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BALTIC CITIES BULLETIN

UBC

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SAFE CITY FOR EVERYONE

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BALTIC CITIES BULLETIN



Dear UBC Friends,

My name is Mantas Jurgutis. I am Deputy Mayor of Kaunas City and have been elected a new UBC President. Thank You for Your trust and support!

This is an honour and a challenge. Together with the Board, the Presidium, the Secretariat and the Commissions I would like to make the UBC expand and develop for the benefit of all its member cities by enhancing its lobbying, advocacy, policy coordination and project development capacity. I will be working to strengthen the position of UBC on the EU level. Among my priorities there is also communication and visibility. It should be improved both internally and externally.

Our work should be efficient, result-oriented, based on openness, transparency, and fairness.

I am a doer and a team player, so I do believe all our joint effort will make this journey enjoyable, with the results orientation as a value to You – member cities.

Hereby, we are delivering to you the newest issue of the Bulletin “Safe city for everyone”. What does it mean today? How do our members work for safety? How are the citizens involved? I hope you will find some good hints and ideas in the stories.

I look forward to our cooperation!

With the Baltic Sea greetings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mantas Jurgutis'.

Mantas Jurgutis
President of UBC

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TARTU TO TACKLE THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGES

SAFE CITY

FOR EVERYONE

by Kaspars Vārpiņš, Chairman of the Safe Cities Commission
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Smart
Bikes in
Tartu are an
important part
of the Smart
City way of
thinking.

As we all know, safety is the most important feeling and one of the basic needs. If we don't feel safe, we can't do anything. Because of that, it is important, that cities provide safe environment and promote safety amongst the citizens. This Baltic Cities Bulletin is dedicated to the safety and good safety policies examples of the Baltic Sea Region cities.

In this issue, you will learn about various safety related solutions in everyday life in cities. City of Malmö has an interesting approach – an evidence based prevention delivery system called Communities That Care, which can reduce the criminality, violence and delinquent behavior.

Get some new ideas

Polish cities have good examples of their safety work. For example, Gdynia highlights various important infrastructure issues for raising the safety and the safety correlation with health. Mielno commune shares its experience in the work with tourists and locals and combining public safety with environmental protection. Elbląg develops environmentally friendly infrastructure. The city of Gdańsk writes about various prevention activities targeted to everyone – from children to elderly.

Interesting approach to safety issues is presented by Tartu city. This summer it opened Tartu Smart Bike Share system to develop environmentally friendly and safe mobility and to reduce the number of cars and to rise air quality, by encouraging to get some physical activities. The UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting participants in Tartu had the possibility to test the bikes before the official launch and everyone enjoyed the bicycle trip.

The youth safety

Kristiansand shares its experience of successfully involving the youth in preventing violence and criminal activity amongst the youngsters. The UBC Safe Cities Commission has taken into account the need to provide safety for this group. A funding from the Council of the Baltic Sea States Project Support Facility has been received for the project "Youth for safer youth" which will help children and the youth to show their needs regarding their safety. They will be involved in the development of questionnaire and analyzing the results. By involving them in the process, the safety experts will be able to look at the problems from another point of view and learn new things regarding youth safety.

Good support for police officers' everyday work is a well-developed video surveillance system. Riga shows how it helps in everyday work, but also for in the prevention.

Cooperation is a must

Pori speaks about crisis-resistant city and the importance of collaborative work and linkage between various fields. Kotka is highlighting the importance of cooperation between authorities, business community, organizations and citizens. It is already in the past, that each of the fields worked only in narrow and specific topic. Nowadays, it is very important to look for the bigger picture and cooperate with professionals from other fields. We have shown that already in the UBC work. One of the first and memorable joint UBC Commission meetings was in summer 2016, when Safe

Cities, Sustainable Cities and Cultural Cities Commissions met to discuss and find key principles on how to produce safe and sustainable events from small-scale local events to big international events in the Baltic Sea Region cities. The meeting offered a fruitful ground for experts from the three focus areas – safety – culture – sustainability – to change experiences and build new partnerships. The cooperation between the Commissions is a key element in upcoming UBC work as it should be in the cities, too.

Climate change challenge

At the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, the UBC Resolution on Climate Change Adaptation and Civil Protection was accepted. It is an important part of upcoming safety threats and it shows that UBC together with member cities are concerned and show the interest to deal with that. The Resolution calls for increased action and mobilization on climate adaptation. UBC will successfully cooperate in the field of climate adaptation and civil protection, establishing good practices that are globally relevant.

One of the big steps is the DG ECHO (European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid) funded project CASCADE (Community Safety Action for Supporting Climate Adaptation and Development). UBC Safe Cities Commission together with UBC Sustainable Cities Commission and various other institutions are working on the preparedness of the Baltic Sea Region for Climate change risks.

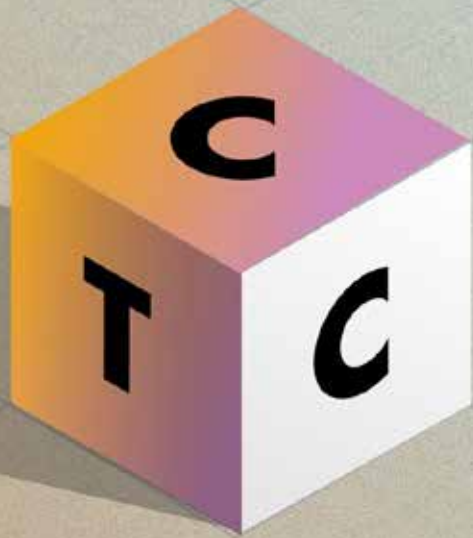
The main outcomes of the CASCADE project :

- **An online tool for integrated climate change and disaster risk reduction management,**
- **Guidelines for local level public administration on how to operationalize the proper risk treatment options,**
- **Training courses for the target groups, i.e. City officials responsible for civil protection in municipalities, city planners, architects, spatial planners, etc.,**
- **Policy dialogues between local, national, macro-regional, and international actors.**

City of Rostock uses the opportunity and promotes the 15th International Crisis Management Conference which will take place in Rostock in May, 2020 with the subject "Massive Occurrence of Injured or Affected Persons".

UBC is for sharing and caring. If you have found some interesting topic for you, please feel free to contact the author of the article and ask for some help, ideas. Create a partnership or even a project, which can be relevant for both partners and involving some new.

We really hope that you will enjoy reading this Baltic Cities Bulletin and you will learn good examples how to make your cities more safe.



GET THE CITIZENS INVOLVED

by Mats Glans | mats.glans@malmö.se

- 1 **Research and science**
- 2 **Target the underlying causes**
- 3 **Customize to local needs**
- 4 **Choose effective programs**
- 5 **Mobilize the community**
- 6 **Bonding is the key!**

Imagine what 30% less gang criminality, violence and delinquent behavior would do with your city. Add to that major changes in tobacco and alcohol consumption, school dropout and mental health issues, even suicides, among youngsters. At the same time, you get the citizens involved in their local community, bonding both with each other and the community.

They really care about what happens with youth, the schools and their community. How would that effect the sense of safety, city-wide? Some of you probably think that is Utopia, but it is not. It is an evidence based prevention delivery system called Communities That Care, or CTC.

Find out a reason

Most people think it is a good strategy to prevent problems before they happen. To do that, you need to know what causes the problems. That is because it is the causes you must change, to prevent the problem. When it comes to the problems mentioned above, longitudinal research from the last decades has found several underlying causes. The researchers behind CTC has organized this multi-disciplinary research into risk factors (RF) and protective factors (PF) for problems/health issues, that can be measured. RFs and PFs are prevalent in four different domains: in communities, in schools, in families and in peer groups. Everyone is also born with a set of RFs and PFs – personal characteristics (resilient, risk taker, etc).

Within the CTC system you collect data on problems and its causes, RFs and PFs, analyze and prioritize the RFs and

▲ **CTC helps communities prevent problems before they develop. The CTC process begins with a youth survey to identify a community's risks and strengths. Based on these data, CTC helps communities select and implement tested and effective prevention programs and policies. CTC also helps amplify programs already working.**

PFs that needs to be handled to prevent problems before they occur. Then you look at the resources that are available (what you already do) to match them to prioritized RF/PF (your needs). If there is a gap between your needs and what you already do, which it probably is if you experience problems in the community, you fill the gap with tested and effective programs, designed to influence your prioritized RF/PF. The CTC system makes sure that the programs you need, to prevent the problems, are delivered – implemented – with enough fidelity to make a difference, i.e. accomplish real change.

The city of Malmö is the first and, so far, the only city in the Nordic and Baltic countries that has decided to use the CTC as a delivery system on its work to prevent the set of problems mentioned initially: gang criminality, violence, delinquent behavior, tobacco, alcohol, narcotics consumption, school dropout and anxiety and depression among youth.



HOW TO INVOLVE

THE YOUTH

by Johanne Marie Benitez Nilsen | johanne.b.nilsen@kristiansand.kommune.no

In spring 2016, the municipality of Kristiansand registered a dramatic change in the crime scene. It showed increasing violence, threats and aggressive behavior among the youth. The condition culminated in December 2016 as the region was hit by a serious incident. A young man committed a double murder.

