargement of the EU in the Baltic Sea Region. The first event raised a number of questions which need to be addressed and further discussed in the



The Mayor of Szczecin, Mr. Bartłomiej Sochański stated the importance of the cities, the local and regional authorities, when EU policy has to be implemented and explained to the citizens.

nearest future: How do the cities fulfil their Union membership obligations? How shall the UBC help member cities to integrate? What impact will an implementation of European Legislation, policies, etc. have on the cities? How should the UBC member cities best prepare for the integration process? Why do cities have to use a lot of resources on international activities e.g. having permanent representations in Brussels? How to make our regional partnership more active and more efficient?

The preliminary answer to some of these questions - and the present results of the seminar - are:

- to prepare cities regarding: understanding how the impact of an EU membership affects city actions and strategies, development of democracy in the European context, the relation between cities and government and regions, a better understanding of what EU membership actually means, possibilities and obligations etc.

- an improved dialogue and information exchange between the cities, respective governments and the EU system during the EU projects application evaluation processes.

The cities will be better prepared to obtain the benefits and fulfil their obligations of the membership as well as contributing to the EU from their own experiences. In any case, as a result of the project - membership or not

- the cities will obtain a better understanding of how the European Union works.

The seminar took place in Copenhagen 22-24 May 1997 and was attended by approximately 40 participants, including the project cities, speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament, Copenhagen EU Office in Brussels and local representatives. The project is supported by the EU programme Baltic Small Project Facility (BSPF), preliminary planned for one year and is expected to be continued.

The Project focus

Setting up the Copenhagen seminar's programme, the leading cities had the intention of presenting a broad picture of the EU experiences and future expectations from a view of the Baltic cities, members and non-members.

The mayors of Szczecin, Tampere and Copenhagen described different situations and experiences of their cities. The mayors recognized that the new situation in the Baltic Region with the support from the European Union gives a historic opportunity to support a strong political and economic development in the whole region.

The process of greater regional involvement offers an excellent opportunity for developing a new and dynamic economy with support from the EU. This is why the combat against un-



employment must be given a higher priority on the agenda when the Union's structural policy is renewed.

Partnership and decision-making

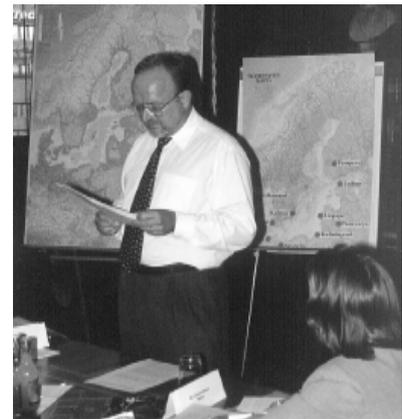
It was broadly recognized in the discussions that the principle of subsidiarity and the active involvement of the cities will help to create an understanding and familiarity with EU and its institutions among the citizens. Decisions should be made as close to the citizens as possible. The regions can decide and carry out policies in these matters which are adapted by their own populations and economies, policies that relate to their specific socio-economic needs and values. The regions are therefore considered to be carriers of democracy, cultural diversity, socio-economic development and territorial cohesion in Europe. In this sense the Maastricht Treaty with its inclusion of regional policy and the principle of subsidiarity has developed a new spirit of cooperation between the regions, the Member States and the European institutions. But also needed is a increased awareness of democracy, more transparency, simpler decision-making processes, more efficient administrative procedures and development of regional partnership.

Project evaluation

Mr. Dominik Górski, the project leader, encouraged the cities to work out their common vision for the proposal, in particular its contents should be made more attractive through task force activities. Steering Group seminars will be continued in a new application as a very important element in the overall project management. Task Force activities and their results shall be reported to the Steering Group and presented at the UBC General Conference. Mr. Anders Engström, UBC President, concluded during the seminar that it is time to realise that dialogues and goal-orientated actions must be increased in order to achieve the appropriate results.

The next Steering Group seminar will be held in Szczecin on 4-6 September 1997. It will be focused on the situation and the role of local governments in the European integration process. The project cities will meet at a conference on 17-18 November which will be hosted by the city of Tallinn. The aim behind the conference is a further strengthening of the engagement of each partner participating in the project and the integration concept behind it.

In summary, "The UBC-EU Infor-



The Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Mr. Jens Kramer Mikkelsen, stressed that the European Union can be a complicated thing to handle and sometimes difficult for the citizens to understand and relate to.

mation Project" is considered to be of strategic importance to the UBC. Therefore, it is our hope and ambition that the active participation of all project working cities and their activities will have a considerable impact improving the co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region in the years to come.

by Ewa Kurjata and Klaus Svendsen

The report of the seminar is available on request:

City of Copenhagen
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URBAN PLANNING AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

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In Stockholm on 25 Jan 1997 in the meeting of the Executive Board of the UBC the Board discussed the idea to establish a Commission on Urban Planning into the UBC.

There were discussions in small groups on how to continue. Especially the city commissioner Ilmar Reepalu from Malmö, first vice-governor Vyacheslav N Tserbakov and head of department Igor O Lonsky from St. Petersburg were interested in the idea.

The Executive Board decided that the UBC should become active in the field of urban and spatial planning. The board decided to appoint a working group consisting of Helsinki, Malmö,

St. Petersburg, Umeå and Elbl'g, if interested. They have as a task to find out the best model for UBC involment in this field.

One of the ideas is a network on professional urban physical planners - those, who are working in the field of town planning, master planning and building. In cooperation they can exchange information and experiences of actual issues. Maybe they can also find partners into some EU-projects. Perhaps by this means they can also open doors for the private companies to operate.

In the first phase the UBC needs the network of the planners. Then the UBC needs the book, were the member cit-

ies of the UBC would tell themselves about their physical urban planning and give basic information about the city.

In Bergen 6.-7. June 1997 in the meeting of the UBC executive board the board accepted the proposal and authorized to carry on its realisation.

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TASK FORCE MEETING COMING UP !

Your city is one of the 70 members of the Union of the Baltic Cities and therefore entitled to nominate one representative to the UBC Task Force for Communication and Public Relations (TF). TF is a functional group of contact persons who have the will and the skill to promote practical Baltic Sea cooperation within UBC member cities.

The Task Force members are typically city officials responsible for public and/or international relations in their cities, as the aim of the TF is essentially to develop communication about international projects, partnerships, events and other developments regarding cities and the region.

The Union is growing rapidly and so is the importance of the role of the TF. Please make sure that your city is involved in the presently ongoing updating process. The next TF meeting



"Is your city already a Task Force member?" Paweł Aboklicki, Secretary General, Anders Engstrom, President and Sonja Hilavuo, Chairman of the TF encourage cities to join.

under the theme **"Project management and Communication"** will take place in Kalmar, Sweden on October 5-7, 1997. Please contact the Chairman of the Task Force, so that your city can be included in mailing lists for further information about this event.

