

I. Education in Baltic Cities

EAST – From Socialism to a Market Economy

The change of the political and economic system in former socialist countries in the Baltic Sea Region was very sudden and rapid. The school system suddenly found itself in a new, democratic and market oriented society that was to a large extent unknown.

The general aim of the former school system was to produce citizens that would fit into the socialist society. Learning and accepting hard facts was considered more important than the ability of freethinking. The school system was generally very authoritarian. The school also took care of the moral and political education and influenced the pupils and their families also outside regular school hours.

The school system produced citizens with generally good knowledge and education, but with minor experience of free discussion, self-expression and ability of free search for new ideas and learning.

The sudden change also changed the expectations of the future life for the young. For many, the ideals became very materialistic – to get rich and to become businessmen. This tendency is today not so strong as it was the first years after the change and the ideals of the eastern youngsters do not differ fundamentally from these of the west.

Western Ideas Are Spreading

Nowadays the general political and pedagogical aims in the former socialist

countries do not differ substantially from those in the west. The tendency to more process-oriented education where the pupils are thought to think freely and solve problems, the change of the teachers role, the introduction of modern technology and computers in schools, the working process in the class-rooms etc. is supported by the school-politicians. The main difference is the level of the starting point in the development of school system. The economic possibilities are smaller. Also the way the schools are managed is in general much more authoritarian in the east.

There are some differences that have their source in the old system. For example, in the former system, the schools were active also outside the official school hours. The concepts of education and upbringing were not separated. This was manifested in pioneer or other young communist movements. Whatever one may think of them, they played an important role and left an empty space for the young when they were abandoned. There was really nothing to replace the activities of the communist youth movements, like camps, festivals and other activities.

In the former school system, practically everyone went to school. If a pupil did not fit into the normal school, there were special schools that took care of the less favoured, like invalids, less gifted or children from difficult family situations.

The aim today is to integrate these pupils into the regular school. The process is very difficult and has in many places created dropouts, which was earlier never heard of. Today you can even find children in many cities that hardly do not go to school at all. The new school-system has minor possibilities to deal with that problem.

There is a clear tendency of increasing differences of quality levels between schools. Within the same national public school system, there are low standard schools, often in the countryside and in

low-income areas in cities, and better schools in other areas. Private schools is also a new phenomena.

The Teacher

One specific problem in the east is the fall of the social position of teachers. They were rather highly esteemed in the former system, and had also relatively high wages and a good social position. The wages have not followed the wage level in general and today a teacher gets even less than a semi-skilled manual worker does. This has had bad influence on the recruitment of new teachers. A very large part of new teachers do not even enter the teachers' profession. Young teachers also tend to leave schools for better paid jobs outside. The median age of teachers is rather high and rising. The intellectual development of teachers has weaker support.

The education of teachers have generally not changed very much yet. In some of the eastern countries, more attention is given to complementary education to active teachers in order to bring new ideas into the school system than change of teaching methods in teachers colleges.

The main contents of the education has not changed very much, except obviously in some subjects like history. Russian language has lost importance. Now English is the first choice of most of the pupils. The language skills of English teachers have grown considerably, due to more western contacts, and this has risen the quality of English language education. Earlier the stress was on grammar. Now conversation is considered at least as important.

Also in the east, the "soft" subjects are losing importance. The pupils should mainly get knowledge in order to pass exams to attend higher education, for example universities. Concentration is on mathematics, languages and other "hard subjects", but subjects like art, music and physical exercises loose their importance.



WEST – From Industrial to High-Tec society

Parallel with the fundamental changes in the former socialist countries in the Baltic Sea Region, there is a rapid development also in the EU countries of the region.

We are leaving the industrial society that honoured virtues like stability, loyalty and order. The new high technological society honours virtues like independence, flexibility, curiosity and life-long learning. The hierarchic system is replaced with networking and direct communication. The importance of the ability to express oneself in writing or by mouth is increasing.

There is few working-places left for unskilled labour. You need a good education almost regardless your profession. In the industrial society, the employees in a high degree tended to stay at the same work place for the rest of their lives. Now they must be prepared to change careers and professions several times during their professional life.

How can the school system meet these demands? Changes do not show quickly in the educational system. In classrooms of today, the pupils' desks are still facing the teachers' desk and the blackboard, just like when the public school system started. It is now possible to see the advent of basic changes of classroom structure as the educational methods change.

Changing Pedagogic Methods

One example is the introduction at large scale of process oriented pedagogic. This concept means that the pupils freely shall search for knowledge and present the results. The role of the teacher as knowing everything and to spread this knowledge to the pupils is decreasing. Instead the teacher will function more as an advisor and give inspiration to the pupils in their search for knowledge.

The education will still be based on specific subjects, like mathematics, languages etc. However, there are many examples of new and thrilling combinations of topics as single or groups of pupils' carry out various projects under guidance of a teachers team from very different subjects.

Another tendency is stronger stress on the "hard" subjects, like mathematics, natural sciences and languages. In the

process, the "soft" subjects, for example creative arts, have lost importance. On the other hand, there is a debate on the concept of intelligence, which traditionally focuses on "hard" abilities in various IQ-measuring tests. Many argue that ability in "soft" experience is as important as the "hard" facts in a future society based on interaction and communication and may therefore not be forgotten.

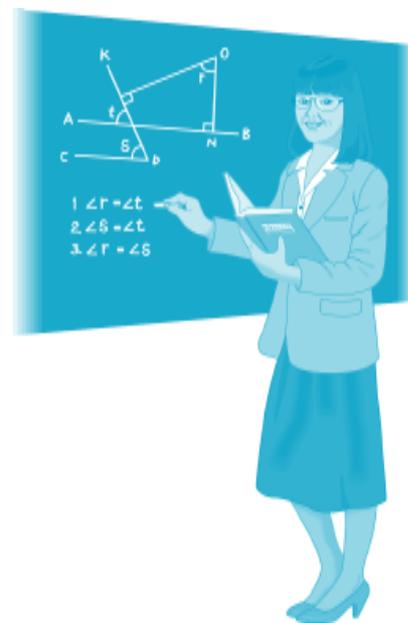
The introduction of computers in the classrooms is changing the education methods and the role of the teachers very much. The teacher cannot have knowledge of everything anymore. However, he must still have the main responsibility of the learning process. Computers also change the structure and function of the classrooms considerably. Pupils move freely to pick up handbooks, discuss with others in the group and go to the computer to find or compile information. In the classroom there may be many different activities going on at the same time. For an old-timer it may seem as chaos, but the teacher still must guide the processes going on in the classrooms.

In many places, there is a strong discussion on the role of the school not only as a place to learn facts but also to foster the pupils. Moral and ethical issues must be treated in school as well as at home. Very often both parents have jobs, and many argue that family ties are looser now. Issues like racism, neo-fascism and other extreme ideologies must be fought also in schools.

An interesting aspect is the great influence from pedagogical examples in the Soviet Union of the twenties and early thirties when dealing with children from less favoured families with social problems. Aspects such as learning by doing where the pupils take social responsibility in a broader aspect than in the traditional schools are a result of these impulses and have proven to be more efficient than the regular educational systems for this difficult category of pupils.

Towards the 21st Century

If we want to understand the society of the twenty-first century, you have to look at the values of the present young, because



they will be the grown-ups of tomorrow and their basic values of today will not change fundamentally when they are middle-aged. Today's young distrust authorities, value an interesting job more than a high paid work, they believe in the individual's capacity to create their own destiny, they travel and like to work abroad and wish the nature and the environment to be protected.

We can see an outline of the school in the twenty-first century. Subjects will be changed, classrooms will be different and the role of teachers will be another. But the role of the school will not change. The school system will maintain the task of giving the pupils a generally good foundation that makes it possible for them to be good 21st century citizen.

by Juhan Janusson,
UBC Project Manager
e-mail: juhan@post11.tele.dk

Valuable comments by:
Ulrika Hardt, Copenhagen, Denmark
Anu Pink, Turi, Estonia
Jutta von Götz, Lübeck, Germany
Ib Hansen, Kolding, Denmark
Zofia Stanek, Szczecin, Poland



THE BALTIC UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

Universities have key roles in the Baltic region. Universities educate the young generation, they research new knowledge, and they address the general public, and cooperate with the society.

This role of universities is even more needed now in the dramatic changes after the cold war. The Baltic University Programme, a network of universities, initiated and coordinated by Uppsala University in Sweden since 1991, support these roles of universities, foremost though education. It has today developed into a group of 160 universities in the 14 countries within the Baltic Sea. The participating institutions include all kinds of universities. Since several years BUP Centre has been established, today there are 13 such centres.

The large network of researchers and teachers at the universities, more than 1000 persons, has contributed to develop the programme. Most of these are active within environmental science but contributions from humanities and social sciences gain in importance. The number of students that have registered for course is estimated to be about 18.000 up to spring 1998.

The courses produced by the programme are both produced and taught by universities. Satellite TV, used from 1991 to reach the participating universities, had initially the purpose to show what „the other side looked like“. It was also used to increase interactivity as much as possible. Spacebridges were staged as live TV broadcasts from two or three places simultaneously with students and teachers discussing with each other. Up to date three basic academic courses have been produced. The Baltic Sea Environment course deals with the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea and its surroundings. The Peoples of the Baltic treats the development of the societies with a focus on minorities, human rights, democracy and security. A Sustainable Baltic deals with the long-term future of the region with an emphasis on resource management.

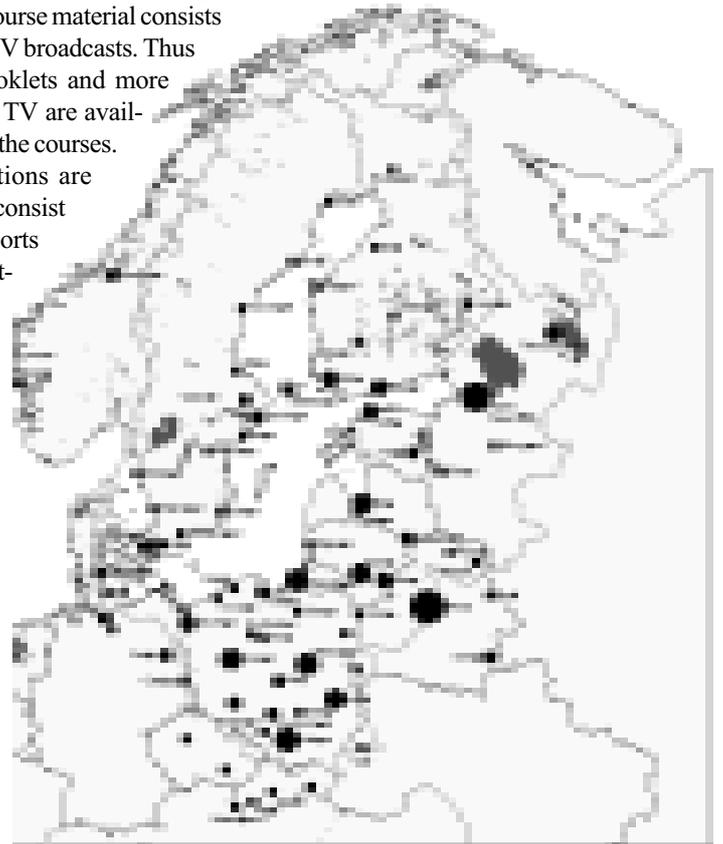
The emphasis in the programme is to produce courses on master level and adap-

tations of the material intended for professionals. The course material consists of booklets and TV broadcasts. Thus a total of 28 booklets and more than 50 hours of TV are available for teaching the courses.