The effects reinforced a negative trend among youth with increased crime and serious violence. Subsequently, the authorities decided to initiate extensive work to prevent such escalating behaviour. The project was named SNU (Stop-Negative-Development).

The youth ideas

The All' IN camp – KomINN Kristiansand – was then a key initiative developed to further support the existing framework of the SNU project. In preparation for the All' IN camp held in August 2018, student representatives from the high schools in Kristiansand were invited to talk about the challenges that affect the young people in the city. The camp supported common themes such as a safe city, youth violence and crime prevention. Nearly 100 students created 12 different ideas to prevent violence and criminal activity amongst youth.

The Sees App in Kristiansand

One of the ideas was a digital activity calendar, which listed activities and social events in the city for young people aged 13–20. The idea contained a solution for some of the problem, that the youth had pointed out. The digital activity calendar would:

- Get young people away from hanging in the streets,
- Create more activities,
- Create awareness of already existing events, that young people were not aware of,
- Decrease loneliness among the youth,
- Create a channel where organizers could reach a young audience.

The idea was then developed further by and for the youth, involving them in every step of the process. The final product of a digital activity calendar resulted in an App. The App “SEES” was launched in August 2019 and has already been downloaded 2000 times. It consists of more than 50 activities and more activity organizers are continuously signing up. Today several municipalities wish to be part of the network. As a part of our efforts Kristiansand also became member and worked with the Nordic Safe Cities for mutual learning and benefit.

Who is better to find solutions to problems about the youth than the youth themselves? And the cities have the ability to support and empower the voices of young people by listening to what their needs are and responding with structural and financial support.

The project has now achieved the goal of halting the negative development and the youth crime in Kristiansand has sharply reduced. The project shows that when cities reach out and recognize the youth as important stakeholders in the city, with credible voices and valuable experiences and ideas, it comes to fruition.

SAFE AND CRISIS-RESISTANT

PORI

by Pasi Vainio | pasi.vainio@pori.fi

Safe and crisis-resistant Pori is a new city-level action plan derived from the city strategy, which promotes safe and crisis-resistant Pori, comprehensively. The plan emphasizes locality, as the document is made for all of us: let's do it together.

The goal of Pori's security work is collaboration, which supports the safety of people and the area. Health, wellbeing and security are closely linked and safe city is a comfortable city and vice versa. Prevention of security issues is more economically viable than reparation of the consequences.

Security work

The implementation of the action plan is a common task. The planning is based on Pori's conditions and security needs. Security work is carried out through cooperation of authorities, organizations, business and industry. Security work guides the concrete actions related to everyday safety, which are carried out either as a cooperation or as a part of the parties' own activities. The aim is to reduce and prevent disruption, accidents, damage and crime and to improve the sense of security.

A good childhood

Pori for Children and Young People is one of the city strategy's priorities. The purpose is to guarantee the conditions for a good childhood and safe development into adulthood. The children's and young people's safety skills are the spear-

head of Pori's security work. As the work progresses, the priorities and issues are defined so that the right things are done. The aim is to truly add value to the safety of children and adolescents - not create unnecessary fears.

Training and education

Security skills teach you to pay attention to the certain matters, and protect yourself from them. Equally, as the work progresses, it is important to support teachers and parents and create tools for them, as well. The development of safety skills for children and young people will take into account the utilization of the Emergency Services Training Centre of Western Finland. The idea is that children and young people visit the centre and learn practical security skills. This will enhance the effect of cooperation.

Cooperation is crucial

In Pori, local cooperation aims to ensure that in case of emergency the authorities and other services cooperate excellently and the community recovers from the disruption as quickly as possible. In Finland, municipalities play a key role in preparedness because the majority of the public services are the responsibility of the municipal organization. Together we make Safe and Crisis-Resistant Pori.



STAY SAFE IN GDAŃSK

by Robert Kacprzak | r.kacprzak@sm.gda.pl

The Municipal Guard of Gdańsk promotes security in many ways. One of them is the education. The preventive program "Without fear and aggression – stay safe!" presented at schools raises many aspects of safety.

The youngest children learn how to avoid various types of hazards for example when they are home alone or at playground, how to be safe pedestrian or cyclist, how to properly look after their own pet. The municipal guards also play in the city theatre play about a safe path to school. Older children learn about moral and legal norms and about responsibility for their actions. They also learn the correct habits of road users and are educated of the premedical first aid. Additionally, the municipal guards present the rules of safe and cultural use of the Internet and how to respond in case of cyberbullying.

School safety

The municipal guards also meet the youngest at city festivals and holiday camps. They talk about the need to comply with the law, warn against threats, explain the meaning of orders and bans. A joint project of the Municipal Guard of Gdańsk and Police is a school patrol. Officers check that nothing bad is happening around schools, in their neighbourhood and in other places where are youth. The presence of officers scares off drug dealers and other persons who could commit criminal acts against minors. Pupils when seeing uniforms avoid smoking and other drugs.

Also the municipal guards conduct actions and campaigns during which they distribute leaflets and posters. They

concern improper parking, complying with the regulations and cultural cycling around the city, taking care of the common space and clean air. Every year in September officers take part in the "Safe way to school" campaign. They check whether children can safely return to school after the holidays.

Safe senior

The officers also meet with the older inhabitants. The participants of the „Safe senior” program learn methods of dealing with dangerous situations, the principles of providing first aid and basics of self-defence.

The cooperation with city institutions is also very important. In particular, in terms of order and safety during important events in the city, taking appropriate action in case of threats (e.g. floods, storms) or even proper parking. During meetings in district councils, participants can discuss about the problems and how to make public are more safe.





EVERYDAY

SAFETY

by Maria Andersson | maria.andersson@porvoo.fi

Safety is a broad concept encompassing the well-being of residents, strong social community, economic stability and the vitality of society. A healthy and safe living environment that also takes environmental values into consideration serves as the foundation for a good life.

The municipalities, the police and rescue departments of Eastern Uusimaa have prepared a shared safety programme for the region that highlights the critical factors affecting the everyday safety of municipal residents and provides related recommended measures. The main goals of the safety programme are:

- To increase the feeling of safety of municipal residents,
- To prevent safety problems,
- To identify safety-related problems that require cooperation between different actors,
- To facilitate the active participation of municipal residents in safety work,
- To prepare local plans of action in accordance with the safety programme for all municipalities in Eastern Uusimaa.

The region's residents have had the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the safety programme via an open safety survey. It was used to collect up-to-date information to support safety planning and to activate residents to think about everyday safety issues.

Safety through participation and education

The City organises safety walks in different parts of the city, which create the preconditions for safety, fun encounters

and pleasant environments. The safety walks are an opportunity to meet one another and discuss places that are unsafe or are known for being dangerous and to come up with ideas on how to make them safer and more pleasant.

Porvoo also organises safety days for residents and all eighth-graders at schools, which provide information on everyday safety and how everyone can contribute to it. The Nettetiketti tool facilitates the safe use of on-line and telephone services.

We encourage residents, residential areas and villages to raise their safety awareness via the preparation of their own safety plans, which includes the setting up of shared operating models to tackle everyday safety challenges.

Safety measures

The measures for improving safety for children and young people, working age residents and the older people of Porvoo have been prepared based on individual goals. As regards children and young people, they include "parenting training" classes, organising Children's Rights Day and related training and information campaigns on 20 November, preparing a substance abuse prevention plan for schools and increasing free-of-charge activities after the school hours. As regards working age people, measures include preventing domestic violence, communicating actively about shelter services, decreasing unsafety caused by unemployment and improving traffic safety. As regards older people, the aim is to decrease loneliness via outreach elderly work and related activities, walking buddy and mentor activities, among others.



GDYNIA

A SAFE CITY FOR ALL

by Andrzej Bień, Anna Melki, Zbigniew Bizewski | international@gdynia.pl

Photo: Gdynia City Archives

Gdynia undertakes actions on a wide spectrum of issues related to public safety and order.

We invest in improving road infrastructure. We improve the quality of spaces used by pedestrians, create bike and bus lanes. We pay a lot of attention to the quality of urban space so that all its users can feel safe - we install additional lighting, elements helping people with disabilities move, we renovate pavements and bus stops, create slow traffic zones and we take care of safe way to schools, we introduce speed bumps. We have introduced a tonnage limit zone for cars in the city centre. District Councils play an important consultative role as they are the voice of the residents. The civic budget plays a similar role giving all citizens a change to speak out and implement their ideas.

Climate changes are a challenge

We implement investments to prevent and minimize dangers resulting from unusual weather phenomena, as well as activities in the field of saving energy and resources. We carry out thermo-modernization of public buildings, modernize transmission networks and bring them to places with no such infrastructure. We financially support replacement of old, non-ecological heat sources, subsidize implementation of rain gardens, exchange public transport fleet investing in eco-friendly buses and trolleybuses, support the idea of sharing (city bike, car sharing).

