

AUTUMN 2018

BALTIC CITIES BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE
UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

UBC | UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

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BALTIC CITIES BULLETIN



Dear Friends,

For many years we have been split into two groups called the youth and the adults. It was not a real co-operation of both parties. We have run a long way to meet. From just having a lunch together with politicians during the UBC General Conferences, through having one or more joint workshops, we finally achieved a point of being able to really contribute to the results, as we did in 2017 in Växjö.

The Youthful Cities Commission has developed its slogan. In 2005 it was "We have something to say", now it's "Nothing about us without us". Does it really matter? Yes, it was a small change with huge impact! It shows the mental shift from thinking about the young people as an object to treating them as a subject, partner in co-operation.

This issue of the Bulletin brings a variety of examples on how to include the youth in dialogue, how to co-create the reality and share responsibility so that all what concerns the young inhabitants is discussed with them.

In many UBC member cities there are the youth city councils that have the power of co-shaping the city's vision. Also, non-formal youth councils, groups and associations have got numerous tools to influence reality. They meet politicians, exchange views and lobby for their interests. This is something that was almost unthinkable 15 years ago.

My hope is that we will strengthen the co-operation between the cities especially on exchanging the good practices on inclusion of youth in policy making.

And then maybe we will see the UBC evolving and the cities including the youth more in the works of the Commissions and the UBC itself. As the Youthful Cities Commission we will do our job and try to become active in events organized by other Commissions. Could we even envision the creation of a UBC youth board or election of two youth members to the Executive Board?

Anything is possible.

Greetings,

Carsten Adamsen
Chairman of the UBC Youthful Cities Commission
City of Kolding

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NOTHING

ABOUT US WITHOUT US!

by Carsten Adamsen | caad@kolding.dk



In 2003 the first ideas to include views of young persons in the UBC work were fostered. It was a direct result of the work of young people participating in the Youth Exchange in Kalmar. At the following UBC General Conference in Klaipėda, Lithuania, the Network on Youth Issues was formally established, later it became the Commission on Youth Issues (CoYI), and now it is called the Youthful Cities Commission.

From then on the CoYI decided to have always a youth conference in connection with the UBC General Conference. For the first years it was mostly a question of US and THEM more than a real cooperation and interest from both parties to work together towards the common goals. From just having a lunch together with politicians during the General Conference, through having one or more joint workshops, we finally achieved a point of being able to really contribute to the results, as we did in 2017 in Växjö.

A small change with huge impact!

These changes can also be seen in the small development of our slogan. In 2005 it was "We have something to say", and now it is "Nothing about us without us". This shift can be observed in many of the UBC member cities who have created different forms of youth involvement in the local political processes – from a young "copy" of the city council, over more non-formal youth councils, to broader city hall meetings between youth and politicians. That was almost unthinkable 15 years ago.

A change towards more inclusion of youth is visible not only on the municipal level. More and more organizations include the youth in their work. In 2016, the cooperation between UBC Youthful Cities Commission and other transnational organizations took another step forward. The Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC), Euro-Region Baltic (ERB) and Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) co-created the workshop during the 7th EUSBSR Forum in Stockholm. Named "Nothing about us without us!", the workshop presented a joint statement from the youth. It included the following topics:

- Real inclusion of the youth – whatever level. They have real opinions and want to share them!
- Don't talk to or about us – talk with us!
- Simplify legislation and rules – don't use 100 pages when 2 is enough!

In 2017 BSSSC, ERB and UBC followed up with the second edition of the workshop on the 8th EUSBSR Strategy Forum in Berlin, where the discussion topic was how to make it work in real life. The workshop presented interventions by the youth – all prepared during a 24h pre-seminar. The message to the participants was: "Hey, listen! The youth of the BSR has real opinions and want to share their approaches and models for more and better involvement in the discussions. It's all about communication!"

In 2018 we saw the 3rd edition of our workshop – this time focusing on how to make use of digital tools to increase the youth involvement and dialogue. Digital tools are a way to engage more young people as they open up for participatory processes not dependent on physical meetings. However, the social media give also a possibility of channeling the 'people's court' / promote hate speech etc. The seminar presented a list of possible tools and allowed for discussions of their pros and cons.

After the 2018 Strategy Forum, BSSSC, ERB and UBC decided to take our cooperation a step further and created a joint project that was submitted to the Council of Baltic States Project Support Facility. **The project "Baltic Sea Youth Camp"** was approved and granted EUR 65.000. The Youth Camp is to take place just before the 10th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Gdańsk, in June 2019. The idea and aim behind the camp is to raise the youth participation, to strengthen the Baltic identity, to build cultural understanding and to bring

the youth in direct contact with politicians and experts on various topics related to the Forum. The work towards the youth camp has already begun and will continue during the coming 10 months. The budget makes possible to include 100 youth from the countries around the Baltic Sea.

► Project Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp

The political landscape in Europe and in the Baltic Sea Region is demanding - with challenges such as: citizens' lack of trust in the political systems with movements towards centralization, infringements of civil liberties and threats to the independence of the judiciary, uncertain EU-Russia relations, refugee crisis, reintroduction of border controls, extremism and xenophobia, environmental threats to the Baltic Sea, etc.

It is important to recognize that countries and regions are more dependent on each other than ever before. To find solutions to the big societal challenges are of utmost importance. This interdependence is a tendency that will increase in the future.

Showing to the next generation the purpose and meaning of mutual understanding and solidarity is therefore crucial to keep the BSR peaceful, sustainable and prosperous for the future. The youth is the future. However, the youth seems to be low on the agenda in region. It is time to give the youth a proper forum in the BSR where they can be heard. This will be done through the Baltic Sea Region Youth Camp 2019 – an initiative for increasing youth participation in the Baltic Sea Region.

A second initiative to increase the cooperation between transnational organizations was the launch of a new website (currently without content) at the Forum in Tallinn. **The Baltic Sea Youth Declaration** will be created with the aim of being the document for policymakers who want to have a youth perspective brought into the policies they work on.

What will the future bring?

Firstly, there will be an increase in activities of the youth – The Baltic Sea Youth Festival, The 10th Strategy Forum, the 15th UBC General Conference and UBC Youth Conference. Also, we will be working intensively to include more organizations in the Baltic Sea Youth Declaration. Looking even further, we can expect opening up for youth to be able to contribute to the declaration directly from their home cities, regions and countries.

The UN Sustainable Development goals will become more included in all events and as we move towards 2030 we will see how the youth will become more integrated in the policy making processes – starting out on the local level and moving onwards toward regional, national and even European level.

Looking at the UBC itself, we will see the Youthful Cities Commission with youth members even more active and bringing a youth perspective to the work of the other commissions.

Follow
the works on
<http://www.baltic-sea-youth-declaration.eu>



TARTU LISTENS TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Piret Talur | piret.talur@raad.tartu.ee

Young people are a very visible part of Tartu population – the colleges and universities based in Tartu attract 20,000 students a year from almost 80 countries.

One surefire way that colleges and universities have of getting young people involved is giving them the chance to stand in elections for representative bodies. For example, the Senate of the University of Tartu, which is the academic decision-making body responsible for instruction, research and development at the university, guarantees that at least 1/5 of its members are students. In addition to the Senate there is the Student Council, in elections for which all of the students at the university have the right to stand. Voter turnout in elections for the representative bodies at the university has been 27% in 2018.

In general education the equivalent institution to a university senate is a school's board of trustees, which includes a representative appointed by the student council in both basic and upper secondary schools. Every school in Tartu has its own student council.

Have your say in budgeting!

If young people do not wish to be part of a formal body of this kind, they can still contribute to decision-making by, for example, having their say in the inclusive budgeting process that has been implemented in Tartu since 2013. Every resident of the city aged 16 or over is eligible to vote on how Tartu should spend 200,000 EUR or around 1% of its investment budget for the subsequent year. In 2017 a total of 6% of the city's residents voted in this process, compared to 49% who voted in the local government elections.

Young people have also had the right to vote on budget decisions related to access to youth work via the NGO Tartu Youth Council, and January 2019 will see the Tartu City Youth Council (TCYC) elected for the first time in a democratic city-wide vote. Every resident of the city aged 14–20 will have the right to vote in elections for a 15-member youth representative body that will operate in the same fashion and discuss the same issues as Tartu City Council.

Digital participation

In recent years there has been significant progress in opportunities for digital participation. For example, there have been electronic consultations on the City Development Plan as part of which people were able to submit their proposals directly onto a map on the website of the City of Tartu.

The voting age for local government elections in Estonia was lowered to 16 in 2017. Surveys have shown that at present 5–10% of youngsters are interested in actively getting involved in this way.

“We hope that in the coming years we can also reach out to those teenagers who for the moment do not wish to make use of formal participation structures”.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

IN KAUNAS



by Justinas Juškevičius | justinas.juskevicius@kaunas.lt

Kaunas is often being called the city of youth. There are many higher and vocational education institutions here, which is one of the reasons why the city is always bursting with young people.

When you have a high concentration of young people in the city, there is a need to take into account the voice of youth and to meet its needs to ensure its proper representation and make the city attractive to young people.

“Initiatives for Kaunas” programme

There are more than 70 youth organizations in Kaunas, that help to ensure the representation of young people in various fields. The young people, who come to live in Kaunas, can easily find an organization in which they can actualize themselves and that fulfill their needs.

The program “Initiatives for Kaunas”, initiated by Kaunas City Municipality, for the third year invites non-governmental organizations and city communities to contribute to the solution of Kaunas problems by submitting applications with initiatives that would be beneficial to the city and its inhabitants. Through this program, youth organizations are empowered to carry out activities that address issues raised by organizations and enable young people to act. In 2018 overall 13 youth projects were funded, for which more than 60,000 EUR were allocated.

The youth is united

In 1996, an umbrella youth organization was established. The Association of Kaunas Youth Organizations “Round

Table” was one of the first unions (youth regional councils) uniting youth organizations at city level. 18 youth organizations that were active at the time in Kaunas became the founders of the Union. Today, this organization brings together the majority of youth organizations operating in Kaunas, which allows to raise common issues and goals for young people collectively.

To let the youth be heard

Making common goals is of course a great thing but what's the point if they're not heard by anyone? In pursuit of closer cooperation with young people and more effective formation and implementation of youth policy the municipality of Kaunas established the Youth Affairs Council.

The council consists of twelve members, 6 of whom are representatives of the “Round Table” and 6 representatives of the municipality, including the vice mayor and city council members.

The main objectives of the Youth Affairs Council are to enable young people to participate fully in the city's political, social, economic and cultural life, to ensure the participation of young people in addressing the issues of youth policy of Kaunas city and to strengthen cooperation between municipal institutions or bodies and youth organizations.

Kaunas City listens to the voice of the youth and is always striving to make Kaunas a place where young people and their involvement in decision making is not only welcome but also natural.



YOUNG PEOPLE

INSPIRE DECISION-MAKERS

by Inga Laugale | Inga.laugale@liepajasbjc.lv

Liepāja has more than 10,000 young people, and the unit of Liepāja Youth and Children Centre – the “Youth House”, which celebrates its fifth anniversary in October, coordinates their role in the municipality of Liepāja.

The young people have their own space for the informal activities and free time. This year, more than 4,000 youngsters visited the Youth House. Tens of events, several youth camps and successful Erasmus+ international projects have been held only this year.

Since 2018, Liepāja Youth House in cooperation with the Youth International Program Agency has been involved in the national project “Improving the quality of the work with young people in the local municipalities”.

Co-participation in the decision-making

One of the priorities of Liepāja Youth House is the co-participation in the political decision-making process. To enable the exchange of views between youngsters and politicians, in April 2018 the “Coffee with politicians” was organized. It was a discussion in the Liepāja City Council, where young Liepāja people sat at one table with local politicians and public institutions managers. “Coffee with politicians” is a Swedish co-participation model, adapted also in Latvia, providing meaningful and informal environment for discussions on topics of interest for young people.

Mutual benefits

Youngsters, together with politicians and public service employees, discussed the youth-related topics and made

proposals in the thematic working groups: “Youth employment”, “Education”, “Infrastructure”, “Free time activities”, “The future of young people in Liepāja”, “Youth co-participation”, “Environmental protection”.

“It was a very useful event to get a glimpse of the municipality work, to meet politicians in person”, says Matīss Ģelzis, the student of Liepāja Maritime College. “It was really great to experience the politicians listening to the proposals of young people on very particular questions”.

RTU Liepāja branch student, Sandis Rozs, says: “Events like this must be organized more often. Young people and politicians have to cooperate to get a correct perception of the needs of future generation. A big part of older generation has rather different angle view on things and global processes”.

Latvian Youth Capital

In 2017, Liepāja has won the title of the Latvian Youth Capital and carries on its active work with young people co-operating with different youth organizations and particularly strengthening the inter-institutional cooperation.

“These are very important steps, made to mark the priorities of work with young people for the next years”, Inga Laugale, the Head of the Liepāja Youth House, noted. “In 2018, we have brought to a focus four priorities – the co-participation of youngsters in the decision making process; sexual and reproductive health of young people; involvement of the youth under the risk of early school leave, and the improvement of volunteering system.



Photo: Tiina Palonen

by Aino Niskala | aino.niskala@vaasa.fi

THE YOUTH LET ITS VOICE TO BE HEARD

The Vaasa Youth Council's first democratic elections were held in 2016, when a total of 60 candidates, 13 polling stations, and over 2,000 young voters provided the Youth Council a mandate that no one could ignore.