The TV productions are all thematic and consist of a series of reports from the participating countries.

Many of the TV productions were also broadcast to the general public in particular Poland, Latvia and Lithuania adding to awareness raising and providing the general public with basic information on issues of importance in their societies.

The Baltic University started several cooperative projects with municipalities. Most recently the seminar on community development has been organised with the participation of 9 cities. Cooperation between the more fundamental level, i.e. the universities, and the applied level, i.e. the municipalities, will be a winning recipe for successful implementation of sustainable strategies in the future. In the near future both universities and municipalities are challenge to develop the concept of sustainability into a credible theory and practice. Offering a course on sustainable development is thus a true challenge. To support the teachers in the BUP network we have organised teachers seminars to discuss how to use the material, how to build a network to teach a course, not the least to cooperate with practitioners at their own



The Baltic University Network.

municipalities, and finally how to address questions of sustainability.

As to the practitioners' side we have to ask ourselves: what is a professional competence in sustainable development? What skills should we teach and learn? Whatever the answer - we have several - we hope that our students will go into society with some competence of this kind and contribute positively to our common future.

Further information:

Mr Lars Ryden
Baltic University Programme
Tel. +46 18 471 1838
Fax +46 18 471 1789
e-mail: lars.ryden@uadm.uu.se



TRAINING AND RECREATION IN BALTIJSK

There is a proposal to create an International Multipurpose Centre for Training and Recreation using existing potential in Baltijsk Region. The project of such a Centre is supposed to be a new approach to the training system of market economy. The strategy of the Centre is to train highly qualified specialists of the market economy and to integrate into the international education network.

The Baltijsk Spit is a unique area of Russia that is a part of the Baltijsk municipal district. The district itself is a part of the Special Economic Zone of the Kaliningrad Region. The location of the Baltijsk municipal district which is a sea gate of Russia on the Baltic Sea is very important for the development of market relations of the country. Being on the border and having favourable natural and climate conditions it can become a unique place for training Russian businessmen, employees of the state and municipal bodies in the fields of market economy. It can become a pledge of Russian economy development and its flourishing assistance. The situation is also favourable with removal of military sub-

divisions from the Baltijsk Spit. In connection with that the settlement of Kosa has a lot of disengaged buildings that could be reasonably used.



Baltijsk is located on the characteristic spit

The training and health-improving business-centre with a developed infrastructure seems to be unique. At the same time with the training in market economy the visitors of the Centre will have an opportunity to learn to fly aircraft or to yacht, receiving corresponding certificates. There also will be possibility to rest on the beaches, to have tours on yachts and small aircraft, to surf, etc. Moreover, the students and their professors will have an opportunity to visit western countries to establish business contacts and deal with foreign

partners. The Training and Recreation Centre is proposed to be created in the form of a joint venture with a basis of joint stock company.

Moreover, the Baltijsk district has close and well established connections with the cities of market oriented countries. Baltijsk has good relations with cities of Karlskrona, Elbl'g, Krynica Morska and Ekkenferde, and carries out work on preparing agreements on twinning associations with Lithuanian cities. The district hosts the headquarters of the Euroregion "Baltic" - the largest one in Europe and the first with Russian membership. Among its members are Danish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Swedish regions of the southeast of the Baltic. This

contributes towards establishing business relations between Russian and foreign territories. The Kaliningrad Region is that connecting point in the rapidly developing relations between East and West.

Further information:

Mr Victor Koshelev
Foreign Relations
City of Baltijsk
Tel./Fax +7 01145 22669
e-mail: koshelev@bltfrd.koenig.su



THE SCHOOL-TOWN IDEA

The idea of creation "school-town" in the former military barracks was born in Elbl'g in 1990.

The Elbl'g Municipality and the Command of Elbl'g Army Garrison have signed an agreement concerning the area of over 31100 sq. meters, which was owned by the Army. According to that document the city obtained rights of property to the mentioned area. Afterwards, the modernisation of former military barracks and adaptation for educational purpose were carried out with the financial assistance of the municipality. In 1991 the "school-town" began

its educational activity.

This unique in the region, set of schools consists of group of Technical Schools, Trade Schools, Medical Schools, Secondary Schools and sport complex. Also the School-board Education, Centre of Incessant Education and Catholic Elementary School are located at the area of "school-town". About 4000 schoolboys and schoolgirls are educating in this place. The schools are very well equipped with modern laboratories, computers and lecture rooms.

This year the Municipality of Elbl'g began the construction of sport complex,

which will consist of team games field, sanitary object, track, roads and pavements. It ought to be expressed that "school-town" will fulfil an important role in the city educational system.

Further information:

Mr Jan Zaborowski
Elbl'g Secondary School No 3
Tel. +48 55 2337085
Fax +48 55 2333450
e-mail: 3lo@softel.elblag.pl



Old Town in the City of Gdańsk



CITY HALL FOR THE PEOPLE

The demands of the social environment force every organisation to change. The bureaucratic and conservative features of public institutions, along with their budget mechanisms are a hindrance to such transformations.

Due to the nature of their activity and of being of service to the public, public institutions should not only be immune to pressure, but also take an active part in the changes that are taking place, and even keep ahead of the requirements of the public at large. One of the ways to change public institutions is by approximating them to service institutions. The distinctive feature of service institutions is an attitude focused on the recognising and satisfying of its customers' needs. The recognition of the customers' needs in turn implies an introduction of mechanisms securing customer care as well as efforts to attain the customers' approval. In order to meet these demands, that are to carry out the transformations, it is necessary to enact changes in the organisational forms, preceded by the preparation of a plan.

The municipal authorities of the City of Gdańsk can share such experience. Thanks to the British Know How Fund, a set of assumptions towards a plan aiming at the improvement of the management of the city has been prepared. The topics covered by

the project were developed from the need to rationalise management. This concerns administration, issues such as the delineation of strategic assumptions and their rationalisation during the fiscal year, the improvement of the coordination between the individual departments of the office, better communication between the City Council, the administration and the Management Board.

The realisation of the plan was aimed at eliminating the faults in the work of the Gdańsk Municipal Office through the restructurisation of the administration, the preparation and implementation of the strategic management of the city, and the preparation of principles of information, personnel and training policies.

Four working groups have been commissioned for the execution of the project. Each group benefited from the help provided by British advisors, and employed municipal officers designated by City Hall. The groups worked for one and a half year under the supervision of British specialists and experts from the Great Poland Business School. Three 2-day sessions combined with workshops and several seminars took place within the project.

Work on the project allowed the elaboration of a new methodological approach to the issue of strategic management as

well as to the issue of budget preparation in accordance with the new project-and-service model used by the City to render services to the public. The materials comprising "The City of Gdańsk Service Plan" have been prepared.

As the result of the project the Information, Promotion, and Cooperation Department has been set. Its aim is to improve communication with the Public, the publishing of an information bulletin, etc. Thanks to the project, it was also possible to prepare and implement new enrolment procedure.

The Authorities of the City of Gdańsk have placed great emphasis on the realisation of this project and involving in it the greatest number of office workers as possible. Many of project participants are now capable independent implementation of this, as well as other projects, which are sure to be prepared as a result of the recent administrative reform in Poland.

Further information:

Mrs Krystyna Konieczny
Training Division
City of Gdańsk
Tel. +48 58 3052003
Fax +48 58 3052002
e-mail: intcont@gdansk.gda.pl



EUROPEAN EDUCATION IN GDYNIA

The European integration process in Poland formally began at the moment of signing the European Agreement in 1994. Generally the majority of Polish society approve the idea of joining the EU. But how much do we know about the integration process in Europe nowadays?

The results of Centre of Public Opinion show that the average level of knowledge about European Union matters is very low. What could be done to increase the citizens' awareness and knowledge about Europe? In our opinion special attention should be paid to the education of young people through highly qualified teachers. This was the main reason why the project entitled: "Working out an educational model for European education and its implementation in the Gdynia's schools" was carried out by Gdynia City Hall. Its realisation was cofinanced by PHARE Fund for Small Grant Facility Fiesta II.

Main goals of the project were:

- to work out a programme for European Education in the Primary and Secondary Schools in Gdynia during workshops for teachers,
- to inform the teachers about the joint cultural aspects of Europe, present integration activities, future plans and provide the teachers with a methodical knowledge enabling them to present the idea of an integrated Europe to their pupils,
- to prepare young people for Poland's entrance to the European Union through inspiring them to undertake European activities.

Within the project, during the workshops on European education organised for 38 of Gdynia's teachers, materials for European Education in the primary and secondary schools were compiled. The materials were selected and put together as a publication entitled "Gdynia's European Education". The publication was printed in 320 copies and distributed to the participants of the workshop as well as to Gdynia schools and libraries. Moreover, workshop participants decided

to set up an Association of Teachers in Gdynia for the purpose of coordinating the activities of schools and their cooperation with the local authorities in the field of European education.

Moreover since 1996, the City of Gdynia organises the event named "Gdynia's Ways to Europe". This year's competition titled "The knowledge about Europe is the basis of European integration" was directed to the youth in Gdynia. The competitors had three levels: school qualifying selection, municipality semi-final and final. The questions for the second level were prepared by the EU officer



in Gdynia City Hall in close cooperation with workshop participants and teachers. The competition aroused great interest in European matters among young people in schools and their teachers. 103 pupils from 35 schools in Gdynia took part at the second level of the competition. This is a proof that the implementation of pro-European initiatives is possible if the teachers are accordingly prepared to educate young people.

Further information:

Mrs Krystyna Borkowska
Foreign Relations
City of Gdynia
Tel. +48 58 620 83 12
Fax +48 58 620 09 17
e-mail: umgdyfor@miasto.gdynia.pl

RETRAINING OFFICERS



Kaliningrad City Hall has a new joint project with the County of Funen and Odense Technical College named "Retraining of retired officers in Kaliningrad".

The agricultural sector of Kaliningrad region has been suffering from the lack of competent and skilled managers at the production and processing enterprises working with agricultural raw material. Many of the retired officers would like to be employed in this sector. So the project was designed to meet the requirements of the agricultural sector and the retired officers' employment. The project is of great interest, as it is aimed not only at the training but also at the same time at the adaptation to the new conditions and to the labour market.

The overall objective of the project is to retrain both retired officers and members of their families. It is of major importance that the target group can meet the demands of the markets. The development will be regarded as a process focusing both on the personal development and on the development of the companies. During the project a transnational network will be established for the planning and implementation of the experience exchange, partly through concrete education and training activities and partly through international activities.

The project will be organised, as an action learning course where the tuition carried through will be tested in concrete projects. The projects will be selected and implemented in cooperation with national and international companies. The project will be managed by representatives of employers, labour market organisations, companies, educational institutions, authorities, customers and specialists. The training will be carried out by the Kaliningrad Institute for Retraining Specialists for Agribusiness.