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BALTIC MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING (MEA) SEMINARS

UBC's MEA project has proceeded to its second phase, the dissemination of the model to interested member cities. This will be achieved by organizing four training seminars during September-October 1997.

The UBC Commission on Environment launched the MEA project in March 1996. It aims at creating a model to be used in conducting environmental audits in Baltic Sea cities. The project is financed by the EU's Life-fund, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the World Bank and the participating cities (Helsinki, Tallinn and Turku).

The first phase of the project was the pilot auditing of the City of Tallinn where the new MEA model was tested.

Based on the results and experiences of that study, the following publications have been written:

- Manual for Municipal Environmental Auditing (MEA) in Baltic Cities
- MEA Workbook
- Conclusions and Recommendations of the MEA Project in Tallinn
- The Initial Environmental Review of the City of Tallinn
- MEA Pilot Project in Tallinn

Some of the material is also available in Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian.

In the second phase of the project other Baltic Sea cities are encouraged to adopt the model and use it to audit their own city. The model will be presented in national MEA-dissemination

seminars in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia in September and October 1997 as follows:

Panevėžys, Lithuania 22 - 23 September
Riga, Latvia 24 - 25 September
Kaliningrad 29 - 30 September
Gdynia, Poland 1 - 2 October

Further information:

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Fax. +358 2 253 8613

E-n
selk: dorff-





THE UBC CALENDAR OF CULTURAL FESTIVALS 1997

The Commission on Culture has in June this year actualized the Calendar of Cultural Festivals in the UBC cities. Today 119 festivals are presented on the UBC home page: www.ubc.net under the headline "Events calendar".

This has been done in cooperation between the cities of Szczecin, Visby and Kalmar. The aim is to spread information about cultural festivals in the Baltic Sea Region to facilitate new cultural meetings and contacts.

In the Calendar you can find basic facts about the event. A short form has been sent to the municipal cultural offices of all UBC cities collect additional information. The Commission on Culture wishes that the cultural officials will assist in gathering this data and return the form to Szczecin by 1 November 1997. The form has the fol-

lowing 10 points:

- City • Country • Year, month, date
- Name of the festival • Main arranger • Address • Tel • Fax • E-mail
- Description of the festival

The UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions

The UBC Catalogue of Cultural Institutions was first made in printed form in 1995. It contains information about 654 cultural departments, libraries, museums, theatres, galleries, cultural centres, schools of music, art, etc. in 47 UBC cities. One copy of this catalogue was sent out to each of these cultural institutions to stimulate cultural cooperation and exchange.

This year the catalogue is being updated and enlarged with information from new UBC cities and it will be presented on the UBC home page

(www.ubc.net) later this year. A form with the same points (with the exception of time) as above plus following points has been sent out.

- Name of the institution • Web address on Internet • Director/manager • Main cultural activities

If you want to contribute to the Calendar of Cultural Festivals and/or Catalogue of Cultural Institutions and if you have not received the form, you can send the information directly to:

Olov Gibson
Department of Culture and Leisure
Municipality of Gotland
SE-621 81 Visby, Sweden.
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UBC WOMEN'S NETWORK MET IN KALMAR

The latest event within the UBC Women's Network was a seminar in Kalmar on 24 May 1997 held in connection with the Nordic Women's Week. The theme of the seminar was "Women around the Baltic Sea are forming their future" and the purpose was to discuss the development of the Network. The goal with the Women's Network within UBC is to get the women in the member cities more involved in the cooperation. One of the strategies in this work is to inform and support the women through the Network. The whole UBC as an organisation will then be strengthened.

Mrs Hjördis Höglund presented the delegates with UBC's possibilities for co-operation including the already existing channels like the contact persons in the member cities and the UBC



Bulletin. The delegates proposed several fields of interest for the Women's network e.g. sharing experiences and exchange of programmes for women as leaders, women in business, women in politics, female farmers, house

wives, etc. The coming work with local Agenda 21 in the member cities is also an important field where the women have to influence the work. Women also want to share experiences about the children in the school, the child care, etc. And there is a strong wish to involve the men in this work. So far it has nearly been too much of proposals and programmes from the women in the west, so it is necessary that the women from the eastern part of our region also decide in which fields and how they want to cooperate.

Further information:

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NATIONAL UBC MEETING IN FINLAND

The first national meeting of Finnish UBC member cities was held in Turku, Finland in June immediately after the 17th UBC Executive Board meeting in Bergen. The Finnish member cities showed great interest towards the meeting and eight of the total nine cities participated in this event hosted by Mr Armas Lahoniitty, the Mayor of

Turku.

The main topics of the meeting were UBC's role and its activities, communication and the board membership for the next two years period. UBC was regarded as a communication network via which the cities can act directly without any intermediaries. Many cities expressed their will to contribute to the work of the Commissions in the future. Some criticisms was pointed to the initiation and coordination of UBC

projects as well as acquisition of financing for them. Also the Finnish representation in the UBC Executive Board was discussed but no decision was reached regarding this question.

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NATIONAL UBC MEETING IN ESTONIA

On April 11th 1997, the Estonian UBC Member Cities Tallinn, Tartu, Kuressaare, Haapsalu and Pärnu met in Pärnu for a National Meeting.

The City of Pärnu is the Estonian representative of the UBC Board, and the Mayor, Mr Vello Järvesalu, chaired the meeting. Present were, apart from Mayors and Vice-mayors from the Estonian Cities, also the UBC President, Mr Anders Engström and the UBC Project manager, Juhan Janusson.

The agenda of the meeting included various topics, such as UBC Policy, projects and the work of the UBC Commissions. The participants shared their opinions on the role of Pärnu as the Estonian Member of the UBC Board. The meeting also discussed important issues of the UBC activities, such as exchange of information, encouraging new UBC members and the work of the UBC Commissions. The participants emphasised the favourable opportunity and necessity of taking part of the work of the UBC Commissions which studies problems profoundly and work together towards finding realistic new solutions.

Juhan Janusson, the UBC Project

Manager, introduced terms and conditions of projects and programmes undertaken in the framework of the UBC. The participant were very much interested in the subject as the number of projects carried out in Estonia in co-operation with the UBC is rather small. As a concrete example, the proposal to establish an emergency centre in connection with the Via Baltica highway was discussed.

Also projects related to the increase of the potential of the Baltic Sea Region cities, urbanisation of the population, development of the communications, transport and human resources, tourism and the environmental issues of the islands and coastal areas were discussed.

The Estonian UBC Cities put forward their proposals for the UBC General Conference, where the President, Vice President and members of the UBC Board will be elected for the next term of two years. The city of Pärnu was nominated to represent the Estonian Cities in the UBC Board.



Mr Vello Järvesalu, the Mayor of Pärnu, chaired the national meeting of Estonian UBC member cities.