Video monitoring

The city video monitoring system has been gradually built since 2001. Currently the system uses 143 camera points

and covers almost all districts. The cameras are located in the most critical points in the city and places where specific threats occur. They are operated 24 hours a day in the City Guard and Police control rooms.

The system record various types of events, including crime related to fights and beatings, robberies and thefts as well as offence related to alcohol consumption in public places or violation of traffic regulations.

In 2018, as a result of the work of the city video monitoring system operators, 9400 events were recorded in which actions were taken by law enforcement or rescue services.

Public health

One of the elements that constitute residents' safety is public health. In the interest of providing first aid as soon as possible a network of defibrillators is being developed (from the Municipality's funds under the civil budget), and knowledge on how to use them is disseminated among the residents (social campaigns). Citizens are encouraged to increase their competence in providing first aid by participating in training during various city events as well as dedicated training for the residents of each district.

Moreover, Gdynia organizes and supports many health related events and media campaigns aimed at educating the residents on prevention and introducing healthy habits. Some of the regular events are Gdynia Health Fair and a breast cancer prevention campaign run in a shopping centre, during which Gdynia women can take advantage of a free breast examination performed by oncologists.



SAFETY

IN THE CITY CENTRE

by Sanna Orneklint | ann-sofie.lagercrantz@kalmar.se

Photo: Jan Magnusson

What happens in Kalmar after 17.00? As in most other mid-sized cities, Kalmar's city centre is full of people, life and action during the day. People meet, eat, have their coffee, do their business and shopping. But after 17.00 streets and squares are empty. Does it have to be so?

We believe in cooperation as a mean to create a secure, attractive, equal, and sustainable city centre during evenings and nights. Kalmar municipality and key actors in the city (taxi drivers, shop and property owners, security guards etc) joined their forces to become certified according to the standards of Purple Flag.

The Purple Flag certification is one important quality indicator for the efforts to make sure that the city centre of Kalmar is an attractive and secure place in the evenings and at night. The goal is to create a safe, and at the same time a vibrant city environment after 17.00, no matter if you wish to have a stroll along the shopping streets and in the city's parks or visit restaurants or nightclubs.

In the efforts to get Kalmar certified according to the standards of Purple flag, key actors have been focused on joint actions within the following target areas:

- Security (welcoming, clean, safe and secure);
- Accessibility (secure arrival, transfer and departure);
- Offers (a rich selection of attractive and unique evening experiences);
- Destination (the city centre as an unique destination);
- Policy (clear guidelines, common goals and budget);

"No one owns the city between 17.00 and 06.00", says **Björn Mortensen**, former CEO at Kalmar City and the one who coordinated Kalmar's certification process. An unsafe place is an unattractive place. Purple Flag is all about bringing together and coordinate different actors – such as security guards and taxi drivers, property owners, the municipality and others – in order to create a safer city-environment after the stores are closed.

Lisa Söderholm, city-centre developer, says that the work in Kalmar has resulted in several concrete improvements. For example: a central playground has been created; an extensive lighting project has been implemented; reduction and improved maintenance of vegetation; traffic-limiting efforts at night; trainings for restaurant staff to encourage more responsible alcohol serving, employment of security guards in the city centre; and a more extensive police presence during weekend nights.

In order to keep improving the "Kalmar City" association, together with Kalmar municipality, continuously develop new situational images of the city based on for example stakeholder dialogues, safety and security walks for citizens. As a result new actions are planned and implemented.

"The efforts to make Kalmar's city centre a safer and more secure place after work hours did get a kick-start as the certification according to the Purple flag was introduced", says Lisa Söderholm.

In 2016 Kalmar was awarded the prize "Purple Flag-area of the year" by the "Swedish City Center Association".

CITIZENS ONBOARD

IN THE CITY PLANNING

by Jaanika Saar | jaanika.saar@elva.ee



Photo: Ragnar Vutt

Elva City and Municipality takes care of public spaces by including citizens into the city planning process. The citizens are involved through public consultations. The proposals are considered and the changes are included in the projects.

We consider safety issues as important as comfort and accessibility. By adding new features to the public space, such as activities, lighting, paths and facilities, we can develop areas which have been neglected or whose potential is underused. We also take into account needs of disabled people. A safe and comfortable high-quality urban space makes people feel more positive and active and increases the time they spend using the urban facilities in public spaces. The activity of citizens will make a good and welcoming environment to the visitors, as well.

More friendly city centre

City of Elva is by its nature already a pleasant and safe living environment for youth, seniors and visitors. The distances are short and also suitable for cycling and walking. The new plan is to make the city centre more convenient to people and not to focus on the car traffic. The biggest problem of making safe and open public place is a private property and its owners. It is quite often that the owners do not have any ideas and finances to develop their properties and they become more and more negatively eye-catching element in the public space.

One of such examples is the city centre in Elva – an old unfinished building stood up for 30 years located by lake Arbi waiting for any solution. Shoreline, often used for walking

and health sports, belonged to a private owner. The long negotiations with the owner and a process of planning led to a solution – the municipality bought back the shoreline, which is anyway used as a public space. The private owner was forced to demolish the building and make a green safe area with the money received for the shore.

▼ **As a result of the architectural and planning competition, and investments to the infrastructure, a safe lightened promenade with many activities is now being completed.**



Photo: Ragnar Vutt

RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGES

by Joanna Marchlewska | marchlewska@umelblag.pl



Elbląg aims at increasing resistance to climate changes. The city has flood protection infrastructure which includes Local Monitoring System and Flood Forecasting Module, a tool used by crisis management services in response to any flood threat. There are further investments planned to ensure comprehensive flood protection.

The city develops environmentally friendly infrastructure, including sustainable public and individual transport. Actions in this area include an extension of the tram traction, building new transport hubs and the purchase of 5 new trams. Intelligent Transport System (ITS) gives priority to trams on main intersections. The city is also developing a network of bicycle paths - the Eastern Bicycle Trail Green Velo begins in Elbląg.

Adaptation to climate change

Elbląg implements an annual program of co-financing old furnaces' exchange and air pollution monitoring (using a drone) that is combined with preventive actions. Monitoring is aimed at creating a map of urban smog hazards.

Elbląg is one of 44 Polish cities for which Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. It contains a diagnosis of climate phenomena and solutions that increase resistance to climate changes. It is a key document that sets out directions for authorities to act and prepare residents for conscious response to climate change and its effects.

Elbląg is developing Elbląg 2020+ Strategy for Development of Electromobility. It is also participating in a pilot project focused on developing studies to facilitate the implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan.

Currently Elbląg is a partner in a project "Green infrastructure as a tool for adaptation to climate change (...)", which aims to develop a model solutions for ecological rainwater management. The project assumes creating a public rain garden and carrying out educational activities, such as workshops on creating gardens that retain water in urban landscape. These actions reduce the risk of flooding and counteract failures of the rainwater drainage system.

It is also planned to prepare documentation for the construction of Water Education Centre, where children and young people can learn about retention and the use of rainwater.

Education for sustainable future

The city is also engaged in a project Elbląg Ecological Enclaves, that consists of creating flower meadows in selected road lanes, parks and green areas. The meadows enrich urban ecosystem, clean the air by absorbing dust and gases, create a better micro-climate in the city and prevent soil from heating up.

Many valuable educational actions are undertaken by Waste Utilization Plant (100% owned by the city), a company that produces electricity and heat from biogas. Among their key operations are selective waste collection, recycling and broadly understood ecological responsibility.

Together with Waste Utilization Plant and Elbląg Forest Division, the city also implements soft projects such as awareness raising and educational activities in schools; educational campaigns and festivities, and social campaigns promoting ecological transport.



COOPERATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

by Aksana Zacharova | aksana.zacharova@jonava.lt

Jonava provides a wide range of measures in place and in scope, aimed at making a direct or indirect preventive impact on crime, trauma, violence and other (non-) security areas of the population.

Various new prevention programmes have been continuously implemented, improved and developed for several decades. Their realization is expected to improve the security situation of the population consistently.

Climate change

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and its adverse effects are contributing to the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development accurate. One of the most important measures for the city of Jonava to adapt to climate change is the development of green infrastructure measures. It is a strategically planned infrastructure, whose main function is ecologically sustainable, safe development of the territory.

City life

Jonava district public spaces and the infrastructure therein are conducive to a variety of physical and leisure activities. Exemplary cycling paths, a revitalized sports centre, children's playgrounds, fitness equipment, parks and newly built facilities for active leisure and sports leave a positive impression on frequent residents and visitors of the city. Sport becomes a form of leisure. Active living have a positive impact on our quality of life. In order to ensure a safe environment for public spaces, the municipality installs cameras, lighting and develops the work of the Public Order Department and intensifies cooperation with the public security institutions operating in the city.

Public safety

Consistent management of security-enhancing processes, inter-institutional cooperation, active citizenship, and close cooperation between the institutions working in the field of security are critical prerequisites for improving the security situation.