Further information:

Mrs Natalia Khaliouk
City of Kaliningrad
Tel. +7 0112 228368
Fax +7 0112 215395
e-mail: ums@cityhall.koenig.su



SCHOOLS IN COLLABORATION



For several years Vaggaskolan in Karlshamn and its partner schools in Nomme and Haapsalu have been working to bring students from respective schools the aim of widening their range of experience. Recently, Heinola has joined the project.

How do we collaborate? In the current project students from Karlshamn visited partner schools in Nomme, Haapsalu and Heinola at the end of September. They spent 3 days in each town working together with students from the local schools to produce a show, which will be performed in front of live audience. The next stage of the project will be a working meeting for all participants in the project. The project has three parts called art, music and drama.

In the art part students try to express what is typical of the region using images, colours and forms to capture the essence

of our "home". During the workshops young people can explain, discuss and get to know each other's surrounding.

Music is a language that everyone understands and can use to make him to be understood. The pleasure of singing and playing together opens many doors to mutual understanding. During the workshops the students will work towards the performance of the joint concert.

The drama part of project also uses places we come from as a starting point. Local tales and the destinies of people from our regions are the materials, which are used. The purpose of these workshops is to create an understanding of what gives us special cultural identities and what, from the other hand, unites us.

One of the objectives is to extend the project beyond our schools to other groups. The young people taking part in

the project come from different social system and they are enriched by being a part of the other students' lives and sharing their own daily life with their new friends. The workshops will bring understanding of the fact that although we lead different lives we do in fact share a place in history and the world. The students will pass this knowledge and like rings on the water it will be spread even wider.

Further information:

Mr Holger Grufman
Vaggaskolan
City of Karlshamn
Tel. +46 454 85773
Fax +46 454 85780
e-mail:
vaggaskolan@kommun.karlshamn.se



EDUCATION REFORM IN KAUNAS

Kaunas is the second by size city in Lithuania. There are 222 educational institutions by different types in our city, in which work 6 113 teachers and 53 911 pupils are educated.

Educational Department coordinates process of development in all educational institutions of Kaunas. 17 specialists are working in administration. They coordinate such programmes as development of pre-school education, integrating pupils with special educational needs into mainstream schools, health and ecological education, child socialisation and prevention of crime (establishment of Day Centres for pupils), programmes of professional qualification for head teachers and teachers, transition to ten year compulsory basic school. There are 88 Kindergartens, 14 Primary schools, 2 Compulsory basic schools, 47 Secondary schools, 2 Youth schools, 1 Adult education centre, 38 schools of compulsory education.

Education reform started since 1991 in Lithuania. The second stage of reform starts as transition to a ten-year compulsory basic school (there was a nine-year compulsory school up to now). The Education reform documents provide for twelve-year secondary education. Two versions are possible: foundation of upper secondary schools and choice of profile in secondary schools. There are 7 upper secondary schools in Kaunas. 2 secondary schools started transition to upper secondary school. 12 secondary schools take part in experiment of teaching by the profile in our city.

Reconstruction of educational contents in all levels of education – from pre-school to upper secondary school – also is important for us. In addition to the national curriculum, there are also individual curriculum's. Besides national programmes, there are strengthened programmes for different subjects in 38 secondary schools. English and Mathematics programmes are the most

popular. Schools of compulsory education create opportunity for development of pupil's artistic, sports and other skills.

Professional qualification of head teachers and teachers is very important and requires the special attention. Kaunas Teachers Culture and Education Centre coordinate methodical activities qualification programmes. Club for future teachers was created for 16-18 years pupils who are interested in teacher's profession. Kaunas educational institutions have an interest in sharing and spreading their experience. They are interested in exchanging information with educational institutions of other cities and are ready to take part in the international projects.

Further information:
Ms Salviniija Sleziene
Education Department
City of Kaunas
Tel. +370 7 22 85 48
Fax +370 7 22 22 43



Young nature investigators

KURESSAARE HIGH SCHOOLS

Kuressaare Gümnaasium

Kuressaare Gümnaasium is the biggest educational establishment in Saaremaa county. The speciality of our study system is period study: the study year is divided into 5 periods, in every period each student has only 5-6 subjects. All subjects have been divided into 35-lesson courses. As students have less subjects in one period, it makes the study process more intensive. The school offers optional subjects set, which together with obligatory subjects make up one study line (program). The school offers 6 study lines. The programme "AXEL" is used to organise the schoolwork. AXEL forms schedule for each student contains database of our school and quite soon it will give us the review of students grades.

Schooling centre "Osilia" is a unit of Kuressaare Gümnaasium. Its general costs are covered by the city, but other expenses must be covered from own resources. The main goal of Osilia is teachers' advanced training. The centre can also arrange lectures, courses and conferences, distant education or communication with the

Internet. Kuressaare Gümnaasium has rather good computer equipment and also two computer classes with a connection to the local network and to the Internet. Courses in environmental protection, mathematics for secondary school graduates, English, training of headmasters, SME training, anti-AIDS programmes and for example economical geography have also been arranged.

Saaremaa Uhisgümnaasium

Saaremaa Uhisgümnaasium is the oldest Estonian upper secondary school on Saaremaa Island. The school has the right to compose all study curriculum itself. The aim of the school is to give traditional high level secondary education and prepare students for universities.

Six years ago special nature classes were established behind the foreign language, physics-math, and state defence options. In the nature classes more biology, geography, chemistry and physics are taught. The curriculum of the science direction also contains several special subjects like oceanography or native fauna

and flora. Every year practice camps and study trips are organised for students.

Different activities are used to vary environmental education. One important part of the teaching/study process is the creation, presentation and defence, by students, of their individual research projects. That field of activity has allowed connecting every-day schoolwork with the cooperation of other schools. Such students' work needs some output, which gives the students further motivation to work on this field. The experience of the school shows that a very good output for students is an annual international student conference.

The first international conference "Environment & Home" was organised by Saaremaa Uhisgümnaasium in 1992. This conference exceeded all expectations and became very popular both in Estonia and Scandinavia. So far, 5 international conferences have taken place. Students have held visitor presentations from Estonian, Latvian, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, and Russian schools. The organisers of the conference have planned to enlarge the circle of participants up to all Baltic Sea countries.

Five years long experience has shown that international student conference gives the following benefits: improvement of environmental education in schools, stimulation of students to work on environmental problems, output for students' research work and environmental activity or to make public the local environmental problems discovered by students. This is also possibility to find new friends, to exchange of experiences and ideas and to begin cooperation between schools.

Further information:

Mr Jaanis Pree
Deputy Mayor
City of Kuressaare
Tel. +372 45 33588
Fax +372 45 33590
e-mail: jaanis@kuressaare.tt.ee





NEW EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KOTKA



An extensive educational system developmental project has been launched in the city of Kotka this autumn. The title of the project is "The schools in Kotka as a working place - rebuilding the educational activities".

The objective is that both the employer (City of Kotka) and the teaching personnel commit themselves to a common strategy and the principles together approved for a continuing development of the education. This project covers both the general and the vocational education, about 35 schools and educational institutions and about 700 teachers and instructors. The project is financed by Ministry of Labour and the City of Kotka. In the planning team representatives of all parties were involved, so already during the planning stage the different viewpoints of the parties were taken into consideration and the objectives of the project are now common

to them all.

The main objective is divided into different sub-objectives. One is to create a common educational strategy for the school system, which can direct action in different educational institutes. The guidelines are drawn by a "strategy team", where the different types of schools are represented. Along this work also the evaluation and quality systems are developed. This work is the basic work, which has to be done for the further development of education.

Another sub-objective is to improve the teachers and instructors ability to manage their work. This is done by developing cooperational networks between and in the schools and by introducing team working methods among teachers. The preparatory work is done in three teams. Those teachers who are members of these teams, form groups in their own schools, where the

same topics can be discussed, different solutions found and tried out in practise. During the project individual schools can get consultation by the project manager, the University of Helsinki and Vantaa Institute for Continuing Education. Four extensive training seminars for all 700 teachers will be organised during the next school year to introduce team working model.

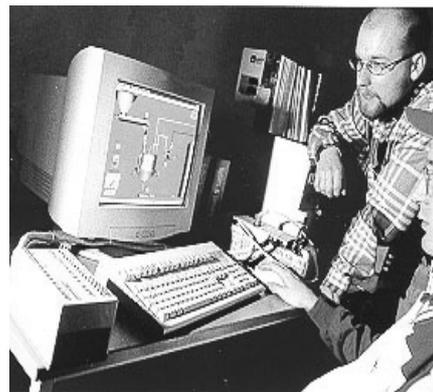
Further information:

Mrs Anneli Kellberg
Project Manager
Tel. + 358 5 234 5577
Fax + 358 5 234 5582
e-mail: anneli.kellberg@kotka.fi

KYMENLAAKSO POLYTECHNIC

Kymenlaakso Polytechnic is a multi-disciplinary institution of higher education, which was founded in 1996. The mission is to actively promote the implementation of the development strategies of the Kymenlaakso Province, as set by the regional authorities.

The task is to produce internationally competitive professionals in cooperation with local companies, organisations, and authorities. Keywords for the success are flexibility, project management knowledge, and ability to react promptly to the changes in society. The objective of the international dimension of the Polytechnic is to keep curricula and teaching methods in the forefront of the European higher education. This includes not only the high-level expertise in one's own field, but also acquiring language skills and cross-cultural skills required by an increasingly international society and industries with versatile international trade relations. Natu-



Hands-on training with state-of-the-art equipment

rally, this knowledge and experience enables the future experts to work abroad, too. International cooperation is a strategic means to fulfil the objectives, and to ensure the quality of the provided training.

The Polytechnic provides Bachelor Degree Programmes in technology and transport, forestry business and

administration, social and health care, and culture. Arranging follow-up and specialisation courses for graduates already at work transfers the latest knowledge. Moreover, research and development, which supports the training, is carried out and business and technology services for local enterprises are served. It is owned by the city on Kotka and the municipalities of the Kouvola region. The Polytechnic has 3000 full-time students, 300 part-time students and the staff of about 350 persons.

Further information:

Mr Mervi Liimatainen
Kymenlaakso Polytechnic
Tel. +358 5 220 8328
Fax +358 5 220 8373
e-mail: kyamk@kyamk.fi



KEILA RELATIONS

The Estonian town Keila and its schools have been very active in finding possibilities to communicate with the students in the Baltic Sea region. The beginning of the relationship dates at 1980 when the possibilities to look around the world arose.

The students have had projects of cooperation with schools in Linnanpello, Sundsvall, Morgangava, Nacka and Barsbattel. They have also had relationships with the students in Denmark and the Netherlands. The projects concern different fields. One of these fields was culture where art exhibition, exchange of the dance group and festivals were arranged. Those projects of collaboration between schools merged also into personal contacts between people.

The education projects are very important as they are also connected with learning of foreign languages. In Keila, the students who learn German have possibility to practise their language skills in Barsbattel, in Germany, living in German families. Regarding English speaking students they have close cooperation with students in the Netherlands. The benefit of this exchange is mutual, as both students have to use foreign language.

