

ACTIVITY REPORT

YOUTHFUL CITIES COMMISSION

2016/2017

1. Youthful Cities Commission

Gävle Municipality is the chair of the Youthful Cities Commission. Lena Hernandez Modin is in charge of the work, in close cooperation with Susanne Rutström - Gävle Culture School, Karl Nässén – Gävle Youth Liaison and the Gävle Municipality International Office.

Gävle will try to develop the Youthful Cities Commission with more cooperation intern and extern, to chair more of the interesting work between the member cities. Gävle will have a close cooperation with the vice chair Kolding and also give the possibility to other member cities to join meeting and conferences that the commission gets invitations to.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

Turku April 12-15th 2016 – Commission meeting

In the meeting 28 people participated in total (12 youth and 15 officials)

The theme of the meeting was “Youth Leisure Time”, the cities had the opportunity to present how they work with youth leisure time and what consequences it might have if it’s on a good or bad level.

The usual commission meeting took place with discussion about host cities for coming meetings, economy about helping out financially for cities who wants to send youth participants to our meeting but don’t have finances for it. We also reported from the UBC Executive Board meeting in Rostock. March 16th 2016.

To the meeting we invited Matti Mäkelä to present from UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being report. “The Good, The Bad and The Best Practices”. We also invited Magda Leszczyna-Rzucudlo from BISER (Baltic Institute for Regional and European Concern) who was presenting as well as Irene Pendolin to talk about the new UBC-logo, social media, UBC-web page and YCC-web page.

We also got presentation about possible future joint projects from Narva and Kolding.

The Youthful Cities Commission decided that when it’s possible financially we will cover travel/lodging for youth participants that can’t get that financed from their city.

YCC's plan for upcoming meetings: fall 2016 - Rostock? Elva? spring 2017 – Gävle, fall 2017 – Växjö - UBC General Conference/YCC Youth Conference, spring 2018 - Narva (we already got a YES from the City of Narva and the Mayor of Narva).

UBC Executive Board Meeting Kaunas June 6 - 8th 2016

The Youthful Cities Commission was represented at the EBM by a representative from Kaunas, Margarita Navickaite, who presented a power point made by Youthful Cities Commission chair Gävle about "Youth Leisure Time – Focus on individual protective factors that prevent social and economic exclusion.

UBC Cultural Cities Commission and Youthful Cities Commission seminar: New Cultures of Education, City of Turku, Finland 25 – 27 September 2016

The seminar will focus on different connections between culture, education and new technologies. The youthful Cities Commission was represented by the former chair of the commission Turku, Hasan Habib.

Elva October 11-14th 2016 – Commission meeting

In the meeting 23 people participated in total (11 youth and 12 officials)

The theme of the meeting was "Life online", a current and important topic for all of us in our everyday life, in school, work and private. We worked in groups with various sub-themes related to life online and decided to extend the topic also for our meeting in April 2017.

During our commission meeting the questions were most about the upcoming youth conference in Växjö and our possibilities to finance it. Kolding presented an idea for an ERASMUS+ project and will be in charge of that with cooperation from the rest of us. We also planned for YCC's participation in the 7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Stockholm November 8th 2016.

The outcome of the meeting was a plan for our participation in the 7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, a plan for our youth conference in Växjö in October 2017 and movies made by our youth participants on the theme "Life online".

EUSBSR Forum Stockholm November 8th 2016

Four youth participants and two officials from YCC participated in the EUSBSR Forum in Stockholm and in the session "Nothing about us without us" -Sustainable and a green future and Prosperity, growth and jobs from a youth perspective" (BSSSC, UBC, ERB).

UBC Executive Board Meeting Stockholm November 10th 2016

The Youthful Cities Commission was represented at the EBM by a representative from the chair city Gävle, Lena Hernandez Modin. The main topic on the meeting was of course the upcoming UBC General Conference in Växjö October 2017. There were also reports from the UBC task forces and about the UBC strategy implementation. One of the main discussions again about the GC was how to integrate the youth conference more than before in the GC.

UBC Executive Board Meeting Kristiansand February 10th 2017

The Youthful Cities Commission was represented at the EBM by a representative from the chair city Gävle, Lena Hernandez Modin. The main topic on the meeting was of course the upcoming UBC General Conference in Växjö October 2017. There were also reports from the UBC task forces and about the UBC strategy implementation. One of the main discussions again about the GC was how to integrate the youth conference more than before in the GC.

YC Commission meeting Gävle April 4 – 7th 2017

In the meeting 30 people participated in total (16 youth and 14 officials).

The theme of the meeting was “Digital renewal” that was a continuing of the theme “Life online” from Elva.

During our commission meeting we informed from UBC Executive Board meeting in Stockholm last November and in Kristiansand last February. We talked and planned for Växjö and further cooperation with BSSSC and ERB.

We also talked with the group about possibilities in the future for us to participate/cooperate more with other commissions. Should we find participants from the country where the meetings are held or should we have regular participants during an amount of time participating in meetings?

We invited some people working in Gävle for our workshops on the topic “Digital renewal”.

The teacher Martin Alexandersson and two of his pupils, Edvin och Bjarne visited us and told us and then showed us about their work with building Gävle as a map with Minecraft.