A democratic selection method offered Vaasa's young people a chance to stand for election, and the election created a foundation for actual and youth-driven influencing, as well as an opportunity for all young people to make their voices heard, regardless of their socio-economic or ethnic background.

Path of Influencing

The city has appointed one full-time employee to focus on youth involvement and influencing work, and the Youth Council also has a separate operating grant.

The path of influencing has been a visible theme in the city's Youth Services for several years. For instance, influencing workshops aimed at elementary schools have given the youth a natural path from small, everyday acts to municipal decision-making. In addition, a pilot project named "Future" gives the young people an opportunity to develop their own neighborhoods with a €15,000 grant. The project's aim is to gather experiences and knowledge in terms of youth target funds.

Involvement is a Feeling

What do the youth gain from influencing? An adult could hastily answer: "They get experience that their opinion matters", "They feel like they are part of civil society" or "They

learn the basics of active citizenship". In the worst case, these kinds of platitudes can cause a situation where the young peoples' opinions are heard but then dismissed; they are treated as a separate group and their "active citizenship" is based on the filling of obscure surveys and useless statements.

We must focus on offering them actual influencing opportunities concerning their everyday life and neighbourhoods. Involvement is not imposed externally – it is a feeling.

Resources are the Key

But what, in the end, is an adult's role in the young peoples' influencing work? Sometimes, the adults have a bad habit of assuming that young people cannot do certain things or that their involvement would be too much work. As a result, it is easier to resort to means that look good on paper and fulfill the basic legal requirements for youth consultation. In reality, young people are our society's hardest achievers and the real survivors. They hold all the know-how of the future. Adults should act as facilitators because young people have a desperate need to be seen, which will not happen if we treat them as a homogeneous group or something "extra" that only brings added value to project applications.

Resources provided by the city, combined with a deep understanding of phenomena that relate to involvement, create a fertile environment for the future's Young Vaasa.

Vaasa's next Youth Council elections will take place in November 2018, and over 20 candidates had already signed up after the first day of submitting nominations.



DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE IN ELBLĄG

by Jolanta Leśniewska | jolanta.lesniewska@umelblag.pl

The youth in Elbląg is interested in public life. They want to change their environment through taking part in activities undertaken by various organizations. They try to find their place in public space.

In order to support young people in the decision-making process and facilitate their participation in the life of local community, the Children’s City Council was established. During the sessions in Elbląg primary schools, the Council proposes resolutions. This way many sports and recreational projects have been implemented. Giving a voice to the young generation at such an early stage is aimed not only at expanding their knowledge of self-governance, but above all at instilling a civic attitude in them.

The democratic experience

School children from the first years of education have taken part in a project entitled “Self-governments have a voice” organized by the Centre for Citizenship Education. The project conducts, in accordance with democratic rules and procedures, elections to the students’ councils. This first democratic experience in small school communities builds students’ confidence and shows that young people have real impact on changes at school.

Young people and the media

An important project implemented by the School of Environmental Engineering and Services in Elbląg is a project entitled “Join in. Young people and the media” that engage students in media events and film screenings. The project

puts a lot of emphasis on teaching young people the critical and conscious reception of information present in the Internet, press, radio and television.

Networking

The city of Elbląg also encourages young people to participate in the life of the local community by involving the Youth City Council in international projects. One of them is a project called “South Baltic Youth Core Group Network”. The aim of the project is to increase the participation of young people in the decision-making processes on the local level and to strengthen the capacity of local and regional politicians who work on youth policies in the South Baltic area.

Municipality of Elbląg is an Associated Partner in the project. Its objective is to increase the capacity and competence of local government units and their representatives to conduct a civil dialogue with young people, thus increasing their participation. The main target groups are people dealing with youth issues, municipal youth councils, youth non-governmental and social organizations.



JELGAVA

A YOUTH CITY

by Jelena Grisle | jelena.grisle@dome.jelgava.lv

Jelgava is the fourth largest city in Latvia with 61,304 inhabitants, from which almost 15% is the youth. The Municipality has 18 registered youth organizations, foundations, student cooperations and one informal youth initiative group "Volunteers for Jelgava".

Youth organizations work with their main aim: to defend their interests and to improve the quality of the youth life in Jelgava.

The Youth Forum

Since 2008, Jelgava city municipality has been organizing the Youth Forum. Every year the students from schools and university, youth NGOs, politicians, governmental/municipality institutions, educational establishment directors and teachers take part. After the Youth Forum 2008, following the youth initiative, Jelgava City Council Youth Advisory Commission was established. The youth from Jelgava actively participates in the establishment of the youth policies and organization of all kind of events. Also, it takes part in the decision-making process and different public activities. Jelgava also has an active Student Council.

This year the Jelgava Youth Centre applied their work to youth aged 13–25, especially working with young people from social exclusion risk groups. Each year there are more than 800 young people who participate in activities organized by the centre.

Volunteering is a good way of involvement

The youth is always offered a chance to participate in volunteer work. Since 2010 at Jelgava education establishments,

the informative seminars have been regularly organized, where students are introduced with volunteer work, its priorities and offers. Today 208 volunteers are registered in Jelgava.

Career consultations for young people

Since March 2014 in Zemgale Regional Competence Centre and in the city nine career school consultants have been working. Each year during the summer holidays Jelgava provides job opportunities for young people. This year, thanks to close cooperation with entrepreneurs and different enterprises, the municipality could offer jobs for 433 students.

Jelgava municipality has received many different awards from the Latvian Education and Science Ministry: "Friendliest municipality for youth"; "Most active youth organization for young peoples from social exclusion risk groups" and "The most influential Volunteers". Also, it gained the award from the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, the Youth International Programme Agency and the European Commission office in Latvia in the nomination "Latvia youth capital city 2016".





LINKÖPING OPEN

FOR YOUTH CHECK

by Elisabeth Asp | elisabeth.asp@linkoping.se

In Linköping, with its 160,000 inhabitants, there are several high tech industries, a well-known university and a university hospital. The city is a regional hub for commuters and the county capital.

At the municipality, there are two youth delegates aged 18–25 years, whose objective is to promote youth influence in the society. The delegates act as the voice of the young people in order to influence the municipality. They are the link between the young citizens of Linköping and the politicians, as well as the officials at the municipal departments.

A bridge between the school and the municipality

According to the interview with two full-time youth delegates, Anjelica Johansson and Sara Kjellberg, the focus of their work in the municipality is on collaboration groups. They consist of the youth delegates and two pupils from every public secondary school and high school and serve as a bridge between the school and the municipality.

The youth agents

There is also a survey on health and leisure time habits for 8th grade secondary school pupils and 2nd grade high school pupils. At the Department of Culture and Sport, it is possible to apply to become ‘an agent’ for one year. This entails that young people can attend and evaluate the quality, service and arrangement of a theatre, dance performance,

concert or sport event in the city. ‘Agents’ are selected by a jury during an audition. There is also a youth check, which means that young people aged 13–25 can apply for a grant to arrange a concert, festival or a lecture.

The youth delegates record a pod-cast on a weekly basis, which revolves around current topics related to young people, the city and the activities on offer. The number of listeners is increasing.

“UngPuls” is a youth activity located in the suburban areas of Linköping, targeting young people aged 16–25. In cooperation with other municipalities, organizations and associations, there is a wide range of organized leisure activities available.

Instagram:
@unglinkoping
Twitter:
@unglinkoping
Snapchat:
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Photo: Jerzy Pinkas/www.gdansk.pl

THE YOUTH VOICE MATTERS

by Natalia Brzozowska | brzozn@gmail.com

The Youth City Council of Gdańsk, established in 2011, not only represents the youth towards the city authorities, but also on the international arena.

On 9–12 September 2018, two members of the Youth City Council participated in Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation meeting. This year's topic was solidarity in today's world. The young councillors had a chance to meet other youth activists from Norway, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Finland and Estonia, to discuss different matters and to take part in the annual conference and drama classes, prepared for them by students of Secondary School No. II in Gdańsk.

Get-together events

During the first day, the participants were integrating with each other in the European Centre of Solidarity. Also, they got to know a bit of Polish history through visiting the exhibition about Solidarity Movement and Lech Wałęsa. Then they were invited to a sightseeing tour around Wrzeszcz District. In the evening everyone enjoyed a dinner.

How to solve the global problems?

The Second Day was full of hard work. In the morning, the delegates had a chance to improve their acting skills at the workshops with theatre director Rita Jankowska. They got to know her newest project about poverty and met some young actors. Then, in smaller groups, members were talking about some problems, that modern world struggles with, and solutions to them. New board member, a representative of the youth, was chosen.

During the third day young people summarized their efforts during the panel discussion, interview with Members of the European Parliament and conference in Baltic Philharmonic Hall. Then, all of them attended the banquet in Gdańsk Sheakespeare Theatre. Guests were delighted to see many performances, taste Polish food and listen to interesting speeches. But, what is the most important, all participants had an opportunity to mix and exchange the views.

It was certainly a great experience, a chance to broaden horizons in many areas. The youth could try out their abilities in an international environment. The youth voice matters!

▼ **Among the aims of the Gdańsk Youth City Council there is a promotion of the civil society idea.**



Photo: Jerzy Pinkas/www.gdansk.pl

YRITYSKYLÄ – A SOCIETY

RUN BY STUDENTS

by Heidi Enbacka | yrityskylä.fi

In Espoo, Finland, pupils run their own society called Yrityskylä. Yrityskylä is a learning concept on society, economy, working life and entrepreneurship.

The concept includes teacher training, learning materials for lessons in school and hands-on learning at the Yrityskylä learning environment. It is a miniature society where pupils work in a profession, are consumers and citizens or practice international trading. The learning environment combines a digital game and interaction between pupils.

Developing 21st century skills

The learning environments are designed for 6th and 9th graders. Sixth-graders apply for a job and perform tasks in miniature companies that simulate real enterprises. All pupils have a bank account to which their taxed salary is paid. The pupils choose themselves how they want to spend their salary. Citizenship skills are practiced by voting at the city hall or doing voluntary work.

In the learning environment for ninth-graders pupils direct companies on international markets and practice negotiations. The situation is gamified with competitive elements such as unexpected events.

Yrityskylä is an innovative way of implementing the national core curriculum in a multidisciplinary way. Pupils develop 21st century skills such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.

“It was the best school day ever!”

There are 16 Yrityskylä learning environments in Finland, with altogether 65,000 pupils participating annually. Two of the learning environments are situated in Espoo. The collaboration between the City of Espoo and Yrityskylä started in 2014. During the school year 2017–2018, over 12,000 students have been taking part in the learning concept in Espoo.

Yrityskylä is also part of the city's strategic plan about developing Espoo as a learning city, and a part of the entrepreneurial path in basic education.

Yrityskylä has been very popular among pupils and teachers. “It was the best school day ever!”, said one pupil, which is the best possible feedback Yrityskylä can get. The future is bright when we look at how the miniature society is run by pupils. One day these talents will be in charge of the real society.

Awarded Finnish concept

The Yrityskylä concept is run by a non-profit organization, Economic Information Office TAT. The concept was founded in 2010 and it has received multiple international awards, such as WISE 2014. The learning concept is implemented abroad as Me & MyCity by the Finnish education export company EduTAT.

THE YOUNGER

FACE OF NARVA

by Maksim Vassin | maksimvassin@gmail.com



Although depicted as a post-industrial, declining city, Narva has its younger face as well. The city of good energy (Narva's official motto), is also called 'The city of the youth'.

Narva has a long history of involving youth in the decision-making process. Back in June 1999, the Narva Youth Parliament, the first of its kind in Estonia, commenced its work. It is remarkable, that it wasn't established by politicians, but by active young people of the city. In the Narva Youth Parliament (NYP), young people from all schools have a chance to get to know how their city and their country is ruled. NYP's working process, numerous seminars, conferences, workshops develop essential skills for young people - critical thinking, open-mindedness, tolerance. There are elections held every two years in each city school. The total amount of 31 young people will proceed to NYP. During two years, they consult the City Council on the topics related to youth, organise events and take part in the City Council Youth Commission.

School governments

Only 31 young people will get to the Narva Youth Parliament, yet there are thousands of students in the city. To involve them as well, every school has its own 'school government'. Its main goal is to represent the interests of the students, solve potential conflicts between the students and the teachers and organize event to cheer the students up during their daily school routine. For most of them, 'school governments' are the starting point of their careers as active youngsters.

A brand new addition to the line of opportunities is the Youth Committee in Narva City Hall. With one representative from each school, the committee prepares and organizes different events for students across the city, and is a mediator between the students and the school administration.

Working camps

During the summer young people can contribute to their city and earn money. Each year a work camp starts its work, allowing more than 100 young people of age 12 to 16, earn some pocket money by doing work in the city, e.g. cleaning, gardening, etc. There are also educational activities held during the camp and youngsters get their first experience at work, also learning more about work contracts, law and their rights as workers.

The youth for Narva

Narva is the candidate city for the title of the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2024. Ten young people had a unique opportunity to contribute to such a major event. A group of ten active young people promoted the candidacy of Narva during major events and gathered citizens' ideas and thoughts.

Older generation often criticizes young people for doing nothing and being passive. For the youngsters of Narva though, the city offers a vast amount of different activities. The only thing a youngster needs to have is some free time, passion and optimism!

