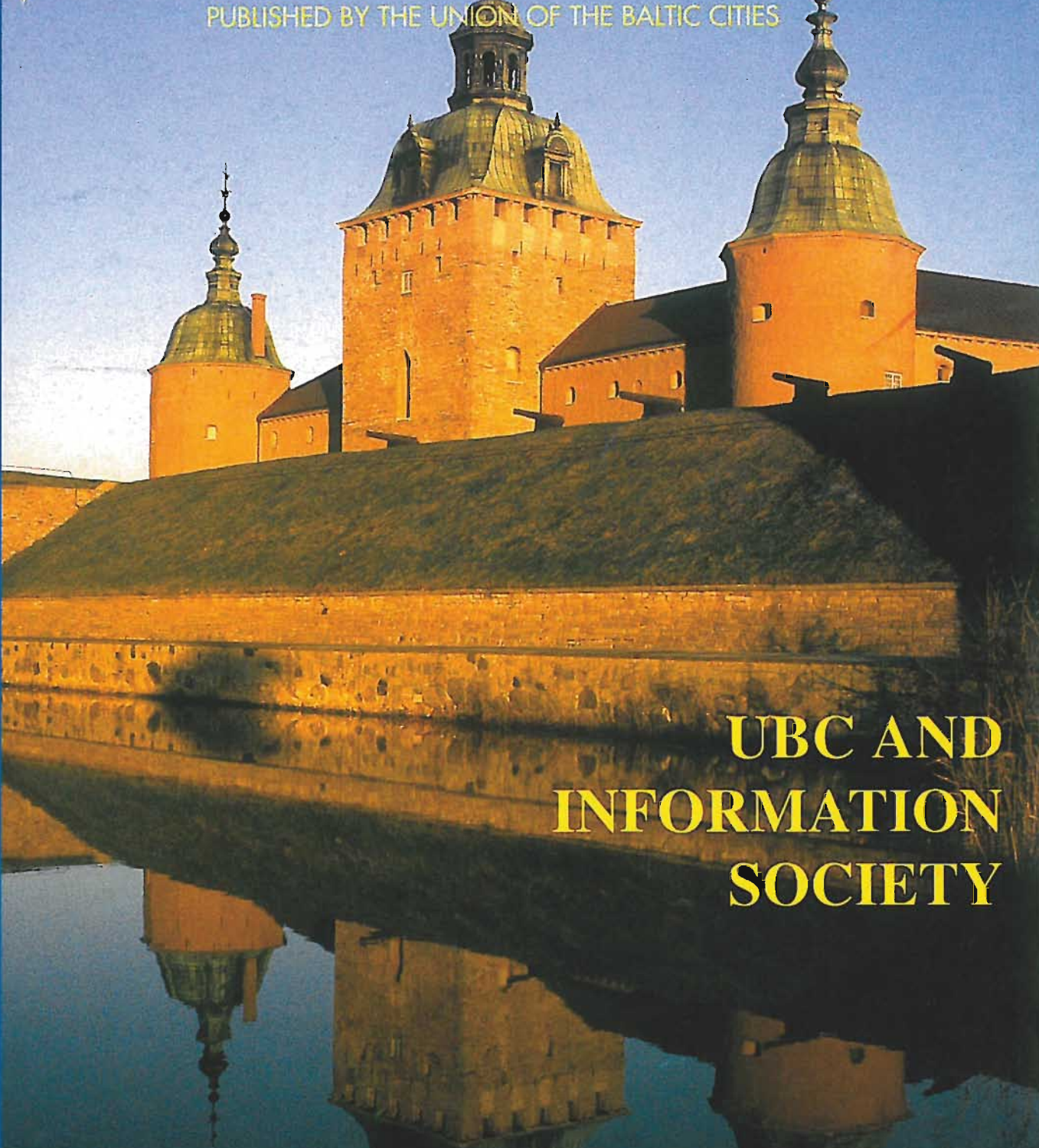


Baltic Cities Bulletin

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**UBC AND
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**

**WELCOME TO
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
IN GDAŃSK, SEPTEMBER 12-13**

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES



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Paweł Żaboklicki

*

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EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Izabela Cywińska

Anna Svensson

*

PUBLISHER

Union of the Baltic Cities

Długi Targ 24

PL-80-828 Gdańsk

POLAND

tel./fax +48 58 317637

e-mail: ubc@itnet.com.pl

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NEXT ISSUES

Material for the coming issues

must be sent by the following

deadlines: August 1

and November 10

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COVER PICTURE

Kalmar Castle

Baltic Cities Bulletin



Dear Members and Friends,

Our Union is constantly enlarging which reflects the growing importance of the UBC in the Baltic Sea region. But we are not only growing in terms of number of member cities, we are also expanding our activities - measured both in quality and quantity - to new levels. This is very well reflected in this bulletin, which I hope will bring you a lot of valuable information and enjoyable reading.

The multi-level cooperation which has developed in our region during the last five years is probably unique in the world. This is a very good foundation also in the future for a continuing successful political and economic development. The UBC has become an example also for other regions wishing to learn from our way of cooperation. I have even hosted a large delegation of mayors from Japan, who returned home deeply impressed about the ways how we cooperate locally.

We are now preparing for our next General Conference to be held in September in Gdansk in connection with the Gdansk Millennium. The theme will be "*Baltic Sea Cooperation Forum*". The UBC member cities will meet representatives from a great number of cooperation networks at all levels that operate in the Baltic Sea region. It will be an excellent forum for all networks to meet our members. We will also have a number of distinguished guests at the conference. I wish you all welcome!

With Baltic Sea Greetings,

Anders Engström

President

Kalmar, April 1997



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I. INFORMATION SOCIETY & THE BALTIC REGION

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The lightning-fast growth of telecommunications technology has turned most of the world into a global village - an information society that is increasingly linked on social issues, economics, and of course, democracy.

The growth of information technology, or IT, has been most prevalent in the more affluent West, but it has experienced growing influence in the East as well, particularly in the Baltic region and in Central and Eastern Europe. In the school, the workplace, the city hall, and everyday life, rapid, sophisticated communication systems have made it possible to create a truly global village. Government officials across Europe can "talk" to one another via the new media, enhancing cross-regional cooperation. Citizens can more easily access politicians through e-mail and public information kiosks.

Jonathan Peizer, Chief Information Officer at the Open Society Institute, which has been funding Internet-related activities in the Baltic region since 1994, says, "The Baltic nations are the most progressive countries with regard to use of the Internet in Central and Eastern Europe."

IT can play a substantial role in enhancing democracy in the former CEE countries. "Democratic effects are real, although not as widespread as they could hopefully become in the future," says Janis Folkmanis, a European Commission official with expertise in IT development in the Baltic region. "The inherent openness of the

Internet and cyberspace is a natural democratizer, and it should be in the interests of all world governments to keep it this way."

Ann-Marie Nilsson, general manager of Sweden's IT Commission, says that her government supports the full integration of all Swedes into the information society. "The more people can understand, access and of course, trust the information given, the more they can benefit from IT. For instance, a citizen can more easily access information about their rights and various regulations, so that they can be more informed when dealing with public officials."

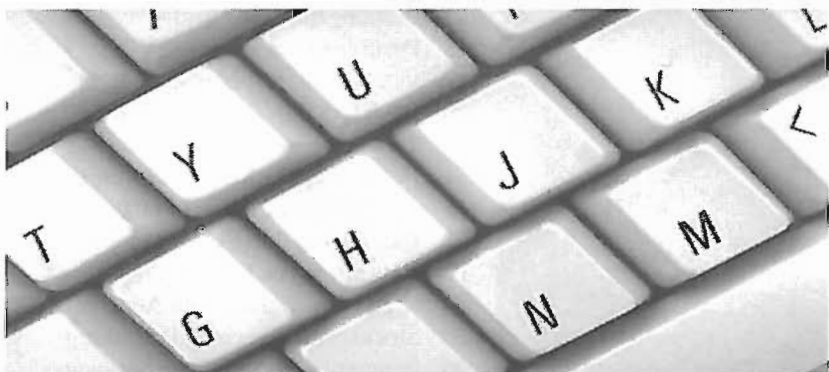
"The world is growing much more global and you need all sorts of communication to keep up" says Nilsson. "The more people use the technology - for instance, wireless phones, teleworking, video

conferencing, e-mail and the Internet - the less they have to travel, which saves wear and tear on the environment as well as the pocketbook.

IT makes inroads in the East

According to Janis Folkmanis, economic reality means that IT has very low accessibility for the average citizen in many countries in the Baltic region. Until consumer buying power rises - which won't happen until the economy starts to grow seriously - this situation is not going to change dramatically.

However, the new technology has made inroads in the region. The academic sector, the finance sector and public administrations are strengthening their IT spending gradually, so that the number of people exposed to IT is increasing gradually. Estonia, for example,



The whole world under our fingertips.



provides Internet access to 60 percent of its schools (although often there is only one PC available), and a new initiative called "Tiger Leap" aims to increase this to 100 percent. Finland has also been a leader in integrating IT into the country's educational system.

Anders Engström, the mayor of Kalmar, Sweden, and the president of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), says that he has seen a remarkable change in the ease of communicating with Kalmar's sister city of Gdańsk. "Ten years ago, just getting through to the Polish city by telephone was a herculean effort. Now, not only have digital phone lines improved access, but e-mail has made keeping contacts easier. Video conferencing is next on the agenda", he says.

Many companies in the former Soviet bloc countries of the Baltic region primarily use IT as the motor which drives the business process - as data warehouses and as embedded systems. Thus, IT as a tool has traditionally been used in a more limited way than in Western countries. More advanced and integrated use of the new technology depends on the restructuring of industry and governments. "Where this restructuring is being mastered, IT is being integrated and is bringing value. But this restructuring process is a difficult one," says Folkmanis.

Building up the network

The INCO (International R&D Co-operation) programme has funded a number of R&D projects in the Baltic States and Poland, and a few have been IT-related. Of particular interest was the Baltic Information Infrastructure Pilot, launched in 1994 for two years, which strengthened the inter-net



The UBC Communication Commission is working on information issues.

operators and put a few new information services into place.

A related project created a directory of Baltic information sources. Folkmanis is optimistic that funding from the EU for IT-related projects in Central and Eastern Europe will continue in the future, provided the projects are of good quality. Specific opportunities must be studied carefully, and help to find these opportunities is offered by the EU offices in each country.

"IT is important to all walks of life everywhere in our world," says Folkmanis. "In emerging educational policy thinking, IT competence is being elevated to a fundamental skill which all citizens must possess, equal to literacy and basic numeracy. Any economic growth depends critically on IT as a tool - it is an essential component in any firm's competitive arsenal. This is true in the Baltic States, Poland and Russia as much as anywhere else."

The key to making it happen in this region is "leapfrogging" says Folkmanis. As old technology generations become obsolete, the upgrading which these countries must undertake is a "leapfrog" through technology generations, bringing them up to date with the rest of the Western world.

"It can happen, but it needs to be fed by companies and public administrations which have restructured well enough to properly integrate the technology. Money and an understanding of this integration are the bottlenecks to progress."

In the future, the Baltic region will depend more on trading than agriculture or manufacturing for its livelihood. Essential for any trading region is its infrastructure, and IT is a growing part of that infrastructure. The technology is likely to grow quickly in this region, as soon as the power of IT becomes apparent to traders and services companies as well as governments.

As Folkmanis points out, such regional infrastructure is useful only if it spans national borders, easing cross-country commerce and social contacts. "IT is therefore closely linked with cross-regional development - they enhance each other mutually. IT enhances cross-regional economic growth, which in turn strengthens the presence and value of IT in the region. Together, these factors can help the East become fully integrated in the information society."

By Amy Brown



BALTIC SEA ALLIANCE BOOSTS COMMUNICATION FLOW IN THE REGION

The purpose of the Baltic Sea Alliance is to join forces on state, regional and local level in order to facilitate communication and information flow in the Baltic Sea Region.

Presently the Baltic Sea Alliance joins together the secretariats of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC), the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) and the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA). The chairmanship of the Alliance rotates from one meeting to another, as the Alliance core partners take turns in hosting and chairing the meetings. An important element of the Baltic Sea Alliance is the building of close cooperation between the core organisations and all other active offices and organisations dealing with Baltic Sea issues and operations in the region.

In regional perspective the Baltic Sea Alliance offers an extensive, reliable and non-profit platform and contact network for all Baltic organisations for informing others about their activities. Different regional initiatives gain publicity through the Alliance and naturally all organisations and individuals are welcomed to contribute information to the Internet-based system. Most forms of communication cooperation as well as suggestions for improvement are easily absorbed to complement the highly flexible Alliance network, which supports both conventional and digital communication in the region.



BALTIC SEA ALLIANCE

The Alliance supports equally decision-makers and grass-root-level operators as well as press and media in search of relevant information regarding the region. More information about the Baltic Cities involvement to the Alliance work will be sent to UBC member cities soon.

BANGEMANN CHALLENGE AWARDS

Launched by the city of Stockholm in 1995 as a European competition in information technology. Cities with more than 400 000 inhabitants were challenged to present IT projects.

Its inspiration came from the ideas of a European IT-development plan as presented in 1994 by the EU commissioner for IT affairs, Martin Bangemann. The initiative is now extended to include cities all over the world.

The European Bangemann Challenge Awards were presented in late January 1997 by His Majesty the King of Sweden at a special ceremony at Stockholm City Hall. Nine of the 25 competing cities, representing 17 projects in ten different categories, received official recognition. The hosting city of Stockholm won awards in three categories: Distance Learning, Healthcare, and Electronic Tendering. In addition, Stockholm received a Special Mention for a project in Teleworking. The other cities with winning projects were Edinburgh, Antwerp, Manchester, Barcelona, Bologna, Rotterdam, Bremen and Paris.