III. News and Views

6TH CBSS MINISTERIAL SESSION IN RIGA

The Council of the Baltic Sea States had its 6th meeting 2-3 July 1997, this time in Riga. The CBSS consists of the Foreign ministers of eleven states in the Baltic Sea Region and the European Commission. Also the President of the UBC, Mr Anders Engstrom, participated, as well as many other representatives of Baltic Sea Organisations.

The main topic was the implementation of the Kalmar Action Programmes for the Baltic Sea States cooperation and the European Commission's Baltic Sea Region Initiative, adopted at the CBSS 5th meeting in Kalmar. Concrete actions have been taken and a number of initiatives made over the past year. The ministers evaluated the work already done and made the decisions for further follow-up. The role of CBSS in the European context was discussed as well.

In the Kalmar Programme "Increased people-to-people contacts and civic security", the importance of continued cooperation in the spheres of

civic security and combating organised crime was emphasised. A Task-force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region, established by Heads of Government in Visby in 1996, was also noted. The Council will continue to study the concept of civic security.

The close cooperation between the CBSS and other organisations acting in the region, such as BSSSC, UBC, Ars Baltica and Baltic Tourism Cooperation, was welcomed.

The Kalmar Programmes also emphasise "Economic coordination and integration". The progress made towards economic integration, was noted. The establishment of the Baltic Business Advisory Council was particularly welcomed. Special attention must be paid to the growing East-West-East traffic in the Region.

Border crossing remains a problem. National authorities have been given the task of monitoring the situation.

The necessity for sustainable and coherent economic growth in the Region and elimination of disparities in economic performance between the countries was emphasised.



Strengthening Environmental Protection is also an important part of the Kalmar Programmes. The intensive work of the Helsinki Commission were welcomed.

The Ministers instructed the CSO to prepare and consider a final proposal for setting up a permanent CBSS secretariat and, if agreed upon, submit the proposal to ministers for decision by written procedure.

The CBSS meetings are highly valuable. As a general conclusion, from the UBC point of view, it is of course important to coordinate governmental, regional and local goals. The needs at the local levels should guide the development in a high degree. There must be more cooperation and less top-down managing. The self-governing of local authorities must be emphasised, because it is often at the local level where the problems emerge.

EIB FORUM TO DISCUSS NORTHERN EUROPE

The European Investment Bank (EIB), the long-term financing institution of the European Union, will hold this year's Forum in Stockholm on 23 and 24 October 1997 on the theme "Bridging The Seas in Northern Europe". Over 300 experts from the European Union and from Central and Eastern European countries will discuss the challenges and opportunities lying ahead for Northern Europe. They are representing international institutions, national and local au-

thorities, banks, industry, non-governmental organisations and the media. Mr Paweł aboklicki, Secretary General for UBC, is invited to deliver a presentation in this event.

The EIB was established in 1958 under the Treaty of Rome setting up the European Community and is supporting capital investment projects that further European integration and other EU objectives. While strengthening economically weak regions in the EU has always been its main objective, the



EIB is also participating in the implementation of the Union's development and cooperation policy toward some 120 countries throughout the world.

In 1996, the EIB provided loans totalling ECU 23.2 billion, of which 2.3



billion for projects outside the EU. The Bank borrows on the capital markets the funds for its lending. Its bonds are regularly rated "AAA" by the leading rating agencies. As the EIB works on a non-profit basis it can pass on to project promoters the excellent conditions obtained on the markets.

Growing Role in the Baltic region

The Baltic is becoming increasingly important for the EU and its partner countries. With the exception of Russia, all countries around the Baltic seaboard are either EU members (Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland) or signatories of European agreements (Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia). Under a regional environmental protection programme, the EIB has financed water treatment plants in Warsaw and Stockholm, Greifswald, Schwerin, Kiel and Lübeck. Smaller scale environmental schemes are being financed under EIB global loans (credit lines) to partner banks in Germany, Sweden, Finland, Poland and Latvia. The EIB is making available its finance, know-how and experience in a number of Central and Eastern European countries since 1990; lending in the Baltic countries started in 1993. By the end of 1996, the total lent in eleven countries in the region had

reached nearly ECU 5 billion. Under a new mandate for the period 1997-1999, the EIB is to provide another ECU 3.52 billion in the region. In addition the Bank will also, at the request of the EU's Council of Ministers, create a substantial pre-accession lending facility to support the candidates for membership.

Focus on Communication Infrastructure and SMEs

The best-known EIB-financed schemes in the Nordic EU member countries are the two rail and road links (bridges and tunnels) across the Scandinavian straits, the Great Belt and the Øresund. In the new EU member states in Scandinavia, the Bank granted major loans for the railway lines on the east and west coasts of Sweden, and for railway and road sections in southern Finland. The second largest sector financed in the Nordic countries, after transport, is energy, frequently associated with environmental protection. The largest project was the so called 'Baltic Cable' linking the Swedish and German power grids.

In the Baltic States, the EIB has financed several rail and road connections including the Via Baltica, ports and airports, energy and telephone networks, as well as power stations. The Bank also assists the development of small and medium-scale manufactur-



EIB Headquarters in Luxemburg.

ing and tourism enterprises through its global loans to selected banks in all three Baltic countries.

The EIB Forum 1997 follows similar events in Amsterdam in 1995 on the role of private sector financing of major infrastructure, and in Madrid in 1996 on partnership in the Mediterranean.

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INVITATION TO ECO-BALTIC CONFERENCE

2nd ECO-BALTIC Conference Environmental Management in the Baltic Sea region, 9-11 October 1997, Gdańsk, Poland. The Event for EMAS and ISO 14000 series.

The 2nd ECO-BALTIC Conference will be held in Gdańsk, Poland, October 9 - 11, 1997. The event is organised by the International Network for Environmental Management (INEM) as an official part of the Gdańsk Mil-

lennium Celebrations. It is under the patronage of the Ministers of the Environment of Poland, Mr. ̇elichowski, Ms. Lindh, Sweden and Dr. Merkel, Germany. It offers the **Information Forum** through workshops, dealing with the latest development in environmental management (mainly EMAS and ISO 14001) and what it means for Eastern Europe the **Contact-Forum** on company level, formally arranged through the „Company Contact Service“ the **Presentation-Forum** for



INEM

companies and their activities.

The 2nd ECO-BALTIC Conference is organised in cooperation with HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) and the BCCA (Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association). It aims to provide business and industry with the environ-



mental management instruments they need to improve their performance and their competitiveness on the European and international markets.

The conference helps industries in Central and Eastern Europe to adapt to the market demands of an integrated Europe and meet the challenges posed by international standards in the key areas of environment and quality (the European Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and the international ISO 14001 norm.

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BALTIC 21



Baltic 21, the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, is an initiative taken by the region's Prime Ministers at their meeting in Visby in May 1996. In the Declaration from this summit the Heads of Government agreed on an Agenda for Action which proposed three thematic Action Programmes covering increased people-to-people cooperation and civic security, economic coordination and cooperation and strengthened environmental protection. They also decided about the development of an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region.