GENUSSMART
SÅKLART

NEW IDEAS FOR THE YOUTH

INVOLVEMENT

by Sophia Sundlin | sophia.sundlin@kalmar.se

Photo: Jan Magnusson

Kalmar has been working with youth issues for a long time. The municipality is constantly trying to improve and develop new ideas to empower and include youth in the decision making processes.

This year, Kalmar is participating in a national youth survey, called LUPP. In a partnership with the Regional Council, almost all municipalities in the region are joined in a youth project that aims to strengthen the voices of young people. Through LUPP, we will have a better understanding on youngsters living conditions, their thoughts on the future, what they think about school and their spare time.

This data provides a very important material for the local decision makers, both local and regional. It is also an important democratic issue, the right for young people to speak their mind and to be heard. In Kalmar, all students in 8th grade are participating in the survey.

The Children's panels

Kalmar has developed a method called Children's panels, and also a manual for carrying out the panel. It is an easy and fun way to have children and decision makers meet for dialogue about issues that are relevant for them. The method works best for children aged 7-12 and have been used for many years in the municipality.

One particular method to seize the ideas of young people is "KLIRR", a funding project where youngsters can apply for money for projects and events.

For example a concert, an art exhibition or a Harry Potter themed party. Youth leaders can help the youngsters with

the application and practical issues that may occur within the project. It is a very empowering process and the youngsters grow from the experiences.

Coffee with a politician

Kalmar has a youth council where anyone aged 13-25 can join. It is a political and religious impartial council where mostly issues regarding democracy and civil society are debated. The council have had events like "Coffee with a politician", with means that local politicians are invited to a youth centre and anyone can join for a cup of coffee and have a talk with them. Of course you have to be an young person to join but no invitation is needed.

Kalmar has a civil servant, a Ungdomsombud that works with youth democracy, the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and youth policies.

**Sophia Sundlin,
Ungdomsombud,
functions as an edu-
cator for adults and
young people regard-
ing the rights of chil-
dren and youngsters
and supports other
civil servants in the
municipality.**



A SPACE FOR CREATIVITY

by Ieva Rožlāpa | rozlapa.ieva@gmail.com



The Creative Youth Association "4.siena" ("4th Wall") is an organization which brings together creatively minded young people.

It gives an opportunity not only to creatively express themselves but challenges them to find a deeper meaning of the artwork through its creation process. It may include elements of photography, video, audio, painting or even writing poetry.

The Association's aim is to identify socially relevant topics, to digest and develop different cultural and art forms and techniques, and to form various local cultural environment in Jēkabpils region.

Association organizes numerous workshops, course of lectures, discussions about important processes in the society in order to foster analytical thinking processes and sagacity.

When the modernity meets the tradition

The realized art projects highlight modern communication specifics, identity of an individual, tendencies in understanding the flow of time and similar topics. With the use of modern media technologies, contemporary art language, which is mixed with classical art techniques, forms the peculiar style of the association. In parallel to the creative process studies of contemporary art and personal growth trainings are organized.

Necessary funds for realization of ideas are attracted through different municipal, regional and governmental project contests. Lack of guaranteed funds hampers regular daily work, although it allows to remain conceptual free-

dom and independence in realization of ideas.

The Association do not possess any certain place for work, though the Community House of Jēkabpils has been providing a place for multimedia exhibitions, workshops and lectures since 2015.

Creative young people included

The Association is led by young enthusiastic professional artists. They have realized formal and informal cultural projects on different platforms for ten years. In 2016 they got a legal status of an association. Every new project is publicly announced to involve more young people aged 15–30. Often they became a part of the team.

The Creative Youth Association "4. siena" is alive and changing platform for cognitive thinking process in Jēkabpils, where creative young people can find other like-minded people and realize their potential.





A SYMBIOSIS

BETWEEN CITY AND YOUTH

by Tatu Alari | tatu.alari@turku.fi

Photo: Turun Sanomat

As the former capital of Finland, and a modest representation of the Finnish youth scene, Turku employs a multitude of activities to better service its youth with opportunities aimed at emphasizing networking and social interaction.

We have strived to do so through self-sustainable systems which include youth on all participatory levels.

Learning responsibility

An important example of this is the co-operation between student and decision-making power within our educational systems, mainly comprehensive schools and high schools (7th-12th grade). Every school is required by law to incorporate a student-based board or council, which involves the election of class representatives to decide on various matters regarding school events and funding. That helps students learn responsibility.

This is further emphasized by a district-wide student council, called Turun nuorisovaltuusto (Turku Youth Council), where instead of representing classes, students represent their respective schools and make decisions on a citywide scale. However, while allowed a substantial degree of influence, the local ministry often has the final say on important matters.

Youth centres

Additionally, neighborhoods possess youth centers equipped with video game consoles, billiard tables, and

other activities to promote interaction and connection between youth, because preventing discrimination and creating a healthy space for social activity is an important goal for Turku. Such youth centers are primarily funded by the government, but allow their frequenters to decide on recreational budget allocation, such as investing in the latest console or going to an amusement park, so that youth may feel more involved.

Funds for the youth initiatives

For a more applicable example of how the city of Turku promotes youth activity, Turku Youth Council grants a yearly maximum of 10,000 € to initiatives or ideas pitched by its youth. An application is sent to the Youth Council, which ensures that it complies with the rules and regulations mutually dictated, and then requires pitchers to attend an informational session where their initiative is pitched in person.

From there a final vote is conducted to accept or reject its funding, and pitchers are then given complete autonomy to carry out their project. The exceptionality of this process stems from its entirely youth-based participation, where initiatives are pitched by the youth, and finance/support is granted by youth-elected youth representatives.

We wish to ensure our youth can pursue their dreams through a multitude of facets and by doing so, help better the city around them, and believe that systems such as these will help achieve a paradigm where this is possible.

THE YOUTH

IN GDYNIA PUBLIC LIFE

by Magdalena Anuszek | m.anuszek@gdynia.pl



Gdynia Youth City Council (GYCC) was officially established in September 2011, and since then, every two years, students from all schools in Gdynia have had an opportunity to elect their representatives, thus establishing their representation within the structures of the Gdynia Youth City Council.

The most important goal of the Council is to increase the interest and involvement of young people in public affairs on the local level. There is no better method of education than testing oneself in structures close to their adult equivalents, without any risk of adverse consequences.

Gdynia Youth City Councilors have been prepared to perform their role effectively. Moreover, some space has been specially arranged to facilitate their becoming better acquainted with one another and creating a real group. Already before the council's first session, a get-together was organised, which was followed by some training on the functioning of youth councils.

Communication matters

The GYCC representatives, with the support of city officers and two independent coordinators, receive, first of all, substantive or motivational support, and what is more important, have an easier access to potential sponsors. They can also take part in individual meetings with the Chair of City Council or vice-chairs. They invite representatives of the Pomeranian Education Authority or non-governmental organizations to their sessions and share with them their opinions and problems.

Thanks to the GYCC activities, adults are more and more aware of the potential and creativity of young people and request their opinions more often, e.g. the Gdynia City Council's Committee on Culture consulted the GYCC about their proposals of cultural activities addressed to young people. It was also then that the ideas of organizing a review of musical amateur groups and the introduction of a discount card to cultural institutions were put forward. Gdynia Youth City Councilors also expressed their opinion on the proposal of the modification of the school network required by the educational reform introduced by the Polish Ministry of Education. Additionally, they had a chance to discuss with a deputy mayor the city's approach to these changes in Gdynia's education.

Do something meaningful!

In their activities, the GYCC focuses on problems directly affecting them. The current councilors have been actively implementing a project 'Młodzi z Pomysłem' (Young People with an Idea) whose objective is to bring students of junior high schools closer to the realities of work in various professional groups. The project provided for meetings with representatives of various professions, so that the choice of a high school or further education profile would be more conscious. Another project entitled 'Zrób Coś Sensownego' (Do Something Meaningful), encouraged community-oriented activities as well as those targeted at disadvantaged groups.

This involvement is often challenged by the lack of support of teachers or directors who do not notice the positive impact of social activity on their students.



CREATIVITY LAB IN TAURAGĖ

by Indrė Lukauskytė | www.facebook.com/verslopraktikucentras/

Creativity Lab is an entrepreneurship competences development platform in Tauragė district that enables pupils to deal with real challenges of the municipality and local business organizations.

By working in groups, participants have the opportunity to make practical and significant contributions to the development of local community and entrepreneurship ecosystem as well as to improve personally.

Since 2017 the project has had three seasons during which the participants are able to:

- Listen to professionals of different fields of expertise, who talk about their personal experiences and share examples of good practice;
- Actively collaborate with representatives of local businesses and social partners as well as accomplish various tasks delegated by them;
- Collaborate with mentors throughout the whole process;
- Implement miscellaneous methodologies in order to generate new ideas and give suggestions to improve life of Tauragė district, which are later pitched to a commission of experts;
- Practically implement their ideas.

In order to analyse concepts and processes of different institutions as well as generate new ideas, the participants work with many methodologies which include the following:

Design Thinking is to identify needs of a customer, generate ideas, create prototypes and test different approaches of problem solving. It helps to restrain from common stereotypes,

usual forms of problem solving and cultivates creativity, while focusing on needs of a customer.

Strategyzer (Business Model Canvas and Value Proposition Canvas) helps to identify and clarify main values created by a certain institution, as well as analyse its processes in a structured way and create unique business models.

Lego Serious Play strengthens relations between the team members and deepens their understanding of a certain organization. It helps to better understand internal organizational structures while designing game elements – this way users are able to eliminate psychological stereotypes and restraints.

Business model you encourages to interpret yourself as a business organization. It helps to evaluate personal characteristics and skills and to find most effective ways to apply them in constantly changing environment. It is a useful tool to better understand personal and career possibilities.

Creativity Lab is being carried out by the Centre for Enterprise Practice (CEP), a training centre aiming to develop value-creating partnerships between students and business communities. The results include business receiving new ideas and insights for solving their issues, whilst the students benefit from developing entrepreneurial capabilities and future business networks. Since 2015 this institution has collaborated with more than 600 students, 200 pupils, 50 business organizations and has a network of 20 mentors and coordinators.

In 2018 Ministry of Economy of Lithuania named CEP as the best entrepreneurship promoting project in Lithuania.

HEAR A VOICE

OF THE YOUNG

by Karin Strengell | karin.strengell@porvoo.fi



In Porvoo, a bilingual city of 50,000 people, with 28 primary and 5 secondary schools, one of the channels for influencing and participating is to take part in the Regional Forum event.

The regional two-day event is organized jointly by Porvoo schools and youth services, during which representatives of the student councils boards meet.

As a preliminary task, schools are asked to develop new ideas to be presented at the forum. New ideas are uploaded to the website nuortenideat.fi. Some examples of ideas from 2018: hand disinfectants stations in schools, cheaper bus tickets, fruit at school lunch and dessert on Fridays, or help for the kittens at the local cat house.

Nuortenideat.fi is a nationwide web platform where young people, schools and people working with youth can publish ideas about young people's affairs and living conditions. Every municipality can present its ideas on this website.

Hear the Voice of the Youth!

About 80 students aged 11–19 take part in this annual event. It is divided into two parts. And like every event in a bilingual city, also this allows the participants to talk in their own mother tongue and "translators" (young people who knows both Swedish and Finnish) are provided in every group.

In the first part young people go through the ideas and challenges that have emerged at the Regional Forum. The participants discuss them in the thematic groups trying to find solutions. In the second part, they meet with city decision-makers and senior officials to present the selected themes and get concrete answers to the ideas.

In the afternoon's closing session, the ideas from the morning are presented. The aim is to create a dialogue between young people and decision-makers and officials. Young people get answers to their questions, but also decision-makers and officials are able to gather important information about the young people, their well-being, living conditions, etc.

The speeches and responses of the day are recorded and if concrete promises have been made, the promising parties will be asked for a plan to implement them.

The Youth Council Nuva

The Youth Council Nuva is an official group of influential young people from Porvoo to improve their position in the city. The Youth Council has a representative in almost all of the city councils. Nuva representatives are elected every second year. Nuva is actively involved in the Regional Forum. They participate in conversations, brain-storming, and act as presenters/hosts in the afternoon session.

Young people voting on the ideas presented at the afternoon session at Hear the Voice of the Young.





CREATIVITY

TO EMPOWER CITY DEVELOPMENT

by Carl-Martin Lanér | carl-martin.laner@karlskrona.se

Photo: Municipality of Karlskrona

Karlskrona municipality has identified opportunities and challenges for the future development.

The financial challenges fewer will provide and pay for more citizens and there will be difficulties to find human resources because of the competition on the labour market.

These conditions will require increased innovation, new ways of delivering public service and more collaborations with others, including the customers. In order to prepare and develop the municipality organization for the future, there is a change management project going on, called Karlskrona 2.0.

The project includes:

- management,
- culture and values,
- administrative support,
- trademark,
- employer branding,
- digitalization.

The youth included

The change management organization includes a group of younger employees, appointed just because their youth and their short time in the organization. The group is called Future Scouts and their task is to participate, discuss, provoke, challenge and evaluate the actions and plans developed by the more experienced managers and politicians. The goal is

▲ Participants during the first workshop with the Future Scouts.

to proof important decisions for the future. The basic reasons for bringing young people in the change process are related to the fact that they will be the ones who will be there in the future. They are open minded, they question existing structures and processes and they will find their employments more attractive in the municipality if they can affect and change their work situation.



GARGŽDAI

WITH THE YOUTH CENTRE

by Rasa Grubliauskyte | rasa.grubliauskyte@klaipedos-r.lt



In 2016, upon the initiative of Klaipėda district, Klaipėda District Open Youth Centre (www.gajc.lt) was established.