“The winning projects clearly show the diversity of European IT development,” said Stockholm Mayor *Mats Hulth*. “As we approach the next millennium, Europe is well-positioned for global IT development. Six European countries are among the world’s ten leading IT nations. This is extremely gratifying.”

Global Challenge

A Global Bangemann Challenge is now underway, and will conclude during the first half of 1999. The ambition is to have 100 cities from all over the world to participate in about 500 projects.



In order to increase the potential for global success, a number of major European cities will be linked to the project as partners and key cities to assist in spreading information and carrying out the challenge both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

Inspired by the European Information Society's action plan the Global Bangemann Challenge will follow

these main themes:

- Improving the Business Environment
- Investing in The Future
- People at the Center
- Meeting the Global Challenge

The *Bangemann Challenge* was like the European competition, the Global Challenge will also have ten categories. Because of the dynamic nature

of the IT society, these categories may have a number of sub-categories, or may change to some extent during the process.

Each project must be started during 1998 at the latest, so that the jury can judge the usefulness these projects provide to citizens and society.

PARADDIS - DEVELOPING A DEMOCRATIC INFORMATION SOCIETY IN WESTERN FINLAND

PARADDIS is one of the 22 Regional Information Society Initiatives (RISI) co-financed by the European Commission. Its aim is to create a regional information society strategy and an action plan for its implementation within West Finland Alliance (WFA).

The WFA area consists of five regions with 1.3 million inhabitants and a geographic area twice as big as Belgium. One of its strengths is a strong know-how on information technology. By creating this strategy the WFA wants to ensure its capability to take advantage of the new possibilities brought by the development of the information society and, at the same

time, prevent or minimize the negative influences. The challenge is to create a democratic information society, without dividing the people to those who have access to information and to those who have not.

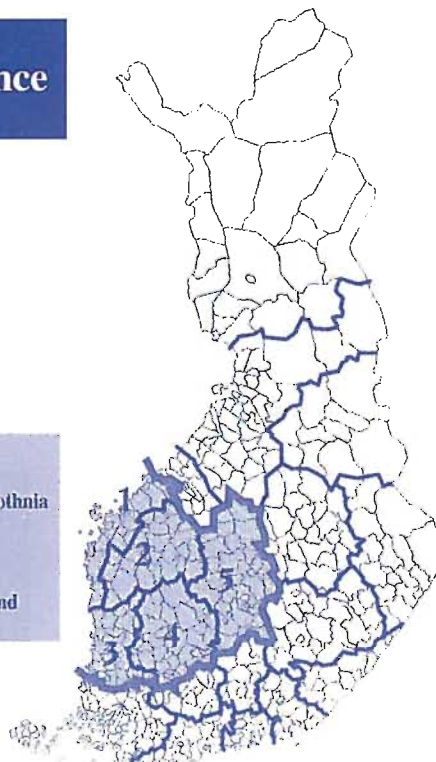
Project partners in PARADDIS Project for Applying Regional Applications for Developing a Democratic Information Society) are five regional councils within the WFA. They finance 50 % of the project budget of 499600 ecu, the other half is financed by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund). Creating an Information Society Strategy is part of regional development which in Finland is coordinated by the regional councils. The project has just started its work which is scheduled to be completed by April 30, 1998.

The development of the information society has been a very technology-driven phenomenon. The actors in this project share the European Commission's point of view concerning the future development: it has to be driven by the demand, the needs of companies and ordinary people at their work or at home.

There are three dimensions and six themes in the project. The *Economic dimension* concentrates on *Telematic services for small and medium sized enterprises* and *Content industry and applications*. The themes under the

West Finland Alliance

1. Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
2. Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia
3. Regional Council of Satakunta
4. Council of Tampere Region
5. Regional Council of Central Finland



Paraddis to be found in Finland.



Social dimension are Telelearning and Telemedicine. The third dimension is the Democratic dimension implemented by the theme of Public services and Decision-making. The sixth theme, Networks and Infrastructure, serves all the others. Most of the work will be done in six thematic work groups concentrating on the themes mentioned above.

The project will be evaluated as a process in a follow-up study carried out by the Information Society Research Centre INSOC within the Tampere University. This study is expected to give a lot of useful information, not only about how successful this project has been, but also about the mechanisms in this kind of collaboration processes.

By creating an Information Society Strategy, building an action plan, and identifying new application projects which implement the strategy PARADDIS is looking for well-being of the WFA area inhabitants, new jobs, new business activities in this field of economy. It will also be a platform for new application project ideas. Through its international network (28 regions in Europe) it will facilitate the search for project partners very efficiently. A regional strategy is also a tool for project financiers when they consider whether to finance an individual project or not. And last but not least: PARADDIS will keep the WFA area among the most advanced regions in Europe also in the future.

For further information, contact:

PARADDIS Office
P.O.Box 76
FIN-33201 Tampere
Finland
Tel. +358 3 2481 282
Fax +358 3 2481 250

E-mail: paraddis@pirkmaa.reg.reg.elisa.fi
<http://dmiwww.cs.tut.fi/projects/paraddis>

TELECITIES - ACCESS TO INFORMATION SOCIETY

Since 1993, Telecities has been bringing together cities and towns sharing similar interests and goals for the development of telematics applications in an urban context.

Cities and towns are, by their very nature, best suited to represent - at the local democratic level- the 'chemistry' of all the social, economic and cultural changes of the Information Society. This is why the Commission welcomes the bottom up initiatives of a large number of cities and regions to cooperate to identify the European dimension of the local developments.

It is essential to maintain a high profile for local authorities/city governments, as the democratic expression of user needs and demand in the urban context. This level of political commitment that Telecities has from the most senior politicians representing local interests across Europe, is what differentiates Telecities from other initiatives and networks, and is why Telecities stresses the importance of universal access to the information society and of support for cultural and linguistic diversity at all levels.

Telecities provides an open cooperation network for European Digital Cities, with internal rules and an elected Steering Committee. Open registration fosters wide consensus building and exchange of experience whereas working groups address major urban issues identified by policy and decision makers and proposed for RTD at the European level. Telecities provides open forums for discussion and information dissemination and joint pilot projects to promote the exchange of experience and examine the issues related to the development of Digital Cities. Telecities is a liaison with other initiatives related to the Information Society and gets support from Eurocities, the European association of metropolitan cities.



Aims of the Telecities:

- To study and define the urban demand for telematics applications and to express it to the European Institutions.
- To promote and coordinate the development of new telematics applications which will serve urban (re-)development.
- To promote the exchanges of experience and the implementation of common telematics projects in the European Cities.
- To carry out detailed analysis of significant pilot projects integrating a range of teleservices (healthcare, transport, education, business,...) in the same geographical area, in order to demonstrate the benefits of telematics and the transferability from these pilot areas to larger cities.

For further information, contact:

Telecities Coordination Office
27 Boulevard de Waterloo
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 511 24 21
Fax +32 2 513 43 22
ISDN:
+32 2 502 95 01 (videoconference)
E-mail:
telecities@mcr1.poptel.org.uk

TAMPERE REWARDED FOR WWW-SERVICES

Now almost every public library and school in the City of Tampere has an access to Internet and the city has received a lot of recognition for its services. For example, Europe Online ASBL has granted the city The Best of Europe award. Nationally the city's www-site is a nominee for the coolest site of the year in Finland. The amount of the virtual visitors has grown rapidly due to the positive publicity. During february the site had over 200.000 visitors.

The Infocircle project, aiming to connect all the public libraries and schools in Tampere to Internet, has been carried out in co-operation with the City of Tampere and Tampere Telephone Company. Although the Internet access in itself is important, it isn't what the project is all about. The schools are working on big teaching material projects and as for the libraries they are expanding their services.

One can browse the net from the library but that isn't all; the www-site of the Tampere City Library has grown versatile and now includes the possibility to browse and search the library database. You can see the number of reservations made on different items and you can check how many items you have borrowed and renew your loans if necessary. It also allows you to make reservations on the material that is currently out. So if you have an internet access at home, the on/off-button of your PC becomes the door of the library. However, you still have to fetch the books yourself, says *Mr Petri Kyrönviita*, the Information Officer of the city.

Multitude of municipal services on-line

The World Wide Web service of the City of Tampere is being developed constantly. Almost every city office is now on line with their own www-homepages. Besides the information, the www-service contains agendas and records of the municipal organs, columns for opinions, maps, municipal announcements, calenders of events, timetables of the busses and, of course, the possibility of direct feedback.

- Our own residents form the most important target group to our www-service. Internet offers a great opportunity to increase the co-operation between the residents and the decision makers. In other words, Internet is a great tool to develop municipal democracy. It is important that the residents are able to contact the people who prepare the decisions and are aware of what's being done in the neighborhood, says the head of information *Mr Jari Seppälä*.

Web-sites at your service:

The City of Tampere

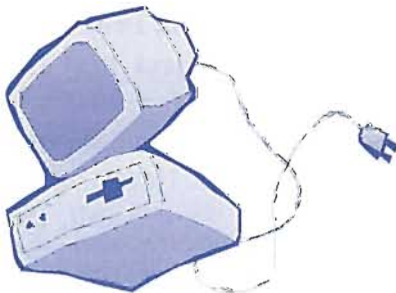
<http://www.tampere.fi/>

International Relations Unit

<http://www.tampere.fi/ir/english/>

Tampere News

<http://www.tampere.fi/viy/trenews/>



KALMAR CURES UNEMPLOYMENT WITH A COMPUTER CENTRE

Supplementing current labour-market activities with new untraditional ones, the Swedish Government decided on creating Computer Centres throughout the country also in Kalmar. All unemployed older than 20 years are eligible for the Centre, the aim of which is to bring participants back in a working-life situation.

The capacity of the computer Centre in Kalmar is 154 participants. The course covers 12 weeks and at the same time participants will work half-time in labour-market oriented activities.

In the Computer centre, the computer training provides the participants with a basic knowledge of word processing as well as Internet training and e-mailing. They are working individually with self-instructing materials at their own pace and level under the guidance of instructors. Compared to a traditional computer course, the participants develop a sound knowledge of the different way to utilize computers in their work.

The computer centre has been running for 1½ years. During 1995/1996 there was a total of 809 persons registered at the centre in Kalmar, and of these 402 completed 12 weeks. Some participants leave the course because of work or studies. At the completion of each course an evaluation is made which shows that on the whole the participants have been satisfied. Nearly 50% proceeded into a job, studies, a trainee position or some other activity.

GDAŃSK ON-LINE

Not longer than a year ago an Internet home page of any Polish city was something unusual. The collapse of the monopolistic position of the Scientific Academic Computer Network (NASK) gave rise to the appearance of numerous companies offering their network services to municipalities. This has resulted in an avalanche of creating home pages and today most larger Polish cities present themselves on Internet. Also the 1000-year-old City of Gdańsk became a member of this cybernetic family six months ago (www.gdansk.gda.pl).



Gdańsk home page

The Gdańsk home page presents interesting city information in Polish, English and German. The information refers above all to coming celebrations of Gdańsk 1000th anniversary. Moving easily on readably-designed pages you may be acquainted with detailed programme of the millennium events, the history of Gdańsk, biographies of famous Gdańsk citizens, etc.

Moreover the "internet" may learn about the industries of the city, look through pages with descriptions of impressing monuments and, regardless of the weather outside, go for a walk in the streets of the Old City

viewing the numerous pictures. There is also plenty of information on hotels, restaurants, galleries, etc. directed especially for potential tourists and even a Polish-English dictionary!

The journey on WWW pages of the city of Gdańsk is surely exciting according to the comments written to the guest book:

"I have seen the pages about Gdańsk and I think that they are very interesting..." Adolfo Tasinato, Roma, Italy

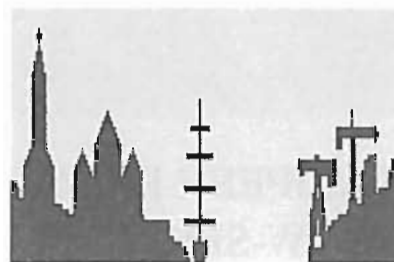
"You present yourselves in Internet very well. Try to present even more so interesting pieces of information. Congratulations!" Waldemar Frankowski, Berlin, Germany

"Wonderful page, wonderful city. Greetings to all..." Sławomir Fryska, South Bend, IN, USA

Thus the historical city of Gdańsk has successfully entered the age of the information society.

HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL

The Turku Health Profile belongs to a project that explored the interface between Information Society on one hand and Public Health on the other hand. As a result, the citizens as well as city officials



and NGOs now have easy access via Internet to health information concerning the City of Turku.

The City of Turku has used a coordinate based method called thematic mapping to develop user-friendly mapping techniques to facilitate regional and local evaluation of e.g. health behaviour of population which then can lead to strategic goal settings for health policy. The result, the Turku Health Profile, is presented on the Internet (www.turku.fi/tervi/health_profile/index_uk.htm) as a three-level hyper-document with information on e.g. demography and epidemiology, life styles, physical environment, living conditions and housing. Each of these is measured using different parameters.

The actual data is displayed in graphical format (both maps and diagrammes). These results provide the citizens with a basis of comparison when they are making choices concerning their life styles. Also the decision makers in the city need information on the conditions in different parts of the city in order to allocate resources in a sensible and most efficient way. But above all the health profile is expected to benefit public health NGOs by facilitating their easy access to updated information on health and related conditions.

For further information, contact:

Project Coordinator
Ms Mari Hakkala
Fax +358 2 2515 226
E-mail: mari.hakkala@turku.elisa.fi
www.turku.fi/tervi/health_profile/index_uk.htm

RAPID CONNECTIONS IN ROSTOCK

Rostock is creating effective conditions for internal and external communication. There are altogether about 800 PC workstations in the different city administration units. In order to guarantee a fluent exchange of data between all of them a radial Metropolitan Area Network has been installed between 24 city administration buildings.

