

TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Kaunas can be reached either by road, air and train.

Arriving by plane

Direct Ryanair, Wizz Air and LOT flights to Kaunas are available from more than 20 European airports – you can check schedules and charges www.kun.lt

Bus No. 29 connects Kaunas International Airport with the city centre. The journey takes about 45 minutes with the bus timetable being coordinated with flight schedules.

A taxi service, Bolt (*Taxify*) app and City bee car sharing is available for those who need a speedier transfer. There are also buses from Kaunas International Airport to Vilnius, Klaipėda, Riga and Minsk.



Arriving by bus

Local and international bus transfers are provided by Kautra, Eurolines, Ecolines and TOKS.

Timetables: www.autobusubilietai.lt

Arriving by train

Kaunas can be reached easily by train from both Lithuanian and international cities (*a new route Kaunas - Bialystok, Poland*). The railway station is in a convenient location as it takes barely 15 minutes on foot to reach the central city street (*Laisvės alėja; Liberty Avenue*).

You can purchase train tickets online www.traukiniobiletas.lt

CONTACT INFORMATION

Host city, logistical arrangements and practical information

Kaunas City Municipality

🌐 **Website:** www.kaunas.lt, www.visit.kaunas.lt

🌐 **Website (UBC General Conference):** <http://ubc.kaunas.lt/>

☎ **Phone:** +370 37 422054

✉ **E-mail:** ubc@kaunas.lt

Conference venue

Park Inn by Radisson Kaunas
Address: K. Donelaicio g. 27

✉ **E-mail:** info.kaunas@parkinn.com

🌐 **Website:** <https://www.parkinn.lt/hotel-kaunas>

☎ **Phone:** +370 37 306 100

Union of the Baltic Cities Secretariat

Wały Jagiellońskie 1
80-853 Gdańsk, Poland

☎ **Phone:** +48 58 3010917 OR +48 58 3019123

✉ **E-mail:** info@ubc.net

🌐 **Website:** www.ubc.net

Media representatives are kindly requested to contact UBC Communications Manager Ms. Irene Pendolin

☎ **Mobile:** +358 408486242

✉ **E-mail:** irene.pendolin@turku.fi

For detailed programme, please see the conference website

<http://ubc.kaunas.lt/>



XV UBC General Conference

Building an Inclusive and Resident-Focused City.
The Baltic Way.

KAUNAS, LITHUANIA,
15-18 OCTOBER 2019

<http://ubc.kaunas.lt/>

WELCOME TO THE XV UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE



Per Bødker Andersen
President, Union of the Baltic Cities

Dear UBC friends,

We all want to live in inclusive, safe, well-designed, well-connected cities whose growth is based on participation, dialogue, transparency and knowledge. That is the vision the cities strive for. How far are we on the way to fulfil our dream?

One of the main challenges to face nowadays is the loss of public trust. Is it the quality of government that has been declining? Or the citizens have started to expect more? Investing in trust should be considered as a central approach to ensure economic growth and to reinforce the social cohesion. The governments should learn a lesson of the crisis. The role of the cities in restoring the public confidence in democratic organisations and values is crucial.

The UBC General Conference in Kaunas would be an open forum to discuss these challenges. We want to focus on the questions of inclusion. How to empower the citizens' involvement and participation? How to get the youth on board and make them feel responsible for their future?

We will try to outline the vision of the Inclusive City based on dialogue between inhabitants and decision-makers. Our discussions would concern e.g. urbanization, digitalization, regional and European co-operation. One of the sessions will be devoted to culture as a driving force of the city development.

The idea of the conference is to offer an interactive and creative forum where ideas can grow and participants are involved actively in discussions and exchange. Hopefully, it would be also an inspiring space that gives us power to stand up to radicalisation, discrimination and hate.

We call upon our member cities, Mayors and other city leaders, all our friends and partners to join in the UBC General Conference in Kaunas.



Visvaldas Matijošaitis
Mayor of Kaunas City

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Kaunas – a brilliant green city, the future capital of Europe not only for Culture, but also for other innovative decisions and solutions that will bring the whole of the region around the Baltic Sea into one big family. We will share our experience in developing International cooperation and projects as well as underline the importance of inclusiveness as the key factor in the future's works.

I hope you will bring the best memories and impressions from Kaunas!

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

October 15, Tuesday

Arrival of participants

13.30 – 17.00 Registration open

14.00 – 15.30 Commissions' meetings

15.30 – 18.00 Interactive parallel workshops (including coffee breaks)

17.00 UBC Executive Board meeting

19.30 Welcome dinner

October 16, Wednesday

9.00 – 13.30 Registration open

9.30 – 12.00 Interactive parallel workshops (including coffee breaks)

12.00 – 13.00 Mayors' lunch (with invitations)

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch for participants (at Conference centre)

13.30 – 15.00 Plenary session 1:
- "Inclusive Cities": welcome speeches, main presentations

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00 Plenary session 2:
- "Culture as Catalyst for Cities Development", experiences of European Capitals of Culture

19.30 Dinner

October 17, Thursday

9.30 – 12.00 Study visits

12.30 Lunch (at Conference centre)

14.00 General Assembly (including coffee break)

15.30 Concluding Plenary Session

19.00 Dinner party

October 18, Friday

- Sightseeing tours

- Departure

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- **Per Bødker Andersen**, President of UBC
- **Visvaldas Matijošaitis**, Mayor of Kaunas
- **Markku Markkula**, 1st Vice President, Committee of the Regions
- **Katarina Ivanković Knežević**, Director for Social Affairs, DG Employment for Social Affairs and Inclusion
- **Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director-General, DG for Regional and Urban Policy
- **Saara Malila**, Director of Communication, City of Turku, former Communications Manager at Turku2011 Foundation
- **Virginija Vitkienė**, Director, Kaunas – European Capital of Culture 2022
- **Graziella Vella**, Research Coordinator, Valletta 2018 Foundation
- **Rossella Tarantino**, Development and Relations Manager, Matera 2019
- **Irena Kregar Šegota**, Development and Strategic Partnerships Director, Rijeka 2020
- **Krzysztof Maj**, General Director, European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016
- **Fredrik Lindegren**, Director of culture, City of Umeå, former Artistic Director for Umeå2014