The cooperation between Jonava municipality and the state territorial offices performing the functions of ensuring the security of the population, as well as non-governmental and business sector organizations operating in this field shall be developed and strengthened by the following measures:

- Involving stakeholders in the strategic management center for municipal security policy and in commissions coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of individual security policies;
- The collegial development and implementation of a medium-term program for the safe development of the municipality and the strengthening of security, as well as inter-institutional short-term programs in the (non) security field;
- Creating a system of security condition and security enhancement (exchange of data required for the evaluation system and results of data analysis), analyzing changes in the state of security and performance, reporting collegially to the public for the activities of safe municipal development.

PREVENTION IS

A SOLUTION

by Staņislavs Šeiko | stanislavs.seiko@riga.lv

Video surveillance is one of the best solutions for the city in making streets safe with limited police resource. You do not need to put a police officer on each corner to ensure safety – we put a video camera, instead.

The efficiency factor is ten times larger – one well trained police officer in video surveillance centre can deal with 10-15 cameras.

The network of cameras develops

Riga Municipal police has more than 100 cameras in the city centre and the old town. But it is not the end – we continue to spread our video surveillance network to the neighborhoods, starting with troublesome areas. In previous year we covered one of the dormitory districts and now we are moving to another. The goal is to cover all the city with video surveillance. It should be added that all new projects are realized using CPTED (Crime prevention through environmental design) approach.

Integration with the police work

But it is not enough with camera and operator – the entire system should be integrated into the police work. That is why we are building our video surveillance on the Milestone system base. That allows us to watch all cameras (including patrol car cameras) in online-mode on our Android tablets. The connection between video centre and patrol officers is established this way: video operator sees what the patrol car camera sees, and can point the officers in a field, but

the patrol officers can look at their district with video surveillance cameras' "eyes".

Useful and effective

Such resource as video surveillance centre is also useful for other law enforcement and state safety structures. We have a good cooperation with the state police in crime prevention field, and with state security service within their competence.

Probably, the best way that police should act is a proactive (not reactive) approach. Prevention is a solution. Successfully solved situations thanks to the video surveillance are published in social media, e.g. on Riga Municipal Police Facebook and on YouTube accounts, as well in public commercial media channels. Such approach forced out pickpockets from the Old Town.





MIELNO TAKES

SAFETY SERIOUSLY

by Radosław Sobko | r.sobko@gmina.mielno.pl

Mielno commune is an extremely active local government in the aspect of safety and environmental protection. Local government have been conducting intensified activities in this matter for almost a decade, because they perfectly understand the threats and challenges that cities and countries are currently facing.

Numerous awards and distinctions (including the Blue Flag or distinction in the national Recycling Cup) prove the significance of the policy aimed at increasing the level of safety, environmental protection, as well as counteracting climate change in Mielno.

Intersectoral approach and cooperation

Due to the touristic nature of the commune, it was decided together with budgetary units, auxiliary units, associations and services (police, water rescuers, sanitary authorities) to conduct multidimensional activities targeted at both residents and large numbers of tourists. Therefore, the local government of Mielno each year allocate relatively large amounts to services, which measurably translates into the implementation of tasks in the field of public safety and environmental protection.

Prevention actions

Thanks to close cooperation in 2019, it was possible to carry out dozens of actions directed at prevention and education in the subject of increasing the level of safety of all residents, but also the large numbers of tourists. These activities include beach life corridors, or training prepared by

lifeguards with the police. In the summer, free bands were also prepared with a space to put a phone number of a parent, which the children could wear on the beach. They help to contact an adult in case a child is lost in a crowd.

The commune also cares for safety after the holidays, as exemplified by "Winter Action" improving safety on streets and pavements in winter.

Environment is prioritised

Mielno recognizes environmental protection as a priority, therefore, in parallel to activities focused on safety, it was involved in ecological activities. Six new municipal points for electro-waste were created. Also – at school and playgrounds – new bins for segregating waste in the shape of coloured pencils were provided. Additionally, an information campaign on waste was carried out (brochures, magnets, leaflets and information boards).

The local government also involved children and young people in the international environmental activities, such as "Clean up the world" and "A day without garbage". Mielno, wanting to care for natural wealth, created the campaign "Friendly beach" and "Beach without cigarette residue", thanks to which residents and tourists were educated on the issue of not littering the beaches, and also received free cigarette ashtrays.



HIKES FOR A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD

Andreas Jönsson | andreas.jonsson@lulea.se

To ensure security in residential areas hikes are carried out, aimed to find out which places are perceived as safe and secure and which places are not. Security walk is also an occasion to meet and discuss important issues.

The goal is to create a better and a safer city. Responsible representatives from the municipality and the residents in the area run a loop that had been decided in advance. Among other participants might be the police, property owners, politicians and associations. The measures taken during the safety hikes are compiled and followed up over time.

A map service is sometimes used in order to gather more views on areas where a security walk is planned to be carried out. Residents can mark safe and insecure places on a map. The views collected are the basis for the decision where the security walk should be done and are used to develop the area.

An evaluation made by students at Luleå University of Technology shows that the safety walks in Luleå have had a good effect on promoting the feeling of security. It is justified that all views received during the hikes have been reviewed and most of the identified problems have been addressed. These measures gave the residents of Luleå a better sense of security. The meeting itself and the walk contributed to a greater sense of belonging.



SMART SOLUTIONS

by Jan Johansson | jan.ew.johansson@orebro.se

In the last few decades, the residential areas of Sörbyängen, Ladugårdsängen and Södra Ladugårdsängen have emerged on the former airfield. With Tamarinden, a development is now beginning eastwards with about 600 housing units where Örebro Municipality has set its sights on enabling a sustainable and smart district characterized by innovation, greenery and activity.

Tamarinden will not be a traditional district. Together with Öbo and E.on the municipality have ambitions to create a district where the buildings will reduce, produce and share energy in a way that has never been done before. Instead of using energy from fossil fuels, our own locally produced energy is encouraged so that the district can become almost self-sufficient.

The life between the houses

Through the area, Tamarindvägen, which serves as an urban street and living room, is paved. Here the car is allowed to stand aside in favour of human stay and movement, which becomes possible when car parking is solved at the outer edges of the area. The boundaries between street, building, farm environment and park are wiped out, which encourages new ways of staying and meeting.

Tamarinden has one foot in the city with proximity to destinations such as the university, a large grocery store and public service which facilitates the everyday puzzle. There is also access to public transport and a well-developed pedestrian and bicycle network. The other foot is located in the scenic surroundings in the South where the golf course, Sörbybacken and Reträttens nature reserve are spreading.



COMPREHENSIVE

SECURITY

by Dr. Vesa-Jukka Vornanen | vesa-jukka.vornanen@kotka.fi

Comprehensive Security is a Finnish readiness cooperation model in which the vital functions of society are secured through cooperation between the authorities, the business community, organizations and citizens.

Readiness consists of small tasks done by everyone from young to elderly. The Finnish Security Strategy for Society was last updated in 2017.

According to the Finnish Security and Defence Policy Report (2012), in addition to the traditional military threat, a broad concept of security covers a variety of issues, phenomena and challenges such as climate change, energy and water scarcity, population growth and population movements, terrorism, infectious diseases, organized crime, trafficking in drugs and human beings, security attacks, and increasing vulnerability of society.

Public spaces

The harbours and industrial areas at the City of Kotka are a common commuting area where it is important to ensure the reliability of logistics in all circumstances. The harbours, like all public spaces, are important to the inhabitants of Kotka, an integral part of their cultural heritage, a part of the urban environment and the Kotka National Urban Park.

The National Urban Park is a combination of nature, park architecture, history and building culture. A National Urban Park can be established in an area, which has preserved nationally valuable green areas and historical environments in terms of natural and cultural heritage. It preserves the cultural or natural landscape, the historical features or the urban, social, recreational or other specific values of an urban area.

The Security Strategy for Society

A large number of logistics and security actors, including the City of Kotka, have launched in 2019 a development program aimed at promoting the Security Strategy for Society (2017). The viewpoint in the HLSP-development program to the Security Strategy for Society is an Occupational Health and Safety standard (ISO 45001:2018).

The HLSP will be built similar to a park in the city, aimed at everyone. It will be an event and learning environment, where sensing and responding to disruptions takes place through augmented or virtual reality. When a city wants to manage public trust, it improves joint performance in all circumstances. By doing so, the community is able to take care of the disadvantaged and its ecosystem will be more competitive.





THE YOUTH

FEEL SAFE

by Monika Krahl | intercommunal@stadt.bergen-auf-ruegen.de

The Island Rügen has only about 66,000 inhabitants but more than 1,3 million tourists spend their holidays on our island. Bergen auf Rügen is situated in the centre of Rügen. So, you can imagine the travel in this town.

For the safety of pedestrians and against disturbing noise of cars there is a speed limit to 30 kilometers per hour, and in the very centre of our town in the market to 20 kilometers per hour. Maybe, you think it is not enough, but you know, German love their cars and preferably they would like to drive directly to their destinations. Withal, movement is very healthy.

In special places, nearby primary schools, we installed equipments for driver's self-control.