Each building has its own Local Area Network and different servers for general and special office programs, fax, electronic mail, internet access, CD exploration, etc.

The central point of the network is located in the town hall. There are the servers for information that is needed by several city divisions like population data etc. The network offers all kinds of modern facilities like mailing between workstations out of, into and inside the system, access to internet, distant file storing, etc.

At present the network performs at 64 kilobytes per second with ISDN. Soon Rostock will have a ring-backed network. The already existing signal conductors and radio traces in between will be replaced or supplemented by optical fiber. This will enable the performance at 100 megabytes per second and even faster. This future network will be shared by the city administration as well as by the traffic light system, the traffic conduction systems of local transport services, by telephone and data lines.

For further information you may use the new e-mail address of the Rostock City administration:

rostock@compuserve.com besides the old one, 100073.312 @compuserve.com.

NET LINKS FOR LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS IN KOTKA

Libraries' new means of information retrieval, such as the Internet and CD-ROM-discs are used side by side with the traditional book form. The customers can make reservations for the PCs for an hour at the time and the booking lists are always full.

Next year Kotka City Library will get an Internet-café. The libraries consider it as their duty to offer the chance of using Internet for those who haven't got this opportunity at home, at school or at work. At the libraries one can learn how to use the net, surf in the net, use the IRC and to send e-mail. The library has also a colour printer and a scanner for their customers to use.

IT in the Kymenlaakso Polytecnic

The students of Kymenlaakso Polytecnic are involved in the Information Superhighway as soon they have started studying. Students enter themselves for an examination and different courses by using the net. The students get also their own e-mail-addresses. Those living in the newest student houses in Kotka have Internet connections at home; others can use Internet at home by modem at low price.

The network of Kymenlaakso Polytecnic is very fast: 10 Mb in one second - it is the fastest connection in the whole administrative district. The school has also ATM-connection to the Internet. ATM offers high speed, can be used for both local area and wide area networks, and supports a variety of applications including real-time audio and video as well as conventional data communication.

In distance teaching we use teleconferencing: every department is connected with each other by video

conference system. We can also utilize nowadays Internet and local area network together with ISDN solutions in distance teaching.

For further information, contact:

Internet: <http://www.kotakk.fi/>
E-mail: kyamk@kotakk.fi

ŠIAULIAI BECOMES A PART OF INFORMATION SOCIETY

In 1994 the project of launching the computer-based information system "Municipality" was started to implement in Lithuanian municipalities. The system was created for self-government institutions to accumulate, process, present and use comprehensive information about persons and subjects in the municipal area. It will be connected to state registers and information systems of other institutions.

Šiauliai Municipality started to implement this project three years ago. Data-bases "Population", "Subjects of Economy", "Legal Acts" are already formed. The City Digital Topographic Map which is nearly finished to design will serve as a basis for creating the City Geo Information System (GIS). Municipality has its own e-mail and WWW servers that are exclusively connected to the Computer Network of Lithuanian State Institutions. This allows all of the municipal departments to have an access to Internet, where one can visit *Šiauliai homepage* in Lithuanian and English languages.

Mr Jonas Bartkus, Head of the Informatics Department, e-mail: jonas.bartkus@siauliai.sav.lt

PORI IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE BY TELEMEDICINE

Health care through Information Technology is well under way in the Satakunta region of Finland. So called Telemedicine is offered in various IT-related networks. The project is the result of a close cooperation between both public and commercial interests.

The Finnish virtual organisation, *Health Care Information Technology Centre of Excellence (HC-ICE)* coordinates and maintains Telemedicine based services as a joint effort by the Satakunta Hospital District, the Tampere University of Technology (Pori), and the telecom company Finnet's MediCiNet health care project.

HC-ICE was founded to facilitate cooperation between experts in medicine, information technology, and the telecom business. Through this set up, the process of building cost-efficient and medically meaningful service packages for health, can move faster. Satakunta is believed to be one of the leading districts in the world in the use of health care information technology. Inter-hospital and inter-physician communication are specifically important factors.

Currently, HC-ICE runs a number of active projects in different phases. There is teleradiology and laboratory information distribution connections to health care centres, ISDN based CT-image transfers to Turku Univer-

sity Hospital (140 km), an ATM-network for neurophysiologist expert consultation from Tampere University Hospital (110 km), and pathologists have telepathology connections to Turku University Hospital, to mention just a few.

All projects are based on several different technological solutions like ATM, ISDN, WAN, Intranet, Internet, Integration platforms, Open distributed networks, and Intelligent distance education packages. The quality of the end result determines the choice of technology.

Large scale regional network projects, *Frameworks for Seamless Care (PALKO)* and *Added Value Services in Telemedicine Education (THLET)* are also recently started.

For further information, contact:

Jaakko Niinimäki, MD, Satakunta Hospital District, FIN-28500 Pori, Finland
Pekka Loula, Dr Tech, Tampere University of Technology (Pori), PO.Box 30, FIN-28601, Pori, Finland, fax +358 2 627 2828, e-mail: loula@pori.tut.fi

RIGA INVOLVED IN NETWORKS

Riga has several telecommunication systems under elaboration and introduction. Computer networks within the limits of the City of Riga are implemented using 2 MBps leased

lines. It is planned to connect all 6 city district centres and start connecting smaller municipal units to the local authority computer network in 1997.

The Riga City Council Informatics and Technology Board is responsible for the initiation and operation of the networks, end-user equipment and the applications. The Riga City Finance Department finances the investment and exploitation costs.

BERGEN EDUCATES VIA INTERNET

All schools in Bergen have from the beginning of January 1997 access to Internet from school libraries and from the teachers offices.

The machines are connected together through a special communication-net for schools. Also, 550 machines are distributed to the schools and approximately 800 teachers have during 1996 gone through a 10-hour evening course about utilising Internet in teacher's work.

The access to Internet-based communication based has given teachers and pupils new opportunities like electronic post, communication between pupils on different languages and an easy access to local, national and international information channels.

Environmental news from UBC cities

Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin 1 / 97

available from UBC Commission on Environment !



Fax: +358 2 253 8613

E-mail:

esko.sorakunnas@pp.weppi.fi.

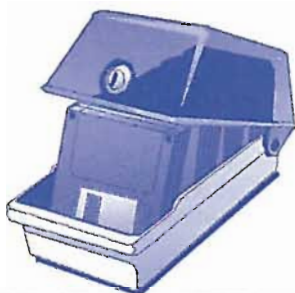
www.kalmar.se/ubc/
environment/begin.htm.

VILNIUS INTEGRATES DATABASES

The Vilnius Municipality is connected to many data sources and information systems which form the fundamental level of state government information system. This is why the local government information system should be integrated horizontally with other information systems acting in municipal territory as well as vertically with state government.

The task of the Information system is to collect, store, enhance, and provide appropriate data to the administration and other departments which analyze relevant information needed to make decisions on all areas that concern local government. This system should also provide relevant information to state governing bodies of the Republic of Lithuania. One goal of the project is to provide users an access to the information being collected and used by other governmental agencies and institutions. Another basic principle is the use of a shared collection of information. Information which is used by several departments will be kept in an integrated and centrally managed database.

The system will be integrated and made available to the shared usage of all territorial information. The databases include information on inhabitants, legal units, property, land, digital maps and law. The concrete IS design work, implementation and operation, and database administration will be organized by Vilnius city government Information System Department.



HORSENS CROSSES THE THRESHOLD TO INFORMATION SOCIETY

As something quite unique in Denmark, the city of Horsens opens up the *Horsens Citynet* in May 1997, which joins all important city interests on the Internet.

A dynamic development in Denmark towards the Information Society was founded with a visionary Government report in 1994 called *The Information Society - Year 2000*. Since then, there have been major activities at both governmental, regional, local and private levels. The city of Horsens took up several parallel activities directed towards the numerous possibilities of the Internet regarding information, education, communication, interaction and inter-human contact at both local and global levels.

The first prototype will be introduced in May this year, and is primarily going to consist of presentation and distribution of information. The next step is to make the Citynet interactive in order to communicate directly with e.g. the City Hall, Horsens Tourist Association, Horsens Industrial Development Council, and many others.

Today, approximately 12 percent of the households in Horsens have access to the Internet.

The project has financial support from the Horsens City Council, and the *Mayor Vagn Ry Nielsen* is interested in municipal co-financing of the future development of Horsens Bynet.

Visit **Horsens Bynet** on: <http://www.horsens-bynet.dk> (from May, 1, 1997). Meanwhile you are most welcome to visit:

Horsens Industrial Development Council: <http://www.horsens-erhverv.dk>

UBC ON THE WEB

These are the WWW-sites of the UBC member cities which were possible to be found by a rapid web-search, so unfortunately the list is by no means complete. If the address of your city is missing or incorrect, please contact the UBC secretariat as soon as possible.

<http://www.gdansk.gda.pl>
<http://www.miasto.gdynia.pl>
<http://www.goteborg.se>
<http://www.hel.fi>
<http://www.horsens-bynet.dk>
<http://www.kalmar.se>
<http://www.karlshamn.se>
<http://www.karlskrona.se>
<http://neris.mii.lt/towns/kaunas/kaunas.html>
<http://www.kemi.fi>
<http://www.kiel.de>
<http://www.kotka.fi>
<http://www.luebeck.de>
<http://www.nacka.se>
<http://www.norrkoping.se>
<http://www.nybro.se>
<http://www.oskarshamn.se>
<http://www.parnu.ee>
<http://www.pori.fi>
<http://www.uni-rostock.de/rostock/rostock.htm>
<http://www.siauliai.sav.lt>
<http://www.sopot-pl.net>
<http://www.stockholm.se>
<http://www.sundsvall.se>
<http://www.um.szczecin.pl>
<http://www.tampere.fi>
<http://www.tallinn.ee>
<http://www.ut.ee/tartu>
<http://www.turku.fi>
<http://www.umea.se>
<http://www.vaasa.fi>
<http://www.vastervik.se>
<http://www.vasteras.se>
<http://www.vaxjo.se>
<http://www.vilnius.sav.lt>
<http://www.ystad.se>

Horsens City Library: <http://www.horsenskom.dk>

Horsens Tourist Association: <http://www.horsens-tourist.dk>



II. UBC TODAY

ANNOUNCEMENT!

IV UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE - "BALTIC SEA COOPERATION FORUM", GDAŃSK, 12-13 SEPTEMBER 1997

In the year 1997 the City of Gdańsk celebrates jubilee of its 1000th anniversary, which will start officially in April 1997. In the Millennium programme many meetings and international conferences are planned. One of the most important shall be the 4th General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities.

Referring to the last year's meetings of Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic Sea States, held in Visby and Kalmar, having in mind "*Visby Declaration*", EU "*Baltic Sea Region Initiative*" and CBSS "*Action Programmes for Baltic Sea States Cooperation*" the Gdańsk Conference will become a "*Baltic Sea Coope-*

ration Forum" leading one step further towards integration of Nations of our region, with the simultaneous underlining of role of cities in that process.

As one of the most important events of the Gdańsk Millennium celebration the Conference will gather over 200 mayors and delegates of Baltic cities as well as representatives of major international institutions and organisations such as: European Commission, Council of the Baltic Sea States, Nordic Council, Baltic Subregional Conference, Baltic Chamber of Commerce and others. During the first day of the Conference the panel discussion with participation of high repre-

sentatives of these organisations focussing upon future perspectives of the Baltic Sea Region is planned.

UBC Member Cities are requested to provide proposals what in their opinion different Baltic actors can do together to strengthen further development of the Baltic Sea Region. The proposals and questions will be discussed during panel debate and conference workshops.

All Member Cities are strongly encouraged to take active part in the IV UBC General Conference in Gdańsk. The Conference Programme as well as all practical information will be sent out by the UBC Secretariat in Gdańsk.

16TH MEETING OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The 16th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board took place on January 25, 1997 in the City of Stockholm, Sweden, upon the invitation of Mr Mats Hulth, Lord Mayor of the City of Stockholm. The meeting was attended by the Executive Board members, chairmen of UBC working Commissions and representatives of new member cities.

The Board accepted the applications from 5 more Baltic cities after



16th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board in Stockholm.



introductions made by the representatives of those towns. The number of Union member cities reached the figure 69!

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Mr Lars Malmberg, Kalmar, chairman of the Commission on Communication informed about the establishing of *Baltic Sea Alliance* - a platform for communication for key Baltic organisations. The article describing the initiative is enclosed on the page 4 of this bulletin.

Mr Esko Sorakunnas, UBC Environmental Coordinator introduced the first issue of UBC Environmental Bulletin. It is also available on the Web and the next edition will be published in March.

Mr Anders Engström and Mr Peter Gavelin reported from the Conference of Ministers of Environment and Spatial Planning held in Stockholm in October 1996. The Ministers made a decision to work out the *Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region* and set up a Senior Officials group responsible for implementing the initiative. The Board declared UBC's active involvement in the creation of *Agenda 21 for the BSR* and appointed Mr Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall to the Senior Officials Group.

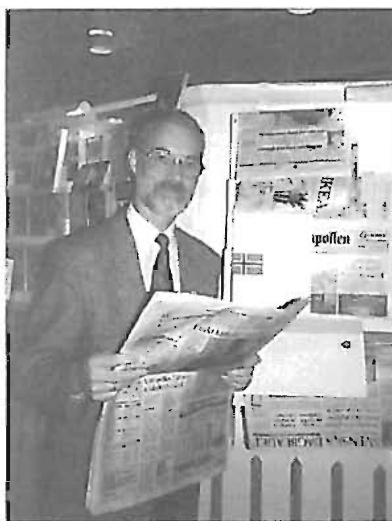
Mr Włodzimierz Machczyński, representative of the Commission on Transportation from Gdańsk informed that city of Gdańsk decided to allocate certain resources to establish small secretariat of the Commission.

