

24 June 2019

Invitation to the XV UBC General Conference, Kaunas, Lithuania, 15-18 October 2019

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESIDENT-FOCUSED CITY. THE BALTIC WAY.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are cordially invited to attend the General Conference of the UBC which will be organized in Kaunas, Lithuania, on 15-18 October, 2019. The main working days will be 16 and 17 October. The General Conference will be devoted to the topics: "Inclusive Cities" and "Culture as the Catalyst for Cities' Development".

In the recent years the questions how to encourage the citizens to be active in decision-making, how to include them in the social and cultural activities, to be resilient to various social and political processes going on in their societies and neighbourhoods, have been the questions very often asked at different political levels. The loss of public trust is one of the main challenges that democratic organizations face nowadays. Therefore, the role of the cities in restoring the public confidence is crucial as they are closest to the citizens and their daily life and needs.

The cities have all the potential to create opportunities for a better life, provide a pathway out of poverty and act as an engine of economic growth. Indeed, cities are often focal points for activities that are critical to the development of an entire country, such as trade and commerce, government, transport, and other fields.

To make sure that tomorrow's cities provide opportunities and better living conditions for all, the UBC General Conference will emphasize the necessity of understanding the inclusion concept. It involves complex dimensions that interweave and reinforce each other.

We heartily encourage you to take part in the General Conference. We are sure that the vibrant and *kaunastic* atmosphere will be inspiring for all the participants and will contribute to the success of the event.

Welcome to the XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Per Bødker Andersen'.

Per Bødker Andersen
President of the UBC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Visvaldas Matijošaitis'.

Visvaldas Matijošaitis
Mayor of Kaunas