From the point of view of the Baltic 21 process, it is significant that this initiative emerges from the highest political level, thus indicating the integrated and cross-sectoral nature of Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development. The very notion of those two concepts involves an integration of social, economical and environmental perspectives, Sustainable Develop-

ment is thus not only related to the environment sector or any other sector, even if much of the work have to be organised along such lines for practical reasons.

The Saltsjöbaden Declaration. "Towards an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region", emerging from a meeting of the Ministers of Environment in Saltsjöbaden outside Stockholm in October 1996, outlined the scope, format, time-schedule and structure of Baltic 21, to be elaborated, and also defined the organisation of the work. The emphasis should be on regional cooperation, and the work should build on what is already going on in the region, primarily Helcom, Vasab and the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission.

It was also decided to focus attention on seven main sectors:

- agriculture
- energy
- fisheries
- forestry
- industry
- tourism
- transport

For each of these sectors two lead-countries have been appointed. The time-schedule is short, Baltic 21 should be ready for consideration in the first half of 1998, and adopted at the highest possible political level. The Agenda should include an action programme for sustainable development, and i.a. include financing.

A steering group, the Senior Officials Group (SOG) has been formed "to closely monitor, contribute to and steer the process" ... and to provide a forum for negotiation of the document. Participants are government representatives, representatives of International Financial Institutions, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the International Chamber of Commerce, the Union of the Baltic Cities, NGO's and others. The SOG has some 30 members and will meet regularly during the process. Progress of the work is published at the Baltic 21 Website <http://www.ee/baltic21/>

UBC is represented in the work on Baltic 21 through its Environmental Commission and Mr Peter Gavelin from the City of Sundsvall.

BALTIC MARITIME INITIATIVE

The background of this initiative is based on the worry about the problem of ever growing number of maritime and other organizations around the Baltic Sea Region. All claiming their uniqueness and importance, and all after various funds. To ensure the efficiency of operations a coordinating umbrella should be established in order to avoid overlapping and duplicity of actions. Maritime issues should be run in a most effective way allowing a fast set up of maritime infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region.

To evaluate the situation Dr. Bangemann, EU commissioner, suggested to arrange a Baltic Maritime Future Conference in Helsinki. In the conference, which took place in Helsinki on September 10. 1996, over 200 participants were presenting all the Baltic Region countries and the Commission.



THE BALTIC MARITIME INITIATIVE, BMI's objectives as set in the conference are:

- coordinate of existing maritime activities to avoid overlapping
- bring together maritime players of different sectors
- guarantee the bottom - up - approach
- ensure that maritime industry is involved
- innovate, execute, coordinate and evaluate programs for the Baltic



Sea Region (e.g. Tacis/ Phare, Cross-border, TEN, Interreg etc.)

BALTIC MARITIME DATA BASE is needed to get comprehensive and integral tool for all maritime actors in the Region allowing to run coordinated actions and to improve cooperation among maritime industries. The Data Base's. first phase was completed at end of June 1997 as a joint project of the City of Helsinki and the Commission. The Baltic Maritime Data Base is based on Internet technology, the ba-

sically commercial information to be utilized is easily accessible and free of charge. The subject categories of the system are entitled: Companies, Routes, Statistics, Events, Law and Regulations, Associations, Research. It is based on existing WWW pages at the moment consisting of 140 WWW pages. This pilot data base is to be found under following address:

http: / www.tieke.fi / tieke / baltic.

This data base is a first of its kind and will be used as a model for other maritime data bases, first by the recently founded MARIS centres around Europe. The second phase of the data base, which will further expand the contacts, will be executed in 1998 with the same Helsinki team and in cooperation with the Commission. The implementation of the BMI is planned to start with setting up panels on specific items (e.g. Short Sea Shipping, MARIS, Maritime Resources, - Research etc.) important is that the already existing panels on the subjects are to be utilized. The final aim of the BMI is to create an official project: The Baltic Maritime Master Plan for the EU Commission.

TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

This Conference, prepared by VASAB 2010 in co-operation with the German Federal Ministry for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development and other German institutions took place in Rostock 12 - 13 June 1997. The main idea of the Conference was to facilitate the INTERREG II C introduction to the BSR. The Conference was attended by more than 180 representatives and over 80 transnational spatial development projects for which Community assistance will be requested were presented in it.

The Conference had two plenary sessions and three working groups. One of the groups was devoted to the BSR settlement structures development. The urban projects of EU member-states had the focal point in the organisation and canalisation of economic growth. The urban projects of the transition countries had the focal point in the creation of an urban network in these countries to develop economic growth. Summing up the results of this working group one has to underline the lack of long-term, strategic dimension in the current co-

operation of the BSR cities. Therefore the INTERREG II C creates an opportunity to supplement current co-operation between towns and cities with a long term perspective, addressing the problem of competitiveness of BSR cities with regard to the other Pan-European city networks. The INTERREG II C can help with examining the existing city potential, the missing links and weaknesses of the BSR city network

The Conference also adopted the resolution which **reaffirmed the importance of the VASAB projects** which were developed from the cross-sectoral spatial planning perspective „Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010" (VASAB 2010) and named in the „Stockholm Declaration on sustainable spatial development policy in the Baltic Sea Region“ and stress that in view of limited resources national development projects must be optimised through transnational co-operation.

Underlined the importance of INTERREG II C, PHARE and TACIS integration.

Stressed the need:

to realise projects which support economic activities and sustainable



development, optimise sectoral investment for regional development and contribute to future job creation,

to focus on operational measures, e.g. concrete regional project management, pilot and demonstration projects, planning activities preparing investment, such as expertises, feasibility studies, action concepts, land use planning in further developing research projects and studies, to concentrate activities on most important projects for the Baltic Sea Region and to combine therefore project ideas.

It was also decided that the work on INTERREG II C concrete multilateral projects **will continue**. The participants will revise their project proposals according to eligibility criteria of EU with their partners found here, hand it over to VASAB-Secretariat up to the end of August, discuss it at a follow-up conference in Karlskrona in autumn 1997 and at similar events and use it than in applying for Community support.



CAR FREE CITIES NETWORK

- WORKING TOWARDS URBAN SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY - EUROPE WIDE!

The idea of a network of cities meeting to discuss traffic problems was first mooted by the European Commissioner for the Environment in June 1992. Two years later in Amsterdam on 24-25 May 1994, Car Free Cities was launched, as the result of collaboration between the Urban Environment Unit of DG XI and Eurocities, in the framework of the 5th Environmental Action Programme "Towards Sustainability".

In Amsterdam, Mayors of 35 cities signed a Car Free Cities Charter, setting out the key aims of the network:

- to encourage the reduced use of the private car and
- to promote environmentally-friendly modes of both passenger and commercial transport in urban areas.

In order to achieve these goals, members commit themselves to exchanging ideas and experiences, developing transnational projects, exploring and implementing good practice in technology and management.

