



Gdańsk, 11.05.2020

Mr. Mantas Jurgutis

Deputy Mayor

City of Kaunas

President of the Union of the Baltic Cities

Dear Mr. Jurgutis,

Being aware that you are active in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have the pleasure to invite you and the youth involved in the cooperation within UBC to take part in the first of its kind digital edition of the BSSSC Spring Youth Event. It will run from June 2<sup>nd</sup> till June 5<sup>th</sup>, when the final webinar including politicians is planned.

We happen to live in a very special time, that will surely change the very basics of our 'normality'. We do not know yet what will alter and in which way, but I am sure all of us would like to take an active part in shaping the best possible future under those new conditions. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is sure to stay with us for longer, we have to focus our attention on all the challenges that have not simply disappeared during the virus period, but temporarily received smaller attention from due to more pressing issues.

Now, when in Europe we are making efforts to tackle public health and economic crisis, our tasks seem to be even more urgent. Climate crisis, digitalization, democracy, education are to be redefined now. BSSSC has a long history of youth involvement, as the voice of young people is believed to be an important added value in shaping policies in the BSR and beyond. This voice gives us all an important glimpse into the future, the knowledge of what will influence our lives in a very near time. Pomorskie Region and BSSSC continue to value intergenerational dialogue and want especially now - to give a special attention to the voice of future BSR leaders – our young, active citizens – and discuss the very basics of our common 'tomorrow' in the BSR.

The BSSSC Spring Youth Event will be held as a series of afternoon webinars, each focusing on a different issue with experts' introductions and broad discussions to follow. We would very much appreciate if you were so kind as to widely share this invitation among the UBC young active citizens and encourage them to be an important part of our event. We would be also happy if you were able to participate on the final day devoted to the presentation of the summary of the discussion and to the debate between the generations. We believe it will be important for us all to pass further what the young people share with us.



Please find enclosed the draft program of the event and further organizational details. I am sure that continuing the dialogue is even more important now in those difficult times than it was before, and that only in this way we may keep up a high level of cooperation and mutual understanding that will help us survive this difficult time, and become even stronger when the obstacles to physical direct contact and traditional communication are overcome.

Your participation will surely contribute to making this ambitious goal possible. I'm looking forward to seeing you online and in person, safe and healthy, as soon as possible.

Should you need any further information please contact Ms. Krystyna Wróblewska – BSSSC Secretary General, email: k.wroblewska@pomorskie.eu

Yours faithfully,

Mieczysław Struk

Marshal of the Pomorskie Voivodeship

**BSSSC Chairman**