Waste, too much waste!

When we talk about environmental protection we think it is important to involve our youngsters. Just now, one of our schools participates in a project where they can make their own radio transmitter.

The first theme was the waste in our town. "Waste, too much waste! What's happens to the waste and how can we reduce it for the future?" They discuss about the sense of "Friday for future" demos in the school time!

But they don't only talk! Not long time ago, they called in our city for an action to pick up the waste. It was a hard work, but a success. Pupils together with politicians collected many sacks with waste.

- ▼ **In special places, nearby primary schools, we installed equipments for driver's self-control. Already several meters away a "Smiley-light" shows us whether you are in the right speed-limit.**



TARTU

SMART BIKE SHARE

by Evelin Uibokand, Roman Meeksa | info@ratas.tartu.ee

Photo: Erge Jögela

Tartu Smart Bike Share is a public, self-serve bike share system for short trips opened in June 2019. Bike Share has two main principles in urban environment. First, all Tartu districts have to have good and safe connection with other districts and a city centre and second, Bike Share is a part of public transport system.

That is why Bike share comprises of 750 urban bikes across 69 docking stations all over Tartu. In Tartu Smart Bike Share, 500 bikes are next generation electric assist bikes and 250 urban bikes, while all bikes communicate with the bike share system in real-time to give us valuable statistics and help us to offer quick help if needed. The Bike Share System is easily scalable and adaptable according to actual needs.

How does Tartu Smart Bike Share work?

Tartu Smart Bike Share is designed to provide all users a seamless cycling experience and it has to be affordable and accessible for everyone. Membership can be registered by either periodic active bus card or Tartu Smart Bike website / mobile app. There, one can see all stations and docks with available bikes, track her/his rides and navigate with built-in maps. All memberships include first 60-minute free ride in every new ride. Overtime fee is 1€ per every next hour up to 5-hours.

All this have made Bike Share extremely popular. Here are some statistics of October:

- More than 3500 different users per week.
- Distance travelled is ca 39500 km per week/ca 5600 km per day.
- Distance travelled since the beginning is ca 1814200 km.

Safety comes first

Although, Smart Bike has very high level of usage, safety issues are as important as smooth service.

Every bike has its unique number and software installed in the bikes collects data for statistics about all rides, speed, distances, location, etc. This gives information about the bike's location and in case there is some problem, technicians can react quickly. We pay much attention to:

- Technical inspection that all bikes are in top shape.
- Continuous development of cycling paths network.
- Respecting traffic codes and other road users.
- Using studded tires during a winter period.
- Cyber security to avoid any personal data leakage.

Smart Bikes are an important part of the Smart City way of thinking. One of the most important objectives of Tartu City is to develop environmentally friendly and safe mobility. With Bike Share as well as supporting utility cycling, we can reduce the number of cars and rise air quality, encourage users to get some physical activity to be healthier and maintain the "15 minutes to anywhere" phenomena in Tartu.

Tartu Smart Bike Share project is partnered with Bewegen Technologies, Inc and bicycles and parking areas are being financed from the urban development measure of the European Regional Development Fund and the Horizon 2020 programme for European research and innovation (support agreement no. 691883).



FIRE-BRIGADES

COOPERATION

by Vitas Rimkus and Džiuginta Vaitkevičienė | dziuginta.vaitkeviciene@vpgt.lt

Kaunas City has a unique cooperation with Lippe County (Germany) and Linköping City (Sweden) – fire-fighting brigades of Kaunas City share their experience with colleagues from Sweden and Germany.

The first contacts of this cooperation were started almost thirty years ago. At that time Kaunas was very much interested in the Western experience of fire protection measures, development of state-of-the-art fire-fighting means, and experience of fire-fighters' volunteering. Of course, during difficult times in the first years after the restoration of Independence of Lithuania, Kaunas also appreciated the donations and charity of fire protection equipment and machines that were given by Lippe County and Linköping.

Kaunas firefighters were trained how to use the donated equipment, cars and machines; while German and Swedish firefighters learnt about new and creative working methods used by Kaunas colleagues.

Common trainings

Since that time a lot of different joint trainings, camps, joint lectures were carried out both in Kaunas as well as in Sweden and Germany. Firefighters' brigades both in Kaunas and partners' countries used to simulate disaster situations and would learn from each other different working methods: the imitation of different cases lets the personnel use

their skills in practice and see their shortcomings as well as the fields where they can learn from their colleagues.

Also, such issues as the high level of education of the fire-fighters' personnel, teaching curriculum and installation of training bases remain very important both in Lithuania and other countries.

This cooperation contributes a lot to the safety of our city: fire-fighters and other first aid personnel develop very important skills. Definitely Kaunas citizens, as well as citizens of our twin cities – Linköping and Lippe County are much safer.



KNOWLEDGE

TRANSFER IN ROSTOCK

by Michael Allwardt | michael.allwardt@rostock.de

Photo: the City of Rostock

In times of global threats and more and more expanding hazard situations from human or natural origin, the exchange and acquisition of information concerning threat prevention and control as well as the strategic planning of inter-divisional measures is gaining in importance.

Due to the significance on these topics, the Fire, Rescue and Disaster Control Department of the City of Rostock has been participating for several years in the annual International Crisis Management Conference "Urban Security in the 21st Century".

Cooperation beyond borders

The International City Network for Crisis Management IC-NCM (<http://www.cmcitynetwork.eu>) currently consists of 22 European cities addressing, through joint conferences and symposia, diverse scenarios and their consequences for civil protection, fire service, rescue service, and police as well as other involved organizations. There, the members report on their strategies and tactics concerning threat and disaster situations - preventive measures and/or specific actions of hazard and threat control in real scenarios.

During the last conferences the extensive knowledge transfer was very successful, especially because all involved institutions contributed assessing, evaluating and drawing conclusions from their professional point of view.

In order to enable the participating cities to prepare on time, the subject is usually announced one year in advance. In this effect, in the past it was possible to review and discuss topics like "Black-Outs of Extreme Extension", "Waterway Safety and Prevention of Environmental Risks", as well as "Security and Threat Control at Major Events".

The next conference will be held in Rostock

In 2020 the city of Rostock will host the 15th International Crisis Management Conference treating the subject "Massive Occurrence of Injured or Affected Persons". In this regard, the city has experience in planning and execution, for instance in large-scale evacuation of urban areas due to defusing of WWII aerial bombs and as a traffic and transportation hub into the Scandinavian region for daily running ferries as well as more than one hundred cruise liners per year. All these emergency situations borne risks of a massive amount of affected or even injured persons which requires a combination of all available emergency response resources for rescue, supply, and transportation to hospitals.

Many exciting presentations, a rich exchange of information and the participation in a maritime emergency exercise on the Baltic Sea are awaiting the participants. The comrades of the Fire, Rescue, and Disaster control Department are looking forward to two interesting days in May 2020.



CROSS-BORDER

COOPERATION

by Kaspars Vārpiņš | kaspars.varpins@liepaja.lv

UBC is a great network for cities to meet, share their experience and find partners for different projects. When you add to this a long tradition of cooperation and a short distance, you will get an answer why Latvian and Lithuanian cities of Liepāja, Palanga and Klaipėda decided to work with each other.

One of the latest cooperation activities have been a cross-border Interreg VA Latvia–Lithuania Programme 2014–2020 funded project regarding safety – LLI-269 “The development of safety services by strengthening communication and cooperation capacity between the local government and police authorities (SCAPE)”. Four partners – Palanga City Municipality, Klaipėda County Police Headquarters, State Police of Latvia and Liepāja Municipal Police have received a funding of 479 346,71 EUR.

Starting from people

The overall objective of the project is to improve public safety by improving skills for national security services and local government employees by using modern technology in their daily work. Project goal is to promote communication and cooperation between police and local governments on Lithuanian-Latvian border, also to increase the security and popularity of the region.

To strengthen technical capacity of the institutions using modern equipment body camcorders, vehicle video record-

ers, bicycles, tricycles, electric bicycles, electric car and electric minivan, drone, electric guns and other equipment have been purchased. Also, few joint trainings and seminars on various topics have been organized, so that the cooperation in different areas can be made more successful.

Two more projects in the same funding programme were applied and now is the waiting time for the decision.

▼ **At the project meeting new perspectives for the security services were presented.**



XV UBC General Conference: “Building an inclusive and resident- focused city. The Baltic way”

The XV UBC General Conference was held in Kaunas on 15–18 October 2019, with the theme “Building an inclusive and resident-focused city. The Baltic way”. The General Conference elected a new Presidium and Executive Board. The new UBC President is Mantas Jurgutis, Deputy Mayor of Kaunas.

Read more on page 24.



The new UBC Presidium: Piotr Grzelak (on the left), Elina Rantanen, Mantas Jurgutis, Vyacheslav Kalganov.

by Irene Pendolin | irene.pendolin@ubc.net

The new Vice-Presidents are Elina Rantanen (1st Vice-President), Chairperson of Turku City Council, Piotr Grzelak, Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk, Vyacheslav Kalganov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg and Jørgen Kristiansen, Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand.