The network now has some 60



members from throughout the European Union, from Iceland, Poland and the Czech Republic and Israel. Member cities participate in the activities of the network's working groups, which explore the following themes:

- Cycling and walking
- Commercial traffic
- Public transport
- Commuting
- Practical alternatives to the car
- Less polluting urban vehicles

The working groups are not only a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, but they are also the starting point for joint actions or studies. Examples include a study into different types of light rail systems by the

Public transport working group, a comparative guide to parking policy by the Commuting working group and a brochure explaining how car sharing works, produced by the group looking at Practical alternatives to the car. Future activities will include focusing on city bike schemes, hybrid buses and examining mobility management schemes in practice.

Car Free Cities welcomes any European city who is striving towards a reduction in the use of private cars and is planning or in the process of implementing policies to foster sustainable mobility for their citizens.

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BALTIC SEA CULTURE CENTRE

The Baltic Sea Culture Centre in Gdańsk develops cultural cooperation between Gdańsk and Pomerania region and the Baltic Sea countries. In the year 1997 in which the City of Gdańsk celebrates its 1000 anniversary the Centre prepares the following festivals and exhibitions.

The International Festival of Monumental Mural Painting

12 artists from Lithuania, Estonia, USA, Mexico and Poland - winners of the international contest for a design of a monumental wall painting - were invited to realise their projects in

Zaspa, one of the modern district of Gdańsk. The paintings will be finished by the end of September, 97.

Pomeranian Family - a Photographic Exhibition

It is a presentation of about 1300 photos from Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. We wanted to show families and their histories in the cultural, social and historical context, from the end of 19th century up to nowadays, when political situation so often forced them to move their homes from one place to another. The photos show the life in small villages and big agglomerations

- life of peasants, craftsmen, workers, intellectuals. We present family celebrations, religious feasts and ceremonies, as well as every day work. We hope that presented pictures will help to create the living stories - sagas and family trees. The exhibition is presented in former Manege till the end



of September '97.

21st Northern People Folklore Festival

During this year Festival (4th - 10th August, 97) we are going to present 25 groups from Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Poland. Two years ago we decided to make the Festival's formula more open. Inspired by the Kashubian music we invited Jarek Ćemietana, a very known guitarist and jazzman to cooperation. That concert was a big success. It was a very interesting experience not only for the public but for the musicians as well. We are going to hear that concert again this year 5th August in Gdańsk and 6th August in Hel. During the Festival Wojtek Waglewski from Voo-Voo will lead workshops for the participants of the Festival. The closing concert Voo-Voo „About the North” will be performed on 8th August in Gdańsk.



25 groups participated in the Northern People Folklore Festival.

WOMEN AND MEN IN DIALOGUE

At the beginning of August 1997 the city of Valmiera in Latvia hosted a wide ranging Baltic-Nordic conference on gender equality. The four day conference attracted 1000 women and men including Ms. Hjördis Höglund who represented the Union of the Baltic Cities. The aim of the conference was to draw the attention of society, the government and the Saeima (parliament) to the question of equal gender rights as one of the prerequisites for social development and also to promote a dialogue between the sexes. The conference was a forum for discussion also on issues relating to education, family, health, legislation, media, politics, violence and working life.



WOMEN AND MEN IN DIALOGUE
BALTIC-NORDIC CONFERENCE
VALMIERA, LATVIA 7-10 AUGUST 1997

UNION FOR EDUCATION

The regional office of the Union for Education in the New Lander in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is working in the following fields:

Culture and arts & crafts - Integration of artists and craftsmen / women in other areas of the society.

Vocational education and training - Promotion of the implementation of nature and environmental education in the vocational education and training. It has started in pre-schools with the vocational training for teachers and social pedagogues.

Work with children and youngsters outside school - Support in finding / searching for the right occupation. In this reference we are interested in the education and employment market in Europe.

Tourism - Cultural tourism with creativity vacation. The interest is in "still not found" fields of activity and in rural tourism, the so-called green tourism and health tourism.

Furthermore, it initiates trans-regional and international arrangements, workshops and conferences like a German-Scandinavian Workshop Week under the topic "Life- Learning- Work in dialogue with art" or a German-Austrian-Scandinavian Workshop which brings together pre-school teachers and representatives from the institution which educate teachers.

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IV. Member Cities in Action

EURO ENVIRONMENT IN AALBORG



Top managers from European industry exchange experience on sustainable development in Aalborg, Denmark

The international EURO ENVIRONMENT conference takes place at the Aalborg Congress and Culture Centre on September 23-25, 1998. The conference is expected to attract close to 600 participants from all over world. The organizers have invited keynote speakers for the five main themes of the conference, which are environmental management; environmentally sound product development; self regulation versus public regulation; cleaner technology and prevention; and stakeholder management.

“Business is on the right track. We are now into a new phase where business and those who seek social and environmental progress are starting to talk the same language. Change is taking place, but we need to continually keep the lines of communication open, to both share our experience, and allow others to see how far we have come, and where we are going,” says Executive Director Björn Stigson, the Chairman of the conference. He is also the Executive Director of the Swiss-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development, which is a coalition of over 120 international companies committed the environment, economic growth and sustainable de-

velopment.

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SURFING COPENHAGEN

Since the beginning of the 1980s, the City of Copenhagen has worked to develop an information technology system, which can be accessed directly by the citizens themselves. Since the early 1996 the Copenhageners have been able to get information about the city on the Internet through the Copenhagen I.T. System. This service which is open day and night is not only an advantage for the citizens, but also beneficial for the city because of the possibilities of saving human resources normally used for information service during the day.

Today, the Copenhagen I.T. System contains more than 900 pages. Furthermore, links have been made to a number of other co-operation partners with their own web-pages. The system is one of the largest in the world de-

veloped to give citizens local government information on the Internet. Its structure and accessibility are widely recognized.

The next step in the development will be to give the citizens direct access through the Internet to communicate with the city on more specific matters and to search for individual economic and social assistance and services - surfing Copenhagen day and night.

The homepage is also available in English at www.kbhbase.CopenhagenCity.dk

The Internet

The city has outlined a general strategy for the use of the Internet in its various departments. The strategy aims at securing public access to information regarding the City of Copenhagen through the use of the Internet. Fur-

thermore, the strategy aims at providing the exchange of electronic mail and data to the city's employees and the members of the City Council. The strategy also provides guidelines regarding standards in relation to Internet-names.

The I.T.-strategy

The purpose of the I.T.-strategy is to further develop the City of Copenhagen as a leading city in relation to the use of advanced IT. This includes the effective use of the new information technologies in order to ensure that citizens, private firms and industries are able to communicate effectively with the City of Copenhagen, 24 hours a day.