Mr Jussi Kautto from Helsinki put forward a proposal to set up a new UBC Commission on Urban/Spatial Planning. The Commission would initiate the exchange of experiences between cities in the field of physical planning and complement at the local level the work carried out by VASAB 2010. The Board stressed, that UBC should become active in spatial planning and decided to appoint a working group consisting of Elbląg, Helsinki, Malmö, St.Petersburg and Umeå, the task of which shall be to work out the best model for UBC involvement in this field.

Mr Juhan Janusson, UBC Project Manager informed about the budgets and deadlines of EU programmes concerning the Baltic Sea Region such as ECOS-OUVERTURE, BSPF, INTERREG IIC. Mr Janusson emphasized that following the demands of various parties including UBC the ECOS-OUVERTURE changed some of its rules making the programme more flexible.

The Board discussed potentials of joint projects within INTERREG IIC (EU countries) and PHARE/TACIS programmes (non-EU countries). Having in mind Mr Janusson's comments it was decided that the UBC Board member cities from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia will send letters to their governments urging them to earmark certain resources within PHARE/TACIS programmes for joint projects with INTERREG IIC.

Mr Paweł Żaboklicki, UBC Secretary General, presented the first issue of UBC *Baltic Cities Bulletin (BCB)* which replaced UBC Newsletter and was prepared by Editorial Board appointed at the UBC Board meeting in Pärnu. The first issue of *BCB* was printed and distributed in 3000 copies to all member cities and various Baltic and European institutions in December 1996. The Board expressed its satisfaction from the work of *BCB* Editorial Board and urged it to continue its efforts.



Mr Ingmar Ljones, the Mayor of Bergen invited the Executive Board to Bergen in June.

The Secretary submitted UBC financial report for 1996. Apart from UBC income and expenditure the report showed extra contributions from member cities in 1996 (costs of Commissions secretariats) as well as UBC projects with external funding. The Board adopted the report and described UBC financial position as satisfactory.

Mr Żaboklicki announced, that according to the decision of Executive Board made in Pärnu, the IV UBC General Conference in Gdańsk will be a *Baltic Sea Cooperation Forum* during which major actors of Baltic cooperation shall discuss the future of the Baltic Sea Region. All preparations to the Conference are going well and the City of Gdańsk is warmly expecting representatives of all member cities.

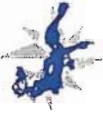
Mrs Hjördis Höglund from Sundsvall submitted report on the activities of UBC Women's Network and invited representatives of all interested member cities to participate in the *IV UBC Women's Conference*, to be held in Kalmar in association with *Nordic Women Week*, 20-25 May 1997.

Moreover the Board accepted Mr Anders Engström's proposal to organize jointly with BCCA, the seminar on *UBC role in local business promotion* to be held in Kalmar in association with 8th Hansa Business Days, 22-23 April 1997.

Mr Engström informed, that Mr Jaak Tamm has retired as a Mayor of the City of Tallinn and thus has asked to be relieved from the position of UBC Vice-President. The Board expressed its gratitude to Mr Jaak Tamm for his substantial contribution to the work for the Union of the Baltic Cities.

Lastly, the President recommended the Executive Board member cities to organize, before the next General Conference, national meetings of Union members to discuss UBC matters.

Following the proposal of Mr Ingmar Ljones, Mayor of the City of Bergen, the next XVII Meeting of the UBC Executive Board will be held in Bergen on June 7, 1997.



UBC CONFERENCE ON CITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN KALMAR

- An important challenge for the UBC

All 69 UBC Member Cities have been invited to attend a conference in Kalmar with the purpose of discussing the role of cities and the role of the UBC in Business Development.

Discussions on the role of cities and UBC itself in Local Business Development has been carried out in UBC for a long time. The field of interest is broad and there is a great de-

mand from UBC member cities to use the UBC network to improve the business climate in the Baltic Sea Region for the benefit of the cities and their citizens.

- What is the cities role in Business Development, and what does business expect from the cities?
- How can cities cooperate within the UBC network in the best way?

These issues were planned to be discussed in April during a confer-

ence in Kalmar in connection with the 8th Hansa Business Days. Due to timing problems the organisers decided to postpone the conference until the autumn 1997.

Experts from the business community and from the cities are invited as speakers. All UBC Member Cities are warmly welcome to attend the conference. Details can be obtained from UBC Project Manager, Mr Juhan Janusson, telephone +46 480 83430.



NEWS FROM THE COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION

On 26 February 1997 the meeting of the Presidium of the UBC Commission on Transportation took place in Gdańsk and gathered the representatives and experts of the following member cities: Bergen, Gdańsk, Kaliningrad, Karlshamn and Karlskrona. The main purpose of the meeting was:

- to present and evaluate the Commission's activities in 1996;
- to formulate future Commission's tasks and activities having in mind recommendations made by the XVIth UBC Board Meeting in Stockholm.

The participants decided to establish two working groups on:

- short sea shipping - led by Gdańsk and Kaliningrad,
- continuation of works on municipal transportation organisation - led by Bergen and Gdańsk.

V INTERNATIONAL UBC ART & CULTURE FESTIVAL

The 5th International Art & Culture Festival of the Union of the Baltic Cities will take place in the city of Gdynia this year.

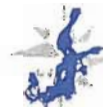
The festival consists of a number of culture events and one of them is the **Festival of Chamber Music** for soloists, ensembles and chamber choirs to be held in October 1997. The organisers offer the accommodation, participation in various cultural activities, seminar on ancient music, meetings and discussions. Some of the instruments will be also available to the ensembles. Musicians from eastern Baltic countries will receive a refund of travel expenses.

The deadline for submitting applications for the **Festival of Chamber Music** in Gdynia is the 30 June 1997.



For further information, contact:

Mr Przemysław Bartnicki
Gdynia City Hall
Department of Culture
Al. Marszałka Piłsudskiego 52/53
81-382 Gdynia
Tel. +48 58 203721



BALTIC MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING PROJECT HALFWAY READY

- RESULTS SOON AVAILABLE

A year ago, in March 1996, Union of the Baltic Cities launched a project on Municipal Environmental Auditing. The project has been through its operational phase in Tallinn and the project office in Turku is finalising the reports. Now the project is about to start its final phase: the dissemination of project results to the UBC's member cities around the Baltic Sea.

UBC has been formally nominated as a lead party together with Germany for implementing the second element of HELCOM's JCP, "Institutional Strengthening and Human Resource Development" on the local level (i.e. municipalities). The MEA project is a concrete output of UBC's cooperation with HELCOM.

With financing from the EU's Life Programme and the Finnish Ministry of Environment UBC initiated the project in the beginning of 1996. The project directly involves the cities of Helsinki, Tallinn and Turku. Tallinn was selected for the target of the pilot study where the first experiences of the audit were gained. Later an international steering group was set up to coordinate the project and MEA offices were established in Turku and Tallinn.

ADOPTION OF THE MEA CONCEPT IN BALTIC CITIES

The aim of the MEA-project is to introduce "Municipal Environmental Auditing Scheme" to the cities of the Baltic Sea Region. The project also aims at providing an environmentally sound basis for municipal investment decisions and guidance in revealing the critical issues in environmental questions and realising what the weak

points in the city's environmental performance are.

The main product of the project is a manual for MEA procedure as applicable to the Baltic cities. Apart from providing guidelines for conducting MEAs in the Baltic cities, the manual will include a model for conducting environmental reviews and provide the basis for prioritising environmental investments. The first drafts of the manual were presented to the steering group already in spring 1996. The manual was then tested in the second phase of the project: a pilot study performed in the City of Tallinn.

DISSEMINATION OF MEA RESULTS

The auditing of Tallinn has been carried out and the manual is almost

ready. Now the project is ready to start its final stage: the dissemination of the model to other Baltic Cities.

The dissemination phase will start with seminars arranged in selected cities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia in April - June 1997. The MEA model will be introduced for the first time in the Working Meeting of UBC's Commission of Environment in Tallinn 18-19 April 1997.

For further information, contact:

Mr Ilppo Vuorinen, Ms Antonia Sucksdorff-Selkämaa or Mr Olli Madekivi in the MEA-Office in Turku, fax +358 2 253 8613
E-mail: ilppo.vuorinen@pp.weppi.fi.



Some members of the international steering group: from left to right Mr Peter Gavelin from Sundsvall, Mr Ulrich Kremser from HELCOM and Ms Anja Vallittu from the Helsinki Environment Center.

The number of Union Members now 69 !

UBC warmly welcomes the new member cities:

Kemi, Kolding, Malmö, Oxelösund and Pori

and wishes them fruitful cooperation with all other UBC Members.



PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS:

Project: UBC Member Cities and the European Union

The general aim of recently started project is to increase the knowledge about the European Union in the cities from countries which applied for EU membership. A planning meeting between the Leading Cities in the UBC-EU project was held in Copenhagen on March 17, 1997. During the meeting an agenda for the first seminar directed to participating cities was created. This seminar will be held on 22-23 May 1997 in Copenhagen. The second seminar will take place in September in the city of Szczecin. Moreover, a handbook about EU institutions and programmes with special interest for East-Europeans is being prepared and translated into Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian.

The group discussed also a possibility to organise a conference open for all cities on the theme **"Preparing cities for the European Union"**. The date was set on November 17-18, 1997 and the venue - the city of Tallinn. So, it is feasible already today to mark these days in your calendars, since this will be a very important conference on the subject that will be actual until the Baltic Sea will be an inland sea of the European Union.



Meeting of the project's leading cities in Copenhagen.

Aids, Drugs and Street-children in Kaliningrad

During a meeting between the UBC Project Manager and the Deputy Mayor, Ms Sylvia Gourova, the most urgent subjects for UBC-project in Kaliningrad were discussed. The city has three burning problem areas that over-shadow everything else: aids, drugs and street-children. The three problem areas are closely associated. There are today more than 1000 persons with aids. The number of HIV-carriers is not known. Almost all suffering from aids are drug-addicts in the age of 14-24. The drug-addicts

very often recruit from street-children.

Kaliningrad has very little resources to fight these problems. Some houses for the street-children have been opened, but not very much more. The UBC Commission on Social Affairs and the city of Copenhagen are currently investigating the possibilities to start an UBC project in this field. It must be a practical project, not a theoretical one or just an investigation of the problems. Any city or authority with experience in those problems is welcome to participate.

UBC LIBRARY NETWORK

In December 1996 librarians representing Copenhagen, Gdańsk, Kalmar, Riga, Tallinn, Vilnius and Visby met in Visby to discuss the conditions and needs facing public libraries in the Baltic region and network building among the libraries in the UBC. In February a committee met in Tallinn to formulate a reading project for youth. The UBC Library Network will now

initiate a joint action to implement in UBC cities IFLA's Guidelines for library service for youth. The project will start with a conference in November 1997 and continue for 18 months.

The participating libraries will work as twin libraries as follows: Copenhagen - Vilnius, Kalmar - Gdańsk, Helsinki - Riga, Sankt Petersburg - Stockholm, Haapsalu - Visby. The project

will involve staff-exchange and meetings for those involved in the project.

For further information, contact:

Barbro Ejendal
Tel. +46 498 269651
Fax +46 498 269659
E-mail:
barbro.ejendal@kff.gotland.se.



"MARE ARTICUM"

Between 10-12 March 1997 the city of Szczecin hosted a three-day meeting of the editorial board of the Mare Articum, international arts magazine. Mare Articum is being developed under the auspices of the Union of the Baltic Cities within the project carried out by the Commission on Culture, with Szczecin and Visby as the leading cities.

The main purpose of the magazine is to create a joint discussion and promotion forum for the disintegrated and under-developed artistic movement in the Baltic region. Hence, the magazine aims at presenting current artistic events, questions related to the ongoing critical debate on the visual arts, promoting artists and interesting cultural projects, as well as at active contribution into the cultural exchange in the Baltic region.

The editorial board consists of critics and culture patrons from various Baltic culture centres. The working meeting of the editorial board resulted in precise defining the scope of magazine, its contents, as well as in decisions related to such basic technical questions as a network of correspondents and co-workers, principles of a network's operations, joint financing, promotion and distribution.

The sample issue of this quarter magazine will be published in September and the leading theme will be the problem of national identity within the context of the continuously developed universal arts language, having great impact on eliminating cultural differences, and questioning the idea of national identity, especially in the arts masterpieces of recent years.

Mare Articum, the magazine edited by several countries and addressed to many nationalities, will be published in the English language, with the possibility of including summaries in other national languages.

For further information, please contact: Magdalena Lewoc, tel. +48 91 245657, fax +48 91 245650

"SOCIAL AND LABOUR MARKET POLICY"

The Conference on Social and Labour Market Policy was held in Rostock 6 - 7 March. It was the highlight of an European Union PACTE Project "Baltic Cities - Exchange of experience in transnational employment development between Baltic Sea Cities" especially Helsinki, Finland; Storstrom, Denmark; Kalmar, Sweden; Lübeck and Rostock, Germany.

120 participants from 9 Baltic Sea Countries and approximately 35 Cities were united in Rostock. Experts from Municipalities, Labour Offices, Unions, Societies a.o. discussed the main problem nowadays - unemployment. They exchanged experiences about job procurement measures and placement of jobseekers. Special interest was focused on unemployed youth, women and long-term unemployed. Also different EU programmes and ongoing EU projects were presented.

In addition to lectures also four smaller workshops were arranged. They dealt with the following fields of unemployment:

- unemployed women
- unemployed youth
- long-term unemployed
- job rotation

Exhibition "Market Place Baltic Sea"

The exhibition under the title: "Market Place Baltic Sea" became a real meeting place for discussions and presentation of "Projects to Labour Market and Social Policy" from communities around the Baltic Sea.