The UBC General Assembly also elected the Executive Board for the next two-year period. The Board cities are Kolding (Denmark), Elva (Estonia), Kemi (Finland), Rostock (Germany), Liepāja (Latvia), Panevėžys (Lithuania), Gdynia (Poland), St. Petersburg (Russia) and Umeå (Sweden).

The XV UBC General Conference hosted around 250 participants from all Baltic Sea Countries. The Conference focused on the questions of inclusion: how to empower the citizens' involvement and participation, and how to get the youth on board and make them feel responsible for their future.

The UBC Youth Conference was held parallel to the General Conference, with around 60 participants from the Baltic Sea Region who also participated actively in the different GC conference sessions.

Top-level speakers across the Baltic Sea Region

The XV UBC General Conference hosted top-level speakers across the Baltic Sea Region in plenaries and workshops dealing with current themes concerning the issues affecting the BSR. The speakers included **Sirpa Paatero**, Minister of Local Government and Ownership Steering of Finland, and **Bernd Hemingway**, Deputy Director General, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat.

Representatives from UBC member cities and partner organisations engaged in the discussions on the future of the Baltic Sea Region, including **Gediminas Kaminskas**, Vice-Chair of Kaunas Umbrella Youth Organization "Round Table"; **Markku Markkula**, 1st Vice President of the Committee of the Regions; **Per Schöldberg**, MP, Swedish Parliament; **Asta Avietė**, Programme Manager of the Unit responsible for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, the European Commission; **Laurent Sens**, Deputy Head of Unit for ESF for Lithuania, European Commission; **Virginija Vitkienė**, Director, "Kaunas 2022", **Saara Malila**, Director of Communication, the City of

Turku, former Communications Manager, Turku 2011 Foundation; **Krzysztof Maj**, General Director, European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016; **Fredrik Lindegren**, Director of Culture, the City of Umeå, former Artistic Director for Umeå 2014.

Per Bødker Andersen steps down after leading the network for 18 years

Per Bødker Andersen has served as UBC President for 18 years during 2001–2019. The UBC wants to thank Per for his work and dedication to the UBC during nearly two decades.

"It has been a fantastic period with quite a lot of development. This has been extraordinary for me and a chance of a lifetime. I wish Mantas Jurgutis all the best in his presidency now".

The newly-elected President Mantas Jurgutis sees UBC's future as bright, with a strong focus on the Member Cities' needs.

"In UBC's future I see and inclusive and value-based UBC by the content and the results, and also some developments inside the Union. I am looking forward to putting shoulder to shoulder to deliver the results the Member Cities want", states President **Mantas Jurgutis**.

The next UBC General Conference will be held in 2021 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

- Sessions and interviews from the conference are available in UBC YouTube channel: bit.ly/ubc-youtube
- Photos from the conference are available in UBC Flickr: <http://bit.ly/2N3ULzd>
- Conference website: <http://ubc.kaunas.lt>



Mantas Jurgutis is the Deputy Mayor of Kaunas. While being a member of Kaunas City Council, he is also a Deputy Director of Centre of Enterprise Practices of Vytautas Magnus University. He is very active in various youth projects and was also awarded by NGOs as the best leader of youth organizations in Lithuania in 2011. In 2013 he was granted the award of the name of P. Vileišis by Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists for his input in developing and strengthening youth organizations, entrepreneurial initiatives for youngsters. He has a background in Marketing Management.



Elina Rantanen is the Chair of City Council in Turku, Finland. She has worked as a green city counsellor since 2005. Elina is a social scientist and holds a PhD in Medical Genetics from the University of Turku and, in addition to being an active politician, works as Development Director in the nationwide Norio Centre for Rare Diseases providing support for families and professionals regarding rare and genetic disorders. Before entering politics, she was involved in environmental NGO's and worked e.g. as a Climate Emisary.



Piotr Grzelak graduated from two faculties at the University of Gdańsk: Social and Economic Sciences. He is now a Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk responsible for sustainable development. He was two times elected as a City Councilor of Gdańsk. He served as Vice-President of the Committee on Spatial Development and Environmental Protection. He is a President of the Polish Union of Active Mobility and Chairman of the waste team of the Union of Polish Metropolises. He is married and has three kids.



Vyacheslav Kalganov has been the Vice-Chairman of the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg since 2016. Born on 15 November 1965 in the city of Sochi (Russia). He graduated from the Far Eastern State University. He was engaged in R&D. Vyacheslav was a founder and CEO of his own export-import commercial enterprise. Since 2011 he has been working in the administration of St. Petersburg. He is married, and has a large family.



Jørgen H. Kristiansen is a writer, economist and politician. From 2001 he has been active as a politician for the Christian Democratic Party in Norway. He has served as a member of the city council in Kristiansand, Norway since 2003. From 2011-2019 he has served as deputy Mayor of Kristiansand. Jørgen holds an MBA from the University of Agder and Oregon State University (USA) and has worked as stock broker and consultant in corporate banking (Nordea and SpareBank 1 SR-Bank). He is also chairing the working group "Refugees & Internal Displacement" within Strong Cities Network (www.strongcitiesnetwork.org). He is married and has 3 boys.



The Youth Conference: “Youth, Cities and involvement”

by Carsten Adamsen | caad@kolding.dk

Back to back with the UBC General Conference, the Youthful Cities Commission held – as so many times before – the Youth Conference, giving the youth from the Baltic Sea Region a possibility to meet local decision makers and take part in the UBC GC workshops.

This year a total of 58 youngsters, coming from Denmark, Germany, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, participated in the Youth Conference “Youth, Cities and involvement”.

As always, the Youth Conference was spread over a few more days than the General Conference, and the first two days we used to talk about what it takes – from a youth perspective - to feel safe in our cities. We also discussed and tried to come up with specific project for youth councils to increase their cooperation both nationally as well as internationally.

What does safety mean for the youth?

At our workshop on Youth, Cities and Safety the main concern raised was mental health amongst youth in education. Also group pressure, alcohol/drugs and Internet bullying were discussed and interesting proposals were made to combat these issues.

At the workshop on more cooperation we discussed what could be learned from each other – both on a national arena (cities meet other cities close by) as well as in an international setting. Several ideas were raised for future close-by cooperation – a way to keep travel expenses down. Also, a proposal to the decision makers to make it easier for city

youth councils (or the like) to get funding for short term study visits to other close cities with the aim to develop the regional cooperation on a number of different topics relevant in the cities locally.

During the UBC General Conference, we had active youth participants in all of the workshops, where they contributed with a youthful insight on the topics discussed.

The last day was spent on sightseeing in Kaunas, as well as having workshops on future wishes and possible projects both from a youth perspective but also from a youth workers perspective. The main outcome of these workshops was the raise of even more UBC created projects to cooperate in.

All in all the youth conference was a great success and many of the active youth have already now agreed to increase their international cooperation and would like to encourage both the UBC member cities and the Youthful Cities Commission to help them in creating further projects and opportunities.

The conclusions of the UBC Youth Conference will be published on the UBC website as soon as a finished product has been created.



Photo: City of Turku

An Active Year for the Task Force

by Matti Mäkelä | matti.makela@turku.fi

Year 2019 was extremely active for the UBC Task Force on Youth Employment and Well-Being. It arranged seminars and workshop, disseminated best practices, continued on-going joint projects and planned new ones.

“Supporting Youth Employment and the Implementation of the Youth Guarantee – The Good, The Bad and The Next Practices from Baltic Sea Region” Conference was arranged together with the Committee of the Regions. Conference concentrated on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Baltic Sea Region and successful networking and the best practices of peer development.

At the UBC General Conference the Task Force held two workshops: “STEAM – Science and Technology Path for Every Child and Youngster” and “How to make vocational education more inclusive, accessible and attractive”.

The aim of the STEAM workshop was to discuss STEAM work, share best practices and experiences and plan the future activities in BSR. The outcome of the workshop was a proposal for the UBC Board for future STEAM cooperation in BSR. Workshop included case-studies about STEAM-cooperation and youngsters role in this work.

VET workshop provided a platform for sharing best practices in making vocational education more desirable educational path for young people, while still ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. One of the questions discussed was the creation of “a vocational college that never sleeps”, a continually functioning educational institution with a flexible intake.

Next year Task Force will concentrate on three major themes, which will be as follows:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Path for every child and youngster
- Basic Skills or Upgrading Pathways (youngsters with problems with basic skills, such as math, literacy and IT)
- Attractiveness of Vocational Education and Training

The idea behind the new theme-based approach is that concentrating on certain themes would make cooperation and creation of common goals and projects easier. Activities of the year 2020 include 3–4 study visits (each study visit would cover at least two of the themes mentioned above), STEAM seminar (either in Brussels or in some UBC City), implementation of new transnational projects in themes mentioned above, continuing the dissemination of good practices and cooperation with other networks and actors.

School To Work study visit in Malmö, Sweden 3–4 December 2019

The study visit will take place at the St. Mary's Folk High School. The presentations and discussions will focus on newly arrived immigrants and others who need help with their basic skills in finding their fastest and best path to the labour market and participation in society.