These exchanges between schools turned out to be very popular among students. One of the principles of the exchange is to get to know the history of the town and the country. Special excursions and sport events are organised as a part of the cooperation programme. The relations of Keila schools with the schools in different countries around the Baltic Sea region deserve each to be a separate story.

Further information:

Ms Liivi Prink
Assistant Director
Keila Gymnasium
Tel./ Fax +372 2745290
e-mail: mailbox@keila.edu.ee



LITHUANIAN CHRISTIAN FUND COLLEGE

Lithuanian Christian Fund College (LCC) is a unique educational enterprise - the only Christian liberal arts college in the Baltic Sea region providing university-level academic programs.

In addition, LCC is teaching English in hospitals, business, schools, offices, and Navy academy. Each year about 1000 persons enrol in some LCC program - about 375 in full-time liberal arts studies. The seven-year old college offers a highly popular major in business administration, English major, and an experimental program in Christian studies. Those who need to improve their English fluency before entering take one year course to practice speaking, listening, writing, note taking, and other academic skills.

In May 1998, during commencement ceremony, Dr. Leonidas Donskis, Professor of Philosophy at Klaipėda University said that LCC has become the place where liberal education, classical scholarship, intellectual freedom, moral commitment, and democratic experience intertwine. "You should be proud," he told the class of 1998, "of graduating from this college, the island of Western academic norms and intellectual values in Klaipėda and Lithuania." Over

seventy graduates have found excellent jobs in well-know companies and institutions. Several LCC alumni graduate American schools like Princeton, Regent College, Providence Seminary, and Eastern College.

This year the Klaipėda City Council wanted to upgrade its members' English skills, so it turned to Lithuania Christian Fund College (LCC). At the same time, Audra Skukauskaitė, came home, after earning her masters in literature at Fresno Pacific University. At Fresno, Audra had won the prestigious Dean's Award for academic excellence. She wrote about the Baltic's "silent roar," calling her home to "white dunes ... and pines on the hill," and "the rumbling, creaking, crawling" of Klaipėda's busy cranes. Her yearning was answered; in August she became the first graduate to join the LCC faculty.

Further information:

Mrs Alma Jankauskaitė
Lithuanian Christian Fund College
City of Klaipėda
Tel. +370 6 310084
Fax +370 6 310560
e-mail: lcc.pr@klaipeda.omnitel.net



"The rumbling cranes of Klaipėda"



These students have successfully passed the matriculation exams



HIGH SCHOOL BY DISTANCE LEARNING?

In the City of Pori one important aim in the development of municipal education is the prevention of isolation. Pori High School of Adult Education is developing upper secondary education by distance learning giving general education irrespective of time, place or age.

The advantage in distance education is that it gives grown-up people the opportunity to get high school education in circumstances in which it's not possible for them to attend regular classes on weekdays due to long distances, child care problems, shift work, disability or other personal factors.

Pori High School of Adult Education has about 650 students. Part of them attends junior high school and thus gets the General Certificate of Education that enables them to continue in education. The majority of the students go to senior high school (upper secondary) and take part in the matriculation examination, which gives the formal qualification needed to get into university and other institutes giving higher education.

Pori High School of Adult Education has been a pioneer in providing distance high school education in Finland. In the year 1993 the first 50 distance students started high school and the majority of them succeeded in reaching their goal. They achieved the high school diploma and taking the matriculation examination. The students in distance learning did even better than regular students in humanities, natural sciences, foreign languages and mathematics. They had better skills to see the connections between various phenomena and events. Nevertheless, some students had to go to normal contact education and some students had to drop out. This system is, after all, very demanding and requires good basic knowledge.

The school year is divided into six periods, each of which lasts six weeks. The students have three contact lessons during one period and at the end of the period they have tests in 3-5 subjects they have. In the time between the contact lessons they study the course books with the help of all the extra materials. This materials have mostly

been made by the teachers themselves. Besides, they can contact the teachers via phone, fax or e-mail. If the students still have difficulties in some subjects they can attend the corresponding regular evening classes as the courses always run simultaneously. Of great help are also the www-sites on the Internet made by The National Board of Education. There are also radio courses for distance learners that students can borrow on cassettes from school.

In this system the teachers have to adjust their teaching methods to suit the distance learners and have to do a lot of extra work to develop systems that in the best way support students who are studying alone. For the teachers this work is demanding, but also rewarding.

In 1996 the National Board of Education began expanding this system to cover the whole country. The City of Pori and High School of Adult Education were asked to contribute in this project, which is supported by several municipalities, the National Broadcasting Company, the EU Social Fund and the many interest groups that provide material for distance learners.

Further information:
Mrs Anne-Maj Eskelinen
Pori High School
of Adult Education
Tel. +358 2 6215342
Fax +358 2 6215174
e-mail:
anne-maj.eskelinen@cedunet.com

DECNET PROJECT



Stockholm/Malarregion together with Turku and Helsinki regions are working on a project to develop a Distance Education Collaboration Network in the Baltic Sea Region - DECNET.

The main aims of this distance education project are to increase the educational level, to develop business collaboration and trade, and to stimulate regional development in remote areas from capitols and university centres.

The first step of the project will be a feasibility study to clarify the prerequisites

according to technical, administration, didactic, tutor and economics in the regions and cities interested in joining the project. The next step will be to establish the technical prerequisites governing the concerned regions/cities.

Extension studies that span over several countries make heavy demands on administrative capacity. Regional study centres may need support to develop well functioning, supporting administrative facilities. An improved didactic level is also a pre-requisite for well-functioning network collaboration. The tutoring function needs to be both english-speaking and efficient for a successful development of a cross boarder network scheme. A creation of homogenous course-related study material for all the regions and cities will make resources more easily available for a further long-term expansion of the collaborative network.

The implementation of common course-related study material for all institutions in the network will be facilitated if such are based on demands and needs that are common to all the cities in question. The following fields meet these criteria: European Union studies, European languages, international trade and market economics, business administration, management, project management, environment management and media and IT.

Several of these courses and educational programs are available today but need to be revised and adapted for multi-national use. Other areas in demand are not at the moment adapted for distance study purpose and production of such material will be initiated within the framework of this project.

At the conference in Riga, held in May 1998, representatives from the ministry of Education, county and city administrations, Phare Multi-Count Distance Education programme, university, college, distance education centres from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania discussed the DECNET-project and expressed their interest to join the project.

Further information:

Mr Christer Stighäll
Mälerregion
Tel. +46 176 719 10
Fax +46 176 138 15
e-mail: christer.stighall@norrtalje.se



Student analysing the phosphate concentration in water



EDUCATION IN LAHTI

The city of Lahti in its strategic plans places special emphasis on the importance of efficient schooling in the building of the city success.

In the comprehensive school and the senior secondary school better than normal support is offered to those who need it as well as an encouraging educational environment various subjects for pupils who are seen to be specially talented. Higher education is being developed to reduce unemployment and also to serve the City's strategy in labour politics.

The comprehensive school, secondary schools and adult education are included in the city's organisation. Secondary and advanced vocational teaching as well as vocational training is under Lahti Region Educational Consortium. The university level teaching is the responsibility of the branches of Helsinki, Tampere and Lappeenranta Universities.

In Lahti, school system experiments are in progress regarding tuition and also the development of methods that reinforce the pupils' self-awareness, initiative, interpersonal skills and use of acquired knowledge. There is also ongoing cooperation between the secondary schools and the upper level schools in a widely based experiment with young people.

Salinkallio Comprehensive School

Salinkallio Comprehensive School is environmentally orientated upper level comprehensive school. In practice, it means that the environmental education is given besides teaching biology and geography.

In the near future, the school aims to form a special group of pupils, who are going to study the environmental theme integrated in several other subjects. This group will consist of pupils who have shown their special interest in environmental issues.

For several years the school has taken part in the fair of natural way of life, where pupils have worked e.g. as recycling guides, made an outstanding traffic research and created the basis for charting the environmental impacts of great public events. The school has traditionally had also a department of its own at the fair where the products made by the pupils were sold.

There is an environmental- and scientific club in the school. The pupils can make excursions, physical and chemical researches or study astronomy, photography etc. The school bears the responsibility for waste management. There are separate receivers for paper, energy waste and municipal waste in every classroom. In addition to this, the biowaste from the domestic science classroom are composted.

One of the main ideas of the school is to take the environment into consideration. The aim is to make pupils respect the nature and the environment around them and cherish and promote its well being.

Further information:

Mr Juhani Tommola
City of Lahti
Tel. +358 381 44001
Fax +358 381 44000
e-mail: juhani.tommola@lahti.fi



GOLDEN SCHOLARSHIPS IN RIGA

There is a good tradition in Riga to honour the best students and their teachers with the awards. This year, it was the fourth time when at the end of school year 12 most outstanding graduates were awarded the Golden Scholarships of the Riga City Council and the School Board of Riga City, while their pedagogues were awarded the Golden Pens.

The Golden Scholarship of 400 Lats is both recognition of the person's distinguished studies at school and material support to start studies at a higher educational establishment. The number of applicants for this Scholarship is big, and the competition becomes sharper, as the achievements of the young persons who win the Scholarship get higher. The Golden Scholarship is very popular among the students, and, since the demands are very high, they start to prepare for it in due time.

The applicants are chosen basically at schools where the young persons, as well as their achievements are known best of all. Besides, the young person has to be

the winner of an olympiad of some subject. Also various awards, appreciation certificates, scientific publications are taken into account. A recommendation issued by the tutor or other teacher who has participated in the training of the student is necessary, where the creative or scientific work of the applicant, as well as the applicant would be characterised as completely as possible.

In autumn the students characterise their pedagogues. Each Scholarship holder chooses the teacher who has contributed to the creation of his and other students' personalities most of all. In the first week of October, the Mayor of Riga presents these 12 teachers with precious pens. Three teachers received also money award, as they had taught already three Golden Scholarship holders.

Riga is proud of its students, their successful studies and high achievements in the international olympiads. The Riga City Council has set the education as one of the priorities and tries to invest more and



Andris Berzins Mayor of Riga awarding the Golden Scholarship

more for the renewal of the material and technical property of the schools, at the same time thinking also of a material and moral stimulus for the pedagogues.

Further information:

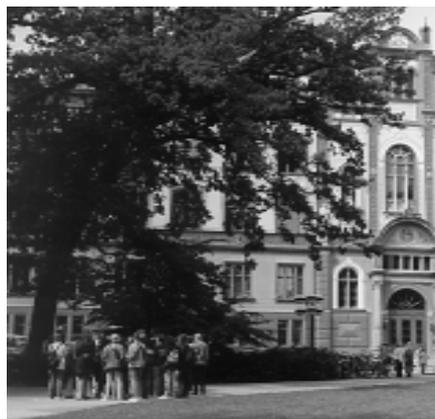
Mrs Liga Rimseveica
Riga City School Board
Tel. +371 7026822
Fax +371 7331946
e-mail: viktirs@rec.lv



HANSEATIC STUDENTS' DAYS OF SCIENCE

The Hanseatic Students' Days of Science are an initiative to bring together students from East and West European countries of the Baltic region, home of the medieval Hansa Union.

