

ACTIVITY REPORT

INCLUSIVE & HEALTHY CITIES COMMISSION

November 2017 - October 2019

1. General description

The Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission (IHCC) has been started in current form in spring 2015. The chairmanship of the commission was as follows:

- 2015 - Gdynia (Poland) together with Trelleborg (Sweden) as a co-chair city,
- 2016 - Trelleborg together with Gdynia as a co-chair city,
- 2017 - Karlstad (Sweden) together with Gdynia as a co-chair city,
- 2018 and 2019 - Gdynia together with Karlstad as a co-chair city.

From the start Gdynia has taken full responsibility for all financial matters. Gdynia has also made presentations for the commission at the UBC Board meetings.

First years of the commission has been a period of building up the commission, get to know each other and the work that we are doing in our cities, agree on common topics and trying to establish a structure for a common work in the commission.

The Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission has started working from the assumption that an Inclusive city is a city governed by the community, and a Healthy city is well-connected, accessible and safe, thereby getting involvement and movement. Self-dependency, independency and inclusion are other important elements for a healthy city.

IHCC has started out focusing on Open Social Spaces, and have had a number of study visits arranged based on this concept and a draft analysis and reports has been issued. Commission is also trying to follow important social phenomena and processes that currently take place in the Baltic Sea region and in Europe generally. Among many others, we have exchanged experiences and information about the migration in member cities. We also try to name main challenges ahead of us, such as the intergenerational dialogue in local communities and effects of demographic changes and also challenges connected with implementation of The Global Goals in member cities.

How to ensure participation of the citizens in local community decision making processes and mechanisms? How to cohabitate in the diverse and changing neighbourhoods? How to promote and secure wellbeing in our cities? How to incubate, test and implement social innovations? How to organise city administration structures to keep them responsive, effective and citizen friendly? How to ensure implementation of The Global Goals in our member cities? These and many more questions we try to address together and to give the opportunity to search the answer.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

Study visit and conference on domestic violence, 6-8 December 2017, Gdynia, Poland

The idea of the cooperation on the field of domestic violence was presented by Gdynia at the IHCC annual meeting in October 2016 in Espoo, Finland. Behind the idea stood hope that connection of cities in the form of IHCC activity in the frame of UBC, will bring inspirations, practical solutions to the urgent problems and strong personal relations between people engaged in social services delivery. City which sent the sign of interest was Karlstad, Sweden.

For three days in December 2017, a group of 6 employees from Karlstad visited Gdynia to see and learn more about how Gdynia have organized local system of support for those who suffer from the domestic violence. There were study visits and workshops, and the space for exchange, explanations, questions and discussions was also secured. The White Ribbon Conference was also a part of the program.

At the first day there was the opportunity to get know each other and inform about general context of institutional activity. The set of information about polish administration was given and short characteristics of Municipal Centre for Social Services in Gdynia.

Second day was planned at the Centre for Intervention in Crisis. Information about Polish legal system in given subject, statistic data and organisational structure of support system in Gdynia were presented. The aim of this part was to highlight contexts, sketch general information and the frame of problem field. Furthermore, Gdynia's staff was acknowledged with Swedish system of support and work in the field of domestic violence. Next point in the plan was dedicated to present cooperation between Police and support system institutions in Gdynia. Third part was to present and discuss subject: violence and community work - study visit in revitalised area/ settlement in Gdynia. After the field recognition presentation about situation of the local community was presented, the revitalization plan and also problems where discussed.

Third day of the study visit was the conference day. Conference was organised as a finish of Gdynia's White Ribbon Campaign. People from the academic world, policemen, civil servants as well as pupils of local schools were amongst the conference audience. After conference organizers hosted study group in House of Permanent Stay for elderly. Then summarisation of the study visits where done and plans for future cooperation drafted. Both sides agreed to continue cooperation and prepare study visit in Karlstad.