Communication with the members of the City Council

Another goal is that the members of the City Council have been supplied each with their own "e-mail". It enables them to communicate with the municipal departments through the



ELBLĄG PROMOTES JANTAR

Elbląg has a great interest in Euroregion Jantar (Amber) activity. This idea, picked up by the Elbląg authorities, is accepted by Polish participants: S³upsk, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Olsztyn as well as by Swedish cities: Blekinge, Kalmar, Jonkoping, Kronoberg and also by other cities: Kaliningrad and Baltijsk (Russia), Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Liepāja (Latvia). The negotiations with Bornholm (Denmark) are being continued.

Euroregion Jantar seems to create a very good opportunity for realisation of many large, international, common projects concerning ecology, tourism, youth exchange, economical collaboration and transportation aspects in the south-east part of the Baltic Sea. European Union is able to give a material support for this enterprise. That is why realising of various, international projects, for example connected with INTERREG II C seems to be necessary. This problem - a trans-border cooperation in this region of the Baltic Sea - was presented during an interna-



A view over Elbląg.

tional conference which lately took place in Rostock. The project of Euroregion Jantar (Amber) was regarded as a very promising and important one.

Apart from this Elbląg is going to participate in a few other helping programs in the framework of EU, for example in a development of small and

middle companies.

The strategic points of the town are: an economical growth, development of small and middle enterprises, a tourist basis, a harbour and a natural location of Elbląg.

Main problems are: a shortage of actual materials which treat about different EU programs and language barriers.

II BALTIC SEA GAMES IN LITHUANIA

The idea of holding a sports event of all the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea was born in 1988. The first Baltic Sea Games were held in Estonia from June 22 to July 13 1993 and June 28 - July 6 this summer was Lithuania's turn to host these games. The main task of the II Baltic Sea Games was to promote the mutual understanding and friendship among the young people of the Baltic Sea countries by means of sport.

People of Lithuania have always valued and fostered traditions, culture and sport, which is inseparable part of the culture of Lithuania. Lithuanian athletes made their debut in Olympics in

1924 in Paris and since then have participated in 18 Olympics.

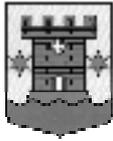
The II Baltic Sea Games was the first time that a competition of this a scale took place in Lithuania. Athletes from 11 countries around the Baltic Sea participated in the Games patronized by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania. Competitions were held in 28 sport branches ranging from athletics to canoeing and darts to samba.

According to Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee, "these Games will consolidate the principles of Olympus in the Baltic Sea countries. They will also provide an opportunity for sportsmen and-women to demon-

strate their talents regionally, serving as a stepping stone to future Olympic Games."

The City of Kaunas hosted the competitions in athletics and yachting. Thanks to Swedish company "Nordic Sport" the City of Kaunas can now be proud of its recently renewed stadium which corresponds to all the latest internat





ROYAL, TWIN-CITIES AND LITHUANIAN ACTIVITIES IN KALMAR

Forty thousand people lined the streets when five Nordic heads of state visited Kalmar in June. This was the highlight of a yearlong celebration, the 600th anniversary of the Kalmar Union.

What a glorious weekend! For two days Kalmar was at the centre of attention. The royal couples of Denmark, Norway and Sweden joined the presidential couples of Finland and Iceland in a Nordic manifestation. The weekend, known as the Great Union Meeting, took place on the 14th and 15th of June. Kalmar was crowded, over 40 000 people lined the route of the royal cortège.

The Great Union Meeting took place to commemorate the foundation of the Union of Kalmar 600 years ago. In 1397 Queen Margareta united the Nordic countries and had her foster son Eric of Pomerania crowned king over the greatest realm in Europe.

As the grand finale of a magnificent day, more than 30 000 people gathered nearby the castle to witness the Jubilee Show. This turned out to be a multimedia happening where everything could, and did, happen. The creator Tuomo Haapala used the castle as screen for his laser show. He made people cycle on water while witches on burning brooms flew over the spectators heads. An aeroplane circling the castle with a woman standing on one of its wings made many hearts miss a beat when the woman suddenly jumped off the plane. Luckily the woman is a member of the local parachute club...

Before leaving Capital of the North, the five Nordic heads of state signed a stone plaque placed where Eric of Pomerania was crowned in 1397. This will remind future visitors of the important Nordic meetings that took place in Kalmar, exactly 600 years apart.

Another event in Kalmar this year was the twin city meeting 26-29 June. The Nordic twin cities Arendal (Nor-

way), Silkeborg (Denmark), Selfoss (Iceland), Savonlinna (Finland) and Kalmar decided 1947 to meet every second year. Because of the 600 years celebration Kalmar had also invited its twin cities Panevėpys (Lithuania) and Wilmington (USA) in Kalmar.



On the 27th of June the representatives met and each twin city made a presentation of the cities and of their international contacts. Mr Anders Engström talked about Kalmar's twin city relations, Mr Roger Kaliff informed about the Committee of Regions of the European Union and Mr Lars Malmberg demonstrated how far Kalmar has developed its information technology.

All mayors signed a statement regarding co-operation on the environment, Agenda 21 and co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

One more of the 300 activities in Kalmar during the Kalmar Union Anniversary will be Forum Lithuania. It has earlier been held in Karlskrona (1994), Växjö (1995) and Kristianstad

(1996) and on the 11-12th of October 1997 it will be arranged in Kalmar. The purpose of the forum is to create possibilities for collecting information and spread it to different people, authorities, organisations, companies etc. which are interested in or already have established contacts with Lithuania.

The main topics in Forum Lithuania -97 are Agenda 21, media communications, culture and twin city co-operation (exchange of experience, information on projects and transfer of knowledge) and will be carried out with seminars, work-shops and exhibitions. All Swedish cities which have twin cities in Lithuania (about 22) have been requested to invite their twin cities to participate in the forum. After this event they have the possibility to continue their own twin city meetings.

Commission on Communication welcome UBC member cities to

INTERNET & WWW TRAINING

in Kalmar on October 5 - 7 1997

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UBC 2/1997 27
SWEDEN



THE SNOW CASTLE OF KEMI - SUCCESS STORY OF FINNISH TOURISM

For the past two winters the gigantic Snow Castle in the City of Kemi has been a major success story in Finnish tourism. Its popularity has exceeded all expectations and over 600 000 guests from 74 different countries have visited these enormous and fabulous buildings!

The City of Kemi, home of the Snow Castle, is by far the northernmost member of the UBC. It is situated at the top of the Gulf of Bothnia less than 100 km south of the Arctic Circle. It is Lapland's maritime gateway and has been mainly known as traditional industrial town exporting paper, cardboard, pulp and sawngoods to international markets.

In the beginning of 1994 the city came up with an innovative idea: how about building the World's Greatest Snow Castle?! And this idea become true two years later in 1996! The first Castle was a huge success with close to 300 000 visitors.

- Before building the Castle, we expected something like 30 000 visitors, says the Deputy Mayor and Director of the SnowCastle project, Mr. Jorma Virtanen.

Word of the SnowCastle has winged its way via international media throughout Europe and the rest of the

World, including America as well as distant and exotic places such as Virgin Islands, Togo, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Chile, Peru, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, New Zealand, Australia...