The University of Rostock organised the meeting on 1-7 June 1998 under the



University of Rostock

title Modern Methods in Experimental Medicine - Focus on Cell-Biology and Molecular Biology. The program was focused on modern methods in the fields of molecular and cellular biology. Students of medicine, pharmacology, biology and chemistry had the opportunity to participate in program of laboratory work, scientific education and cultural exchange. The participants concentrated on methods of cell culture, RNA- and DNA isolation, cloning, polymerase chain reaction and sequencing. This included practical work in small groups supervised by the academic staff in the University's laboratories. The laboratory work was supplemented by lectures on basic methods, their application and perspectives.

A trip to historical places of the Hansa union emphasised the liberal and cosmopolitan spirit of this ancient economical and cultural union. Rostock University, as

the oldest institution of this kind in Northern Europe, is obliged to the tradition of hospitality and wanted to acquaint the participants with the town, its beautiful surroundings and the profound changes that have shaped the region since the coming down of the Wall.

The program integrated currently existing efforts of clinicians and scientists of Rostock University to foster the young scientific generation. The program was offered to 33 participants from all Baltic Sea countries.

Further information:

Prof. Matthias Freund
University Hospital
City of Rostock
Tel. +49 381 494 7421
Fax +49 381 494 7422



YOUNGEST UNIVERSITY

Šiauliai University, the youngest in Lithuanian Republic, was established in 1997 by merging the Šiauliai Pedagogical Institute and the Šiauliai Polytechnical branch of Kaunas Technological University. The goal is to create a modern, open university, able to compete intellectually both nationally and internationally in the 21st century and is determined to strengthen cooperation with other institutions.

The highest governing body at the University is the Senate. Its members are elected for four year terms. The University is led by the rector and three prorectors, each for social studies, research, and infrastructure. Faculties are governed by deans, and work is coordinated by faculty councils. The rector is appointed by Senate which also confirms the prorectors and faculty deans.

The University has six faculties: Pedagogy, Special Pedagogy, Humanities, Physics and Mathematics, Art, and Technology. The establishment of a social studies faculty is also planned for this year. These faculties and the qualification institute function in 7 different facilities, located in the town

center, which cover a total area of more than 33000 square meters. Moreover the University has French, Swedish, and Russian Culture Centers, a botanical garden, zoology and university history museums and will open its own art gallery this autumn. It is also planned to establish Environmental Conservation, American Studies and Public Health Education Centers. The University's library has more than 350,000 volumes. There are 180 work stations in six different reading rooms, and almost 5,000 people have library cards. The "Šiauliai University" newspaper is published twice a month, and the television shows about university studies are produced.

Students at the University choose from bachelor's, master's, and doctorate programs. Today University has more than 5,000 students and 356 lecturers. Every year the University hosts 30-40 guest

lecturers from higher learning institutions both in Lithuania and abroad. University scholars also participate in international project such as the "Step by Step", "Tempus", and "Socrates" programs. There are always a few lecturers on sabbatical, working together with Lithuanian and foreign countries' higher education institutions to organize seminars and conferences. Šiauliai University scholars, striving to reach European study and educational standards, cooperate with institutes from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Great Britain, France, the United States, Latvia, Estonia, and Russia.

The academic year is divided into Autumn and Spring semesters. Study at the



University of Šiauliai

University is free for those students financed by the state. Others pay a fee set by the University Senate. Many students receive scholarships. University graduates work in various places, but the majority of them start out at Lithuanian basic education schools. The University will continue its early traditions in the future and try to satisfy the demand for newer specialities such as Political Science, Psychology, Business and Public Administration, Ethics, Social Work, and Foreign Languages.

Further information:

Ms Lina Šimkute
City of Šiauliai
Tel. +370 1 439440
Fax: +370 1 427575
e-mail: lina@siauliai.sav.lt

VILJANDI CULTURE COLLEGE



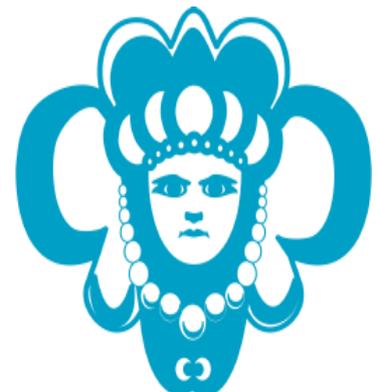
Viljandi Culture College gives higher education that is completed as a rule with receiving a diploma in folk culture and art. The college is the center of teaching all kinds of subjects concerning Estonian folk culture and also a center of scientific research and supplementary courses. The college prepares professionals-practitioners, creativity coordinators and culture specialists for different fields of art.

It is possible to study not only church-, contemporary- and folk music or folk handicraft but also dance art, theatrical studies, librarianship, stage management and extracurricula activities coordination for children and youth.

The duration of studies is 3 to 4 years. At the moment there are more than 240 students and 51 full-time lecturers working at the college. About 70% of the graduates have found work according to their field of studies. The college can offer also accommodation for 100 students in hotel-dorms.

Further information:

Mr Enn Siimer
Viljandi Culture College
Tel. + 372 43 33678
Fax + 372 43 33590
e-mail: kool@vkcol.vil.ee





TURKU POLYTECHNIC

The Turku Polytechnic provides the widest range of programmes in the field of Arts and Media in Finland. Each of the four-year programmes: Communication and Media Arts, Fine Arts, Performing Arts and Music consist of a number of specialisation options. In addition to these programmes, there are supplementary and extended educational courses related to the art fields.

A central and significant feature of the programmes is their multi-disciplinary structure. This structure allows vital interaction between different subjects and presents an enormous creative potential for the cross-fertilisation of ideas between the different programmes. Visiting lecturers act as collaborative motivations and facilitate the personal creative development of students' work. Visiting lecturers also contribute to the Turku Polytechnic's need to diversify its already well-established international, cultural and educational relations, which is a response to the growing competitiveness of the European educational scene.

The Turku Polytechnic Arts and Media is presently extending its international links which already include networks in many European countries. This educational strategy presents great potential for the development of an international perspective for the students and teachers. For international students lectures are offered in English in cooperation with other programmes in the Turku Polytechnic.

The Turku Polytechnic offers competitive qualifications for international careers not only in the field of Arts and Media but also in Business and Services, Fisheries and Environmental Care, Health Care and Technology.



New Arts and Media education premises

Further information:

Mrs Kirsti Virtanen
International Relations
Turku Polytechnic
Tel. +358 105535681
Fax +358 105535791
e-mail: int.office@turkuamk.fi



VENTSPILS COLLEGE

The Ventspils College is a higher educational establishment founded by the government in 1997. The college provides academic education and professional training, and awards the academic degree of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) specialising in Finance Management, Marketing Management, Accounting and Auditing, and Logistics, as well as professional qualifications in translation from English/German to Latvian/Russian.

In the credit point system, 1 credit point is defined as a workload of one-week full-time studies. One full-time study year thus is around 40 credit points in the BBA study programme and around 50 credit points in the two Translation Studies programmes.

VENTSPILS AUGSTSKOLA

Duration of both BBA degree and professional qualification programmes is 4 academic years. Bachelor studies result in obtaining the first academic degree. Professional studies result in obtaining a professional diploma of translator/interpreter. Having 80 points for academic study courses, give an opportunity to the diploma-holders for admission to Master studies in any other relevant higher educational establishment.

The Ventspils College has three departments: Management Studies, Translation Studies and Informatics and Distance Education Sector – in the process of formation. At present only full-time studies are available. Number of students is 212, number of full-time staff is 27.

Management Studies Department. The BBA programme consists of three parts. Part A comprises compulsory profile courses, Part B comprises courses of obligatory choice depending on specialisation and Part C comprises courses of free choice. Study training is organised in summer months after second and third years. Students graduate after passing the BBA State Examination and defending BBA thesis.

Translation Studies Department. The programmes of Translation Studies consist of 2 parts: compulsory subjects and optional subjects. Study training is organised in term 7 at domestic and foreign companies or at foreign higher educational establishments. Graduation examinations are taken in term 8 and Qualification Paper is written under supervision of a staff member or an expert from Latvia or abroad.



Further information:

Prof. Janis Silis
Ventspils College
Tel./Fax +371 3628303
e-mail: venta@venta.lv

STUDYING AT HOME

At Study Centre South in Ystad all students can participate in the university course virtually at home. This new system makes it possible for interested and qualified people to study when they have time. It may be used also for competence development or for unemployed.

Together with the three Universities in Lund, Malmö and Kristianstad the municipality has created a facility where longer term studies e.g. computer and electronics engineering courses are mixed with IT supported studies in sociology, economy and other shorter courses. All studies are closely connected to the trade and industry in the region, which provide employment possibilities for graduates.

The centre has about 200 students, many of them part-time, who conduct their studies mainly through IT support. All courses are available on the web and students communicate with their teachers at the university through e-mail and by phone. The videoconference technique has mainly been used in Economics thus making it possible for students and teachers to communicate in real-time. The system of communication and methodology has been developed by Lund University and all studies are naturally conducted as a part of normal university education. The municipality of Ystad cooperates with the Fachhochschule Lübeck with the aim to develop this concept of education.

Further information:

Mr Lars-Åke Ståhl
City of Ystad
Tel. +46 411 77437
Fax +46 411 72968
e-mail: lars-ake.stahl@ystad.se



New Campus of Vaasa University



VAASA - A KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

The importance of knowledge as a factor of production is emphasised in the modern service information society. A great part of new jobs is created in so called knowledge professions.

The business life also favours a many-sided information environment, where the relations and networks create a good basis for establishment of innovations and new enterprises. In the light of these facts the city of Vaasa together with other parties aim at strengthening the position of Vaasa as the educational centre of Western Finland.

First, however, a small package of general information. Vaasa 350 years old traditions as a school town. The city got the epithet of College City in 1968. The college sector has during the past 30 years developed continuously, and today it contains three scientific units of higher education with totally 5500 students. Two units of higher vocational education have 2400 of students. If all other kinds of schools are included, there are daily over 25.000 persons studying in one educational form or another, which is an astonishing number in a city with 56.000 inhabitants.

The University of Vaasa - one of the three units within the sector of higher education - is involved in several interesting projects. In the field of business education entrepreneurship is an overall form of education, starting in kindergarten and continuing up to the university level. There is a special professorship at the university reserved for research in this field, and the university has cooperation partners e.g. in England and Norway. Worth mentioning is the university's special unit - the high-tech laboratory (Technobothnia) that started its activities two years ago. The two other college units have lots of activities with international connections. The newest unit within the higher education, the vo-

ational colleges, offer educational programmes in almost all sectors. In several fields instruction is given in foreign languages (mainly in English and German).

Total early immersion teaching has been an option for more than ten years. In practise this means that Finnish-speaking pupils are instructed principally in the minority language, i.e. in Swedish. The forms of the immersion model have been strengthened further as the European institute of immersion teaching, with its main centre in Barcelona and a branch office in Vaasa, was founded at the international immersion congress in Vaasa in 1993.

