

ACTIVITY REPORT

SMART AND PROSPERING CITIES COMMISSION

2018/2019

1. General description

Chair

City of Kiel, Germany
Wolfgang Schmidt, Head of International Economic Affairs
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Vice-Chair

Pending

Secretariat

The commission's secretariat is run by Wolfgang Schmidt and fully financed by the City of Kiel.

Aims & goals

The UBC Smart and Prospering Cities Commission focuses on digitalization and business development in a Triple Helix context. It is platform for sharing contacts and ideas

Concrete goals are:

Develop a vision of a smart and prospering city

Increase the degree of recognition among the UBC member cities and relevant macro-regional stakeholders and bind them more closely to the commission

Improve internal and external communications

In 2018 & 2019, we held and will hold four main events mainly focused on the subjects of digitalization (1. Fehmarnbelt Days 2018 – Malmö, May 2018 / 2. Digital Mindset in the Baltic Sea Region – Digital Week Kiel, Kiel, September 2018 / 3. Digitalization empowering citizen participation, Kaunas, October 2019) and attracting talents (Digital Nordic Cities – Växjö, November 2019).

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

1. *Digitalization from an urban perspective* – Fehmarnbelt Days 2018 (Malmö – 28/ 29 May 2018)

Format Workshop with approx. 40 participants
Co-organizer Baltic Development Forum

Speakers

Thomas Jacob, City of Hamburg

Maria Stellingern Erblad, CIO City of Malmö & Charlotta Alegria Ursing, former CEO Minc

Carsten Adamsen, UBC Youthful Cities Commission

The increasing digitization is changing all municipal processes and redefines relations between city to society and city to region. The seminar gathered answers to this disruptive revolution:

- What are the main challenges and opportunities for modern cities?
- Are cooperation and regionalization factors for successful digitalization?

Key questions & outcome

What opportunities and challenges face cities as digitalization processes increasingly integrate all sectors of city administration, planning & operations?

What benefits are imagined for why cities should collaborate on digitalization issues?

What barriers face cities in regional 'digitization' collaboration given the fact that cities compete to attract and retain new digital industries and labour?

2. Digitalization in the Baltic Sea Region – Digital Week Kiel 2018 (Kiel, September 13 2019)

Format workshop with approx. 50 participants

Co-Organizer The Bay Areas e.V. (local association responsible for the city partnership between Kiel and San Francisco)

Speakers

Dr. Ulf Kämpfer, Mayor City of Kiel

Lene Hartig Danielsen, Head of Citizen Services, City of Aarhus

Toomas Sepp, CEO, City of Tallinn

Eva-Charlotte Proll, Capgemini Berlin

Christian Winther, Danish Investor Dicide GmbH

Short description & outcome

Successful digitalization can't be reduced to the implementation of applications - it starts in the minds. Therefore, the workshop focused on the question what makes the Baltic Sea Region to one of the leading regions in times of digital transformation – What is the digital mindset in the BSR?

The high-level speakers offered different perspectives on how to deal with digital transformation: i.e.

- change of culture within the administrative processes
- common understanding of Smart Cities as citizen-oriented cities
- digitalization as opportunity to raise the cities' attractiveness for all target groups

The workshop showed how cities like Aarhus, Tallinn and Kiel handle digitalization and how the city as a business destination can profit from digital transformation. It has also been discussed how city networks can help cope with the rapid change.

3. ***Digitalisation empowering citizens' participation*** – UBC General Conference, Kaunas 15-18 October 2019

Format interactive workshop

The workshop will focus on different digital solutions that are used to empower citizen participation through practical examples. Different perspectives will be discussed and presented by great case studies from Elva, Estonia and Kiel, Germany. All participants will be included into discussion panel on topic how to use digital tools for empowering citizen participation based on your local experience and as an outcome we hope to develop a “toolbox” of ideas how to put these ideas into practice.

4. **Digital Nordic Cities**

Format lunch-to-lunch workshop + site visit

Co-organizer City of Växjö, Videum Science Park Växjö

Short description & outcome

Increasing globalization is making young, well-educated people increasingly mobile and flexible in their choice of place of residence. Companies of the relevant future industries (creative, IT, knowledge-based industries) are located in regions where they find enough specialists and executives for their rapid growth. Increasingly, metropolises with medium-sized cities and rural regions are competing for exactly these global talents. In the seminar we want to dig into the question of how the mid-sized northern European city reacts to this challenge and whether strategies for digitization, economic development and urban planning can provide successful answers.

Conferences:

Meeting **Baltic Sea Tourism Center** – Copenhagen, 15 January 2018

Innovative City Congress – Nice 28 June 2018: speaker engagement on the topic of “Why waterfront cities are more innovative”

INTA World Urban Congress “*The hidden value of medium-sized cities*” – Rostock, 21-22 September 2018

3. Projects

INTERREG 5B *Creative Ports – Internationalisation of the Cultural and Creative Industries in the Baltic Sea Region*

Duration: January 2019 – January 2021

The Creative Ports project brings together public authorities and business support organisations, cultural institutes and researchers to stimulate the internationalisation of the cultural and creative sectors. The majority of design, art, fashion, publishing, audio visual and gaming companies in the Baltic Sea region are medium-sized and often lack the networks to access international markets.

Creative Ports provides knowledge, facilitates exchange and develops tools to train and connect business support organisations with public authorities.

UBC SPCC is member of the advisory board. The next meeting will be held from 8-10 of October 2019 in Malmö.

Please find more information here <https://projects.interreg-baltic.eu/projects/creative-ports-173.html>.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

- Goethe-Institute
- Swedish Institute
- STRING
- INTA International Urban Development Association
- Baltic Development Forum
- Digital Week Kiel

5. Communications

We strive to get awareness for the UBC, its objectives and its activities through diverse communication measures towards relevant target groups.

6. Other activities

The commission is discussing the general alignment of the work of the commission with the needs of the member cities. One aim is to connect the commission with existing high-level events in the Baltic Sea Region to offer even more added value to the commission meetings and workshops and raise visibility for the UBC network in general.

At the same time we are planning to organize periodically joint events of different commissions on shared topics to strengthen the bonds between the commissions and different member cities.

UBC SPC is in an active discussion with possible UBC member cities regarding the Vice-Chair of the Commission which is vacant since 2018 (former Vice-Chair: Kristiansand).