Marie Nilsson from the IT department in Gävle visited us and informed us about the work with digital renewal.

After this we had a workshop and discussed the two questions that we raised before this meeting;

- How has your municipality worked with digital renewal aimed at young people?
- What kind of digital initiative aimed at young people do you wish your municipality should develop?

During the meeting the commission was invited to mingle and dinner at City Hall with politicians and officials. Municipal Commissioner Jan Myléus welcomed the participants to Gävle and talked about the importance of the work of Youthful Cities Commission, not just for Gävle but for the whole Baltic Sea

area. The politicians and officials also had time to meet youth representatives from the commission and discuss issues of mutual interest.

EUSBSR Forum Berlin June 13 - 14th 2017

YCC was represented by 10 youth and leaders at the forum and all together with BSSSC and ERB almost 50 participants from 10 countries. It focused on sharing good practices on youth involvement and empowerment at local and regional level in the BSR and on discussing different approaches to active youth involvement in all ten Baltic Sea countries. The seminar "Nothing about us without us – making it work!" gathered a large audience in the EUSBSR Annual Forum on 13 June. The main topic was how to include young people in decision-making which raised energetic discussions on themes of democracy, political change and independence. The seminar and the Youth Conference were both organised together by UBC, Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) and Euroregion Baltic (ERB).

UBC Executive Board Meeting Berlin June 15th 2017

The Youthful Cities Commission was represented at the EBM by a representative from the vice chair city Kolding, Carsten Adamsen.

One of the topics at the meeting was UBC involvement in the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Berlin, Youth Conference and Seminar 'Nothing about us without us

Växjö October 21 – 28th 2017 – Youth conference

This youth conference will be a part of UBC General Conference that are held in Växjö October 24 – 27th 2017. Together with the theme of the GC "Leadership of the future" our youth conference will have the theme "Migration, participation and leadership".

In the youth conference 60 people will participate in total (47 youth and 13 group leader). The first days the youth conference will get to know each other, have workshops and prepare themselves for their participation at the GC. The youth participant will get tasks from each commission and they also are a part of several workshops and meetings.

3. Projects

Youth for participation and migration and leadership – Växjö October 21 – 28th 2017

An ERASMUS+ project 2017 for an exchange for the youth conference during the UBC General Conference.

Partners: Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia.

Young people will discover, act, discuss and propose solutions for higher youth participation and interest in participation as well as bringing forward a declaration by the youth on the issues of migration.

Duration of the project 01/08/2017 - 31/12/2017

Budget:

49 152 Euro – ERASMUS+/6 000 Euro – Youthful Cities Commission

CaSYPoT

Youth for Participation, Migration and Leadership:

Partners: Kolding, Gävle, Växjö, Guldborgsund, Riga, Tallinn, Jyväskylä, Elva, Gargzdu, Tartu, Turku, Klaipeda, Espoo

Short description Parallel to the UBC GC in Växjö, ~60 youth gathers for discussion on the topics as well as high integration with the GC in almost all of GC workshops

Aims & results To bring youth closer to discussions of local politicians.

Name: CaSYPoT

Role: UBC YCC representing UBC as associated partner

Duration: 1/7 2016 – 30/6 2019

Financing EU Interreg South Baltic and project partners

Projects partners Regional Council in Kalmar County Sweden, Municipality of Emmaboda Sweden, Linnaeus University Sweden, Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic Poland, Klaipėda University Lithuania, The City of Slupsk Poland

Associated partners Bartoszye, Klaipeda region, Swedish agency for youth and civic society, Elblag Europe Association, UBC, Helsinki-Uusimaa region, Secretariat for Youth for the westpommeranian region, Akershus County Administration

Short description: The project addresses low participation of local actors in the South Baltic Programme and their need for capacity building. By bringing together new-comer local authorities, in cooperation with universities, the project aims at showing the benefits of soft cross-border cooperation in regard of solving common problems in the field of youth issues. Cooperation will be facilitated by umbrella organization Euroregion Baltic and cooperation of regional authorities within it. Main aim of the project is to increase cross-border cooperation resulting in building capacity of local actors working with youth in the ERB. The partner municipalities will jointly carry out a survey among teenagers to identify their needs and problems, providing comparable data. It is a form of sharing good practice, as the survey has been formerly developed and implemented in Swedish municipalities, now

it will just be adjusted to the other countries' local contexts. The obtained results will be analysed by universities and compared between the countries. Also additional tools to get knowledge about the situation for youngsters in the participating municipalities and regions will be created and tested. Further it will lead to creating joint knowledge-based youth strategy in ERB as well as local youth strategies. It will allow to address several youth problems in the region, e.g. early school leaving. Such cooperation requires local actors responsible for youth issues to cooperate with each other as well as with the universities engaged in social studies. In regard to prepare a good quality survey close cooperation between the universities is necessary, which will lead to forming a network. Main result will be local actors, including new-comers, being involved in the South Baltic Programme and learning about the benefits of soft cross-border cooperation. Thanks to the cooperation in this project the participating institutions' ability to join cross-border projects in the future will increase.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Youthful Cities Commission cooperate with BSSSC and ERB with EUSBSR Forum in Stockholm 2016, Berlin 2017 and Tallinn 2018

Lena Hernandez Modin

Chair of Commission Gävle

11.10.17