In 2015–2017 Klaipėda District Administration implemented the project “Open work on youth development Gargždai city”. The Gargždai Open Youth Centre has invested in infrastructure and purchased open youth field space with the stage, the crowd benches, fitness equipment, sports facilities (40 acres area), youth creative workshop, hall and 2 rooms with inventory and equipment.

Youth Centre attracts people

The total number of visitors of the Youth Centre is 279, the number of unique visitors (first-time visitors) is 208 young people, the number of regular visitors (at least once a week) is 82. The methods of working with youth are: providing information, counseling, promotion of volunteering, events, mind battles, camps, hikes, movie evenings and nights, sports activities, pentathlon creativity, musical activities, board games, interpersonal contact, orienteering. There are 4 youth workers (2 in Gargždai Open Youth Centre, 2 perform mobile work in Klaipėda district areas - Veiviržėnai, Priekulė and Kvietiniai).

The aim is to create even more opportunities to reduce the social exclusion, to engage the youth in public processes, to develop skills needed on the labor market and to provide better career opportunities, and to develop social and life skills.

The Youth Centre is planning to expand and strengthen its services, e.g. counseling, social and life skills development;

and to organize activities promoting the motivation and skills of young people necessary for successful integration into the labor market, etc.

The provision of these services is facilitated by close inter-departmental cooperation with numerous Klaipėda District Municipality institutions, e.g. the Youth Affairs Council, the Child Welfare Commission, the Children’s Rights, Social Support and Health Departments, the Public Health Bureau, the Education Centre, and many more.

Co-operation and inspiration – that works

When working with young people, “old” methods do not always work, so each time it is necessary to find new solutions, often interactive or digital. Sometimes there is a provision that “young people can do a lot with their work and ideas”, but often it is not enough to organize a simple event with dances and songs, and there is a need for new solutions that will attract young people participation.

In 2018, the Gargždai Open Youth Centre, in collaboration with the local JGI coordinators, was hosting 6 volunteers. The Centre is implementing 6 projects this year.

Open Youth Centres are a rather new form in Lithuania. This solution has found its way and really proved to be worth.

Lithuanian Youth Council (LijOT) is the biggest non-governmental, non-profit umbrella structure for Lithuanian national youth organizations and regional unions of youth organizations.



REVEAL UNDISCOVERED

POTENTIAL

by Simona Dumčiūtė | simona.dumciute@gmail.com

Klaipėda is in the running to become European Youth Capital 2021. Youth, youth organizations and municipality see this initiative as a kick-off towards necessary changes in youth policy.

Around 500 youth representatives got involved in developing programme for Klaipėda's ambition to become European Youth Capital 2021. They shared their insights during 20 strategic sessions, more than 500 ideas were generated on how to launch changes, empower youth and make their voice stronger in the decision-making process.

The more young people involved, the better results

EYC2021 programme is the most ambitious plan for youth in Klaipėda and Lithuania. No city in Lithuania has invested so much time, energy while working together and preparing for the contest. Young people inclusion convinced that everyone should be working in this way. Such practices as working with few main actors is not enough. The more young people are involved, the better results are achieved.

#chooseklaipeda

Klaipėda is in the final for EYC title second year in a row. This contest developed into a youth movement #chooseklaipeda, which is calling Europe and youth to choose Klaipėda as a destination to reveal potential.

"Whatever the results will be, the youth of Klaipėda is the winners already in the sense of how many young, inge-

nious, creative and decisive young people united efforts to showcase themselves for Europe", Vytautas Grubliauskas, mayor of Klaipėda said.

Klaipėda would like to become youth-friendly, open, collaborating city in the Baltic Sea Region. Around 400 events, 200 initiatives, more than 70 international and national partnerships, 1,000 volunteers, half a million visitors, changes in youth policy and revealed youth potential – all that is just a taste of Klaipėda's plans as EYC.

A meet-up point for youth

"Becoming EYC would be a historic victory for Klaipėda and Northern Europe, as well. As none of the Nordic, Baltic region or Scandinavian countries in the history of EYC was given this title. We would see it as Klaipėda's ambition to become a meet-up point for youth celebration", the team of #chooseklaipeda is convinced.

The only Lithuanian city port is in the final together with Chişinău (Moldova), Greater Nicosia (Cyprus), Yaroslavl (Russia) and Varaždin (Croatia). All the finalists submitted their final applications already and the winner will be announced on 21 November in Novi Sad, which will take over the EYC title for 2019.



TO GROW

THE ACTIVE CITIZENS

by Satu Paasonen | satu.paasonen@jkl.fi

City of Jyväskylä is one of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities, which means it is involved in realizing children's rights in every part of its activities and handles children as equal city members.

One of the main point in the city strategy is "participating and well-being residents". City of Jyväskylä respects opinions and knowledge of children and young people about their everyday lives and living environment.

How does Jyväskylä make children and young people active residents?

In kindergartens children take part in their early educational plan. They can tell by words, draws and photos their activities in daytime. They can also decide what kind of plays they want to play and express their opinions about things like food in kindergartens or give professional advice when new playgrounds are planned. Who knows those things better than children themselves?

At schools young people can take part in the student councils, projects or twinning activities.

The Children's Parliament is a children's own channel to participate and influence and a part of school participation education. There is representation of every school from Jyväskylä in the parliament. Pupils are from fifth and sixth grades (11-12 years old). Its main idea is to get child voice heard, to make children feel they have an influence and to help children grow as active citizens. It also increases dialog between children and decision-makers. Children's parliament has its monthly meetings once or twice a year.

The Youth Council consists of the representatives of different schools. A few places are for those young people who are not affiliated with any formal organization.

All members are 13-20 years old. They meet every week and give statements, prepare initiatives to politicians and civil servants, and share funding for young people's own projects.

The youth participation is one of the main themes of the youth council work. The young people get feeling and experience of belonging to a group and a society. They also get aware of the possibilities to participate and influence the city policies.

Main idea in the youth law is: "the growth of young people as active citizens who are interested in themselves, their environment and society."





BEING ABLE TO INFLUENCE

by Martina Berggren | martina.berggren@oskarshamn.se
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The key to successful youth involvement in policy is an unanimous will from politicians and officials to listen and get involved with the youth community.

A key part of the Oskarshamn municipality's success with youth policy affairs and influence can be attributed to the recurring national survey, 'Lupp' (in English: Local youth policy programme). The 'Lupp' survey has been used since 2005 and it showcases the current situation of youth politics and opinions. It gives an indication what topics are the most important to today's youth, is also monitors what has changed over time and what has been improved.

"It's a key strength to have political resolution about the survey, it delivers clarity about important topics and builds on unity within the municipality. Politicians in charge also have the power to re-address and direct resources to areas of the most concern to today's youth", says Martina Berggren, youth co-ordinator in the municipality.

A need for a link between the youth and politicians

Martina's role as youth co-ordinator is a great example of what this survey have brought to attention – the need for someone to be a link between politicians, officials and the youth community. Collaboration with other municipalities is furthermore a resource in which experiences and knowledge could be shared.

Through the 'Lupp' survey the municipality monitors the youth community's interests and engagement in questions regarding school, leisure time, health, future and jobs and security and safety concerns.

The survey is done every third year by around 600 students and the outcome is expressed in proposals for action on what should be the focus in the youth policy.

Safety on the top of needs

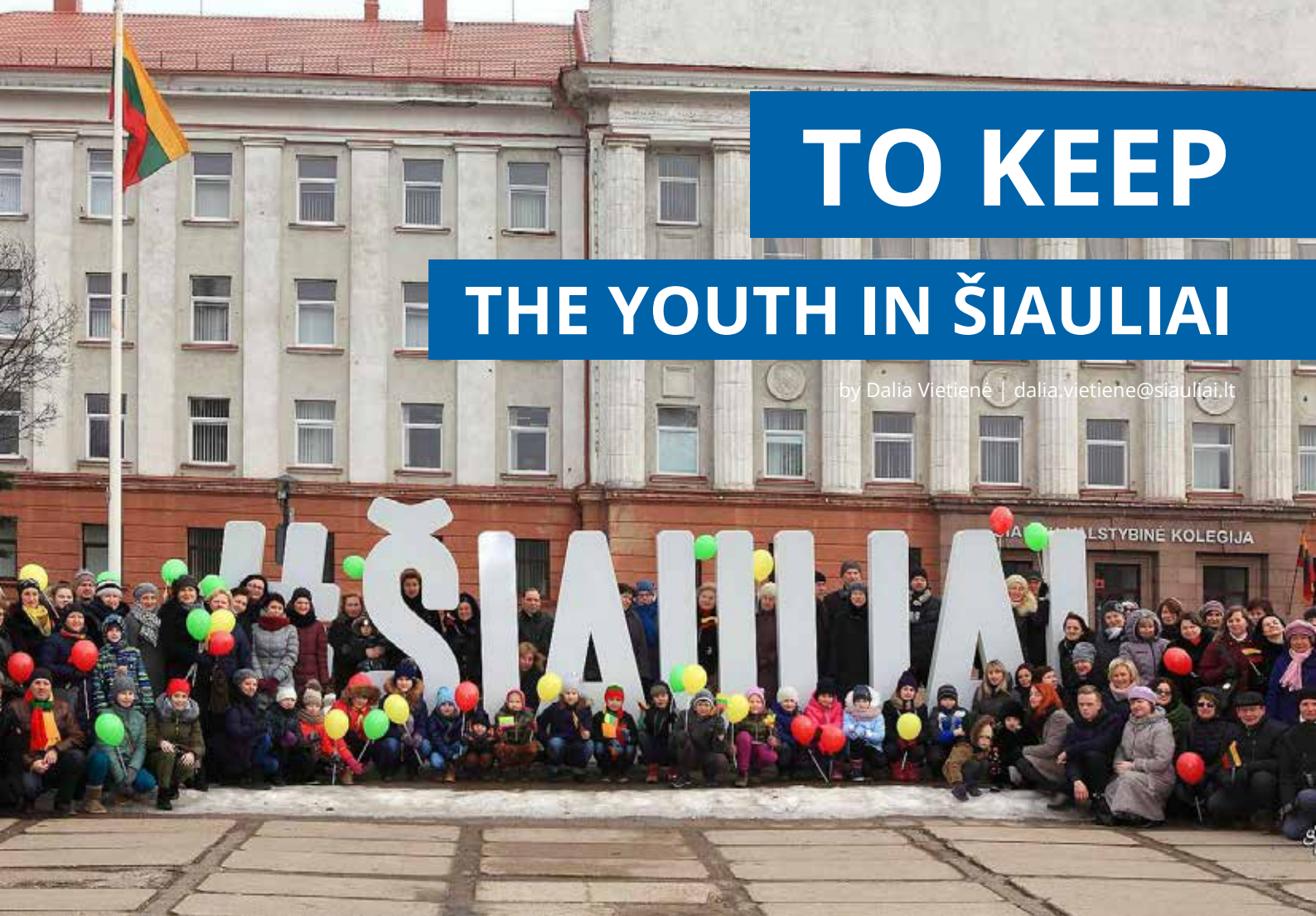
Safety, or the perceived feeling of security, has been a recurrent issue, and the municipality has, among other things, implemented safety walks and invested additional resources into street and area lighting.

All yearly youth activities are brought together under the umbrella term of 'The youth year'. The municipality ensures that there are arenas available for all activities, such as the student's council, food councils and youth councils.

"We have also had youth forums where we invited young people to further explore 'Lupp' and youth policy. Young people have stated that this way of influencing is what they appreciate the most, and it has also provided very valuable information back to Oskarshamn to further elaborate", says Martina Berggren.

In the summer Oskarshamn engages youths working directly with the organisation, with tasks such as the 'Lupp' survey and other youth policy questions.

"It feels like we really have been able to influence and actually make a difference with our work these weeks and it's absolutely amazing."



TO KEEP

THE YOUTH IN ŠIAULIAI

by Dalia Vietienė | dalia.vietiene@siauliai.lt

The young people of Šiauliai are active, they quickly respond to initiatives, they themselves suggest measures to increase the attractiveness of the city for young city residents.

According to the data of the Department of Statistics, at the beginning of 2018 there were 100,575 residents in Šiauliai, of which 17,484 were young people (from 14 to 29 years old).

Currently there are 25 youth organizations, over 50 other work with young people. There are also 12 informal youth groups. The implementation of the youth policy in the city is facilitated and the interests of young people are represented by the Youth Council of the Municipality, Regional Council of Youth Organizations (Šiauliai Association of Youth Organizations - "Round Table") and municipality coordinator for the youth affairs.

Co-operation is a must

In 2004, Šiauliai City Youth Council was established. It has the advisory capacity and the long-term goal to ensure the involvement of the youth in solving issues which are important to them. The Youth Council has initiated the discussions on several important problems at the Šiauliai City Council, e.g. improving conditions at Šiauliai Youth Centre, road safety near education institutions, installing additional lightning at the pedestrian crossing, adopting the schedules of public transport to the needs of the youth, increasing the financing for the youth projects.

The representatives of youth organizations shared their ideas how Šiauliai shall look like in the next ten years. They

encouraged to pay more attention to the city public areas to make them more safe, to ensure the development of the infrastructure for youth employment, to increase the number and accessibility of open air playgrounds, sports grounds and other safe areas meeting the needs of young people as well as to encourage volunteering.