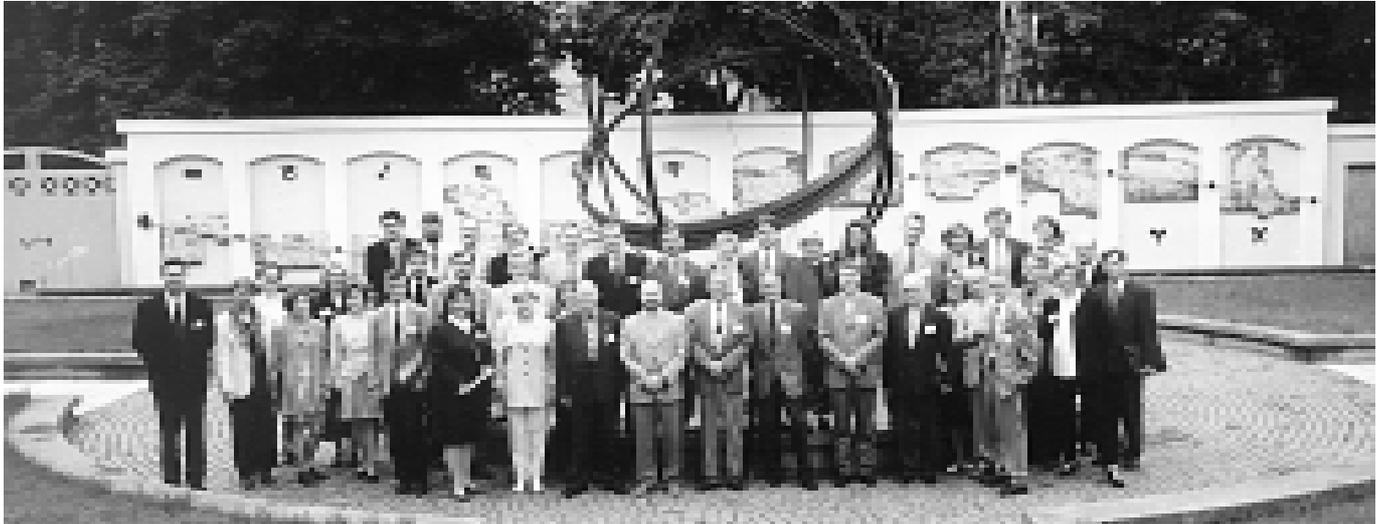
An important milestone for the internationalisation in the upper secondary school education in Vaasa was the IB (International Baccalaureate) education that started in 1992. The instruction language is English and, what is interesting, there are as many pupils admitted with Finnish as their mother tongue as with Swedish.

The city tries to create such a knowledge environment that the Swedish researcher Sverker Sörlin has called the new intellectual geography: "In the Knowledge Society the primary regional factor is knowledge. Areas where there is knowledge attract enterprises, organisations and authorities interested in knowledge. The result of this localisation game is a new intellectual geography, a competence landscape with highs and valleys unequally scattered over the territory."

Further information:

Mr Tor Wik
City of Vaasa
Tel. + 358 6 3251030
Fax + 358 6 3251006
e-mail: tor.wik@vaasa.fi

II. UBC TODAY



Participants at the courtyard of the Clock Museum in Klaipėda

21ST MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 21st meeting of the Executive Board of the Union of the Baltic Cities was held on the 26-27 June 1998 in the City of Klaipėda, Lithuania, upon the invitation of Mr Eugenijus Gentvilas, Mayor of Klaipėda. The first day of the meeting was attended only by the members of the Executive Board. The second day was open for the representatives from all member cities.

New Commission

President Anders Engström reminded that during the last Board meeting in Kalmar two member cities i.e. Norrtälje and Kärddla put forward the proposal to create the UBC Commission on Education. The Board considered the proposal as very interesting and authorised Norrtälje and Kärddla to make a survey to find out which member cities would be interested to cooperate within the new Commission. Mr Erki Tamm, Deputy Mayor of Kärddla, reported that in response to the survey 21 member cities expressed an interest to participate in the work of the new Commission on Education. The Board decided to create the Commission on Education with the cities of Kärddla and Norrtälje as leading cities.

Strategy & Regulations

Mr Anders Engström reminded all participants that the Strategy has been already discussed during the last two Executive Board meetings. The strategy working group consisting of the Presidium and the cities of Copenhagen, Kaunas, Pori, Riga was appointed. The group appointed Mr Bartłomiej Sochański to be responsible for drafting the Strategy document. Mr Sochański presented the draft of the Strategy paper which was discussed in-depth by the Board members. The Board praised the working group for the work done so

far. Secretary General Paweł Ćaboklicki presented the latest draft of UBC Internal Regulations. The Regulations concern the following Union structures: General Conference, Executive Board, Presidium, Commissions, Secretariat.

80 Member Cities

President Anders Engström informed the Executive Board about new application for Union membership submitted by the city of Silkeborg, Denmark. The Board decided to accept Silkeborg as a member of the Union and wished Silkeborg a successful



The closed session of the Executive Board was mainly devoted to the UBC Strategy

cooperation with other UBC members. The number of Union member cities reached the figure 80.

Euroregion Baltic

Mr Sarunas Reikalas, Deputy Governor of Klaipėda County and Vice President of Euroregion "Baltic", gave introduction on the aims and structure of newly established (in February 1998) Euroregion "Baltic". The Board expressed hope for good cooperation between both organisations in the areas of mutual interest.

UBC and LA 21

Mr Mikko Jokinen, chairman of UBC Commission on Environment, reminded that Baltic 21 (Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region) process was launched by the Baltic Ministers of Environment in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, in 1996. The Baltic 21 process is carried out by the Senior Officials Group (SOG) of which UBC is an official member. The Commission actively contributes to the SOG work. Mr Jokinen informed that the Baltic 21 final document was officially adopted by CBSS at the recent meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in Nyborg on 22 June 1998. UBC is mentioned several times in the final document. Mr Jokinen invited all member cities to participate in the Health and Sustainable Cities Conference to be held in Turku in September. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Commission on Environment for its active contribution to the elaboration of the document "Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region".

Mrs Hjördis Höglund, Leader of the Women's Network reported on Network's activities in the first half of 1998. Mrs Höglund visited 12 member cities and represented UBC in three women's conferences.

Ms Sonja Hilavuo reported from the third meeting of the Task Force for Public Relations and Communication held in Szczecin on 25-27 May 1998, attended by 35 participants.

Mr Risto Veivo, UBC Environmental Coordinator, informed that the Commission on Environment received a grant of 300.000 DKK from the Nordic Council of Ministers for the continuation of the project Municipal Environmental Auditing.

Following an invitation from Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, the Board decided to hold its next (22nd) meeting in Szczecin on 16-17 October 1998.

20TH MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 20th meeting of the UBC Executive Board was held in Kalmar on the 27-28 March 1998, at the invitation of Mr Anders Engström, Mayor of Kalmar and President of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

After the opening President Engström informed the Board about unexpected death of Mr Igor Kozhemiakin, Mayor of Kaliningrad and member of UBC Executive Board. With the minute of silence, the Board paid a tribute to the memory of Mr Kozhemiakin.



Mr Paweł Ąaboklicki, Secretary General, informed that the Secretariat sent out a short questionnaire to all member cities to find out cities views on UBC Strategy. The questionnaire was widely responded by member cities. The cities answers were the basis for the meeting of the strategy working group held in Copenhagen. It was decided that Mr Bartłomiej Sochański, Vice-President, shall be responsible for formulating the Strategy and Mr Paweł Ąaboklicki for the Internal Regulations.

The President informed that the major Baltic organisations (UBC, BSSSC, CPMR) met in Copenhagen to discuss cooperation and Baltic strategic issues. The meeting was held in association with the session of CBSS Committee of Senior Officials.

The Secretary General submitted UBC financial report for 1997. Mr Ąaboklicki underlined that all member cities pay mem-

bership fees and the financial position of the Union is stable.

President Anders Engström informed that two member cities ie. Norrtälje and Kärddla put forward the proposal to create the UBC Commission on Education. The Commission could deal with eg. pupils and students exchange, distance education, adults education etc. The Board considered the proposal as very interesting and authorised Norrtälje and Kärddla to make a survey to find out which cities would be interested to

cooperate within the new Commission.

The President also informed the Board about the application for Union membership submitted by the city of Koszalin, Poland. The Board accepted Koszalin as UBC member and wished Koszalin a good cooperation with other member cities.

The Chairmen of eight UBC working Commissions submitted the reports on Commissions' activities since the IV UBC General Conference held in in Gdańsk on 12-13 September 1998. The Board adopted the reports and encouraged to continue their important work.

Mr Arne Ellefors, Director of Baltic Sea Tourism Commission (BTC) put forward a proposal to establish the Baltic Sea Tourism Alliance connecting the major Baltic organisations interested in tourism development. The Board decided UBC shall join the Alliance.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBER CITIES!

The Fifth General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities will be held in Stockholm on 24-25 September 1999. Please mark these dates in your calendars.

BALTIC LOCAL AGENDA 21 - HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES CONFERENCE

The Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference (The Turku Conference) was organised in Turku 3-5 September. UBC was one of the main organisers of this important international conference which gathered in Turku about 400 participants from all around the Baltic Sea and Northern Europe. There were even participants from as far as Peru, China and South Africa. The Conference belongs to a series of European Sustainable Cities and Towns conferences supported by the European Commission.

The Turku conference sought fruitful partnerships and other means for the local implementation of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic 21). Local authorities play a key role in bringing about sustainable development. It is their responsibility to take the initiative and gather all

good use of other resources, e.g., information, know-how and innovative human resources.

The first group of theme sessions "Principles and Processes" examined some of the basic principles and elements behind sustainable development and the Local Agenda 21 process. It provided the opportunity to discuss working examples, lessons learnt and problems encountered. The second, "Integrated Solutions" explored how cross-cutting policy themes can be implemented within the local government that normally is sectoral divided. The third and final group "How to move Forward" introduced means how the Local Agenda 21 process can be progressed further. Each session emphasised how each specific topic is linked to the Local Agenda 21 process. The objective was to give the au-



partners together for starting and carrying on the Local Agenda 21 process. During two days of intensive workshops and plenaries the participants had a great opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions, to learn more together and to find useful new contacts. A special emphasis in many plenaries and workshops was put on health issues with regards to sustainable urban development.

It was once more found out that there is a constant need to simultaneously focus on economic, environmental, social and health concerns in Local Agenda 21 initiatives. The strategies have to be integrated as opposed to single sector responses on both the environment and human well-being. Many examples of good practice provided lots of new ideas and inspiration. Especially the Eastern participants presented many excellent cases where the lack of one resource (economical) can be overcome by

dience a wide overview on Local Agenda 21 and the different approaches to it in different municipalities.

The conference also adopted a wide statement which was prepared by its international planning group and further developed in the working groups and discussions during the conference. The purpose of this statement is to express a common will to work for sustainable development recognising the characteristics of the Baltic Sea Region and to call for support to this work. The statement will be sent as a message to the following European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conferences. In this way the work done together by all the participants in the conference in Turku will also contribute to the further development of these issues in the whole Europe. The Baltic link was added to the European chain for sustainable development.

SAIL PROJECT

A new Local Agenda 21 project is on its way. It will start at the end of this year and is to promote local sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Financing has been approved by the Phare Baltic Sea Region Cross-Border Cooperation Small Project Facility (BSPF) and the Tacis Cross-Border Cooperation Small Project Facility.

