

MARE ARTICUM

The MARE ARTICUM team was created in order to publish an international art magazine and was encouraged by the Commission on Culture of the Union of the Baltic Cities as a new tool for presentation and promotion of the interesting art events in the Baltic Sea Region.

The new issue of MARE ARTICUM magazine published under the patronage of the UBC appeared in June 98. The magazine presents the critical debate on the topic of UTOPIA: utopian projects in arts, architecture and utopian thinking in art criticism. MARE ARTICUM editorial team consists currently of the representatives of nine Baltic Countries and it is supported by several member cities of the UBC. The editorial headquarter is based in Szczecin.

MARE ARTICUM editorial board serves also as an important factor in the artistic exchange in the Baltic Area. During the last two meetings of the board organised in Visby and Riga it was decided to curate jointly a big Baltic contemporary art. show "BALTIC IKONOPRESS" which will be primary shown in Szczecin in September 1999 and then in Visby, December 1999, Riga, February 2000 and Dusseldorf, April 2000.

The exhibition will present the important phenomena in the visual arts of the 90-ties and will be accompanied by the seminar discussing the role and function of art. in the end of the 20th century. There will be also organised a forum of the leading Baltic countries art. magazines in order to improve the dissemination of information and encourage joint efforts in promotion of the underdeveloped art scene of our Region.

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UBC WOMEN'S NETWORK MEETING

More than 100 women from ten countries attended UBC Women's Network meeting in Norrköping, Sweden, on 15 May 1998.

The meeting of the UBC Women's Network took place in the City Hall of Norrköping. It was a part of four days programme of Kvinnor Kan Idea and Trade Fair. Many of the UBC women took part in the fair by presenting typical objects from their countries and by giving short seminars. Their participation was partly financed by Sida (the Swedish Institute for International Development Cooperation), the European Commission and the City of Norrköping. The women represented ten countries, ages between 17 and 70 and a lot of different positions in their cities. The Idea and Trade Fair had altogether 42 000 visitors.



More than 100 women participated in the meeting

During the meeting they had the possibility to discuss women's networks and get information on the European Union's work for equality between men and women - lecture given by Lone Henriksen from DGV, the European Commission. The discussion following this lecture showed great differences between the represented countries. It also showed that this topic could be discussed a lot further.

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ECOS-OUVERTURE PARTENARIAT

A new call for proposals for interregional co-operation projects with the closing date of 15th November 1998.

Ecos-Ouverture Programme has been supporting "external" interregional co-operation projects between the European Union



local authorities and those in non-Community countries for years. On 22-24 June 98 Budapest hosted another Ecos-Ouverture Partenariat, an initiative of the European Commission. Over 350 participants from all over Europe participated in the event. The conference was attended by managers, senior executives and elected local authority representatives who were in the process of developing or who would like to develop an interregional co-operation project between EU and Phare countries.

The Budapest Ecos-Ouverture Partenariat has witnessed a new call for proposals for the 1998-2001 period. Despite a complete organisational mess, individual meetings enabled cities to promote themselves or to identify initiatives, to strike up partnerships and to conclude agreements in decent working conditions. Also, the conference provided an opportunity to select future partners efficiently, share experiences with other project managers to perfect management strategies, and to improve the structure of projects with European Commission representatives. Interviews with the Commission experts provided an excellent opportunity to check projects and partnerships, as well as it provided the first hand information on how to prepare, structure, submit and manage interregional co-operation projects.

Three workshops were devoted to operational management of a co-operation project, each highlighting a specific aspect of this management: the basic role of the project leader; managing a partnership network; managing the technical project.



Also, local authorities in the Phare countries were informed of implementation of a number of short, medium and long-term actions to prepare them for European integration, in partnership with the European Commission. Here two particular aspects were covered: partnerships for the pre-accession strategy and the possibility of participating in other EU Community programmes. Examples of good practices followed each presentation to illustrate these workshops, allowing views of a complementary nature to emerge between the Community approach and the approach in the field, on the various E/O themes. The main objective of the series of workshops was to help potential candidates understand the spirit of the Programme and to incorporate it, in accordance with the associated Community procedures.

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CONFERENCE ON LOGISTIC CENTRES

Logistics and distribution centres are of great importance for the development of the trade and transport. Such centres organise and supervise cooperation among such activities as transport, reloading, storage, sorting, repacking, consulting and others. Logistics and distribution centres are quite numerous in the well economically developed countries. They come into existence in the places where the streams of cargo concentrate with the participation of at least two modes of transport. However such investments absorb a lot of funds, they are worth propagating in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region, including the transition countries.

The UBC Commission on Transportation together with the Maritime Institute in Gdańsk prepare "Conference on Logistics and Distribution Centres in the Baltic Sea Region" which will be held 20th November 1998 in Gdańsk. The aim of the conference

is to disseminate the idea of creating such centres in the BSR. The programme of the conference contains the analytic and researching part concerning the activity of the logistics and distribution centres as well as the presentation of the examples of the concrete, nowadays existing and prosperous centres of this kind in the selected countries of the Europe. Experts from Finland, Germany, Poland, Russia and Sweden will deliver the lectures. All member cities are welcome to take part in the conference.

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3RD UBC TASK FORCE ON PR

The third Task Force meeting hosted this time by Szczecin City focused on: "The Strategies and practices for effective UBC Cooperation". 35 TF participants, including the newcomers, discussed co-operation potential within the UBC network, as well as had an opportunity to hear the report on the UBC Strategy development. The second day enjoyed the UBC Project clinic: a wide array of project management topics ranging from application procedures through new possibilities for town-twinning arrangements. The UBC project auction resulted in more than ten new initiatives for project cooperation.

The major UBC publicity campaign will commence in the autumn with the Baltic Children Drawing Competition aimed at increasing positive UBC publicity in all member cities. Led by Ms. Ewa Depka, Head of Foreign Relations, Gdynia, the competition will produce unique complimentary UBC gifts.

DRAWING COMPETITION COMING SOON

It is already by the end of October that the Task Force will organise a drawing competition entitled 'The children of the Baltic'. All the children between nine and twelve years old who live in the UBC cities are invited to take part in the competition.

The primary aim of this competition is to popularise the idea of UBC among the people of the Baltic Sea Region. It is also expected that the competition will strengthen the awareness of UBC among children while hundreds of drawings and paintings will serve as the base for a new image of the organisation. They will also stimulate future projects (travelling exhibitions, albums, internet UBC gallery, etc).

In October all the UBC member cities will be sent information concerning the rules of the competition together with an information leaflet about UBC.

We very strongly invite you to take part in the competition !



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