Gender quality and non-discrimination are a rule

The member of the Youth Council and representatives of the youth organizations are appointed to the working groups or commissions formed by the municipality. The participation of young people allows them to ensure that the youth-related issues are solved with their participation. The principles of gender quality and non-discrimination are respected when forming such working groups.

All pro-gymnasiums and gymnasiums have active student governments. Student Self-Governance Information Centre of the Lithuanian National Student Union unites the student governments of the schools of Šiauliai for joint activities and formulations of the positions. It represents the interests of students at commissions and working groups of the Municipality.

"Since the commencement of the term of office, we have set a goal according to which the youth-related issues shall have the priority during the decision making. We have to do our best in order to encourage young people to stay in Šiauliai, because only if we keep the youth, we will keep Šiauliai", ensures Artūras Visockas, the Mayor of Šiauliai.

ÖREBRO FOR

YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

by Johanna Viberg | johanna.viberg@orebro.se



Young people are the focus and their participation is a natural element in everyday work and planning in the Department for Disabled People.

When the children / youngsters come to us, their interests and needs are the ground foundation for our work.

We have a structure in which all children / adolescents have their own individual plans documented. The young people, based on their abilities, have a good knowledge of what will happen during the day. These plans are developed in consultation with the young people and, if necessary, their relatives.

They have a real influence

In their everyday life, the youngest make requests for different activities and decide on how to work with the staff. The staff also tries to perceive the young people's signals and communicates to find new, estimated activities to include future plans.

It is difficult to give a general picture of which activities are the result of youth participation. There is a vast number of interests of young people and they differ from each other. To name only few of them: choosing movies at the cinema, excursions, sports activities (both to exert themselves even as spectators) and music activities.

Some of our activities offer voluntary participation in the Fridays' events, where different associations are invited to conduct a trial-on-training to create a transition into the community.

The kids and youngsters can also take part in the cooking activities, if they are interested and capable, including shopping. This, by the way, is quite common and covers also such goods, as video games, movies and puzzles.





A NEW YOUTH COUNCIL IN KOLDING

by Heidi Rosengren | heros@kolding.dk

Youth participation is a broad term but overall you can describe it as the active engagement of youth throughout their communities.

In the Municipality of Kolding, the Youth Council was the direct result of a panel debate between the youth and politicians. Before the formal decision on the creation of the Youth Council, politicians and the youth had investigated and identified different kind of needs from the two levels, which aimed to enable the youth to actively take part in description making and have the opportunity to have 'a voice' in society.

Co-operation with politicians

During the whole process it was a key point that politicians and the youth were the main contributors, since the Youth Council is for the youth.

This collaboration included three dimensions:

- ▶ There must be some real challenges to the youth - or they must be given the mandate to target challenges;
- ▶ They must have the capacity to make a difference;
- ▶ They must be given the opportunity to be able to collaborate with others to effectively solve the issues.

The Youth Council in the Municipality of Kolding is still in the making, and it has been decided to give the Youth Council a yearly budget of approx. 15.000 EUR, which the Youth Council can administrate in the best suitable way for them. At the

moment the Youth Council is not yet active, but in November the election process will be carried out.

The youngsters want to be active

It is not known which kind of youngsters will become members of the council, but during the pre-meetings, youngsters from different social backgrounds, genders, and ages have shown interest. Who will commit themselves regarding the Youth Council?

Also the politicians decided to assign a support function to the Youth Council regarding the social arrangements, translation of policy-documents, networking, etc.

Throughout the whole process, it has become clear, that both the youth and the politicians, really do have a desire to communicate with each other. The youth wishes to be active citizens and now they have been given the chance and opportunity.

**The
young people
in Kolding want
to be active
citizens to make
a difference!**



TRELLEBORG

GIVES THE YOUTH A SAY

by Karin Jeppsson | karin.jeppsson@trelleborg.se

Over the past few years Trelleborg has based its approach on a local strategy aimed at promoting children's rights. To ensure the participation and influence of the young, these efforts need to be developed and linked with public dialogue.

This strategy includes ensuring the right of children and young people to be given a voice at matters that concern them. Their opinions should be allowed to influence decision-making, the measures taken and the activities run.

Each year a barnbokslut ("children's annual accounts") is drawn up to follow up the measures implemented by the municipal authorities. This report is submitted to the Municipal Assembly for decision.

Trelleborg's initiatives to empower the youth

One initiative is seeking to involve children and young people in a programme for ensuring safer ways of getting to school. The aim is to create safer traffic conditions in the vicinity of the schools in the municipality and to ensure a greater number of children get to and from school by walking, cycling or taking public transport.

Another example is Ungdomsenheten, the unit responsible for the municipality's youth recreation centers, which has carried out a survey inviting young people to give their opinions about its activities and suggest improvements.

Each year the Culture, Leisure and Recreation Services Department arranges two events, namely UKM (Ung Kultur

Möts) and Y.E.S. (Young Expressive Show), which involve young people and give them a voice and responsibility. Trelleborg social services have sought to encourage the greater participation of children. An action plan has been produced containing proposals such as the appointing of participation ambassadors who regularly interview children about their experience of participation. The results of the interviews would then be used as a basis for developing and improving their work.

A new structure for giving a voice to the young

In the past, Trelleborg Municipality made use of a more general measure in the form of Ungdomsforum, where over the course of one year a group of eight young people acted as a reference group and were given the chance to work on different assignments.

Last spring the Municipal Assembly decided to discontinue Ungdomsforum. The intention was that from now on government officials and politicians come into contact with children and young people in settings such as schools and youth recreation centres, clubs and associations.

This approach is meant to increase the chances of involving more children and young people of different ages from different parts of the municipality and from different socio-economic areas. How this approach is to be structured will be drawn up and linked with other measures to encourage public dialogue in Trelleborg Municipality. It may involve both the use of digital channels and traditional meetings.



MEETING

THE TRENDS OF THE FUTURE

by Karl Nässén | karl.nassen@gavle.se

Photo: Javi_indy / Freepik.com

Gävle Municipality has not only identified the necessity of involving citizens in local decision making, with the youth in particular, but also it has been shifting towards including the youth without unnecessary requirements for their participation.

Previously, the young people could participate in different democratic fora only if they were elected and represented a student council or a certain organization. That severely restricted the possibilities for all youngsters to participate and to have influence.

Meeting the trends of the future

The steering program for the youth issues has been revised to be in line with the time and meet the trends and the terms in how the youth organize today.

The municipality is now moving towards the inevitable necessity of merging the forms for the youth influence into the overall work with citizens participation in local issues.

Gävle does not want to limit the youth participation and influence to the "youth issues" only, but to all aspects of local democracy.

How to let the youth have a real impact?

The more formalized structures or groups for youth involvement, such as youth councils, may still be a good practice by

municipalities in gathering engaged youngsters. They have in fact proven to be an excellent tool in reaching out wider groups, that may engage themselves in the local democracy. They are also important in the process of ensuring the quality of the work, since they are early on spot when the slips or mistakes occur. Thus, the main question regarding the youth influence is to what extent an organization is prepared to actually involve young people in the municipality work and to let them have a real influence.

This of course is a bigger issue regarding the work with involving all groups of citizens in the local democracy.





KEMI YOUTH COUNCIL WITH TRADITIONS

by Kristiina Niemelä | kristiina.niemela@hotmail.com

The Youth Council of Kemi is a 14-year-old organization, involving all matters that concern youth.

It represents all 7–9th grade and upper schools of Kemi. Also a great variety of organizations that do youth work, like sport clubs, congregations, political youth organizations and other youth associations are represented. The age of the members vary between 13 and 25 years. The size of the organization is approximately 20 members.

The Kemi Youth Council makes statements and initiatives to improve the living quality of youth in Kemi. It responds to all matters that concern youth in Kemi decision-making.

The law says that everything that concerns youth has to have a respond of youth opinion. Two greatest initiatives that went through were aimed to employ a school psychologist and an intoxicant worker to help youth with mental and intoxicant problems.



KRISTIANSAND EMBRACES THE FUTURE

by Dag Johan Beek
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The city of Kristiansand, soon to join together with its neighbour communities Søgne and Songdalen into a bigger and stronger community, is including both children and young people in the process towards a larger and stronger city community.

The youth council of Kristiansand has started a joint venture with its youth council partners, and arranges meetings, discussions and political dialogues to create a solid and sustainable platform, where some of the goals are to make sure young voices are heard and given a place within the formal city administration.

Including new citizens

Until now the secondary school councils have been the source of youth participation and democracy, all given a solid basis due to the official system of school regulations and laws.

The young representatives from Kristiansand will focus on what kind of youth representation will be most successful, when it comes to transport, education, city environment and mental health. The council also has an eye on social welfare and the importance of including new citizens, just to mention some topics.

“We surely don’t know all about the future, but we will take responsibility when it comes to young people’s issues and challenges”, the present members of the council say, being important young voices from the new Kristiansand.

CONNECTED BY

THE BALTIC SEA

by Hanna Numminen | hanna.numminen@edupori.fi



In August 2018 Pori Lyseo Upper Secondary organized an Environmental Camp School which was part of the program 'Connected by the Baltic Sea'. The Camp School was held at Reposaari Island and lasted for five days.

We hosted two teachers and six students from Nacka and two students from Helsinki Finnish-Russian School.

During the first day the participants got to know the nature in Pori, the city centre and Lyseo Upper Secondary School. They visited a bird tower by the River Kokemäki delta area and Nature House Arkki to get a glimpse of Pori's nature.

Energy and the Baltic Sea

The Camp School was held under two main themes: Energy and the Baltic Sea.

The participants learned how the energy is generated in Finland by visiting Suomen Hyötytuuli Wind Power Center in Pori, Teollisuuden Voima Nuclear Power Plants in Eurajoki and Pohjolan Voima Hydroelectric Power Plants in Harjavalta. They discussed how the energy should be generated in a sustainable world. One interesting issue came up: in Swedish Forsmark there are two similar Nuclear Power Plants as in Eurajoki, Finland and in Sweden they also have the same kind of plans for final deposition of radioactive high level waste.

The smelliest experience of the Camp School was visiting the Mattila Farm. It produces most of its own electricity needed with solar panels and they have a milking robot. They also make a great effort to produce the milk in as sustainable a way as possible.

On the last day of the Camp the students took some water samples from the Baltic Sea and measured the nitrates, nitrites and phosphates. They noticed that the water in the Gulf of Bothnia is less eutrophicated than in the Gulf of Finland. We also did a benthic animal study from the pond nearby.

A lesson about species diversity

Also, they had three bat detectors. The bat species from the Reposaari area they found were:

Eptesicus nilssonii – the most common Finnish bat, flies 5–10 metres above ground.

Myotis daubentonii – flies just above water surface.

Myotis brandtii/mystacinus – two almost identical species, flying 2–3 metres high.

Pipistrellus nathusii – flies 5–10 m high. This is the migratory species in Finland, and Reposaari's west shore is known to be a bats' migratory route during autumn.

What is more, there were crickets singing ultrasounds at night, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*. This species is typical in archipelago and in daylight its voice is audible to human ears.

We hope that we were able to give our international guests a nice glimpse of Satakunta nature and history and energy producing. Naturally, the most important thing of these kind of international camp schools is that students get to know each other and can discuss with youngsters from other countries.



- We are not able to determine a...
- We send out self-assessments every year and keep them in...
- We have declared importance of good suppliers in our susta...
- don't verify whether CoC is complied with.
- We have outsourced compliance through audits. Otherwise...
- head office concerns not really changing line-management...
- We don't buy from China, we buy from Europe.

STARTING FROM

SMALL STEPS

by Patrik Bengtsson | patben@utb.vaxjo.se

Human Rights lawyer and former leader of the Swedish Agenda 2030 delegation, Parul Sharma led a workshop at Växjö Katedralskola with 55 students from the IB programme at Katedralskolan and Teleborg Centrum.

The workshop aimed to increase the awareness of social sustainability and democratic principles as a part of a project instigated by the municipality to create a learning environment that is inclusive and equal for all students in Växjö. This is in its turn one way to implement the Sustainable Development Goals 4, "Quality education", and 10 "Reduced inequalities" at the local level in Växjö.

What do diversity and inclusion mean?

The workshop started with a lecture by Parul Sharma who introduced the "Sustainable Development Goals" and the importance of having an integrated approach to the different goals. According to Parul, it would be impossible to reach any of the goals individually, for instance goal 11 "Sustainable cities", without addressing the issues of "Reduced inequalities" and "Quality education" simultaneously.

That was followed by a discussion between the students and Parul on the meaning of the terms diversity and inclusion. Parul concluded that diversity is something worth striving for, that it is important for democracy and for development and that an inclusive society is one where diversity can thrive. Moreover, Parul also discussed the tendency of addressing sustainability only in terms of environmental sustainability. We need to improve our knowledge about the whole concept in order to reach true sustainability according to Parul.

When you are excluded from decision making in the society, for whatever reason, it is impossible to solve the issues and problems humanity is facing according to Parul.

The group discussions with students from the IB programme were lively and full of inspirational suggestions for inclusion and increasing equality - in the society as a whole and in the school and the classroom in particular. The aim and the end result of the discussions were to create and present an action plan for inclusion that was to be handed over to Oliver Rosengren, the Head of the Board of Labour Issues, Integration and Social Services at the municipality of Växjö. Other representatives from the municipality including Therése Jaramillo, Jonna Wehlin and Charlotte Gustafsson Brynielsson.