More: (<https://www.s2wflagship.eu/event/study-visit-in-malmo-sweden>)



Greening the City. Planning Cities Commission seminar in Gdynia

by Paulina Szewczyk | p.szewczyk@gdynia.pl

Planning Cities Commission held the seminar in Gdynia on 27–30 October 2019. About 50 participants from the UBC cities together with local planners joined the seminar.

The topic of the seminar was “Greening the City – Urban Open Green Areas”. The main aim of the seminar and workshop was to search for new forms and functions for green areas. Participants had the opportunity to choose one of two topics. One group gave suggestions on the development of neighborhood of Polanka Redłowska, located in unique environment – a direct view of the Gdańsk Bay, the surrounding forest areas and Nature Reserve Kępa Redłowska. The other group focused on creating pattern of the urban open green areas in the city center of Gdynia and then gave ideas on the development of five pocket parks.

On Monday participants of the seminar were welcome by Katarzyna Gruszecka-Spychała, Deputy Mayor of Gdynia, and Paweł Żaboklicki, UBC Secretary General and Paulina Szewczyk, Chair of the UBC Planning Cities Commission. Information about city of Gdynia and introduction to workshop areas were presented by Gdynia City Planning Office - Iwona Markešić, Director, Paweł Sągin, Environmental Specialist, Justyna Sobczak-Kozłowska, Urban Team Leader and Paulina Szewczyk, Deputy Director. Presentation about green policy in the city of Gdańsk was showed by Magdalena Andrzejczuk, Gdańsk Urban Development Agency.

Afternoon in Gdynia was spent with guided tour by bus and walks to the workshop areas. Next Heidi Tunkanen and Evelin Piirsalu, Stockholm Environment Institute, gave lecture about “Identifying obstacles to successful integrated risk assessment” and distributed surveys to fill.

Practical work

Tuesday morning Joanna Rayss, landscape architect, expert in the implementation of the green infrastructure of the city, gave lecture about “Urban Green Spaces as part of the city’s Green Infrastructure”. This gave inspiration for the workshop sessions, with four groups working with the two sites all Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Participants of the seminar visited also Infobox Observatory of Changes, local information point to get more information about the areas they worked on.

The workshop results were presented on Wednesday to invited guests, politicians and media representatives. Participants presented original and innovative solutions for the neighborhood of Polanka Redłowska and proposed spatial solutions which differ quite significantly from those considered so far by local planners.

Experts also proposed interesting projects for the development of pocket parks. Their ideas were dominated by the view that in addition to give recreational and leisure functions for residents of all ages, they should also be part of the city’s green infrastructure regarding also the rainwater harvesting issues.

Then Paula Keskkikastari, Head of Urban Planning in the city of Turku, Finland invited for the next seminar to be held in Turku in May 2020.



CASCADE discussed Climate Change Risks in Kaunas

by Jutta Mäkinen | jutta.makinen@turku.fi

The CASCADE “Community Safety Action for Climate Adaptation and Development” project funded by EC DG ECHO and awarded the EUSBSR Flagship status by PA Secure operates as a pilot example for cross-sectoral cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. The CASCADE project brings together civil protection specialists and climate change adaptation experts for the first time to fight the impacts of climate change jointly.

The first transnational Policy Dialogue meeting in the CASCADE project was held during the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, Lithuania. The session was entitled “Local perspectives for solving climate change related security risks – joining forces to effectively work with Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation”. During the session two reports “The Sendai Framework in the Baltic Sea Region: Challenges – good practices – way forward” and “The role of local governments in adapting to the climate: overview of regulatory requirements and support mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region” were presented and discussed.

The objective of the session was to collect the input from the cities in the Baltic Sea Region regarding challenges and needs related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.

“The purpose of the Policy Dialogue in the CASCADE project is to connect various stakeholders from different levels and sectors to discuss challenges and to identify potential solutions”, explained **Nina Jernberg**, Policy Officer for PA Secure (EUSBSR) from the CBSS Secretariat during her presentation of the work with the report on Sendai Framework implementation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The session was opened by Risto Veivo, Co-chair of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission and Kaspars Varpins, Chairman of the UBC Safe Cities Commission. In his opening remarks, **Risto Veivo** explained that: “we are trying to combine the work-streams of the two commissions and create a strong sense in the UBC to work towards building resilience”.

In the panel discussion the UBC cities of Gdańsk, Jelgava, St. Petersburg and Kaunas were represented. The city representatives shared various good practices of how they are working with Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and provided their feedback on the two newly released reports.

Among the nine partners of the project - the UBC Safe Cities Commission and the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission and three UBC member cities are involved. The CASCADE project will train 22 international trainers and two national level trainers in each BSR country and the materials and results of CASCADE are replicable for all Baltic Sea Region countries (<https://www.cascade-bsr.eu/>).



Photo: CBSS / Andriy Martynenko



Youth for safer youth project

by Kaspars Vārpiņš | kaspars.varpins@liepaja.lv

In September 2019, a new project between UBC member cities has begun. Partners from Liepāja Municipal Police, Liepāja Children and Youth Centre “Youth house”, Southwest Finland Emergency Services, Espoo Youth Services and Kaunas City Municipality received a funding from the Council of the Baltic Sea States Project Support Facility to carry out a project “Youth for safer youth”.

During the XIV General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), which took place in Växjö (Sweden) 2017 with the youth participation, a problem was highlighted, that youth nowadays don't know much about safety. Because of that UBC Safe Cities Commission decided to take some action regarding the youth safety. And to be exactly sure what issues have to be addressed, a safety survey for the youth around the Baltic Sea Region has been planned.

CBSS Project Support Facility funded project will help children and youth to show their needs regarding their safety. Youth representatives from Liepāja, Espoo and Kaunas will be involved in the development of questionnaire and afterwards in analyzing the results. By involving youth in the process, it will allow the safety experts to view the issues from other point of view and learn new things regarding youth safety.

Already at the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, the youth representatives were involved in discussing and brainstorming the possible questionnaire. A lot of great ideas have been received which will be presented during the project Kick-off meeting in Liepāja, 10–12 December 2019, which will be organized together with the UBC Safe

Cities Commission, so at the early stage of the project more safety experts will be involved.

After the development of the questionnaire, all the UBC member cities will be invited to share it among the youth.

The registration to the Commission's and project “Youth for safer youth” meeting is open!

Kick-off meeting will be held in Liepāja, 10–12 December 2019. Registration deadline is on **30 November**.

All practical information is available at: www.ubc.net



CITY NEWS

Photo: Interreg project consortium JOHANN

SAFETY IN THE CITY HARBOUR

Rostock received EU subsidies for purchasing an ISPS-certified mobile port fence, which will be temporarily erected for the few ship calls with ISPS requirements in the city port.

The Rostock port administration enters new ground, starts the experiment to work with its own mobile fence system - "just in time" and only temporarily. A fence system made of stainless steel, which is not yet available on the market, is to be used for this purpose. The tender asked for a system that would incorporate design elements from a barrier system in the city centre, thus presenting design qualities in the city harbour that are more likely to be found only in 5-star marinas.

It is clear to everyone: what lasted almost 40 years in the construction industry with regard to the meanwhile artistic quality of construction fences and construction signs, does not succeed overnight in the port industry. Well-designed mobile ISPS safety fences are not available on the market!

The now advertised fence panels should pick up material, workmanship and the design of an already firmly installed

high-quality fence system from the city center; shall contribute to "Rostock's urban corporate design" in the city centre and in the city harbour.

The Rostock project team is now purchasing a high-quality mobile fence system made of stainless steel. A Europe-wide invitation to tender drew attention to the sore spot: Well-designed mobile ISPS security fences are not available on the market! The fence panels procured by now are to pick up on the material, workmanship and design of a high-quality fence system from the city centre that has already been permanently installed; they shall contribute to "Rostock's urban corporate design" in the city centre and in the city harbour.

When mega yachts, tall ships or small cruise ships with ISPS requirements arrive at the city harbor in the future, nobody should feel disturbed anymore by security barriers that are cheap and martially - but mobile-looking standard fences. The newly purchased fence panels should appear light, high-quality and transparent. They should correspond to the occasion of welcoming passenger guests and the quality of the sensitive urban space in the alternation of leisure time and port function.

More information: <http://www.smallships.eu>

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THE 'BALTIC WAY' IS ALL OF US

On 23 August 2019 Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia have mentioned the 30th anniversary of the 'Baltic Way'.

The 'Baltic Way' was a peaceful political demonstration in 1989, which took place when nearly 2 million people joined hands, forming more than 600 kilometers or 370 miles long human chain through the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, to show that they are not giving up on hopes for their independence, even after the decades of Soviet Union occupation.

This powerful public statement captured the attention of the world and marked a turning point in the efforts of the three Baltic nations regaining their independence.