We would like to use this opportunity, to thank all participants for their interest in our conference and joining us in Rostock. We also would like to thank the UBC Secretary and the Commission on Environment which helped to prepare the exhibition by sending interesting contributions.

For further information, contact:

Petra Hamann
UBC Office on Social Affairs
Hinter dem Rathaus 1
D-18050 Rostock
Germany
Tel. +49 381 381 14 52
Fax +49 381 381 19 13
E-mail: rostock@compuserve.com



The Conference on Social and Labour Market Policy was held in Rostock 6-7 March 1997.



III. NEWS AND VIEWS

DYNAMIC DIRECTORIA V

During the period of 1997/98 the Ecos / Ouverture programme will receive ECU 17 million from the ERDF and ECU 7 million from Phare and will make financial contributions to mutually beneficial co-operation between regions and towns in the EU and their counterparts in Central Europe, the NIS and the MED.

As part of Ecos/Ouverture in 1997-99, the European Commission is launching the call for proposals in order to invite all local authorities in the eligible regions to submit a proposal for an inter-regional co-operation project before the deadline of 1 July 1997.

According to Mr Tom Brown, Ecos/Ouverture Director, over 100 applications were received in the 1996 call for EU/ Central and Eastern Europe project submissions, with the total bid for grant exceeding 30 million ECU. Twenty three projects were approved.

The fifth staging of DIRECTORIA in Strasbourg (24-26 Feb 97) has offered the opportunity to meet with partners for both RECITE II and OUVERTURE programmes. OUVERTURE II is launched with an extension to potential representation from NIS, CE and MS countries. All the new calls for proposals have a total of ECU 100 million available to support interregional co-operation. RECITE II will cover a range of themes, including improving access of SMEs to the European market, helping integrate women into economic life, environmental protection and enhancing local potential. Ouverture II proposals will cover areas such as energy, environment, innovation and public administration and suitable

themes for Ouverture II cooperation include: environment, economic development, trade links, tourism, support for regional and small enterprises, energy, transport.

Seminars

Directoria V seminars in Strasbourg on 24-26 February 1997 gave background knowledge, though many critical remarks were forwarded as to the organisation and contents of seminars. There were over 2,000 registered participants and, in general, two days of seminars indeed offered detailed background information on the programmes, as well as advice on how to form partnerships and to construct projects which meet the programme criteria. It also offered the opportunity of meeting with the European Commission on guidance on project approval criteria to ensure that the projects and partnerships guarantee the right level of quality and capability to be considered for financial support.

Information packs containing the application forms and the work programmes, together with the procedures and eligibility criteria for the submission of tenders and the general principles governing Community assistance, may be obtained from the addresses given below (a/b) or on request by fax:

• **major projects** :(+32-2) 295.01.38/39/40 bearing the message "DG XVI - DG IA Article ERDF-PHARE, Ecos - Ouverture 1997/99"

(a) European Commission
DG XVI - Regional Policy and Cohesion / Unit A-2
External inter-regional co-operation projects
Building CSM2 3/43
rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels,
Belgium

• **micro-projects in Central Europe**:
(+44-121) 212 21 88 bearing the message "Phare ECOS Ouverture Micro-projects".

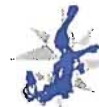
(b) Phare Ecos-Ouverture Micro-Projects
WMEB Wellington House
31-34 Waterloo Street
Birmingham B2 5TJ
United Kingdom

The information packs will be dispatched no later than 15 April 97. The 1997 Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme will have 2 funding rounds with deadlines of April 30,97 and October 31, 97, respectively.

By Ewa Kurjata



Thousands of meetings took place in Directoria



INTERREG II C IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The *INTERREG II C* programme represents a fresh approach in inter-regional planning around the Baltic Sea, both in terms of quality, and financial as well as organisational structures. The programme was designed to address funding needs within the field of spatial planning which had emerged in the previous years. Part of the financing was intended for areas suffering draught, another part for areas suffering from flooding and a third part for transnational cooperation in the field of spatial planning. The Guidelines for Interreg IIC were published in the Official Journal in July 1996 (OJEC C 200/96).

Regional and spatial planning as expressed in the VASAB 2010 programme, initiated 1992 at a ministerial conference in Karlskrona (Sweden), is now enhanced by INTERREG II C. This new programme is founded on previous traditions of regional integration, but constitutes a significant qualitative boost in both financial and organisational terms.

INTERREG II C has encouraged local, regional and even central bodies of various countries to jointly prepare and implement projects compatible with the already approved strategy for spatial development of the Baltic Sea Region. Eligibility criterias for projects joining the new programme are to:

- be of a transnational character,
- have a demonstrable impact on beneficiaries in at least three states (either in three Member States or in two Member States and one Non-Member State).

- respect national and EU policies for the use of structural funds.

- refer to spatial and physical planning in terms of more efficient land use in accordance with visions, objectives and strategies concerning a multi-sectoral and territorial approach.

In addition, the INTERREG II C projects should conform to the following requirements:

- they should contribute towards an economic, social and environmental sustainable development of the region.

- they should aim at safeguarding the cultural heritage.

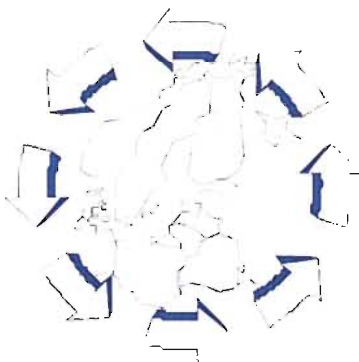
- they should contribute to multi-sectoral integration and cooperation

(i.e. demonstrate value added results of spatial planning).

- they should contain elements of long-term plans in sharing essential regional know-how.

- they should contribute to the coordination of similar initiatives/programmes in the region.

- they should contribute to attracting fresh investments, especially from the private sector.



The INTERREG II C will be managed by the Monitoring Committee and Steering Committee seated in Rostock supported by the Secretariat also located in Rostock with a branch in Karlskrona, Sweden. The INTERREG II C Secretariat is expected to closely co-operate with the VASAB 2010 Secretariat in Gdańsk.

The budget of INTERREG II C in the Baltic Sea Region expectedly exceeds ECU 40 million, while half of it comes from the structural funds of the EU and the remaining part from local, regional and national, public and private sources. That amount should be used before the end of 1999 on the territory of the Union.

There is a good news for the PHARE countries which will be in-

involved in the multilateral projects to be financed within INTERREG II A and II C frameworks. The Baltic PHARE CBC is going to be reinforced with an amount of ECU 14 million for the years 1996-97, among others to match the INTERREG II C money in the case the PHARE countries are involved in the INTERREG II C projects. Preparations are also under way to create the TACIS CBC fund amounting to some ECU 30 million intended for the support of transborder co-operation.

Until now the Baltic co-operation used to focus mostly on bilateral relations, which made it more difficult to meet the requirement of at least trilateral character of INTERREG II C co-operation. However, the recent ministerial conference of the VASAB 2010 decided to organise a conference in Rostock on 12. and 13. June 1997, to discuss concrete projects, which are in line with the general proposals from the "Stockholm Declaration". This allows regional, local and national authorities meet with the representatives of the VASAB 2010, INTERREG IIC and the European Commission to initiate new multilateral projects with foreign partners.

By Dr. Jacek Zaucha

Further information about the conference may be provided by VASAB 2010 Secretariat in Gdańsk, PL-80-828 Gdańsk, Długi Targ 24, tel. +4858 359093 fax +4858 354005 e-mail: infov@vasab.org.pl <http://www.vasab.org.pl> or by the members of the VASAB 2010 Steering Committee.



EU PROGRAMMES FOR BALTIC COOPERATION

The EU has renewed and increased the funding available for co-operation projects in the Baltic Sea Region considerably. This is a result of a very intense and unique co-operation at all levels in the Baltic Sea Region after the great interest towards the first Baltic Small Projects Facilities-round in July 1996. 124 applications were submitted for funding under the Innovative Actions Programme, but the funding was enough for only 12 of them.



The Commission has therefore allocated more money for the Baltic Sea Region and is also introducing some new programmes. The rules will be adopted to the needs of the Baltic Sea region and not just copied from experiences from other parts of Europe. Also, broad co-operation and network support is emphasised. This means for example that the UBC as such will be eligible for applications.

BSPF-Micro, a new program for very small projects is introduced supporting projects smaller than 10 000 ECU. The BSPF-Micro will, however, not be open for Tacis-country partners.

The upper limit of the BSPF is increased to 100 000 ECU, and will now also be open for Tacis funding. The total funding will be 25 million ECU.

The UBC is very positive to the new possibilities and the new funding available for the Baltic Sea Regional Co-operation. But the practical handling leaves much to be desired. Firstly, the Commission has not paid one ECU for any of the projects agreed upon in 1996. Several projects have been forced to halt after start-up only of the reason that promised money has not been paid. Secondly, the Commis-

sion has started a tendering process in order to possibly replace the present implementing Ecos-Overture organisation with a new one. This process has started very late, and in order not to halt the process, an organisation, located in Birmingham, United Kingdom, has temporarily been chosen to manage small project applications. Large project applications will be handled temporarily by the Commission itself. After the tendering process, there might be another new organisation that will manage the programs.

All this creates extreme difficulties in the continuity of the program. The UBC, as an organisation representing its members, sees it from the users point of view. Many UBC member cities, as well as the UBC itself and its commissions, will initiate co-operation projects and apply for funding from these new or improved programmes.

From this viewpoint, the following aspects are stressed from the UBC:

1. All planned and existing programs regarding the EU Baltic Sea Co-operation programmes should be handled by one neutral organisational body.

The access to information, guide-

lines, assistance during application process, supervision of the projects and so on must be simple. All planned and existing programmes, from the planned BSPF Micro to Ecos-Overture, including the Tacis-financed parts, should be handled in one organisational body, hereafter called the Organisation. There must not be any competition between the programmes. The need for the Organisation to be neutral is to diminish suspicion of favouring specific kinds of applicants, may it be cities, local or regional authorities, NGO:s, networks, or else.

2. The rules of the different programmes should be harmonised.

The application process should be harmonised for all programs regarding forms and procedures. There should be one common dead-line two times a year for all programmes (except BSPF-micro). The difference between the programmes should be easy to comprehend.

3. An advisory board, consisting of programme users, should be introduced.

There should be an advisory board connected to the Organisation. It should consist of a limited number



of persons, representing the users of the programmes. It should discuss general questions regarding projects in the region, give feed-back and advice to the Organisation and the Commission. The advisory board shall however not be involved in the application process or decision making regarding specific projects.

4. There should be one co-ordinating Baltic Sea office.

The Organisation should have at least one co-ordinating office in each country. They should in turn be co-ordinated by one appointed office, located in the region. The UBC has experienced problems with projects where participants from many countries in the Baltic Sea region take part. Respective partner should have con-

tact with their own office for guidance and assistance, but a co-ordinating body with an over-all perspective on projects is needed.

5. Make use of the present network in the Baltic Sea Region

It takes some time for contacts to settle and networks to work. The present Ecos-Overture network has now functioned for some time. The contacts are improving and becoming better with time. If there would be a completely new Organisation with new persons, the work of shaping the new network must be started all over. This creates risk of loosing time and continuity.

6. Conflicts and problems between the respective Directorate Generals, and between the EU and the

Organisation, should not affect the projects

Last year, the circumstances during the application, evaluation and contract signing process were very difficult for the project applicants and project implementators. The problems are still unsolved to large extent. Too many prejudices against the EU bureaucracy, that existed, became true.

There is now a real threat that will be a similar mess during 1997 application round. All possible efforts must be put to avoid this, regardless of whose responsibility it is.

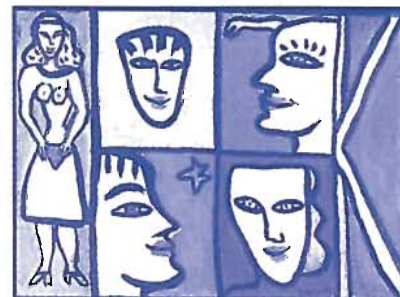
By Juhan Janusson

BALTIC WOMEN INVITED TO KALMAR

The organisation Kvinnor i Norden/The Nordic Women will arrange a Women's week in Kalmar on 20th - 25th of May. The week will include different seminars such as Women and sport; Health, body and soul; Working life - now and in the future as well as Enterprise and leadership. There will also be a wide range of other activities about arts, theatre, music and a trade fair.

The Nordic Women's ambition is to turn Kalmar into a meeting-place for women from all the Nordic countries and also countries round the Baltic Sea. The Week is aimed at establishing connections for continued deeper co-operation between women in the Nordic and also in the Baltic countries.

For further information, contact:



Ms Birgitta Theander
Tel. +46 480 26421
Fax +46 480 19269

BALLERINA CONFERENCE

The first annual BALLERINA (BALTic sea region on-Line Environmental information Resources for INternet Access) Conference will be held in Jurmala, Latvia 22 - 23 May 1997. BALLERINA promotes ecologically sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region and items on the Agenda will include:

- recent development and future improvement of BALLERINA;
- institutional issues;

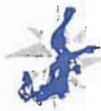
- connection to the Baltic Agenda 21 process;
- presentation of on-going Web initiatives and recent Web products by BALLERINA partners.

The organizer will try to cover costs for travel and accomodation for a limited number of participants from Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine from the resources allocated by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency.

If you are interested to participate in the conference, please send your contact information to:

Mr Sindre Langaas
sindre.langaas@grida.no
Fax +46 8 158 417

<http://www.grida.no/ballerina>
from 22 April onwards <http://www.baltic-region.net>



CAR RACES UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

The Royal Swedish Automobile Club (KAK) will organise the annual Baltic Sea Ecological Race in co-operation with the UBC.