The area of the Castles has varied from 13 000 to 20 000 square meters. There have been hundreds of meters of walls and the highest towers have been over 20 meters high. Inside the castles, there have been numerous "rooms" with e.g. a chapel, restaurant, adventure land and art hall.

Mr Virtanen reminds that the SnowCastle is much more than a gigantic snow structure. It is also an exciting work of art in ice and snow, not to mention the brilliant performers

including opera singers, operetta stars, dancers that have performed in the Castle. Therefore the SnowCastle is also called "A fabulous cultural centre in the deep Northern winter". In other words, the Castle is an exceptional open air cultural festival scene in winter time in whole Scandinavia.

- Next winter the Castle will be roughly the same size as last winter but also totally new ideas will be introduced, Mr. Jorma Virtanen promises. Kemi's new SnowCastle will be open ~~from 7th of February until 13th of April 1998.~~

Further information:

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GARDENS OF ANCHOR - URBAN PILOT PROJECT OF THE CITY OF LAHTI

The City of Lahti in Finland seeks URBAN financing for restructuring a lake shore area. The Project is named as 'Gardens of Anchor' and it focuses on the following aspects of redevelopment in the Lahti Anchor shore area.

Image of Lahti - Lahti is considered a modern inland city without history. The lake shore industrial buildings represent the most essential part

of the history of the city of Lahti.

Preservation of cultural heritage - Lahti city will lose essential part of it's cultural heritage if industrial buildings of Anchor won't be taken to use in time.

Unemployment - New jobs must be found from different sectors than traditional industry or public services.

Age structure and level of education - Lahti needs young educated people to create new kinds of perma-

nent jobs.

Strategy of gardens of anchor

"Gardens of Anchor" emphasises cultivation and growth intended for both human and natural resources. Within this umbrella concept there will be a number of activities integrated to the preservation of cultural heritage and environmental issues. The aim is to find new pathways of development



by means of innovation, networking and synergy. The professional, cultural and scientific services of Gardens of Anchor will make the place attractive. Gardens of Anchor will form a new kind of innovative and social urban community, where modern people will desire to live and work. Gardens of Anchor located by the ecologically renovated Lake Vesijarvi connects the urban life to the rich Finnish lake and forest nature and brings new environmental ideas to creative work.

Gardens of Anchor form a link between the past, the present and the future: history - events and exhibitions - research, product development and virtual activities.

Future jobs and education - The target is to raise the level of education and know-how in Lahti. The Gardens of Anchor project gathers together development potential and expertise that already exist in some form in Lahti. Lahti Polytechnic will link studies and employment by helping students to create their own enterprises in Gardens of Anchor already during their studies. The project will create new kinds of possibilities for employment based on networks, small enterprises and co-operatives in the fields of e.g. information systems and arts and crafts. The generator for new jobs will be international virtual enterprises. The innovative educated entrepreneurs will be potential employers for also less educated people. After getting started Gardens of Anchor will function as a magnet for new enterprises which benefit from the image and services of Gardens of Anchor.

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN LÜBECK

Strengthening the links between the regions was the main driver when datalink LS was officially launched by former head of Malmöhus county Ann-Cathrine Haglund and Schleswig-Holstein Minister Gerd Walter back in September 1995.

Within the last 1 ½ years datalink LS has grown from a vision to practical application. With offices in Lübeck (D) and Skurup (S) the project is on the way to become a business development network in the Baltic Sea area with further participants from Denmark and Finland as well as from the Baltic countries.

The aim of the project is to support SME's when entering new markets around the Baltic Sea by providing them with information and contacts. In order to react flexible to the require-

ments special attention is paid to the latest development in information technology. Consequently the Internet, Video-Conferencing and groupware play a major part in our project.

In the meantime datalink LS has gone beyond its core aim by also strengthening the links of the higher educational institutes in our regions. The Lübeck polytechnic and Lunds University are currently working on a mutual study course in the area of transport and logistics - partners brought together by datalink LS.

Further project partners are welcome to join!

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DAUGAVPILS - TAMPERE WATER PROJECT

Daugavpils, the second largest city in Latvia with about 125.000 inhabitants, is developing its water supply with 45 MUSD, financed by WB, NEFCO, EU-Phare, Scandinavian and Latvian Governments.

With the money Daugavpils Water and Wastewater Enterprise (DWWE) will develop ground water utilization by constructing a new wellfield and renovating existing wells. The target is to stop exploiting the Daugava river as a raw water source due to different problems with water quality and old treatment facilities. The new biological wastewater treatment plant, with a capacity of 60.000 m3/d, will be constructed in order to improve the environmental situation of the River Daugava. Also some pumping stations

and parts of the networks will be renovated. Tampere Water and Sewage Works (TWSW) is supporting DWWE with the project and primarily through consulting DWWE with its financial and operational development to improve DWWE's operational efficiency and financial sustainability.

The twinning arrangement between the water utilities is financed by the Finnish Ministry of Environment and will last until the end of 1998. The total budget is 1.2 MUSD. Twinning agreement was signed at the beginning of 1996 and it includes the frames for the activities and follow up of the work. Both sides have nominated twinning coordinators and also almost all department heads have counterparts.

Differences and Similarities
Economically and operationally



Tampere and Daugavpils water enterprises are different. TWSW is a profitable organization collecting all of its income from water tariffs delivering annually 7-8 MUSD to its owner (City of Tampere). However DWWE is supported by the city of Daugavpils due to too low water tariffs, which finally that DWWE is financed partly by using municipal taxes.

Typical of western water utilities TWSW buys a lot of services from outside organizations, e.g. transportation, excavation, some construction contracts, book-keeping, computer cpu-time. Due to an undeveloped local service supply DWWE has to maintain almost all these functions inside its own organization, which means that the number of staff needed is relatively 3-4 times higher than in Tampere.

There is a great difference in inhabitants attitude to pay for water. In Finland water utilities normally have no major problems with collecting money, and in the case of any failure, the house connection valve is easy to close. It is important to influence public opinion so that everybody under-

stands that there is no free of cost water, and water supply is always paid by somebody, mainly by the citizens themselves either through taxes or in water tariffs.

Technical solutions are relatively similar in both utilities and e.g. in the future more and more raw water will be exploited from ground water sources, while old surface treatment units will stand as spare and emergency plants. Also, wastewater treatment will, on both sides, will use conventional biological treatment processes. Technically parallel solutions make a good base for training.

Training and knowledge transfer

The twinning arrangement between the water utilities makes a good base for on-the-job training. Several DWWE's specialists have worked in Tampere in similar jobs to their own ones in Daugavpils: wastewater treatment plant, water purification plants, network maintenance, laboratory. English language skills on both sides is limiting the possibilities to organize this

kind of training but until now language has not been an insuperable problem.

