



DEMOCRACY PROJECT

The Swedish cities Kalmar, Karlskrona, Kristianstad, Stockholm and Växjö together with their twin cities Panevėžys, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Vilnius and Kaunas are involved in the democracy project. The project is financed by Sida through the Swedish Association of Local Authorities (SALA).

In the beginning of September 15 politicians from Panevėžys were hosted by the city of Kalmar. The aim of the one-week visit was to show how Swedish politicians are acting in the election campaign. The visitors get also information on Swedish law regarding the elections. At the end of the week foreign politicians were educated in information technology for politicians, among other things containing political speeches before a video camera. This event was followed by the Swedish local televi-

Further information:

Mr Bengt Enge
City of Kalmar
Tel. +46 480 83250
Fax +46 480 83122
e-mail: bengt.enge@kommun.kalmar.se

sion and a feature appeared in the news program in south-east Sweden.

The project has been going on since March. Two different groups have visited Kalmar and there have been seminars in the Lithuanian cities. The last seminar and conclusion meeting will be held in Lithuania in November and December this year.



SATAKUNTA - FINLAND IN MINIATURE?

The Satakunta province is situated on the west coast of Finland, and its capital is the city of Pori. The second important city is Rauma - the third oldest city of Finland - that has been city since the year 1442. The northern part of Satakunta is covered in primeval forests as in Lapland and the south of the region is covered with fertile plains. The sea makes the province special and the idyllic lakes and rivers guarantee an ever-changing spectacular landscape.

Satakunta is also one of most industrialised provinces. They are not only important industrial cities as the wealth of educational opportunities demonstrates. The province has excellent communication links to all over the world. Regular shipping

routes to over 50 cities in 17 countries combined with an excellent road network to all over Europe guarantees good communication. The area also provides regular flights to Helsinki and Stockholm. Many of the biggest Finnish companies are situated in Satakunta province, demonstrating the regions global position in the world economy.

Since 1959 the Satakunta Fair Ltd. has been organising annually 3-4 fairs in Pori, for example a student fair every winter and every autumn a big, international fair, The Satakunta Fair. The aim of the Satakunta Fair is to provide an international platform for the business community. The 1997 Satakunta Fair attracted several overseas organisations from Pori's twin cities: Breimerhaven, Egér, Mâcon, Riga, and Sundsvall. The Satakunta Fairs organises also a diverse side-programme including the most famous Finnish artists for the benefit of visitors. The fairs are usually arranged in the Technology Centre Pripoli, at the Tennis hall, at the Sports centre and in Karhuhalli. The cities of Huittinen and Rauma have also its own fairs.

Further information:

Mr Aimo Miinalainen
City of Pori
Tel. +358 2 621 1145
Fax +358 2 621 1275
e-mail: aimo.miinalainen@pori.fi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is UBC going through a bad patch with its projects?

With too many UBC projects having been rejected, the future began to look somewhat bleak indeed. The Budapest Ecos-Ouverture Partenariat provided good food for thought indeed. It is a pity only few UBC representatives participated. So, whatever happened to the gorgeous ideas of the UBC-EU Information Project and others that remained in the sphere of plans only?

One conclusion which transpires from the Budapest conference is that our project applications are dealt with and prepared cursorily. Frankly, the methodology of improving the applications must be given top priority. But this has been reiterated too many times now. It is high time this is taken care of by a group of competent specialists. What is needed is a transparent and participatory process of preparing the projects, to make the UBC member cities

better quipped to complement on-going regional co-operation with the Baltic 21 long-term process. UBC should also adapt the new quality of its activities to produce a recognisable hallmark and tap the funds to the organisation.

Ewa Kurjata
City of Szczecin

Comment

The prospect of participating in UBC projects is as one of the main reasons for Baltic Sea Region cities to join the UBC. It is necessary to meet this expectation from our members.

The process to shape a better UBC strategy for projects has already started. I personally think that the UBC Commissions should be the more active as initiators of projects. Two out of our ten commissions have been very successful in this task: The Commissions of Environment

and the Commission of Health and Social Affairs. I think there is a need for inspiration for the other commissions to start projects.

Experience shows that key factors for a higher success rate for project applications are very concrete projects that gives immediate and measurable results plus enthusiastic project initiators that puts parts of their souls into the projects. In order to be more successful, we must implement these factors and move away from cursorily prepared applications. How we can archive this must be further discussed.

Another aspect is that there is a great need to influence the European Union to develop their programs to be used for co-operation projects between local authorities in the BSR. This can be made in co-operation with other actors in our region.

Juhan Janusson
UBC Project Manager