Students' impressions

Josefine Danielsson in IB1 pointed out that she has always thought of sustainability as something related more to climate and environment than to inclusion and diversity. She said that after the workshop she gained a greater understanding about the complexity of the concept. Nigel Wafunaka (from IBMYP 9) suggested that all students at TC and Katedral should be given the opportunity to participate in a workshop about inclusion and democratic values.

The students embraced the idea of inclusion and at the end of the day that is all you can really ask for. Small term changes that hopefully can lead to long term improvements.



UBC Executive Board met in Malmö

by Anna Dargiewicz | anna.dargiewicz@ubc.net

The UBC Executive Board met on 17-19 October in Malmö. The next General Conference in Kaunas, Commissions' ongoing activities, HA Capacity and Flagship 'School to Work' were among the topics discussed.

In the beginning of the meeting on 18 October, the Board held a silent moment in memory of Armas Lahoniitty, a former Mayor of Turku and former Vice-President of the UBC, who passed away on 15 October.

The meeting was opened by UBC President Per Bødker Andersen and the Mayor of Malmö, Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh who presented the city.

Mantas Jurgutis, UBC Vice President and chair of the General Conference task force, highlighted the ideas shared at the TF meeting held on 17 October. The Board agreed that the proposal with the possible conference themes shall be sent out to the member cities for their opinions. Among the topics suggested there were urbanization, digitalization, citizens' involvement.

The leaders of the Commissions: Cultural Cities, Safe Cities, Smart and Prospering Cities, Sustainable Cities, and Youthful Cities, the Working Group on Gender Equality and the Communications Network presented the ongoing activities and plans for the future. The Board decided to assign 10.000 EUR as start-up money for the commissions for activities in 2019.

Matti Mäkela, chair of the UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being, reported the work under the Flagship School to Work. The Flagship aims to strengthen transna-

tional cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region in the field of education and works in order to prevent early school leaving and develop new support methods for vulnerable groups of students/youth. The Board authorized the Task Force to continue its work.

Also, the Board members heard the report by the UBC Strategy coordinator/HA Capacity Coordinator on HA Capacity's past and forthcoming activities and discussed UBC role and member cities participation.

The Board decided, moreover, to continue the cooperation with CDP and authorized the President to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding e.g. to increase the number of cities disclosing their environmental information through CDP's disclosure system.

In addition, the agenda included proposal of the new UBC Social Charter, the concept of UBC National Coordinators, 'Sport for Values' project, and International Youth Forum of the Baltic Sea States (St. Petersburg, 28 November-2 December 2018).

The third day of the meeting consisted of a study tour of Western Harbour-Hyllie-Nyhamn in Malmö.



Facing the digital transformation in the BSR cities

by Cathrin Truckenbrodt | cathrin.truckenbrodt@kiel.de

There are endless possibilities to participate in discussions on digitalization these days. Therefore, Smart and Prospering Cities Commission and The Bay Areas e.V. tried to focus on one essential aspect of digitalization what makes the Baltic Sea Region to one of the leading regions in times of digital transformation: A digital mindset.

In line with the topic of the seminar Wolfgang Schmidt (Chairman, Smart and Prospering Cities Commission) and Kiel Mayor Dr. Ulf Kämpfer invited the audience into the unusual rooms of the Kieler start-up brewery "Lillebräu" who want to integrate a modern gastronomic concept in the daily brewing processes. More than 50 interested people from politics, economy and administration joined the seminar and could follow the inspiring inputs of Dr. Eva-Charlotte Proll, Capgemini Berlin, Lene Hartig Danielsen (Head of Citizens' Services, Aarhus), Dr. Ulf Kämpfer (Mayor, City of Kiel), Toomas Sepp (Head of City Office, Tallinn) and Christian Winther (Danish-German entrepreneur).

The smart cities focus on people's needs

After a short overview on the digitalization processes in the Baltic Sea Region (Dr. Eva-Charlotte Proll), Lene Hartig Danielsen inspired the audience by presenting Aarhus smart city solutions and emphasizing that cities can only call themselves "smart" as long as all activities are focused on the people's needs.

Kiel Mayor Dr. Ulf Kämpfer adopted the seminar topic from the perspective of social responsibility: In comparison with regions like the Silicon Valley (Kiel and San Francisco are sister cities since 2017) it is of enormous importance to address all people and not to risk new social gaps between

winners and losers of the digital transformation. Tallinn's Head of City Office Toomas Sepp gave an interesting insight into the City's road to e-Government mainly focusing on the transformation of administration processes. The importance of a digital mindset for sustainable economic success – by changes in the culture of companies and promoting IT education – was mentioned by Christian Winther.

After a short interactive panel discussion i.e. on the question how digital transformation is challenging the role of leadership (moderation: Wolfgang Schmidt), speakers and audience followed the invitation to come together in a relaxed atmosphere with craft beer and finger food.

The seminar took place within the framework of "Digital Week Kiel 2018". From 8-15 September 2018, citizens, companies & talents had the opportunity to discuss, learn and experience new digital trends and the potential of digitalization for the future of society, academia, public sector and economy in more than 250 events. The 3rd edition of Digital Week Kiel – by now: a unique format in Germany with addressing so many different target groups – will be held from 7-14 September 2019.





Photo: Sini Lamoureux

From car-focused to people-focused cities

by Sini Lamoureux | sini.lamoureux@turku.fi

Developing sustainable urban mobility is a big opportunity and challenge for cities looking to create smart mobility solutions for their inhabitants.

The UBC Sustainable Cities Commission meeting gathered in Klaipėda on 13–14 September 2018 the representatives from 16 different UBC cities to discuss the current mobility situation and possible solutions in the Baltic Sea Region.

The two-day meeting was opened by Judita Simonavičiūtė, the Deputy Mayor of Klaipėda, who highlighted that the topic concerns everyone of us, as we all take part in various mobility activities every day. Indrė Butenienė, Strategic Planner stated that implementing sustainable mobility solutions is a city's current priority. Tadas Jonauskis, the urbanist, presented different SUMP (sustainable urban mobility plan) scenarios which could improve Klaipėda's mobility situation.

A city's challenges

Klaipėda is facing a number of challenges when it comes to mobility and transport. The city is located along the coastal line which results in an oblong urban area being divided in a northern and southern part. The port of Klaipėda, one of the most important ports of the Baltic Sea, is located near the city centre. This, along with a depopulated city centre and an increasing number of people living in the suburbs, contributes to some challenges. People are commuting from the suburbs into the city where the majority of the workplaces and schools are located and are thereby creating congestions during rush hours. The international speakers, Steffen Nozon, Rostock, Johanna Palomäki, Lahti and Michael Haufe from Greifswald presented how their cities are dealing with similar challenges through different activities and projects.

Towards more sustainable lifestyle

In an active panel discussion on how to change cities from being car-oriented towards enhancing sustainable urban mobility, the experts agreed on that the actual change has to do with people-focused planning. Multimodality does not always have to be discussed by using complex terms and expressions. Changing how one communicates about multimodality and sustainable mobility to more approachable manners, facilitates the behavioral change needed to make a shift from a car-dominated lifestyle to a more sustainable one.

After the presentations, the participants were able to experience Klaipėda's mobility situation in practice. The site visit by bus was moderated by Tadas Mezinys, Head of Transport Infrastructure Division of Klaipėda and consisted of a guided tour with stops at mobility significant areas throughout the city.

UBC co-operation on agenda

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the UBC network activities and discussions with the member cities about new project ideas and ways to cooperate. Representatives from the cities of St. Petersburg, Lahti, Örebro, Linköping, Turku and Jūrmala presented greetings from their cities. Svetlana Ivantsova from St. Petersburg described how the public transport was organized for football fans during the FIFA World Cup in Russia.

The next UBC SCC Meeting will be held in the City of Jūrmala, Latvia in May 2019.

European Charter on Youth Work

by Carsten Adamsen | caad@kolding.dk



On 8–11 October 2018 representatives from youthful cities around the Baltic Sea met in Rostock, Germany. 21 participants (youth and civil servants) from 11 cities had made their way to Germany.

Also, two youth board members from the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation were invited.

The main working themes of this meeting were: the Charter on Local Youth Work, EU Competence model for international youth work, the Youth and the UBC General Conference in 2019, and also the cultural experiences of Rostock.

During the welcome dinner on Monday we were greeted by Steffen Bockhahn, Senator for Youth, Social Affairs, Health, Schools and Sports and Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock International Relations Office. Their presence gave us the opportunity to talk about youth matters and the city.

On 9 October the official opening of the Commission meeting in the premises of the “Rostocker Freizeit Zentrum” was followed by news from the Chairman of the Commission. Then the workshops on the “European charter on youth work” were held – a result of a project of 23 National Agencies of Erasmus+. In the afternoon, we had a wonderful tour of the medieval city with references to the medical practices in Rostock.

The following day we first had a guided tour around our meeting place “Rostocker Freizeit Zentrum” and afterwards we split up into two groups: the youth and civil servants. The group of youth worked on ideas for the 2019 General

Conference, while civil servants discussed the EU Competence model for international youth work. In the afternoon, our meeting moved to another youth centre “Peter Weiss Haus” and after a guided tour there was a workshop on how to creatively present our results during the City Hall mingle later in the afternoon.

On the last day we did evaluation of the workshops and the cities had possibility to share information and inspirations.





Urban transition zones in Visby

by Christian Hegardt | christian.hegardt@gotland.se

Planning Cities Commission held the Annual Seminar in cooperation with Region Gotland in Visby 21–24 October 2018. Around 40 participants from UBC cities together with ten local planners joined the seminar.

Visby, a UNESCO World Heritage city and the main town on Gotland with 25,000 inhabitants, is located on the north-west coast of the island, about 100 km from the Swedish mainland.

The topic of the seminar was “Urban Transition Zones - Sustainable urban transformation in the context of a small historic city” and the main aim of the seminar and workshop was to reflect and give suggestions on the development of two areas close to the historic town and the medieval city wall, the Inner Harbour and the East Centre. One important challenge for the city is how to create urban space for seasonal flexibility and better connect the historic town centre with the modern city.

On Monday Region Gotland introduced the workshop sites with presentations from Christian Hegardt, city architect and Elene Negussie, World Heritage site manager. A sunny afternoon in Visby was spent with guided tour by bus and walks to the workshop areas. In the evening elected officials joined the group for dinner in the Fornsalen Museum, with a great performance by the Gotland Balalaika Orchestra. Meit Fohlin, regional Commissioner and former Mayor, stressed the importance of Region Gotland’s continuing active involvement in the UBC. Björn Grönholm, Head of the Secretariat of UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, thanked resigning Planning Cities Commission Chairman Niels-Peter Mohr for many years of dedication to UBC and Planning Cities Commission.

Tuesday morning Alexander Stähle, landscape architect, researcher and CEO for the urban design studio Spacescape in Stockholm reflected on activity-based planning and the trends that affect small cities in his key note lecture titled Closer Together – the future of small towns.

This gave inspiration for the workshop sessions, with four groups working with the two sites all Tuesday and Wednesday morning. A new steering group was presented on Wednesday as was the new Chairwoman for Planning Cities Commission, Paulina Szewczyk from the city of Gdynia.

The workshop results were presented to invited guests, politicians and media representatives. Niels-Peter Mohr concluded the workshop and his time as chairman, and was thanked by Paulina Szewczyk and the new steering group. Region Gotland thanked the participants for their committed work in a successful seminar.





Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission and the Global Goals

by Amanda Klint | amanda.klint@karlstad.se

Annual meeting of the UBC Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission is held in Karlstad, Sweden, on 30-31 October 2018. The first day is open for everyone that is interested in the commission's work and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

In 2015, the world leaders in UN agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030. These goals have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and stop climate change. Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone.

City's goals and UN SDGs go hand in hand

The city of Karlstad in Sweden has officially taken on the challenge to contribute to achieve the global goals. There are many connections between the city of Karlstad's mission and city goals and the global goals that the UN agreed upon. We can also see that several of the goals have the same direction as the work within the UBC. This is something we would like to develop and make more visible.

A task for the UBC

With this in mind, the annual meeting's theme this year is the global goals for sustainable development. The goals have a very broad scope, so the other UBC Commissions have been invited to participate or/and contribute to the annual meeting with their perspective and knowledge. During the meeting the presentation about the global goals and

how we can connect them with the work in the UBC Commissions with special focus on the Inclusive and Healthy cities commission is delivered.

Also, the Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission's activities: "Sharing the European Dream" a Conference in Rostock and "Domestic violence", cooperation between the city of Gdynia, Poland and the city of Karlstad, Sweden, are presented.

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



UBC Seminar on International City Marketing and Business Marketing

by Irene Pendolin | irene.pendolin@ubc.net



MARKETING

UBC and the City of Rostock invite you to get updated with the currents of international city, business and NGO marketing in Rostock on 28–29 November 2018!

The seminar is part of the work of UBC's Communications Network and is open to all representatives of the UBC cities who are interested in the topics of international communications and marketing.

