

# LATEST UBC PROJECT APPLICATIONS

**On September 19<sup>th</sup> six UBC projects were submitted to the BSPF program of the EU. All of them were prepared by the UBC Project Manager, but submitted through various UBC member cities. There is no decision yet on the outcome, but hopefully there will be an answer before Christmas.**

**UBC-EU - UBC Member Cities and the European Union - Submitted by the City of Szczecin.**

The aim is to prepare the cities for the expansion of the EU in the Baltic Sea Region. It is a continuation of a presently ongoing project, with the same partners. The activities includes seminars and one conference, plus some "task force activities", where special attention will be given to the influence of EU policies on social and democratic issues. In the long run this important project hopefully can develop into a larger project with more activities and with a larger budget. The UBC considers it completed when all applicant countries in the region have become members of the EU.

**Partners:** Szczecin, Copenhagen, Kalmar, Tampere, Tallinn, Liepāja, Panevėžys, Rostock.

**Via Baltica Accident Project - Submitted by the city of Pärnu.**

The Via Baltica is one of the main infrastructural projects in the Baltic States. However, in the infrastructure also accident management is vital where cities play a major role, for example hospitals, rescue teams of the fire brigade and so on. The project includes preparation and implementation of a simulated accident at the Via Baltica somewhere in south Estonia, for example a severe bus accident. The aim is to identify weak points in the organisations and the equipment for accidents. There are plans to carry out similar projects in other cities along the highway.

**Partners:** Pärnu, Norrköping, the

County Council of Östergötland County, Sweden

**UBC Library Network - Submitted by the city of Haapsalu**

The project aims at ways to attract young adults to use the city public libraries and thus secure the role of libraries to stay as one of the main instruments of the cities to enhance culture for all young adults, also for those from less favoured background. Public libraries, as being one of the main real pillars of freedom of expression, free from commercial domination, thus also serve as a main contributor to real democracy, also in the heart of people.

There is a wide spectrum of possible activities and actions. The participating cities therefore concentrate on various aspects under the common umbrella of this project. During the project, seminars and meeting between all partners will be carried out, but the bulk of the work will be carried out in a twin-library concept.

**Partners:** Haapsalu, Visby, Helsinki, Riga, Copenhagen, Vilnius

**Four Cities Business Partnernariats-**

**Submitted by the City of Panevėžys**

The purpose of the project is to shape the first UBC activity in the field of Business development. The activity is to carry out partenariats in Sweden and Lithuania where local business people can meet and eventually find business partners.

**Partners:** Kalmar, Kristianstad, Panevėžys, Īiauliai

**Baltic Tourist Academy - Submitted by the city of Ręzekne**

The UBC Commission on Tourism will mainly work with tourism education. The purpose of this project is to shape a network of cities with universities or colleges that have tourism training and education. The main activity is to shape and carry out courses in tourism in cooperation with the educational

institutes in the cities.

**Partners:** Kalmar, Pärnu, Ręzekne, Panevėžys

**Young Politicians - Submitted by the city of Pärnu**

In our region, there are young as well as old democratic countries. The politicians who now are young will take part of the future development of the region. Democracy is constantly changing, but it is essential that it changes in a way that young people engage themselves actively for the future.

At the initiative of a young politician, who also is one of the vice-mayors of Kalmar, Lena Hallengren, the UBC initiated a project to shape a network of about 40 young politicians, regardless of political ideology or party membership. The network should mainly discuss democracy at the local level. The activities will consist of a series of three or four meetings with seminars, workshops and study-visits and with creation of a manifest on local democracy. Participants shall be born 1968 or later.

**Partners:** Bergen, Kalmar, Aalborg, Turku, Pärnu, Riga, Klaipėda, Szczecin, Rostock, Kaliningrad.

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