At 6 p. m. people all across Lithuania and abroad hold hands in a live human chain seeking to take part in a symbolic replication of the "Baltic Way". Our community in Gargždai, proudly participated in the event 'The Baltic Way is all of us' honoring all those, who shared the idea of freedom, our nations unity and solidarity. Crowds of people gathered on

Gargždai main street singing song 'Baltic Awakens' (lt. Bunda jau Baltija, lv. Atmosťas Baltija, est. Ārgake, Baltimaad), holding hands, sharing memories. Participants of original 'Baltic Way' brought their children, grandchildren, neighbors and talked about their experience. People were fascinated by the idea itself.

On the same day our delegation visited the Klaipėda's district chapel column built by the local author Jonas Čepas in Pasvalys district. They were warmly met by the President of Lithuania.

To honor this great event there were more initiatives throughout Lithuania – international marathon, the journey of cars and motorbikes through the three capitals of the 'Baltic Way'. Also, there were presented the unique installations made of over 2 thousand radio sets in Vilnius.

The 'Baltic Way' was one of the crucial historical moments in Lithuania. Only acknowledging the past we can create the better way for the future. In 2009 this event was included into the Unesco World Memory register. It is supposed to be organized every five years in order to meet ambitious goal – celebrating historical 'Baltic Way' with altogether 2 million people in 2039.

by Jūratė Dobrovolskienė |
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Photo: Kiur Kaasik

TARTU TO TACKLE THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGES

On 28 August, an international panel of independent experts recommended Tartu for the title of 2024 European Capital of Culture. The panel's decision set in motion intensive preparations that will peak with the biggest international cultural programme ever carried out in the region.

Urmas Klaas, the Mayor of Tartu, is confident that the title presents an immense opportunity for the City of Tartu and Southern Estonia. "We see European Capital of Culture as a major outlet for the creativity of our young artists and entrepreneurs while it is also our goal to grasp the imagination of many cultural tourists and raise the international profile of the whole region," says the Mayor.

Urmas Klaas points out that Tartu's bidding success was driven by local, regional and international cooperation: "In two years, more than one thousand people helped to create our inspiring concept, the programme and the strategies. In the process of shaping our bid we got help from Estonian public, private and third sector organisations, as well as the international advisors, including our twin cities and European Capitals of Culture Turku, Kaunas and Veszprem."

Tartu's European Capital of Culture bid book, a 100-page document with the artistic title "Arts of Survival", introduces a special cultural programme with three programme lines that include 31 large-scale transnational, transversal and transgenerational projects.

According to **Erni Kask**, the leader of Tartu 2024 Candidacy Team, the proposed programme focuses on the role of arts in tackling the pressing cultural, social and environmental issues in the 21st century Europe. "We want to support biodiversity and sustainability, the sharing of vital human or heritage skills, while looking for ways of making regions like ours more connected to the rest of Europe," says Kask.

The planned Tartu 2024 projects involve various art forms and target a wide range of audiences, for example, the "Kissing Tartu" investigates the history of kissing with a multimedia exhibition and invites over 20,000 people from all over Europe to a record-breaking event of simultaneous kissing that takes place in front of Tartu's famous Kissing Students fountain.

The preparations for the title year have already begun. On 21 November, Tartu hosts an international conference called Kultuurikompass. Speakers from five countries as well as local cultural managers share best practices in creating meaningful volunteering partnerships by involving senior citizens, teenagers and international communities.

by Kalle Paas | kalle.paas@raad.tartu.ee



NEW INVESTMENTS IN MIELNO

Recently, the life of the Mielno commune is strongly associated with key investments for the functioning of the local government. An example of a project of fundamental importance for residents, but also for tourists visiting Mielno, is the start of modernization of the most important street in the city.

The entire investment will absorb over 26 million PLN, and the works will be divided into three stages (the first stage began in September 2019). The scope of the undertaking includes the creation of a completely new road infrastructure (including walking and cycling). For the sake of the environment, the commune government decided that in exchange for the necessary felling of trees new plantings of trees and plants would take place.

Another investment of great importance for some of the most needy residents of the commune was the creation of a complex of social buildings, in which 76 people will eventually live. The implementation of the project consumed almost 5 million PLN, but most importantly - it provided new

residents with decent living conditions (buildings adapted to the needs of the disabled, an outdoor gym and playground, secure parking).

Mielno commune is a place where thousands of tourists come every year. Therefore, the local government must constantly participate in the creation of tourist attractions, which are also eagerly used by residents. This year was fruitful in this respect, as it was possible to create a 10-kilometer section of a bicycle path running through the commune, which became part of the "Velo Baltica" international bicycle route. The investment consumed a total of about 7.5 million PLN. In addition, the bicycle route was made more attractive by creating two original investments on its way.

The first is "Forest Loop of Adventure and Secrets", which is a nature and educational path, displaying, among others curiosities of the coastal forest. The implementation of the undertaking cost over 1 million PLN. The second investment increasing the attractiveness of the local section of "Velo Baltica" is the built "Treasury of the Fishing Village in Chłopy", whose implementation amounted to nearly 2.3 million PLN. It is a place presenting customs, interesting facts and much more information on fishing, maritime culture and the fishing village of Chłopy itself.

by Radosław Sobko | r.sobko@gmina.mielno.pl



Photo: Gdynia City Archives

MODERNISM IN EUROPE – MODERNISM IN GDYNIA

For the seventh time Gdynia hosted an excellent group of researchers and architects dealing with modernism. On 3-4 October 2019 Gdynia became the centre of debate over the global heritage of modernist architecture.

The programme included many interesting speeches by scientists from European countries and researchers from all major Polish research centres. The conference was officially opened by Katarzyna Gruszecka-Spychała, Deputy Mayor of Gdynia for Economy. After the inaugural speeches the first session began. The opening lecture was given by prof. arch. Michael Turner from Jerusalem, and it concerned urban forms of the 20th century. After a short break the second session with five presentations began. The third and last session was dedicated to the architecture of Gdynia.

The second day of the conference was inaugurated by dr. arch. Jeremie Hoffmann, Head of the Conservation De-

partment of Tel Aviv – Jafa. His presentation concerned the benefits of cooperation between modern cities, which face common problems and could look for common solutions. Dr. Hoffmann congratulated Gdynia, its authorities and residents, on the Modernist Centre of the City being registered on the UNESCO Tentative List. Entering this list is the last step before inscription on the World Heritage List. Since 26 September 2019 Gdynia has been among the five Polish candidates. Currently, together with the Modernist Centre of Gdynia, there are five places from Poland on the Tentative List, two of which are natural sites (the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Dunajec River Gorge in the Pieniny Mountains), and three are objects and places related to human culture and activity: Modernist Centre of Gdynia, The Augustów Canal and Gdańsk – Town of Memory and Freedom.

After dr. Hoffmann's speech the participants had a chance to listen to the lectures of two guests from Vienna, as well as Vilnius and Kaunas. Polish research centres were represented by art historians and architects from Poznań, Katowice, Tychy and Warsaw. The meetings were accompanied by an exhibition presenting the effects of conservation works carried out in buildings in Gdynia. The exhibition was prepared by the Gdynia Design and Conservation Studio.

About 250 participants attended this year's conference. Certainly, such attendance was helped by the fact that the conference is open to the public.

by Marek Stępa | m.stepa@gdynia.pl



Photo: www.lnu.se

LINNAEUS UNIVERSITY SUMMER ACADEMY 2020

Linnaeus University Summer Academy warmly invites students from all over the world to join us in Kalmar next upcoming summer. We provide a fun and exciting opportunity that combines a summer experience with a knowledge gain in an international, intercultural and interdisciplinary academic setting in the land of the midnight sun.

The courses within our Summer Academy originate in the Swedish culture and an innovative mindset. They are workshop-oriented and have a strong student focus. Courses are offered at undergraduate level. The Summer Academy runs in the beautiful medieval city of Kalmar, one of our campuses. All courses are 7.5 credit full-time courses, taught in English and many have general entry requirements.

The combination of lectures and workshops within the student's own course and weekly interdisciplinary sessions, provide opportunities for new contacts and cultural insights – both from other students and from local and global business representatives. An extensive social programme with Add-on activities will contribute to an increased knowledge of Swedish culture and society. The programme offers organised day-trips and weekend excursions as well as outdoor and sports activities and cultural events.

The course starts on 13 July 2020. The closing ceremony is planned for 13 August 2020. Applications call opens on 1 December 2019 and closes on 1/15 March 2020.

For more detailed information on course offerings and practical aspects, please have a look at our Webpage: <https://lnu.se/en/summeracademy>

We look forward to welcoming your students at Linnaeus University Summer Academy!

by Anneli Andersson | anneli.andersson@lnu.se

UBC General Assembly 17 October 2019 14.00

8. President and Vice-Presidents in the new

Candidates:

- Mantas Jurgutis, City of Kaunas – President
- Elna Rantanen, City of Turku – 1st Vice-President
- Piotr Grzelak, City of Gdańsk – 2nd Vice-President
- Vyacheslav Kalganov, City of Saint Petersburg – 3rd Vice-President
- Jørgen Kristiansen, City of Kristiansund – 4th Vice-President

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