Speakers and themes include:

- Business Marketing: presented by Claus Ruhe Madsen, Head of Chamber of Commerce Rostock, and Sabine Zingsgraf, Head of the Communication and Marketing department, Chamber of Commerce Rostock.
- City Marketing: presented by Daniela Bubber, Department of City Marketing, City of Rostock
- Cultural Marketing: presented by Thomas Werner, City of Rostock, and Steffen Stuth, PhD, History and Culture Museum of Rostock
- Online Marketing/ Brand Development in Social Media: Anna Pashkova, Online Marketing Specialist
- NGO Marketing: to be confirmed

PROGRAMME

28 November 2018

- 14–15 Registration
- 15–18 Seminars on city, business, culture NGO marketing – lead by the speakers
- 19.30 Reception and evening activities, including the Rostock Christmas Market, hosted by the City of Rostock

29 November 2018

- 9–12 city, business, cultural, online and NGO

12–13.30
13.30–15

marketing – moderated by the speakers from the previous day
Lunch and Press Conference
Conclusion panel and summaries

Afternoon/evening activities, hosted by the City of Rostock

Read more and register to the seminar by 19 November:
<http://ubc.net/ubc-events/cub-seminar-international-city-marketing-and-business-marketing-ubc-communications>

UBC Communications Network

- Improves communication between UBC and its member cities,
- Provides a network for consultation and cooperation,
- Enables sharing of best practices and tools,
- Invites all UBC member cities to name their representative to the network,
- Organises seminars and events for UBC member cities.



Making the EU Strategy for BSR function better

by Mikko Lohikoski | mikko.lohikoski@turku.fi

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is approaching its 10th birthday in 2019. It is the first macro-regional strategy of the European Union. Afterwards, this concept of regional cooperation has spread to the Danube, Ionian and Adrian and Alpine regions, which have now their own macro-regional strategies.

Although ten years is a relatively short period to deliver and analyze results, some preliminary conclusions can be observed. The Strategy, and more precisely its Action Plan, have created a coherent framework for our region and its actors. It formulates our key common goals: Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity. It specifies the responsibilities for organizing cooperation across the borders and development processes how to reach our targets.

Furthermore, it is a living concept – the Action Plan is constantly upgraded to meet new circumstances. Currently, the third revision of the Action Plan is under preparation. The National Coordinators, representing EU Member States, together with the European Commission, are in process of defining the extent of this revision, which would be concluded in Autumn 2019.

Currently, the Action Plan comprises 13 Policy Areas – various thematic areas of action – and four Horizontal Actions. One of the latter is Horizontal Action Capacity (HA Capacity), which the UBC coordinates together with the Baltic Sea NGO network/Swedish Norden Association and the Swedish Institute. HA Capacity was included in the EUSBSR Action Plan in 2015 as part of the second revision.

HA Capacity is a key component in the EUSBSR as it aims at better functioning of the work by strengthening the capacity of present and potential participants/stakeholders of the Strategy. For UBC, this means especially that we work for broader participation of cities and regions in the implementation of our common goals through various processes and projects. Already now, many UBC cities are active in various fields, but there is still much room to extend our role.

HA Capacity is supporting various Policy Areas by organizing capacity building workshops. These have proven to be very useful and also popular, as they help to focus their work more effectively. Likewise, HA Capacity has recently organized working meetings with representatives of the managing authorities of various EU funding instruments, with the goal of broadening the funding base for EUSBSR activities. Currently, the Baltic Sea Interreg Programme is the major and often sole source of funding.

Another major field for HA Capacity in the future is to deepen cooperation between the EUSBSR and the other macro-regional strategies. We can learn much from each other, and also influence better the European policies.

HA Capacity has also started to prepare for the 10th Annual Forum in Gdańsk 12–13 June 2019. The main theme will be: “Circular and sharing economy as an answer to demographic changes and environmental challenges in the Baltic Sea Region”. Back-to-back, on 11 June HA Capacity will organize the third Participation Day, tailor-made for cities, regions and civil society organizations.

Flagship and Task Force Equals Added Value

by Matti Mäkelä | matti.makela@turku.fi



During the last two years UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being has strengthened a cooperation with the EUSBSR Flagship School to Work (S2W).

The Flagship aims to strengthen transnational cooperation between stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region in the field of education and works in order to prevent early school leaving and develop new support methods for vulnerable groups such as students/youth/refugees, which means that their goals are parallel to the ones of the Task Force.

BSR Integrate Now, a joint ESF project to support the integration of newly arrived refugees, started in Turku, Stockholm and Malmö in March 2017; in April 2017 Task Force and Flagship arranged a study visit to Hamburg and in November to Turku and to Tartu. Moreover, in October a Knowledge Platform S2W was opened. This website offers a space to share good practices, learn from the others, join study visits, workshops and find partners for new projects. State of the Youth Guarantee in the BSR workshop was held in Växjö in October 2017.

In 2018 study visits, workshops, conferences and other activities were organized, as follows:

- March 2018: Integration of Newly Arrived Migrants and Refugees Conference "Sharing the European Dream" in Rostock, Germany (two workshops: Education and Labour Market Integration).
- Study Visits: Turku (February), Gävle (March), Stockholm (June), Kristiansand (September), Gdańsk (November).
- Dissemination and cooperation workshops in Riga (themes: youth guarantee, attractiveness of VET) and in Vilnius (theme: migration).

- Trainings: Entrepreneurship (Turku), Appreciative inquiry (Malmö and Turku).
- Compilation and dissemination of good practices.
- Widening the national and BSR networks.
- Flagship Conference in June (Stockholm).
- National and transnational Migrants, Employment and Vocational Education Conference in Turku 31 October – 1 November (including study visit, 2 November).

Future plans include new project initiatives, dissemination of good practices, study visits – including implementation of the model Study Visit 2.0 – and seminars and workshops.

The benefits of the cooperation are also extremely clear for the Flagship crew.

"Already in June we were able to say that Flagship School to Work has spread. Since December last year we have gained more members, the number of events has increased significantly and also number of participants who have taken part in our various events, has increased", says Inta Edgarsson, Flagship coordinator.

"Such quantitative changes can give qualitative outcomes both for learning something new about methods, approaches and tools that are used when working with youngsters, but also by encouraging each other in our network. Together we decrease the number of children and youngsters who leave school early, we help them to come back to school or training, we support their efforts to become a steady employee, and also integrate in our communities", Edgarsson adds.



UBC cities continue as transparent climate leaders in the Baltic Sea Region

by Kristiina Paju | kristiina.paju@turku.fi

Photo: www.unsplash.com

Back in 2016, UBC and CDP agreed upon collaboration between the two organizations with the first cooperation activities taking place in spring 2017. As a result, UBC doubled the number of cities reporting to CDP from 6 to 20. This year, the number of the cities disclosing to CDP grew to 28 in despite of the busiest holiday season.

UBC and CDP aim to increase the number of Baltic Sea Region cities using systematic reporting of their climate change related actions and UBC's role in the cooperation with CDP has been one of facilitator between the member cities and CDP. The campaigns have proven to be effective and as such, more transparent environmental data has been disclosed – strengthening the status of cities in the Baltic Sea Region as smart climate leaders also from a global perspective.

Overall, 28 UBC cities disclosed to CDP during this summer, growing the number from 20 disclosing cities to 28 cities. Many cities continued the disclosure process they had started in 2017 but also first-time disclosers joined to report their climate data and actions via CDP Cities Questionnaire 2018.

As a result, the Commission is aiming to publish a report later this autumn with some new findings on climate leadership. Also, UBC Executive Board decided to continue cooperation with CDP signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 2019-2021.

List of UBC cities/ municipalities that disclosed in spring/summer 2018:

- Arendal, Norway
- Espoo, Finland

- Gdańsk, Poland
- Gdynia, Poland
- Greifswald, Germany
- Helsinki, Finland
- Jelgava, Latvia
- Karlskrona, Sweden
- Kemi, Finland
- Kristiansand, Norway
- Lahti, Finland
- Liepāja, Latvia
- Linköping, Sweden
- Malmö, Sweden
- Panevėžys, Lithuania
- Pärnu, Estonia
- Riga, Latvia
- Rostock, Germany
- Sillamäe, Estonia
- Šiauliai
- Tartu, Estonia
- Tauragė, Lithuania
- Trelleborg, Sweden
- Turku, Finland
- Umeå, Sweden
- Visby, Sweden
- Växjö, Sweden
- Örebro, Sweden

Find out more about UBC-CDP cooperation:
<http://www.ubc-sustainable.net/cooperation-cdp>

Baltic Urban Lab – towards integrated and partnership-based planning of brownfield areas

by Kristiina Paju | kristiina.paju@turku.fi
Maija Rusanen | maija.rusanen@ubc.net



Photo: Kristiina Paju

Planning of brownfields – old industrial or other underused areas – is often a complex and expensive process, involving multiple land owners and other stakeholders, potentially serious levels of contamination and an existing infrastructure that is not designed for post-industrial use.

Developing an attractive and sustainable land-use and mobility plan, that meets the needs of future residents, commercial activities, social services and public spaces, requires the vision and expertise of a wide range of actors. Not least, this includes decisive planners and politicians, as well as technical experts and local stakeholders.

The aim of Baltic Urban Lab project, led by UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, has been to find and test integrated planning and partnership models for the development of brownfield sites. During the project, the participating cities Norrköping, Tallinn, Turku and Riga have explored different methods for stakeholder involvement and participation. Experiences from the cities have now been gathered and analyzed in “Developing brownfields via Public-Private-People partnerships”. The results give inspiration and examples also to other cities to tackle the challenge of participation.

Practical guide published for urban planners working with brownfields

Based on the practical experiences from Baltic Urban Lab cities and on a broad dialogue with different planners and experts around the Baltic Sea Region, the project has developed a guide “Towards integrated and partnership-based planning of brownfield areas”. The guide was launched at the Final Conference of the Baltic Urban Lab project in Riga,

Latvia on 6 September 2018. The guide is targeted to urban planners and other experts interested to learn more how to develop brownfields in cooperation with citizens, NGOs, land-owners, developers and other stakeholders.

The guide is divided into two main sections: Section 1: Internal organization and preparation focuses on improving internal processes and cooperation within local administration which sets a solid base for participatory planning process. Section 2: Cooperating with the stakeholders provides guidance on how to work with the stakeholders. The guide provides concrete case examples about implementing public-private-people partnership models alongside with tips for further reading and useful tools. The guide is available in English, Finnish, Swedish, Latvian and Estonian.





An Urban Charter for Baltic Cities

by Karin Wohlgemuth | karin.wohlgemuth@rostock.de

At the VI General Conference held in Rostock on 13 October 2001, the UBC adopted a simple but important paper: the UBC Social Charter. Now it is time to use all our fresh expertise to prepare, discuss and adopt a new one.

This idea has been inspired by the successful conference on integration of migrants held in March 2018 in Rostock and positive feedback received.

The UBC cities met to discuss possibilities and opportunities of a successful integration of immigrants. The challenge to integrate an extraordinary number of refugees from war and asylum seekers in our member cities led to the question if and how we could cope it.

During the workshops the city delegates analyzed the issue under different aspects:

- Sharing Online and Offline Communication - a Multicultural Package
- Gender and Minorities' Equality and Linking Cultures
- Equal Access to Education
- Creating a Stronger and More Inclusive Economy and Job Market
- Using, Developing, Creating and Designing the City Together
- Safe and Healthy Life for All
- Cohabitation of Religions and Traditions
- Sharing Culture

Making use of the Method of Appreciative Enquiry, moderator Piotr Wolkowinski induced the participants to express themselves and to contribute to a summary of factors and measures to be taken in order to achieve a harmonized urban living together for all inhabitants. At the end it became clear that the conditions for a well-working urban society do not primarily depend on balancing discrepancies between long-established people and newcomers.

Above all, it is about equal chances for everybody, about the willingness to equally contribute to the society and to respect each other. It is the human being as such which has to be in the focus. So after two days of vivid discussions the participants noticed that what they were discussing was how they wish to put the concept of the Inclusive City into practice.

So what could be better than to condense the essence of these visions in a Baltic Urban Charter 2040!

The UBC Executive Board, that met in Malmö, gave a green light to work further on the proposal. The new, pioneering document should be presented for discussion and adoption at the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas in October 2019.



CITY NEWS

Photo: Gdańsk Business Week 2018/ Gdańsk Business Incubator 'Starter'

EDUCATION BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND COOPERATION

Involvement of all inhabitants without regard for age is one of the social policy aims in Gdańsk. This approach results in including the youth in the process of creation of common vision of the city.

The Gdańsk model for the development of young people's entrepreneurship is far beyond the obligation arising from the educational rules. As a starting point, we have accepted that a broadly understood activity and entrepreneurship are one of the main competences that a young man who enters the labour market needs to be armed.

On the one hand, we give the opportunity to demonstrate the initiative and to gain specific financial resources for this purpose using tools similar to those used by adults, such as the Gdańsk Youth Fund. It allows for financing the activities of both formal and informal youth groups targeted at the local community. Similar solutions are becoming increasingly popular in Gdańsk schools. So called 'students civic budgets' offer the pupils the opportunity to influence the way and direction their school is developed.

It is essential that young people are not only given some specific tools, but they are also listened to and authentically integrated into the decision-making process.

In Gdańsk for years we have been actively supporting the activities of the students, we motivate the Youth Council of the city of Gdańsk, but we also take steps towards promoting the idea of students' cooperatives. They allow the youngsters to take initiative, but also the responsibility for the actions. Also, the students from elementary schools are becoming more and more involved.

The Talent Development Centre serves as a complementary institution promoting the development of entrepreneurship among the young Gdańsk inhabitants. It offers professional support both in the area of diagnosis and further management on the path of developing the career.

A similar role in the educational field is played by the Incubator 'Starter' with its unique proposal aimed at students, including entrepreneurial lessons, but also tutorial support for teachers in Gdańsk schools.