SAIL - which is short for 'Spreading Awareness to foster the Implementation of Local Agenda 21' - will enable to develop study and awareness raising material for municipal decision-makers in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia. During the project activities the city networks of UBC and ICLEI will provide the knowledge and experience which they compiled from Western European municipalities for their adaptation to the Eastern European situation.

Following a series of essential topics of Local Agenda 21, the transfer of this know-how will be realised in the course of 5 workshops organised by the Eastern European partners in Gdańsk, Tartu, Jurmala, Kaunas and St. Petersburg. Also, in between these workshops, ICLEI will act as a consultant to give its advice to all Eastern European partners via e-mail, fax and phone and via a special WebSite, which will enable everybody to download and use the material, developed.

At the end of the project, the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian partners will invite approx. 15 high-level municipal decision-makers, such as mayors and experts, in their countries for the promotion and dissemination of the material which can then be used to further spread information and motivation in order to get more Local Agenda processes started in the target countries.

Further information:

Mr Kari Porra
Environmental Protection Centre
City of Lahti
Tel. +358 381 65121
Fax +358 381 65100
e-mail: kari.porra@lahti.fi

NEW COMMISSION ON EDUCATION



The Commission on Education is the newest UBC Commission established at the 21st Executive Board meeting in Klaipėda, on 26 June 1998.

The targets for this commission will be to offer the member cities good possibilities for exchange of experiences and to bring up new initiatives for joint EU-projects on competence improvement. At its first meeting, the Commission on Education will discuss the following main fields of activities: pupils, students and teachers exchange, distance education and adult projects.

Pupils, students and teachers exchange.

There are a lot of initiatives and exchange activities that UBC members are experienced with. The Commission will discuss how to support and take initiative to organise an exchange network between pupils, students and teachers among UBC members.

Distance education projects. The UBC members are already experienced with distance education projects between cities and in the Baltic Region. This experience shows that it is a very efficient mean in regional development, cross-boarder cooperation and networking. Some of the ongoing and planned projects are aimed at jointly developed business management, marketing, language, EU-knowledge, environment, sustainable tourism and IT-know-how. These projects will gain in widening them to include more cities and regions in the Baltic Sea Region. Other projects in this field can use the UBC network to find the right partners to formulate an application for EU-funding. This will be discussed in one special workshop during the first commission meeting.

Adult education projects. A lot of the Baltic Sea Regions give priority to adult educational. At its first meeting the Commission on Education will discuss how to support joint program for adult education and cooperation between UBC member organisations.

Many UBC members have announced their interest to join the new commission, among else to exchange information on different educational matters. The first commission meeting will discuss how to develop a functioning and easily managed

information routines on these matters. A special question to answer is on what educational levels the commission should concentrate its initiatives and activities. This question will also be handled at the first commission meeting.

The first Commission Meeting will be held in Norrtälje, Sweden, on 27-28 of November. The Commission will discuss what specific targets will be worked out and how the commission will be organised to live up to the expectations the UBC members. All members will have an invitation to this first meeting.

So far 25 UBC members have announced that they will join the Commission on Education. The lead cities for the Commission are Norrtälje in Sweden and Kärdla in Estonia.

Further information:

Mr Christer Stighäll
Osthandelsforum, Norrtälje
Tel. +46 176 71910
Fax +46 176 13815
e-mail: christer.stighall@norrtalje.se

Mr Ivo Eesmaa
Estonian Education League
Tel. +372 46 32007
Fax +372 36 32014
e-mail: ivo@khs.hiumaa.ee

EU COORDINATOR PROJECT

In 1997 the City of Pärnu put forward the idea of building a network of EU coordinators in UBC member cities. The UBC-EU Information Project that was carried out during 1997 clearly showed the need for information on EU for local authorities. The EU Coordinator Project is one of the outcomes of the UBC-EU Project. The leading cities of the Commission of Communication, Kalmar and Riga, have agreed to arrange a preparatory meeting in Riga late November or early December. An invitation to the meeting will be distributed to all UBC member cities in the beginning of October.

The background to the project is the present process of integration between the European Union and the transition countries in the Baltic Sea Region. In order to meet this challenge several cities have installed EU coordinators in their staff and still more are planning to do so in the near future.

One main task for the EU coordinators is to create networks within the local municipal administration and public sector. This network will spread information about the EU funds and programs, support the development of new projects, assist with the preparation of applications to the EU and keep in contact with EU representatives.

Another main task is to match the obligations that follows with a membership with the possibilities of receiving support from the EU. As the EU coordinators constitutes an entirely new profession in local authorities there is a great need to create a network in order to exchange information and experiences.

The aim of the project is to shape this network of EU coordinators in the UBC member cities. Information tools for dissemination and exchange of information will be created to serve the network properly, i.e. a database on EU issues available on the UBC homepage and e-mail list for the EU coordinators.

The preparatory meeting will give all partners the opportunity to discuss and agree on the content of the project. This will be carried through during the meeting by making a survey of the needs of the different partner cities and creating a network for the continuation of the project. The outcome of the preparatory meeting will result in an application to the EU program SWEBALTCOP. The cities Riga and Kalmar will take responsibility for preparing the application. The project will start in January or February 1999 if the application is approved. All UBC member cities that have plan or consider to create an EU Coordinator position are welcome to participate in the project.

Further information:

Ms Karin Wessman
Project Coordinator
City of Kalmar
Tel. +46 480 56 457
Fax +46 480 83 122
e-mail:
karin.wessman@kommun.kalmar.se

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 "BAL TIC 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.

Further information:

Mrs Magdalena Lewoc
UBC Commission on Culture
City of Szczecin
Tel. +48 91 4224612
Fax +48 91 4245650
e-mail: mlewoc@um.szczecin.pl

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.

Further information:

Mrs Monica Rosander
City of Norrköping
Tel. +46 11 151984
Fax: +46 11 137756
e-mail:
monica.rosander@norrkoping.se

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.

Further information:

Ms Ewa Kurjata
Baltics Manager
City of Szczecin
Tel. +48 91 4876880
Fax +48 91 4860811
e-mail: ewa.kurjata@um.szczecin.pl

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.

Further information:

Prof. Maciej Krzyżanowski
UBC Commission on Transport
Maritime Institute
Tel. +48 58 301 16 41
Fax +48 58 301 35 13
e-mail: isza@im.gda.pl

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 !



Further information:

Ms Ewa Depka
Project Coordinator
City of Gdynia
tel. +48 58 620 83 12
fax: +48 58 620 09 17
e-mail: umgdyfor@miasto.gdynia.pl

III. Member Cities in Action



FISHERIES EXHIBITION IN AALBORG



Aalborg's triennial fisheries exhibition was set to take on a more international flavour. The exhibition will take place under the new title of DanFish International on October 7-10, 1999.

The main organisers are DanFish and Nexus Media, which had responsibility for the former World Fishing Exhibition in Copenhagen.

DanFish International is the 16th fisheries exhibition to be staged at the Aalborg Congress & Culture Centre. Since 1992 the Aalborg organisers have been working in close cooperation with the Danish Export Group Association's Fisheries Section and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on attracting international visitors. The 1993 show attracted visitors from more than 16 nations, and the 1996 show attracted delegations from no less than 22 nations.

Former exhibitions have been complete sell-outs, and in order to house international exhibitors, the Aalborg show - which is now the only fisheries exhibition in Denmark - is extending into the next door park area. An exhibition hall in the park will be reserved primarily for international exhibitors. In addition DanFish International and its partners will be organising courses and seminars on subjects of specific interest to the business.

Further information:

Mr Viggo Kragmann
Aalborg Congress
Tel. +45 9935 5555
Fax +45 9935 5580
e-mail: akkc@akkc.dk



BERNET PROJECT

Representatives of Estonia, Russia, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark had a joint meeting in Odense, in March, 1998 to discuss the state of pollution for the respective coastal waters and a status for measures taken to reduce emissions to the Baltic Sea.

The researches show that the Baltic Sea and especially coastal waters are suffering from severe eutrophication and there is an urgent need to reduce pollutants from industries, agriculture and cities. There is also need to improve monitoring programmes in the coastal waters. The participants stressed that subregions should play an important role in addressing the eutrophication problems of the Baltic Sea and the BERNET project should become a frame for a future network and partnership.

Kaliningrad region was considered to be the priority area for the project. The municipal wastewaters are not properly treated due to over-loaded city sewerage system, and are discharged into the Pregol

river, which runs to Vistula Bay, connected to the Baltic Sea. Kaliningrad does not have biological treatment facilities so industrial wastewaters are also discharged into the harbour with a minimum treatment. The seasonal and monthly eutrophication processes have been studied in the Kursky Bay, based on 13 monitoring stations. Agricultural discharge and municipal wastes are the sources of organic matters that flow into the Baltic basin: The agricultural activity has decreased since 1991, but in the coming years, it can increase again. The BERNET project is quite urgent for the region, taking into consideration the economic difficulties which the country is facing at the moment.

Further information:

Mrs Natalia Khaliouk
City of Kaliningrad
Tel. +7 0112 228368
Fax +7 0112 215395
e-mail: ums@cityhall.koenig.su

CONFERENCES IN GOTLAND



A Telemedicine conference was held at Visby County hospital on 27-28 July 1998. The conference was a part of the common effort and desire for stability and security in the Baltic Sea Region. The aim of the conference was to establish a platform for telemedical cooperation within the Baltic region. The modern information technology and the ever increasing speed of data - and telecommunication are starting point for improved confidence and cooperation among people.

In 1998 the delegates of the CPMR Island Commission met on Sicily where they held their 18th conference. The theme of the conference was the islands' EU-situation during the next programme period, 2000-2006. Foremost amongst discussions was how the islands will be affected by the new rules that have been proposed for the use of the financial resources in the structural funds.

The meeting resulted in the creation of working groups. Each group has a delegate from three areas, the Baltic Sea, North Sea and the Mediterranean. In September all groups will submit their detailed suggestions concerning the different areas. Next year, Island Commission will hold its conference on Gotland, June 23-24. Directly after the Island Commission meeting, the NatWest Island Games will take place on Gotland, 26 June - 2 July 1999.

Further information:

Mrs Monica Formicola
City of Visby
Tel. +46 498 269034
Fax +46 498 215520
e-mail: monica.formicola@gotland.se





AIR QUALITY & URBAN TRANSPORT SEMINAR

For one day Gdańsk had a chance to host the international seminar on atmospheric pollution and transport related measures to tackle this problem. On 25th September 1998 over 70 experts in the field of environmental protection and transport from all over Europe met together to discuss the possibility of fighting poor air quality in urban areas and thus improving the environment and comfort of living in densely populated agglomerations. The seminar was organised by the Car Free Cities in cooperation with the City of Gdańsk and the Union of the Baltic Cities with the financial support of the European Commission DG XI.



The direct purpose for organising the seminar was to provide representatives from the European Cities with an insight into the EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality that provides framework for local measures to improve the quality of ambient air. So far the Directive has covered the entire territory of each EU Member State. In the light of the EU enlargement process, though, the Directive will also affect local authorities in CEE Countries. Indeed, preparation for accession must take into account the enforcement of EU environmental legislation and the need for implementing sustainable transport policies in urban areas. Hence, the focus of the seminar was to discuss action plans and policies, which European Cities will have to comply with in order to fight poor air quality.