The Baltic Sea Ecological Race is a competition for the invited drivers from states around the Baltic Sea. The winner is the driver whose car has the lowest fuel consumption. The fuel will be 100% rape-seed oil. The race will start in Kalmar, June 6th, and will have stop-overs for a night at 10 cities around the Baltic Sea where various activities and exhibitions in the field

of tourism, environmental motoring and environment in general will be carried out. Finally the cars will arrive at the finish in Kalmar eleven days later.

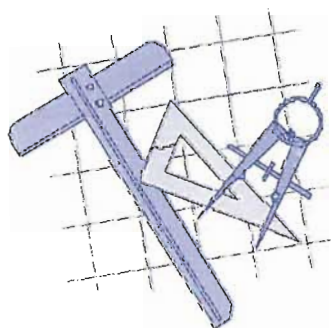
Another event is the Baltic Sea Tour. It is an organised car trip around the Baltic Sea, open for everyone. It will follow more or less the same route as the ecological run does. It is, at the time of printing of this bulletin, uncertain if the run will take place in the summer of 1997 or forthcoming summers.

The idea with the Baltic Sea Tour is, in the long run, to increase tourism in the Baltic Sea area, and to inform

about possibilities to reduce the negative impact of traffic systems such as emissions and accidents and how to use locally produced vegetable-fuel. The economic surplus of the Baltic Sea Tour will be used as scholarships in environmental subjects.



KALMAR - FUTURE HUB OF AN INDUSTRIAL DESIGN NETWORK FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION ?



Since the fifties, western industry successfully has utilised industrial design both for development and marketing of competitive products and for company management. Former socialist economy had little need for industrial design and designers were mainly trained and employed for aesthetic reasons. For beneficial development of industry on the fast growing Baltic

Sea Market, Kalmar now calls for a cross border industrial design co-operation.

Kalmar, in 1997 being "Capital of the Nordic Countries", will in October focus on Nordic Design. Among scheduled activities there are parallel design seminars, exhibitions, student activities, etc. Taking advantage of local design tradition as well as the position of Kalmar and its active role in the Baltic Sea region, the local, regional and national actors decided that it is time to implement an open industrial design network. They formed in an Ad Hoc committee, representing the city and county of Kalmar, Kalmar University, Society of Swedish Industrial Designers and local industry.

The purpose of the network is to stimulate a development of humane artefacts and environment by using industrial design on a regional base and in national co-operation.

For the next six months, a lot of preparatory work will be made which will end with an invitation to a first board meeting of the network in October in Kalmar. The base for the board will be a network document and a database of industrial design institutions and organisations in the Baltic Sea region.

For further information, contact:

Industrial Design Network
Ingvar Frizell
Box 601
S-391 26 Kalmar
Tel. +46 480 84208
Fax +46 480 84870
E-mail: ingvar.frizell@kommun.kalmar.se



BALTIC WHO HEALTHY CITIES MET IN TURKU

The WHO and the Healthy Cities contact persons for social and health issues of the Baltic Sea region had a meeting in Turku Finland on 23-24 January 1997.

The establishment of a Sub-Regional Baltic WHO Healthy Cities Centre in Turku was discussed and the meeting agreed that the Centre would be a valuable resource in further developing and expanding the healthy cities movement in the Baltic Region. The Centre should facilitate coordination of Healthy City networks, the building of alliances, exchange of information, resource development, training, networking and cooperation.



Another concrete outcome of the meeting was also the agreement on cooperation between St. Petersburg, Stockholm and Turku under the umbrella of the sub-regional centre in issues related to health and environmental.

For further information, contact:

Ms Mari Hakkala
Fax +358 2 2515 226
E-mail: mari.hakkala@turku.elisa.fi.

BALTIC SEA STATES SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION (BSSSC)



The BSSSC was founded in October 1993 in Stavanger, Norway, and it is open to the 162 regional authorities (subregions) of the Baltic Sea States. 100 Subregions have participated at the Conferences.

The objectives of BSSSC are:

- to promote cooperation among subregions around the Baltic area in particular in the fields of economic and technological cooperation, ecology, health, social affairs, education, vocational training, youth, culture, transport, telecommunication and information,
- to formulate a coherent Baltic Sea policy,
- to represent the interests of the subregions within national governments and European and international organisations.

The Conference is open to all subregions of the Baltic Sea area immediately below the level of central government, which are interested to participate. Participation is not bound to membership fees. The conference is working in close cooperation and under the auspices of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. The working bodies are:

- the Conference of Delegates meets annually on the invitation of the subregion hosting the conference,
- the Board meets on invitation by the Speaker, in order to discuss developments in the Baltic Sea area, to prepare the annual Conference and to advise the Speaker. It consists of two members of each country, nominated by the subregions participating in the Conference,

- the Speaker is nominated by the Conference for two years and represents the subregions on national and international level. Presently the Speaker is Minister Gerd Walter of Schleswig-Holstein,

- the Secretariat supports the Speaker and the Board, acts as contact and information point,
- for the subregions, supports the working groups and represents the Conference on the working level,
- the working groups are set up by the Conference and act as advising, inspirational and consultative bodies for the subregions as well as discussion partners at the national and international level, when and where expertise from the subregions is requested.

The tasks of the BSSSC include fostering cooperation on the subregional level, monitoring the over 250 subregional cooperation projects and publishing a regular Calendar on political and economic events as well as publishing a Newsletter on political developments and activities of cooperation. BSSSC participates in and contributes to the meetings of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and other Baltic Sea organisations and influences policies on regional, national, European and supranational level in regard to the Baltic Sea area.

BSSSC-Secretariat
Hohenbergstr. 4
D-24105 Kiel
Tel. +49 431 988 2113
Fax +49 431 988 2103



THE BALTIC SEA COMMISSION OF CPMR

The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) is a non-Governmental organisation, founded in Saint-Malo, Brittany, France in 1973. Today its membership stands at about 120 peripheral maritime regions from 21 European countries. Much of the activity of CPMR takes place at a decentralised level, within the 5 geographical Commissions (Atlantic Arc, Islands, Mediterranean, North Sea and Baltic Sea).

The Baltic Sea Commission of the CPMR was established at the conclusion of a meeting in Kotka, Finland in May 1996. The Commission held its first General Assembly in Stockholm in September 1996, and the 34 regions present elected as President, Mr Hannu Tapiola, Chairman of the Board of the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso (Finland), and as Vice-President, Mr Bo Krogvig, Commissioner of the County Council of Stockholm (Sweden). The Secretariat is located in Stockholm. The Commission numbers at the moment 31 active members or observer regions, representing Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.



The main aims of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission are to contribute to the peace and stability of the Baltic Sea area by promoting its economic and social well-being especially through the elaboration of a strategy for the area, through the partnership of its regions in the elaboration and implementation of EU policies and programmes concerning the Baltic Sea area, through cooperation and political action with the other regions of Europe in the framework of CPMR, and through the development of transnational networks between the coastal regions of the Baltic Sea area on themes of common interest such as the maritime economy, transport and communication, energy and the environment, information technology...

The strength of the Baltic Sea Commission is based on the following six elements:

- It represents the regional level - the people of the regions.
- Its regions share the peripheral, maritime dimension - a dimension

that goes beyond national and administrative borders.

- As a full member of a large European network, it possesses a vast bank of knowledge about regional and local pre-conditions for development.

- Founded by regions both within and outside the European Union, it forms a unique base for interregional cooperation and exchange links.

- It encompasses the entire Baltic Sea basin, its islands and shores.

- It has set out to be a constructive and operational partner in the Baltic Sea development dialogue, rather than a talkative subsidy-seeker.

Based on its visions, positioned in the interface of East and West and regarding the European Spatial Development Perspective, the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission has defined the following areas as its main priorities for the immediate future:

- Economic Growth and Cohesion
- The Environment
- Spatial Planning
- Human Resources
- Democracy and Common Security.

For further information, contact:

Mr Dag Boman, Executive Secretary of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, tel. +46 8 7372545, fax +46 8 653 69 41

BREMEN DECLARATION BOOSTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION

More than 150 executives from small, medium and large enterprises, political leaders and decision-makers convened in Bremen from 13-15 March 1997 to participate in

the international conference "Business and Municipality - New Partnerships for the 21st Century".

Represented were local authorities and representatives from public utili-

ties, public-private partnership projects, economic development agencies, non-profit organisations, consultants and research institutes out of more than 30 countries.

The Bremen conference focused on the partnership between two of the



main actors: businesses and municipalities since the health of both depends on the health of the whole system. The Bremen Declaration endorsed by the participants drew conclusions on sustainable development, local communities' and businesses' shared responsibility and cooperation possibilities as well as principles of good practice and present shortcomings and barriers

The main idea of the Bremen Declaration is to foster consensus-seeking processes which need to be at the core of a new political, democratic and social culture. The Bremen Declaration will be furthered to the 33rd World Congress of IULA in April, 1997, and is to be a contribution to the discussion of the Rio follow-up process which will lead to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Rita Kellner-Stoll
Head of the Department of Environmental Protection at the State Ministry for Women, Health, Youth, Social Affairs and Environmental Protection of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
Hanseatenhof 5
28195 Bremen
Germany
Fax +49 421 361 9253
E-mail: kellstol@zfn.uni-bremen.de

BALTIC SEA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

attended by 250 women

250 women from ten countries attended the Baltic Sea Women's Conference on 6-8th of March 1997 in Lübeck. The purpose of the conference was to discuss how to expand women's networks, especially those which incorporate the different political levels. Together the women could outline perspectives for a Baltic Sea co-operation policy, which defines gender equality as one decisive attribute for a future development. Women from the Baltic Sea Countries can learn a lot from each other about strategies for participation, lobbying and networking.

More than 20 well-known speakers addressed the Conference among Ms Rita Süßmuth, President of the German Parliament recommending a quota system to get more women into politics and Ms Kazimiera Prunskiene, former Minister-President of Lithuania who told about the special problems in women's political life. Ms. Anita Gradin, Commissioner of the European Union made a speech on "Women's Political and Economic Recession" and a lot of attention was given to the successful work by the Swedish women to be more represented in politics.



Ms Hjördis Höglund, Ms Angelika Birk and Prof. Zdzisława Janowska participating in Lübeck Conference.

EUROREGION JANTAR (AMBER) IS COMING INTO BEING

By the end of this year the agreement on the establishment of the Euroregion JANTAR is going to be signed. The declaration was approved by the international conference "Euroregion JANTAR - challenge and

chance" held in Malbork, 28 February -1 March 1997.

A Euroregion is a new quality of the international relations in this part of the Baltic Sea. It aims at intensifying contacts and economic development of the coastal areas. The Euroregion JANTAR may comprise south-eastern regions of Sweden

(among others Kalmar and Blekinge), cities and communes of Polish provinces of Słupsk, Gdańsk, Elbląg and Olsztyn as well as Baltijsk and Kaliningrad and also the city of Liepāja.

There are many common problems in the south-eastern part of the Baltic Sea, e.g. protection of the environment, communication systems issues and improvement of border



crossings. In the future these will be easier to solve thanks to increased transboundary cooperation. An additional advantage may be the opportunity to use the EU funds addressed to the Baltic Sea Region.

Conference "Euroregion JANTAR - challenge and chance"

The conference, initiated by the city of Elbląg, focused on the need to create a euroregion, i.e. higher than present status of cooperation between the twin cities. The conference was attended by more than 80 participants, among them delegates from Karlskrona (Sweden), provinces of Slupsk, Gdańsk, Elbląg and Olsztyn (Poland), Baltijsk and Kaliningrad (Russia) and Liepāja (Latvia). Moreover the representatives of embassies and consulates as well as experts on transboundary and Baltic cooperation (e.g. VASAB 2010) took part.

The participants listened with great interest to the presentations of the representatives of the already existing euroregions, e.g. Pomerania and Szpewa-Nysa-Bóbr. All conference participants were convinced that



The Conference "Euroregion JANTAR - challenge and chance" aimed at establishing an Euroregion to intensify contacts and economic development of south-eastern Baltic.

there is a time to come out of the frame of the twin-city-cooperation and start creating the Euroregion JANTAR.

On the basis of the agreement made by the conference participants, an organizational group was established. Its task will be to work out the

documents and map the interest of all participants towards the Euroregion JANTAR. The registration of the euroregion will be done by the end of the year 1997.

ATTENTION Member Cities !!!

The cover theme for the next bulletin is **COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION**. Please send us short summaries about the aims and results of the on-going EU-projects in your cities. We would also welcome other EU related news and stories to the Bulletin by the ABSOLUTE story deadline on **August 1st, 1997**.

The editorial board also wishes member cities to contribute following material to the Bulletin:

- Letters to the Editor
- Short news about activities in the cities
- Vivid and creative photographs to the stories
- Comic strip artists

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

EDITORIAL BOARD





IV. MEMBER CITIES IN ACTION



SUCCESS FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT IN COPENHAGEN

On 20 November 1996 a strong opinion on the newly revised EC waste management strategy was adopted by politicians of the Committee of the Regions. The opinion drafted by the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen gave a strong reaction to the lack of environmental perspectives in the new strategy. The opinion was adopted unanimously and sent to the Council of Environment Ministers before their final meeting in December.

In the new strategy, the considerations for the internal market have much more weight than the consid-

erations for the environment. It regards waste primarily as a commodity and no limits can be established for the transportation of this in the EC. Waste from e.g. Denmark or Germany can then easily be sent for treatment in other EC-countries, where the standards for waste management are lower than in more advanced countries. This way some countries would end up as the "landfills of the Community" receiving large quantities of waste from other countries for incineration or recycling in low-quality facilities.