UBC Conference on Integration of New Citizens "Sharing the European Dream", 12-14 March 2018, Rostock, Germany

Representatives from members cities of Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission were present at the conference and participated actively in the workshops.

The Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission was also engaged in process of conference preparation – representatives of Gdynia were members of the working team. They participated in the development of the conference program and preparation of the concept of moderation and eight workshops, including working methods. They also proposed a visualization of the conference scheme.

Participation in 81st Executive Board meeting, 13 March 2018, Rostock, Germany

Jarosław Józefczyk, the Chair of IHCC, Gdynia, informed Executive Board about commissions plans for 2018 on three levels: (1) micro level, which means close bilateral cooperation with Karlstad, co-Chair City, on domestic violence, (2) middle level - an annual meeting of IHCC open to all members in Karlstad in autumn 2018, combined with workshops on The Global Goals, (3) macro level - activities to find concepts how to improve social life in cities, what topics are most vibrant (systematic research is planned, including online questionnaire).

Study visit on domestic violence, 16-19 April 2018, Karlstad, Sweden

Second part of bilateral cooperation in the field of domestic violence between Gdynia, Poland and Karlstad, Sweden. There was a three-day study visit in Karlstad. A group of six professionals from Gdynia (members of Gdynia' Interdisciplinary Team) visited Karlstad to see and learn more about how Karlstad have organized their work within the social field of domestic violence. The main goal of the visit was to deepen knowledge about solutions, procedures and working methods used by Swedish partners in interinstitutional activities. The principles of operation of The investigation and reception team and also The threat - and violence team were discussed. Much attention was paid to the personal safety of victims of domestic violence. There were study visits and workshops, and the time for discussions and exchanging opinions was also secured.

Planning meeting, 21-22 August 2018, Gdynia, Poland

Chair and Co-chair, Gdynia and Karlstad representatives participated a planning meeting in August in Gdynia to prepare Commissions annual meeting in Karlstad and to set up plans for next activities in 2018 and 2019.

Workshops on The Global Goals and Annual meeting of IHCC, 30-31 October 2018, Karlstad, Sweden

The theme of the workshops was: Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission and The Global Goals 2030 - How can we use the Global Goals for sustainable development in our commission? How can our work in the Commission contribute to achieving the goals? As a result of the workshops the topic suggestion for the next IHCC meeting and future work is Goal 3: "Good health and well-being".

The following issues were discussed at the IHCC Annual meeting:

- Activities in 2018, Activity plan for 2019 and budget issues,
- General Conference in Kaunas in 2019,
- future leadership for the Commission - new leaders for the next period are wanted and new member-city ready to take on the responsibility for the IHCC budget and financial reports.

At this meeting, there were participants from five cities in four nations.

Other activities 2018/2019

At the Annual meeting 2018 participants decided to make a survey referring to Global Goal 3 to find out what challenges IHCC member cities are facing and dealing with today and what are the main expectations of IHCC. Questionnaire was prepared and distributed by City of Karlstad. Six cities responded and report was prepared in February 2019.

3. Projects

In April 2018, on behalf of UBC Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission (as an associated partner), Letter of Support for the project "Healthy Boost - urban Labs for Better Health for All in the Baltic Sea Region - boosting cross-sectoral cooperation for health and wellbeing in the cities" was signed. Leader of the project: Baltic Region Healthy Cities Association, Turku, Finland. Application for funding from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 was submitted on 9 April 2018 within the priority 1.3 - Non-technological Innovation.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Cooperation with other UBC Commissions on preparing The UBC Conference on Integration of New Citizens "Sharing the European Dream" in Rostock (see above).

5. Communications

Communication between member cities of IHCC is mainly via emails and face to face meetings. There are regular chats of Chairman and Co-Chairman via Skype on current issues of the Commission. For information purposes, the UBC website and IHCC Facebook profile are used.

6. Other activities / issues

Future leadership for the Commission - new leaders for the next period are wanted and new member-city ready to take on the responsibility for the IHCC budget.

City of Gdynia, 17 September 2019

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