Car Free Cities members presented the air quality standards required by the European Union as well as the measures which

have to be taken in order to meet the above mentioned standards and help European Cities to solve car-related problems. Several case studies on urban transport management and restraint, which have proven effective towards improving air quality were presented. The seminar ended with an open debate which allowed all the participants to exchange their views and experience, as well as to debate the problems caused by increasing traffic and possible solutions.

Owing to the seminar and its location in the heart of Europe Gdańsk had the opportunity to become a natural centre of know-how on air quality related problems and a bridge between Eastern and Western European Countries, which appears significant in view of Poland's accession to European Union.

Further information:
Ms Joanna Marczevska
Foreign Relations
City of Gdańsk
Tel: +48 58 3053454
Fax: +48 58 3053451
e-mail: itcont@gdansk.gda.pl



KIELER WOCHE

A traditional part of the programme of 'Kieler Woche' is the visits paid by naval units from all around the world. During 'Kieler Woche' the city also awarded its Culture Prize. The international social and political forums will be held under the general motto "The future of the seas" next year and in 2000. This year's focal point was "Tradition and high tech".

Over two million people from over 70 countries of the world visited 'Kieler Woche' from 20 to 28 June this year. Above all, it was the cosmopolitan atmosphere prevailing in the capital of the State of Schleswig-Holstein. Together with senior members of the diplomatic corps, Germany's President, Roman Herzog, took part in a great parade of windjammers on board the "Gorch Fock", a training sailing ship belonging to the German navy.

When 'Kieler Woche' was launched in the form of a sailing regatta 116 years ago, nobody could have guessed that it would one day be the world's biggest sailing event. While more than 5,300 sailors in 1,900 dinghies and yachts ensured new registration records for the regattas organised by Kiel



Thousands of participants took part in 'Kieler Woche' 1998

Yacht Club and the associated sailing clubs, new high points were also being achieved on land.

This year the response to the social and political events was greater than ever before. Thus, 'Kieler Woche' and the City of Kiel have consolidated their position as the focal point of the dialogue in the booming Baltic region. This success is an incentive for Kiel to continue expanding this fundamental element of the event. The social and political significance of 'Kieler Woche' was underlined by the International City Forum on the relationship between business and the communities with parliamentarians from the Nordic and Baltic countries focus on the impact of globalisation on the labour markets.

Kiel's Mayor, Norbert Gansel, was extremely satisfied with the results of the 1998 'Kieler Woche'. "The good working relationship with the university made a significant contribution to raising the level of 'Kieler Woche' even higher. It is very good that we are continuing with the subject of the 'Future of the seas' until 2000 and will be setting special scientific and economic accents in this field."

Further information:
Ms Monika Geppert
Kiel Press Office
Tel. +49 431 9012509
Fax +49 431 9012512
e-mail:
inter.department@LHstadt.kiel.de



KOTKA STAKES ON TOURISM

One of the business objectives approved by the City Council of Kotka is to enhance tourism. A tourism strategy has been drawn up for the city this year. The multi-purpose facility, swimming centre, fish research centre, aquarium and the hotel, physically integrated with each other, seems to be very attractive from the point of view of hotel business.

Kotka's main tourist attractions include the River Kymijoki, the sea, and the Maritime Festival. Nature tourism activities include fishing, rapids shooting, and the opportunities provided by the archipelago. The city's status as a passenger harbour needs to be intensified. The launching of the Wooden Boat Center is one example of a project which is apt to support the image of Kotka as a maritime city. The new hotel and the related multi-purpose facility would constitute a considerable "plus" to Kotka in this respect.

In the Kymenlaakso region there is not a sufficiently large single facility for extensive conferences and other events. The need for the new hotel in Kotka can be examined from the viewpoint of arranging conferences and tourism development. The hotel project has been prepared so that the entity will immediately encompass the existing sports attractions.

The hotel services should be also complemented by other tourist activities such as boating, fishing and shooting as well as golf, riding, tennis, sailing, canoeing and glider flying. Moreover an aquarium and a fish research centre will be constructed along with the hotel they would serve fishing and the related research on the Gulf of Finland and on its rivers. The centre and its aquarium could be used for presenting the fish species and biology in the Baltic Sea and inland waters.

Further information:

Ms Ritva Löf
Project Manager
City of Kotka
Tel. +358 5 234425
Fax +358 5 215676
e-mail: ritva.lof@kotka.fi



40TH NORDIC FILM DAYS IN LÜBECK

This is a special year for the Nordic Film Days Lübeck. Founded in 1956 by Rolf Hiller, a pharmacist and head of the local film club, the film festival, which soon became an annual event, is now taking place for the 40th time, from November 5-8.

The Nordic Film Days, known far beyond the borders of the beautiful Hanseatic

ture of Lithuania Juozas Sirvinskas, Intendant Jobst Plog of NDR, the Nordic Film Days' principal sponsor, numerous consuls and ambassadors as well as most of the film directors are among the many notables planning to participate in the event.

Artistic Director Andrea Kunsemüller is pleased with this year's programme: "We're able to present a broad spectrum of



Rasmus returns to his origins in the movie "Heart of Light"

city on the Trave, is the only film festival in Germany devoted entirely to Nordic cinema. Each year more than 100 films are shown in Lübeck – feature films, documentaries, shorts as well as children's and youth films – from all Baltic countries, supplemented by the Filmforum Schleswig-Holstein.

Liv Ullmann, the famous Norwegian actress and film director, is Honorary President of the festival and will of course be attending the 40th jubilee, where she will be honoured with a "Tribute to Liv Ullmann". The legendary producer Gyula Trebitsch, Swedish actor Erland Josephson, Danish film director Søren Kragh-Jacobsen, to whom a work survey is devoted, the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein Heide Simonis, the Vice-Minister for Cul-

cellent films from all the Nordic countries, films which reflect the latest trends in the cinema of these countries," she says.

Altogether an exciting four days of cinema with a jubilee celebration called "As Time Goes By...", a half a dozen parties, numerous prominent guests and thousands of fans who gather in the Hanseatic city of Lübeck to celebrate 40 years of Nordic cinema. The Nordic Film Days Lübeck is a successful example of four decades of cultural exchange in the Baltic region.

Further information:

Mr Stephen Locke
City of Lübeck
Tel. + 49 40 880 1564
Fax + 49 40 8812326

BUSINESS DAYS IN LÜBECK

The city of Lübeck for second time hosts EU supported business days. More than 100 small and medium sized companies are expected to be involved in it!

Lübeck datalink LS is currently organising the second business days in Lübeck. Held for the first time in 1997 the business days always target a specific area of business. In 1997 more than 70 company managers from six Baltic Sea regions met to

discuss their cooperation prospects in the area of printing, graphics and paper.

The 1998 event targets the area of ecological building. Already now more than 80 company managers from the whole Baltic Sea have registered for the event which will be held in Lübeck-Travemünde, on 9-10 November 1998. Naturally all companies are welcome to participate in the event. More detailed information is available from the Lübeck business development corporation or at <http://www.datalink-ls.com>.

WELL-BEING MAPS IN TURKU



The City of Turku is about to launch the Interactive Well-Being Web Map – project (IWWM). Project funding has been sought from the EU INFO 2000 programme. The project combines health and socio-economic data resources, utilising new multimedia and geographical information systems (GIS) technology. The end product will be a pilot version of Interactive Well-Being Web Map information service based on GIS' versatile analytic potential and on multimedia interactivity.

The GIS technology can effectively combine, analyse and visualise many different kinds of information. These systems are increasingly used as strategic planning instruments in public sector administration and in companies. The new GIS operate in real-time on the Internet and enable true multimedia utilisation.

The Interactive Well-Being Web Map (IWWM) is a virtual database that can be used by an individual or by public authorities for the diverse analysis and visualisation of information on health and well-being. IWWM creates new potential for utilising public sector data resources as a significant aid in strategic decision-making, and measures for prediction, planning and allocation. It also makes illustrative map presentations and related information more comprehensible to lay people.

The City of Turku is the project coordinator. The other partners are from Greece, Wales and Ireland.

Further information:
Mr Jouko Turto
City of Turku
Tel. +358 2 269 2952
Fax +358 2 269 2942

ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The theme of the next bulletin will be 'LOCAL AGENDA 21'. Everyone is welcome to send material to be published in it. The deadline for contributions is 31 January 1999 – please respect it.

The Editorial Board wishes following contributions to the bulletin:

- Stories related to the theme
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories

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



LÜBECK LAW IN TALLINN



On 15 May 1248, King Eric Ploughpenny of Denmark granted "all those rights which the citizens of Lübeck have" to the citizens of Tallinn. Likewise, the town councillors of Tallinn are mentioned for the first time in this document.

Lübeck Law remained the basis of the administration of justice for more than six hundred years. All rulers of Estonia from the thirteenth to the mid-nineteenth century reconfirmed it. Only in the second half of the nineteenth century Lübeck Law lose its importance as an independent law code of Tallinn, as the reforms of the Russian government in the 1870s and 1880s were implemented.



Old Town Hall in Tallinn

Through Lübeck Law and the Hanseatic League Tallinn was integrated into the cultural and economic sphere that comprised Central, Eastern and Northern European towns. The norms of Lübeck Law have influenced the moral standards and mentality of the local inhabitants for a long time. Tallinn has been established a European town for 750 years.

This year the motto "Lübeck Law in Tallinn 1248-1998" has accompanied

many different events. The celebrations started on 15 May with a meeting of the current City Council, held in the historic Town Hall. On the same day an exhibition on the history of Tallinn and its city council was opened. Until mid-November everyone has the opportunity of viewing the unique documents from Tallinn City Archives, among these all five surviving manuscript codices of Lübeck Law – three of them date from the thirteenth century. Some of the valuables that belong to the town council and are now kept in Tallinn City Museum are also on display. The codex of Lübeck Law of 1282, the second oldest among the ones preserved in Tallinn,

will be published in December. It will also include an introduction in Estonian and German, the transcription of the codex and its translation into Estonian.

The "Old Town Days", held on 6-10 June, was the culmination of the anniversary. This is an annual feast, which this year was dedicated to the

anniversary of Lübeck Law. The representatives of many other towns, including the mayor of Lübeck, participated at the conference "The Citizen and Municipal Power". The conference concentrated on the relationship of the citizen and the municipal power in organising town life today. The discussion was dedicated to the future of democracy in towns.

The main academic event of the anniversary was the international symposium "City in north-eastern Europe. The Cultural Connections from the Enforcement of Lübeck Law until the Enlightenment". Among the participants were distinguished historians from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

Further information:
Ms Tiina Kala
City of Tallinn
Tel. +372 6411435
Fax +372 6411433
e-mail: tina@tla.ee



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

SATAKUNTA - FINLAND IN MINIATURE

Further information:

Mr Sakari Vase

Managing Director

Tel. +358 2 635 1335

Mr Aimo Miinalainen

Industrial Development Officer

City of Pori

Tel. +358 2 621 1145

Fax: +358 2 621 1275