At the same time the regulatory means in relation to waste management, which are crucial for the waste management planning, are limited considerably. If the new strategy is carried out to the actual wording, the local and regional authorities would

lose the regulatory instruments, which have formed the basis for current successes on waste management in many cities. In Copenhagen, sometimes regarded as the Capital of Environment the effective and environmentally friendly management system has led to a situation where 59% of the waste is recycled, 37% is incinerated and only 4% is landfilled. According to the new strategy the authorities would only be able to regulate the 4%.

The experience from Copenhagen shows that a strong regulation of waste is not in contradiction with cheap solutions for the covered households and enterprises. The 35.000 enterprises in Copenhagen benefit from the system; the location in Copenhagen means a high environmental profile for them.



THE BALTIC BRIDGE

Ten years have passed since the decision about joining the Central European countries with the transportation corridor from Gdynia/Gdańsk through Katowice, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade to Athens - with the branch to Ankara. This route (E-77) referred to the tradition of Amber Road ensured all the countries future economic development and communication in Central Europe.



The main view of the city of Gdynia.



Gdynia, Gdańsk, Toruń, Łódź, Częstochowa, Gliwice and Katowice have established the Union of TEM Amber Road Cities. The cities' self-governments appreciate the need of co-operation leading to the route's construction and are aware of the vast advantages that the Amber Road will bring to this part of Europe.

In February 1993 the Baltic Institute in Karlskrona presented the study about the transportation corridor in North Europe which connects Oslo-Göteborg-Boras-Växjö and Karlskrona, known as „TEM-Scandinavia” which now also is linked with the Amber Road.

Gdynia and Karlskrona - the sister cities - have developed a very intensive co-operation within tourist, economic and social contacts aimed to the opening of the ferry connection - the Baltic Bridge.

In result, there has been a (ferry) bridge created, linking both cities and both parts of Europe - North and Central.

Today the cities are preparing to meet the different demands concerning the North-South Route. Economic, professional and private needs for using the TEM-Amber Road increase from year to year. There are coming into existence the new possibilities of co-operation within the wide area of several European regions. The steering group on its next meeting in Gdynia will learn among others about the results of consultations regarding establishing of the Amber Euroregion which will integrate south-east Sweden, north-east Poland and Kaliningrad Region.

The initiatives aimed to creation of Amber Euroregion are the natural support for the Baltic Bridge project.



3 MAYORS CONFIRM THE COOPERATION ABOUT THE ECAT CENTRE IN KALININGRAD



At Kaliningrad's town hall met - seen from the left - the mayors Manfred Richter, Bremerhaven, Igor Kosbemiakin, Kaliningrad, and Kaj Kjaer, Aalborg.

Mr Igor Kosbemiakin, Kaliningrad's first democratically elected Mayor, met on the 18th February 1997 in Kaliningrad Mr Manfred Richter, Mayor of Bremerhaven, Germany and Mr Kaj Kjaer Mayor of Aalborg, Denmark. The three mayors confirmed that the three cities will continue to give high priority to the cooperation in the environmental consultancy centre ECAT Kaliningrad, about the results of which was expressed a great satisfaction.

The cooperation gives results in fields outside the environmental cooperation as well. At the meeting the participants discussed the opening of a training restaurants in Kaliningrad with support from Bremerhaven and a proposal from from Kaliningrad about the establishment of a "Kaliningrad Culture and Information Centre" in Aalborg. As a further result it is to be expected that Kaliningrad opens its own representation in Brussels in co-operation with Aalborg's EU-office in Brussels.

FESTIVAL OF FLEETS 1997

The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets "Sails of Hope" devoted to the 300th anniversary of the Great Embassy of Peter I, 5 June 1997.

In 1997 we will mark an event of great significance, the 300th anniversary of the Great Embassy of Peter I. In the result of the diplomatic activity of Peter I and his ambassadors the Königsberg agreement on the alliance between Russia and Prussia was concluded in 1697.

The Russian tzar's stay in Königsberg was a turning point on his way to Holland, Austria, England, Chechia.

For 16 months he visited more than 100 cities of Europe where he continued to study handicrafts, cultures and traditions of European states.

One of the brightest festivities in the jubilee programme will be the Baltic International Festival of the Fleets "Sails of Hope" which will be held on June 5-8, 1997 in Kaliningrad (former Königsberg) under the motto "The



Baltic is the Sea of Friendship". Official delegations, warships, sailing vessels, brass bands, street theatres, sports teams from different countries will come to take part in the festival.

The guests from different countries will bring exhibitions of national craftwork where the spectators will be able to see not only the results of masters' work but watch the process of making crafts which is of great interest to everybody.

The festival will contribute to developing mutually beneficial ties, to establishing long-term business and cultural contacts between Russia and European states.



Festival of Fleets in Kaliningrad held in 1996.

The major events

- Opening of memorials in the places visited by Peter I in Königsberg
- Parades of warships and brass bands
- International regatta
- Display of goods by different firms of the countries participants
- Dramatised performances and concert programmes

- International arts exhibitions
- Folk craft events
- Festival of flowers
- Fireworks
- Days of culture of the province of Groningen in Kaliningrad
- Days of culture of the Kaliningrad region in the province of Groningen
- Presentation of the city of Kiel

Organiser of the festival:

Municipal Enterprise
"Festival UBC"
General director Tamara Shkurenko
Tel. +7 0112 218632
Fax +7 0112 215830



KALMAR - CAPITAL OF THE NORTH IN 1997



Mr Anders Engström, the mayor of Kalmar and the President of UBC welcomes everyone to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Kalmar Union.

For an entire year 1997 Kalmar will celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Kalmar Union - the alliance which was signed in 1397 and which united the Nordic countries under the sovereign of Queen Margaret.

It is a jubilee of the whole North, but Kalmar will play a special role at the heart of the festivities. Everybody is invited to participate and Kalmar is the right place to go to in 1997.



KALMAR
NORDENS HUVUDSTAD
1997

Kings, Queens and Presidents are among other guests visiting the Kalmar celebrations. Nordic Summit is among the grand festivities. Please have a look at the calendar of events presented on the next page!



600th anniversary of the Kalmar Union

Kings, Queens and Presidents, Nordic Summit - 14-15 June

- five Nordic heads of state will visit Kalmar for a public appearance. Feel the historical impact when after 600 years they gather in the town where their countries once signed a treaty of Union!

Women of the North - 20-25th May

- celebration of womanhood. Girls, women and ladies are invited to an exciting week of trade fair, exhibitions, concerts, happenings, seminars and various work shops!

Medieval Olympics - 1-2 August

- Kalmar will be transformed into an Olympic arena. For a few, sweaty days athletes from the Nordic and the Baltic countries gather to compete in historical lines of sports.

Queen Margaret exhibition - 2 May - 20 July

- the unique exhibition of items related Margaret 1st will be on show at the Castle of Kalmar. The exhibition opens in Copenhagen and then moves on to Kalmar, Oslo and Helsinki.

Medieval Market - 27-29 June

- on these days harlequins and salesmen in medieval clothes will take you back to an ordinary day in the 14th Century. Take a walk, enjoy the sounds and fragrances from the market stands. Revel in the wide selection of genuine Nordic and Baltic handicraft!

Mare Balticum - 30 May-1 June

- the prestigious stamp exhibition Mare Balticum is to be held in Kalmar. Take the opportunity to meet with collectors from all over the world and get better insight in a captivating hobby!

Maritime Festival - 4-6 July

- for a few glorious days Castle Bay will fill up with replicas of historical ships. The impressive sight of the elegant ships with full sails make up a perfect background to workshops and a market with maritime touch.

Little Karin - 23 July-10 July

- during the anniversary year 1997 the first performance of the 100 years old, price winning opera by Ivar Hallström - an adaptation for the stage of Karin Månsdotter and King Erik XIV's love story - will take place.

Sports

- Kalmar will host many major sports events in 1997. So far we have more than 20 events such as Swedish Championship in Gymnastics, Nordic Championship in Golf and Scandinavian Open Championship in Table Tennis.

WELCOME !



NEW CENTERS ESTABLISHED

Comparative Civilisations Center

The Comparative Civilisations Center of Klaipėda University is a young academic institution aiming to bring a new agenda of interdisciplinary and comparative studies in the field of social studies and humanities in Western Lithuania. The Center attempts to act as a modern, open and lively institution in the academic and

intellectual sphere of Klaipėda and far beyond it.

The Center seeks to build its own library, a sort of „intellectual corner” focusing on the books and periodicals in the field of culture studies, the history of ideas and humanities. Each donation received by the Center library helps to expand the “little island” of intellectual activity and open debate in the Western Lithuania.

More information about the Center’s activity can be obtained from:

University of Klaipėda CCC
Minijos 153, LT-5800 Klaipėda
Lithuania
Tel. +370 6 238107
Fax +370 6 340268
E-mail: lcsc@hgf.ku.lt
<http://www.ku.lt/lcsc>

Thomas Mann Culture Centre

The former summer house of Thomas Mann, a famous writer has been reconstructed to become a German-Lithuanian Cultural Cooperation Centre. Today the Thomas Mann House - a symbol of the wide openness and cosmopolitanism - strives to become a Training and Meeting Centre for the Baltic States where everyone is welcome.

Some of the planned events for 1997:

- 30 May - 3 June Seminar “History as a Science in the Baltic Region”
- 15 - 20 July Seminar of young interpreters “We Translate Thomas Mann”
- July/August 6 concerts of chamber music “Musica Baltica”

- 25 July - 7 Sept. First Session of Baltic States Students Summer Academy “Jews in the Central Europe”

- 8 August - 12 Sept. Conference “History and Genocide in Lithuania”

For further information, contact:

Thomas Mann Culture Centre
Ms Vitalija Jonusiene
Tel./Fax +370 59 52260



KOTKA MARITIME FESTIVAL

The unique highlight of the Finnish summer is in Kotka, where almost 200,000 visitors enjoy the international atmosphere and program of the Maritime Festival every year. The events program is very diverse, offering high-class entertainment for all age groups and preferences.

Also this year: Sea Brass Meriikki (an international brass music festival), the Second Leg of RC-shipmodels Finnish championships, the third Kotka International Wooden Boat Show and of course the main attraction: the Maritime Atmosphere.



Participants of all ages enjoy the atmosphere of Kotka Maritime Festival.

For further information, contact:

Kotka Maritime Festival Ltd.; Gutzeitintie 14; FIN-48100 Kotka
Tel. +358-5-234 4494; Fax +358-5-217 190; <http://www.kotka.fi/meripaivat>



PÄRNU - THE SUMMER CAPITAL OF ESTONIA

This year the City of Pärnu organises a number of interesting events from March onwards but naturally the main events have been reserved for the summer - the prime holiday season. How about attending the Festival of Christian Drama, the International Exhibition of Nudes or the Watergate 97 Water Festival in Pärnu?

The Baltic Sea has been declared as the subject of the year in Pärnu. This is well justified as the Pärnu Yacht Club celebrates its 90th anniversary and the port of Pärnu is a transport junction operating all the year round. Pärnu is looking forward to your visit to the following events.

International Festival of Christian Drama, 22-25 May - number of amateur and professional groups, creative expression of Christian culture and outlook.

A Man and a Woman - International Exhibition of Nudes, 1 July - 23 August - cultural approach to the issue exposed in the Chaplin Art Centre.

Pärnu Art Summer 97 exhibition - review of Estonian professional art



Volleyball will be one of the events of Watergate 97 Water Festival in July.

Pärnu Jazz 97 Festival, 4-5 July - annual festival with both Estonian musicians and guests from Finland, Sweden, the Ukraine, the USA, etc.

Watergate 97 Water Festival, 11-12 July - four parts: music, sports, arts and fish cooking festivals, beach volleyball tournament, the International Cup of Jets by Estonian Association, "Royal" regatta of boats, seafood cooking contest, etc.

Pärnumaa Pirand Folkore Festival, 11-13 July - folk song and folk dance groups from Estonia as well as Norway, Sweden, Russia and Hungary.

The International Festival and Conference of Visual Anthropology, 11-13 July - joys and problems, ethnography and culture of the small na-

tions of the world, numerous films of various aspects of life.

Pärnu TIKE Days of Dance, 27 July to 3 August - professional festival of modern dance, - training courses, charity concert for M/S Estonia victims

Pärnu Town Hall Music Festival, 6 - 10 August - classical music, German baroque ensemble II Dolcimelo Köln, Remi Boucher (guitar) from Canada, NYVD Ensemble, academic choir and orchestra of Hortus Musicus, Florian Meierott (violin), Stephan Palm (pedal clavichord) from Germany

Circle of Friendship 97 fair, preliminary dates 11-13 September - a chance for local authorities and companies to introduce themselves and their activities to one another.



PORI - THE CITY OF GLOBAL RHYTHMS

Pori - a new member of the Union of the Baltic cities - is situated by the Gulf of Bothnia on the west coast of Finland.

It was founded in 1558 by the Duke Juhana of Finland, son of Gustav Vasa, king of Sweden. Pori has 77.000

inhabitants and is the ninth-largest city in Finland. Pori is also the capital of the Province Satakunta with its 250.000 inhabitants.

Pori has long industrial traditions. The Pori region is highly industrialized with approximately 600 industrial enterprises operating in the area. The most important industrial sectors are

the metal, mechanical, electronic, plastic and wood processing industries. The largest export enterprises such as Outokumpu Copper Ltd., Kemira Pigments Ltd., Rauma Ltd. and Electrolux Ltd. are represented in Pori.

Pori provides immediate access to the open sea, which makes the city a natural choice for the location of a



modern - in fact the third biggest communal harbour in Finland. What is more Pori is the only place in Finland where huge, "cape-sized" boats can be handled with European efficiency: we unload at a speed corresponding to one lorry-load every three minutes. Pori is also the biggest port for sawn timber in Finland.