Not only the tools available, but also the enrichment of knowledge and the active listening to young people are the basic pillars of building the entrepreneurship model of the young people of Gdańsk.

by Grzegorz Kryger | grzegorz.kryger@gdansk.gda.pl



NUORTEN JYVÄSKYLÄ APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE!

Project Nuorten Jyväskylä (Young People's Jyväskylä) has published on 1 October 2018 mobile application, which collects useful information for young people.

On Nuorten Jyväskylä application young people can find information easily and in a modern way. They can find hobbies, other activities or open places (for example youth houses) to go and meet others. There are also contacts listed and information on services, that offer young people support or help. These services can be organized by Jyväskylä, or by other organizations.

Users can follow news from Facebook feeds (it is not necessary to sign in to Facebook) or news sheet from Youth Services via application. There is also a possibility to read webzine 'Painovirhe' ('Misprint').

With this application Youth Services in the city of Jyväskylä wants to share information for young people in place where they spend their (free) time - on mobile phones.

The content and layout of the application has been based on ideas from young people. Combining these ideas with a view of the project employees has finished the project entirely. However, the application is further to be developed based on the future feedback. The easiest way to send feedback is to use application's own form.

The mobile app also allows to push messages to be sent to its users. Push messages will then appear on the app user's phone notification bar, which will most likely be noted and easy to read. From the point of view of the youth, it is a very interesting feature.

Project Nuorten Jyväskylä in a nutshell

Project Nuorten Jyväskylä is information and counseling service for 13–29 years old young people. The service provides young people information and advice on topics related to different theme of life. Young people can take contact to the service by phone, e-mail or through various social media channels. They can also arrange an appointment with an employee.

Youth information and counseling is preventative youth work. In Finland it is guided by youth law, various documents and operative programmes, and the recommendations and principles of the Council of Europe.

by Satu Paasonen | satu.paasonen@jkl.fi



YOUTH CENTRE OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AND DESIGN

Wymiennikownia is an innovative space, providing a place for young people (aged 13–35) to create their own events and workshops. This place allows participants to develop a variety of interests, whilst meeting people with similar passions. The Centre is based on the idea of peer education – teenagers and youth exchange ideas and teach each other in a non-formal way.

This possibility of being active after school or work positively influences creativity, self-confidence and teamwork skills; releases stress and empowers to face everyday challenges. Trainings, workshops and events that take place in the weekly schedule are based on the concept of sharing experience. In Wymiennikownia, young people make decisions about the program and the opening hours. Everything we do complies with the principal of equal opportunities.

Wymiennikownia concentrates on the participants as a resource. Everyone is viewed as a contributor with valuable skills and knowledge worth developing and sharing. That makes young people believe in themselves and gain experi-

ence that can influence their future career. It is a bridge connecting two sides: formal education and work. By keeping formalities to a minimum (participant card, presence list) and maximizing informal impact instead, the interpersonal exchanges are kept as simple and accessible as possible.

The space itself (300 square meters) has been designed with consideration of young people's ideas about the place and the activities they would like to be involved in. The building, as well as the whole community, is disabled-friendly.

Wymiennikownia is a response to the problems of the youth politics area. Despite the amount of pressure that the cities impose on innovations, an offer addressed to young people is still missing. Wymiennikownia is open for everyone. Participation is based on voluntariness. Young people from Gdynia and surrounding areas have a place where they can progress, extend their competences, build networks and try out their ideas and passions, all of this without any additional costs. Wymiennikownia also belongs to the European information network called Eurodesk, which unites organizations from 34 countries.

Using Wymiennikownia as an example, local government develops new forms of cooperation and mutual responsibility by letting the locals manage space/places and competence by themselves. Wymiennikownia is an open social space, in which interpersonal relationships are based on reciprocity and different types of exchange within social capital.

by Katarzyna Ziemann | k.ziemann@lis.gdynia.pl



ELECTION MEETING OF THE YOUTH

In the fall of 2017 the general elections for new city councils for the period 2018–2021 took place. Kolding Youth School hosted a panel debate between politicians running for local election and 700 youth school participants from the 9th and 10th grade.

The event was quite traditional with the students as spectators and panelists on a podium. The idea was developed in partnership with a group of young people as an equal partner. One day the group came and said, they had been talking and thinking, and they had heard their friends did not know much about local elections, of which they would like to gain more knowledge.

Together we then developed the idea of “Danmarks største valgmode for unge” (The biggest election meeting regarding youth), targeting students in the public school (grade 9 and 10). All schools received an invitation for the 9 and 10 graders, and the teachers got material developed especially for the event. The material consisted of 3 parts;

- a) basic knowledge regarding local election,
- b) development of a key problem to be used in the panel debate,

- c) creation of a video presentation to be shown at the panel debate.

Date of the panel debate was 24 October, three weeks before the election. Nine politicians running for local election were standing on the podium ready to debate the questions produced by the young people, while 700 youngsters and their teachers sat as an audience.

Four rounds with different topics were held. As the videos were shown, the students could see their classmates, friends and peers making presentations of an everyday life problem specific to them. Then the debate between the politicians started showing the students that not all politicians have the same opinion regarding youth.

During the debate it became obvious that the politicians in the Municipality of Kolding are very open towards a real dialogue with youth. The youth has a lot of ideas but only by giving them a real chance to present them, it is possible to include the young people into the political work as an equal partners. The youth left the debate with many questions addressed and answered, and the politicians got quite a lot of ideas for future work regarding involvement of youth.

by Heidi Rosengren | heros@kolding.dk



MUNICIPAL SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Assignments in the form of summer jobs are one way of involving the young. This summer, six young people were given the chance to do a summer job that addressed the issues of tobacco prevention and children's rights.

Each year young people in Trelleborg Municipality can apply for a municipal summer job.

How to build a trust?

Allowing young people to do summer jobs that involve different kinds of assignments is one way of ensuring they are more involved and have more say. In the summer of 2017, seven young people were asked to present proposals on how to encourage more young people in Trelleborg Municipality to participate and have their say; how politicians could encourage young people to place greater faith in them; and how to encourage more young people to join clubs and associations.

The proposals made by these young people were largely concerned with improving their access to and having a pres-

ence in digital channels, encouraging politicians to have a greater presence in the same environments as young people, and encouraging collaboration between clubs, associations and schools. These proposals were then presented to the politicians responsible for these areas.

Job that raises awareness

Now during the summer of 2018, six young people from Trelleborg Municipality have addressed the issues of tobacco and children's rights in the form of the 'Feriearbete om tobak' project. This project was set up by Skåne County Council. Six other municipalities in Skåne took part, and this brought together young people from different municipalities for training and exchanging their experiences.

The aim has been to raise awareness among the young of the damaging effects of tobacco, to raise greater awareness of the rights of young people according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to ensure greater participation in tobacco prevention measures. Now during the autumn the young people who did summer jobs will provide training for younger pupils in their home municipalities – so-called peer-to-peer teaching.

These young people have been also asked to produce proposals on what can be done to prevent tobacco consumption among the young. This autumn the young people in Trelleborg will be presenting their ideas to the politicians in the Municipal Assembly.

by Karin Jeppsson | karin.jeppsson@trelleborg.se



MORE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CITY OF ROSTOCK

In October 2017 the City of Rostock, represented by the Mayor and the President of the City Parliament, signed the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life as the first city in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania.

The Charter was developed in 2005/2006 and addresses Europe's local and regional governments to commit themselves to use their powers and partnerships for achieving greater equality for their people. The Charter is based on six principles:

- Equality of women and men constitutes a fundamental right.
- To ensure the equality of women and men, multiple discrimination and disadvantage must be addressed
- The balanced participation of women and men in decision making is a pre-requisite of a democratic society.
- The elimination of gender stereotypes is fundamental to achieving equality of women and men.
- The integration of the gender perspective into all activ-

ities of local and regional government is necessary to advance equality of women and men.

- Properly resourced action plans and programmes are necessary tools to advance equality of women and men.

Over 600 local and regional governments have signed the Charter until now.

In beforehand, many actors from different institutions came together in a conference and discussed how to implement the aims of the Charter in our city. This was in April 2017. The partners finally agreed on five goals: balanced participation of women and men in decision-making processes, to improve the equal participation of women in working life, equal participation on public resources for women and men, to eliminate gender stereotypes and to fight violence against women and children.

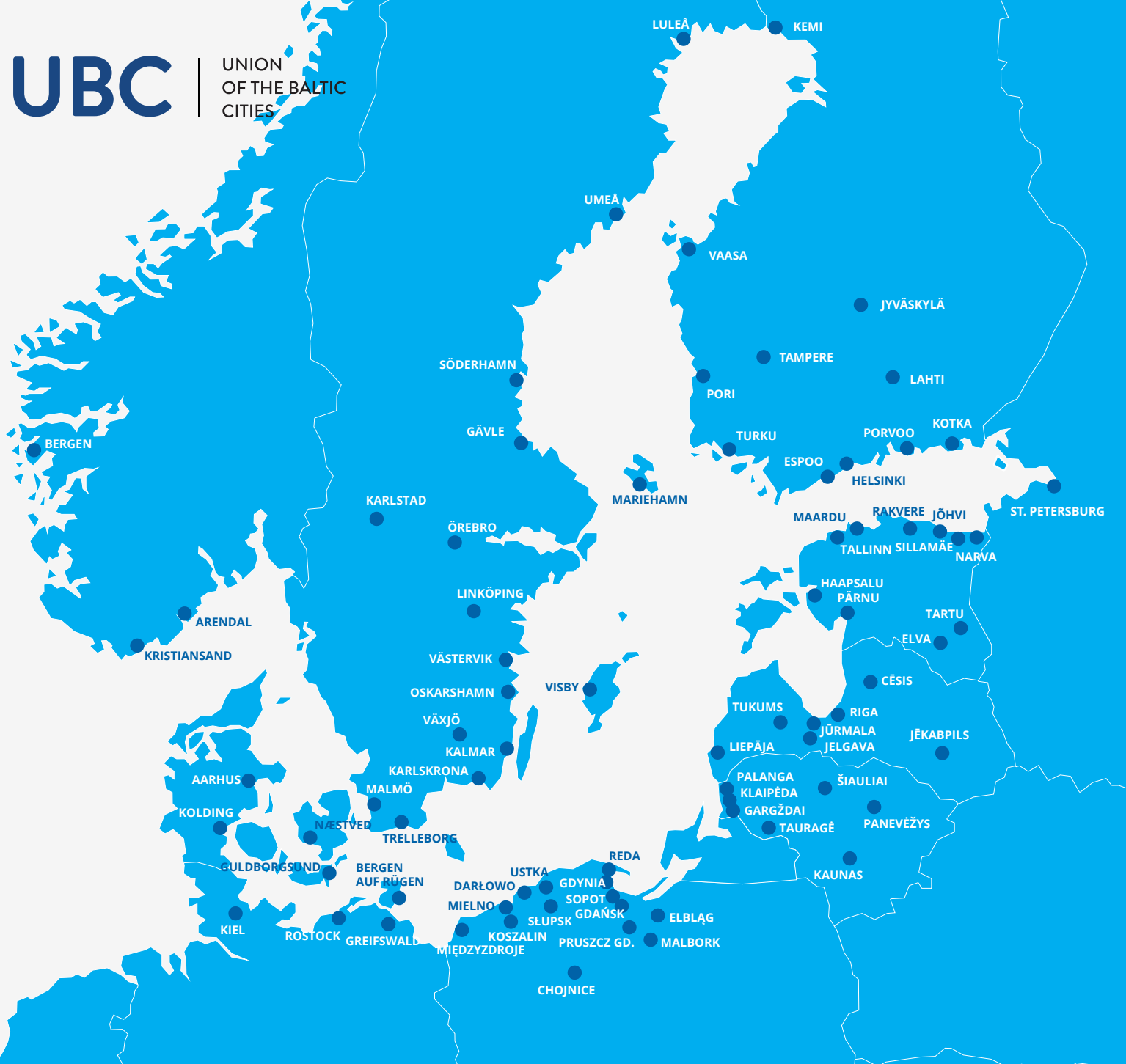
Now, after having signed, we have two years to create a programme with activities to implement our regional equality goals. We are working in five groups with interested people: from the city council, associations, trade unions, political parties and other parts of civil society.

We plan that the city parliament enacts the activity programme in the middle of 2019. After that we will work together to fill the Charter with life.

by Dr. Cathleen Kiefert-Demuth
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UBC

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UBC – working together to foster sustainable, smart and safe cities

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is the leading network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region with around 100 members from all ten Baltic Sea countries. Founded in 1991 in Gdańsk, UBC is a voluntary, proactive network mobilizing the shared potential of its member cities for a safe, smart and sustainable Baltic Sea Region. The UBC cooperates with numerous Baltic and European organisations.

The UBC's practical work is carried out through active cooperation of the member cities in seven thematic Commissions: Cultural Cities, Inclusive and Healthy Cities, Planning Cities, Safe Cities, Smart and Prospering Cities, Sustainable Cities, and Youthful Cities. The Commissions coordinate and execute specific projects, activities and events.

In addition to the Commissions, significant work is carried out in the UBC Working Group on Gender Equality and UBC Communications Network.

Any coastal city or any other city interested in the development of the Baltic Sea Region may become a member of the UBC – please contact the UBC Secretariat.

www.ubc.net



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SAVE THE DATE

for XV UBC General Conference
that will be held on 15–18 October 2019
in Kaunas, Lithuania

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