On the job training also takes place in Daugavpils; a combined working group formed from plumbers and welders from Tampere and Daugavpils will renovate an old ground water pumping station. On-the-job training with a partner water utility provides an excellent possibility for knowledge transformation. In this case this form of training was successful due to high motivation of DWWE's specialists to learn new things.

The future

Fruitful co-operation between the Tampere and Daugavpils water utilities will last until the end of next year. Three years is not a long time to raise the efficiency and economical sustainability of DWWE, which is over 100 years old, but already certain development has taken place. Operational efficiency, economical stability and customer relationships are key areas where Tampere personnel will work next year in order to help their partner become one of the most efficient water utilities in the Baltic region.



BALTIC POINT IN ROSTOCK

At present, the BALTIC POINT project is under design. The concept is to coordinate common instruments of transnational tourist city marketing within the Baltic Region. An application to the ECOS/Ouverture Programme is intended.

The BALTIC POINT shall grow on the bases of the project "What happens in the Baltic?" started in May 1995. Since then six employees have built up close partnerships throughout the whole Baltic region. The project exchanges information about cultural events with tourist centres of all the Baltic countries, and therewith aims at the advancement of cultural exchange, tourism and - last but not least - economy of all Baltic neighbours.

Already well-known projects are a monthly calendar of events, named

"What happens in the Baltic?" and the leaflet "Baltic Ferry Connections 1997" containing the arrival and departure hours of the ferries to and from Rostock.

At 2-4 May 1997 in Rostock the project group invited to the workshop BALTIC TREFF. Participants from Ringsted/ Denmark, Kalmar/ Sweden, Szczecin/ Poland, St. Petersburg/ Russia, Tallinn/ Estonia, Vilnius/ Lithuania, Riga/ Latvia and Rostock/ Germany, all of them representatives of city or regional tourism departments took part in this meeting within the framework of the European Week in Germany.

Every speaker presented her/his region under tourist respect and explained methods and development of tourist city marketing put into practice there. The participants agreed upon

future tasks as there are the enlargement of the monthly calendar "What happens in the Baltic?", to build up a real network for cooperation in Baltic tourism, and to establish a Baltic Point in Rostock as the co-ordinating office of the network.

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KRISTIANSTAD - A STRATEGIC CHOICE

Kristianstad has made targeted efforts in the Baltic Sea region during the last years. This has resulted in that Kristianstad now is one of Sweden's most important market-places for business with the "new" East market. Kristianstad/Aarhus has a perfect position to this market by its location, Aarhus by the Baltic Sea and Kristianstad Airport only 15 km from the Port of Aarhus.

Today Kristianstad Airport has regular flight connections to Palanga/Kaunas, Lithuania, as well as to Copenhagen and Stockholm, and it is looking for other East and West European connections.

The Port of Aarhus has regular freight traffic to Klaipeda, Lithuania, as well as to Hamburg/Bremenhaven, Germany. The port is also developing new partnerships in Europe.

The Port of Aarhus and Kristianstad Airport have shown impressive growth in the number of passengers and cargo transportation the last years. To meet the increasing demand, the Municipality of Kristianstad has made considerable investments for the future, approximately 200 million Swedish kronor (SEK).

A new terminal in the Port of Aarhus for passengers and Ro-Ro traffic (35 million SEK).

A face lift and new terminals along with a longer and wider runway at Kristianstad Airport (100 million SEK).

Rearmament of roads to the airport and the harbour (60 million SEK).

These important investments along with a well developed network of contacts around the Baltic Sea region have created a good and creative environment for the business life. New companies are daily entering the "new" market. This gives Kristianstad and Southern Sweden a really good push into one of the most interesting markets in Europe* * *

FUNBOARD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ŁEBA

1997 year is an exceptional one for Łeba. On July the 8th Łeba celebrated its 640th anniversary of civic rights. On that day several inhabitants and tourists participated in the especially organized march through the main streets. Numerous artistic shows made the event very attractive for the participants.

In 1997, 640 years old Łeba is sending best regards to 1000 years old Gdansk.

The little town has been developing very dynamically in the recent years. In September, the construction of the concrete bridge on the Łeba river will be completed. The bridge is on the way to the World Biosphere Reserve and to the new marina (the opening of the yacht port is predicted for spring 1998) and to the biggest camping site in Poland, where the 60th World Camping and Caravan Rally will take place in 1998.

In June 1997 Łeba hosted 118 competitors from 18 countries during the European Windsurfing Funboard Championships. The event turned out to be a big organizational and sport

success. Mr. Michael Levin, the president of IFCA came from the USA for the Championships and the international jury guaranteed high level of the competition.

Łeba is interested in the bilateral cooperation with a similar city on the

Baltic Sea Coast.

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With this last photo of the bulletin, the Editorial Board takes off to some well-deserved surfing on the shores of the Baltic Sea.



Baltic Sea Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

5 September, Riga

2nd General Assembly of the CPMR
Baltic Sea Commission

12-13 September, Gdańsk

4th General Conference of the
Union of the Baltic Cities

15-16 September, Gdańsk

6th Parliamentary Conference on Co-
operation in the Baltic Sea Region

17-18 September, Helsinki

ECOCITY 97 - Trade Fair and seminar
on Environmental Technology and
Management for Baltic Sea Area

18 September, Kotka-Hamina

An International Symposium on Com-
bined Transports and Ports Logistics
in Baltic Sea Region

18-19 September, Norrtälje

Conference "Baltic Links".
Communication across the Baltic Sea.

21-22 September, Lübeck

3rd Conference of the Baltic Sea
Minis-ters of Culture

22-23 September, Gdańsk

Baltic Sea Tourism Commission Con-
ference and Travel Mart

22-23 September, Panevėpys

First of the four UBC Training Semi-
nars on Municipal Environmental Au-
diting (see page 16 in this bulletin).

OCTOBER

5-7 October, Kalmar

UBC Task Force Meeting on Project
Management and Communication

5-7 October, Kalmar

UBC Communication Commission
Workshop on Internet Training

8-12 October, Palanga

Development of Baltic Sea Ports and
Coastal Conservation

9-10 October, Kalmar

Future Takes Form - Design Yester-
day, Today, Tomorrow Conference

9-11 October, Gdańsk

2nd Eco-Baltic Conference

11-12 October, Kalmar

Forum Lithuania

23-24 October, Stockholm

European Investment Bank - Forum
1997 "Bridging the Seas in Northern
Europe"

26-28 October, Gdańsk

5th Conference of the Baltic Sea
States Subregional Cooperation

NOVEMBER

17-18 November, Tallinn

UBC cities and the EU Project
Conference

ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The theme of the next bulletin will be 'Scenarios for Baltic Sea Cooperation' and everyone is wel-
comed to send material to be published in it.

The deadline for your contributions is November 1 - please respect it!

The Editorial Board also wishes following contributions to the bulletin:

- Letters to the Editor
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories
- Comic strip artists

Please do not hesitate to contact the UBC secretariat in any questions
relating to the Baltic Cities Bulletin!

EDITORIAL BOARD