Pori is actively being directed at international cooperation and will utilize its competitive harbour services and advantageous location. Pori is also an important school city, where there functions a university unit and the largest provincial polytechnic of the country. Nationally Pori works actively among other things on the sectors of environmental protection and wide promotion of health.

More information is available on: Internet homepage www.Pori.fi

PORI JAZZ LEADS THE WAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

A leading jazz festival in Europe, Pori Jazz also wants to be a leader in environmental protection. To this end, Pori Jazz has signed a cooperation agreement with Jaakko Pöyry Con-

sulting, a world-renowned management consultant, for the preparation of an environmental management plan. The plan is part of a sustainable development project launched by the City of Pori.

Pori Jazz is one of the biggest and best known jazz festivals in Europe, attracting well over 100 000 fans to the City of Pori on the western coast of Finland. A large part of the events take place in two key areas, the city centre and the Kirjurinluoto island, so the pressure on the environment and the city's facilities is very intense during the festival weekend in July.

The environmental management plan has three main objectives:

- to reduce waste (mugs, cups, plates etc.)
- to provide efficient waste collection systems for maximum recycling, and a well-functioning network of toilets
- to improve traffic arrangements and parking facilities (including public transport, private cars and bicycles)

The environmental management

plan will be carried out in closer cooperation between the City of Pori, the festival's cooperation partners and the general public. The desired improvements will be achieved by formulating clear guidelines for waste handling and collection, training the festival staff, securing a strong personal commitment and by maintaining a policy of active communication before, during and after the festival.



PROJECT 'WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BALTIC?'

Are you interested in attracting the attention of more tourists from the Baltic area to your region? In that case, we would like to help you.

In May 1995, our project office started its work with "What happens in the Baltic" We are building up close contacts and partnerships in exchanging brochures and information material on events between the tourist centres in the Baltic region and Rostock (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania included). Additionally, we are summing up the most interesting events and cultural highlights in the Baltic area once a month, and advertise it in the local press and on advertising walls in central Rostock.

If you're interested, please send us, monthly, your brochures and photo, but also your schedules and data of the events. We will publish them to let more people know about the occasions taking place in our Baltic area.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Danuta Krause
Project office 'Ostseeraum'
Warnowufer 65
D-18057 Rostock
Tel. +49 381 200 32 14
Fax +49 381 200 32 15



Pori Jazz is one of the biggest and best known jazz festivals in Europe, attracting well over 100 000 fans to the City of Pori on the western coast of Finland.



RIGA WILL CELEBRATE ITS EIGHT CENTURIES

Livian settlements were situated in the place where the small river Rīdzene flew into the river Daugava, already before year 1200. The year 1201 marks the moment when, in connection with the Bishop Albert, Riga was started to be called a city in the historical chronicles.

Riga joined the Hanseatic League in 1282. Riga is going to receive guests of the New Hanseatic Days, in the summer of 2001, the year of Riga's 800th anniversary. Riga 800th Anniversary Steering Committee has decided to restore several historical traditions of the Riga society and many monuments that have been destroyed, in our past.

Restoration of the Blackheads House

The Blackheads House built in 1334 had marked the features characteristic for various ages on its facade during several centuries. It was the centre of the city social life.

However the World War II and the attitude of the Soviet times had swept this architectural pearl away from the panorama of Riga. Restoring it, its citizens are fulfilling the wish inscribed in the portal of the House:

"Should I ever perish, then come and put me up again!"

The address of the Riga City Council Riga 800th Anniversary Steering Committee:

Riga City Council
3 K. Valdemara Street
Riga, LV-1539
Latvia
Fax +371 7 220785
E-mail: viktors@rcc.lv



Restoration of the Blackheads House.

STOCKHOLM OPENS OFFICE IN ST. PETERSBURG

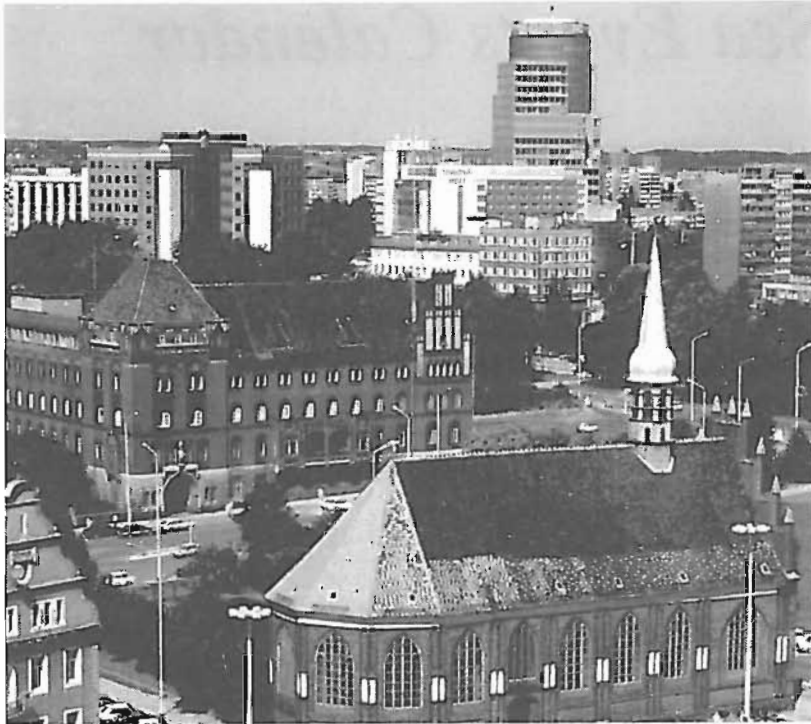
In February, the City of Stockholm opened an official representative office in St. Petersburg. Present at the ceremony were the Governor of St. Petersburg, *Vladimir Jakovlev* and Stockholm Mayor *Mats Hulth*, as well as other city officials and members of the local Swedish business community.

The office, centrally located on main street Nevskij Prospekt, is going to provide service and information about joint-venture partners for Stockholm companies who wish to establish business in the increasingly important and vast St. Petersburg market.



Manned by both Swedish and Russian staff, the office will also support mutual public works projects between the cities of Stockholm and St. Petersburg. Many such projects have already been in progress for the past few years.

The representative office is managed by the City of Stockholm Development and Promotion Office (SML).



Business is booming in Szczecin.

NEWS FROM SZCZECIN

Euroregion Pomerania Agreement

The Euroregion Pomerania Agreement was concluded on December 15th 1995 between the Association of West Pomerania Communes „Pomerania” (Poland), Kommunal-gemeinschaft „Pomerania” (Germany) and the City of Szczecin. An intensive transborder cooperation is carried out by the working groups on:

- economic cooperation, transport and infrastructure
- tourism, country regions and natural environment
- education, social affairs; youth, culture and sport
- administration and communal institutions cooperation

Last year also the communes of South Scania, Sweden, expressed an interest to join Euroregion Pomerania.

Szczecin Enterprise Centre (SEC)

In the transformation processes, complications always occur - unemployment has the biggest both social and political implication among them. Last year the Szczecin Enterprise Centre was engaged, first of all, in stimulating the development of small, local businesses. 44 firms were operating within SEC and 185 persons have been employed in those firms.

SEC also launched an initiative named the „European House” to support activities related to European integration. An institution representing European Union and international office of „Euroregion Pomerania” will be soon opened. One of the Szczecin Enterprise Centre’s goals is to expand its activities in Poland and abroad. Similar centres could be created in other Baltic Sea towns.



Stockholm office in St. Petersburg.



Baltic Sea Events Calendar

APRIL

18 April, Gdańsk

Official Opening of Gdańsk Millennium

18-19 April, Tallinn

Working Meeting of the UBC Commission on Environment

21 April, Berlin

3rd Conference of the Baltic Sea States Ministers of Transport

22-23 April, Kalmar

8th Hansa Business Days

MAY

20-25 May, Kalmar

Women of the North

22-23 May, Copenhagen

Seminar on the UBC-EU project

22-23 May, Jurmala

BALLERINA Conference

22-23 May, Helsinki

Conference "Strategies for sustainable development of the northern states in Europe"

22-23 May, Copenhagen

Seminar on the UBC-EU project

28-30 May, Stockholm

Conference "Baltic Cities - Global Aspects on Urban Settlements in the Baltic Sea Region"

JUNE

5-6 June, St.Petersburg

General Conference of the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association

6-7 June, Bergen

17th Meeting of the UBC Executive Board

12-13 June, Rostock

Conference "Trans-national cooperation for spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region"

14-15 June, Kalmar

Opening of Kalmar Union 600th Anniversary

21-29 June, Kiel

Kieler Woche 1997

26-29 June, Gdańsk

17th Conference of New Hansa

JULY

2-3 July, Riga

6th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

AUGUST

10-15 August, Stockholm

7th Stockholm Water Symposium

SEPTEMBER

5 September, Riga

2nd General Assembly of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission

12-13 September, Gdańsk

4th General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities

20-22 September, Lübeck

3rd Conference of the Baltic Sea Ministers of Culture

22-24 September, Gdańsk

Baltic Sea Tourism Commission Conference and Travel Mart

OCTOBER

9-11 October, Gdańsk

2nd Eco-Baltic Conference

14-17 October, Kaliningrad

3rd Session of the UBC Commission on Culture - "Culture Education"

17-18 October, Warszawa

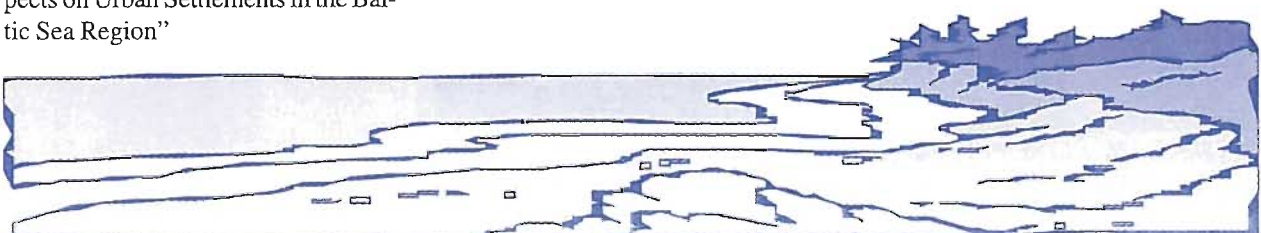
Conference "Common Europe - Economic Dilemmas of Transport and Ecology"

23-24 October, Stockholm

European Investment Bank - Forum 1997 "Bridging the Seas in Northern Europe"

26-28 October, Gdańsk

5th Conference of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation



CITIES - MEMBERS OF THE UBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:



Aarhus
City Hall
Magistratens 2, Afdeling
DK-8100 Aarhus C, Denmark
contact: Mr C. Nielsen
Tel. +45 89 402352
Fax +45 89 402508

Bergen
City Hall
Rådstueplass 6, P.B. 805
N-5002 Bergen, Norway
contact: Mr A. Øiestad
Tel. +47 55 566039
Fax +47 55 566917

Gdańsk
City Hall
Nowe Ogrody St. 8/12
PL-80-803 Gdańsk, Poland
contact: Mr A. Jankowski
Tel. +48 58 320323
Fax +48 58 320134

Kaliningrad
City Hall
Pl. Pobedy 1
RUS-236040 Kaliningrad, Russia
contact: Ms S. Gourova
Tel. +7 0112 214876
Fax +7 0112 215395

Kaunas
City Hall
Laisves Aleja 96
LT-3000 Kaunas, Lithuania
contact: Mr A. Balutis
Tel. +370 7 221152
Fax +370 7 200443

Pärnu
City Hall
Uus 4
EE-3600 Pärnu, Estonia
contact: Mr T. Riimaa
Tel. +372 44 31497
Fax +372 44 31019

Riga
City Hall
K. Valdemara St. 3
LV-1539 Riga, Latvia
contact: Mr V. Buls
Tel. +371 7 026149
Fax +371 7 220785

Rostock
City Hall
Neuer Markt 1
D-18050 Rostock, Germany
contact: Mr U. Bauermeister
Tel. +49 381 3811452
Fax +49 381 3811913

Stockholm
City Hall
S-10535 Stockholm, Sweden
contact: Ms L. Westerberg
Tel. +46 8 785 8008
Fax +46 8 654 9356

Turku
City Hall
Kristiinankatu 1
FIN-20100 Turku, Finland
contact: Mr M. Jokinen
Tel. +358 2 2623412
Fax +358 2 2303518

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Mr Anders Engström
Mayor of the City of Kalmar
Kalmar Kommun, Box 611
S-391 26 Kalmar, Sweden
Tel. +46 480 83500
Fax +46 480 83122

SECRETARIAT OF THE UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Mr Pawel Żaboklicki
Secretary General
Długi Targ 24
PL-80-828 Gdańsk, Poland
Tel./Fax +48 58 317637
Tel./Fax +48 58 310917
Tel./Fax +48 58 319123
e-mail: ubc@itnet.com.pl
<http://www.kalmar.se/ubc>

new UBC e-mail!

BANK ACCOUNT OF THE UNION

(attention! **new** number)
BANK GDANSKI S.A.
IV Oddział w Gdańsku
10401211-661416-132



Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of currently 69 member cities from all 10 Baltic countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, economic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Union has based its operational activities on seven working Commissions on Communication, Culture, Environment, Social Affairs, Sport, Tourism and Transportation. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and special events. Each city is capable to have its own creative and fully independent input to the Commissions' work.

The Union has an observer status with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Parliamentary Conference on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Area, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE).

The Union is open for new members. Any coastal city of the Baltic Sea or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the Union by making a written declaration of its will to enter UBC.

Please contact the Union's Secretariat in Gdańsk for more information about the UBC work and the rules of entering the Union.