

ACTIVITY REPORT

SAFE CITIES COMMISSION

November 2017 – October 2019

1. General description

Union of the Baltic Cities Safe Cities Commission Chairman is Kaspars Vārpiņš (Liepāja Municipal Police) and the Vice Chairman is Torbjörn Lindström (Southwest Finland Emergency Services).

UBC Safe Cities Commission secretariat is located in Liepāja Municipal Police (48 Jelgava str., Liepāja, Latvia, LV-3401).

UBC Safe Cities Commission cooperates in order to improve security services as well as assure better safety standards and procedures for all Baltic Sea Region (BSR) citizens. The problems, which seems to be completely solved in some cities still exist in others. Participation in the Safe Cities Commission allows not only to expand knowledge, but also to gain and share experience amongst the cities. Joint efforts can help make BSR a safer and tidier place to live.

The Commission's main areas of interest are:

- Cooperation and experience exchange in the field of local security;
- Joint projects to increase level of security and public order within the Baltic Sea Region;
- Cooperation with other local organizations (police, fire brigade, emergency, crises management departments, social welfare centres, etc.).

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting in Lahti, June 2018

Place: Lahti, Finland

Date: 12-14 June 2018

Number of participants: 10+

Short description: Youth safety issues, organizing of large-scale events, climate change and collaboration between institutions were the main topics of the meeting. The meeting participants on the arrival day were warmly welcomed at the Lahti City Hall by Lahti Mayor Mika Mäkinen who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share their safety challenges and experiences in safety issues. The first full working session was opened by the Chairman of the Lahti City Council Milla Bruneau. She emphasized that the Safe Cities Commission is a perfect platform for exchanging valuable experiences and that the feeling of safety in the city can be a great marketing tool. The participants were informed about the regional government, health and social services reform in Finland. The information was followed by the presentation and discussions about the youth concerns regarding safety and security issues. It was decided to think and act about what we can do to make the youth feel more safe and secure. As the Chair of the Lahti City Board Pekka Komu pointed out, youth safety concerns today are the safety concerns for the whole society in the future. "At the

moment we are planning activities to include youth representatives in providing the safety advices for youth in the topics what they care most and in the way they are easier to be connected".

In the second part of the day the Commission had a field trip to Hollola where in the following weekend a large scale international orienteering relay competition "Jukolan Viesti" was to be organized with planned 20000 participants and 30000 spectators. It was presented how the security is made in such a large-scale event.

Also, the participants were informed about climate change, risks and vulnerabilities in the Europe. Later on the new police station in Hennala was visited and the information about the cooperation within Finnish authorities was presented. The UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting was concluded with demonstration/training of Finnish Police Rapid Response Unit.

Outcomes: Topic for next meeting – Innovative solutions in safety and emergency management. Planned ideas for the youth safety project.

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting in Tartu, June 2019

Place: Tartu, Estonia

Date: 5-7 June 2019

Number of participants: 20+

Short description: Union of the Baltic cities Safe Cities Commission met in Tartu, to mainly discuss about Innovative solutions in safety and emergency management. The UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting participants were warmly welcomed at the Town hall of Tartu by Tartu Mayor Urmas Klaas who expressed gratitude to host the meeting in Tartu and highlighted the smart and innovative solutions in safety and emergency management. In following presentation about Smart Tartu was given by the Head of Smary City Tartu – Lauri Sokk, who spoke about new initiatives and innovations in Tartu and highlighted, that Smart city mainly is a way of thinking. Following the welcome meeting in Town hall of Tartu, meeting participants were taken to the river Emajogi, where the Tartu Volunteer rescue brigade showed their equipment and informed about their work, functions and activities in Tartu.

During the next working day, various presentations about innovative solutions in safety and emergency management were provided by meeting participants as well the participants took part in the workshop for the project CASCADE that was organized by Stockholm Environment Institute in Tallinn. In the second part of the working day, meeting participants discussed about UBC Safe Cities Commission activities regarding Youth safety workshop in UBC General Conference and other general questions. At the end of the second working day an election of UBC Safe Cities Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman was held. The participating Commission members agreed, that current Chairman Kaspars Vārpiņš from Liepaja Municipal Police and current Vice-Chairman Torbjörn Lindström from Southwest Finland Emergency Services should continue their duties as Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the next two years. After the official meeting, Commission meeting participants had the possibility to try out the new electric bike sharing system in Tartu, which was officially opened in the following weekend.

In the last day meeting, participants went to the South-Estonian Rescue Centre and Emergency Response Centre. Both organizations presented their activities, duties and equipment, highlighting the innovative solutions. The day was concluded with a sailing trip with barge “Jommu” on River Emajogi.

Outcomes: Topic for next meeting – Youth safety, municipalities impact on safety. Ideas for the workshop at the UBC General Conference in Kaunas.

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting with UBC Sustainable Cities Commission and Planning Cities Commission, June 2019

Place: Gdansk / Gdynia , Poland

Date: 13 June 2019

Number of participants: 10+

Short description: Three UBC Commissions had a small meeting in the seaside city of Gdynia to discuss even further the joint actions and future plans of the three commissions. The discussion was led by Ms Evelin Piirsalu of Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Center, who introduced the new CASCADE project (Community Safety Action for Climate Change Adaptation) and the opportunities the project brings to the Cities. As a result, the members of the three UBC commissions addressed the need for cross-sectoral cooperation related to climate change adaptation and risk assessment work and agreed on combining efforts even more in the near future to tackle climate change related risks the region.

Outcomes: Joint understanding of the future activities regarding climate change related risks.

3. Projects

- name
- duration
- financing
- projects partners
- short description
- aims & results

CASCADE (Community safety action for supporting climate adaptation and development)

Duration: 1.1.2019–31.12.2020

Financing: DG ECHO

Budget: 850 871 euros

Project partners: Southwest Finland Rescue Services (lead), UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, Liepaja Municipal police (UBC Safe Cities Commission), The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre (SEI Tallinn), Warsaw Main School of Fire Services, Hamburg Landesfeuerweherschule,

Frederiksborg Fire and Rescue Service (FBBR), Åbo Akademi University / Centre for Lifelong Learning / Baltic University Programme

Short description: The climate is becoming increasingly unpredictable and extreme, requiring new innovative tactics to prevent disasters, and address risks.

Risks related to climate change are not only the concern for professionals engaged with sustainable development. It is becoming more evident each year that climate change is an emerging security threat, and a field in need of multi-level risk governance.

The unique project will increase practical risk management capabilities of local authorities in the Baltic Sea Region, as it brings together local administrations and civil protection practitioners, experts at universities and companies, national civil protection authorities and international bodies to achieve its goals.

The project will seek to improve urban resilience in cities and towns, as well as the overall macro-regional resilience. The expected outcome of CASCADE is to adapt existing risk assessment methodology to the climate change context and tailor it to the local level.

This methodology will be used in a training course for city officials, responsible for civil protection. If successful, the training can be replicated by all BSR countries.

Furthermore CASCADE initiates a region – wide policy dialogue on the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as an effective platform for cross – sectorial cooperation between different levels of governance and for greater policy coherence on climate risk assessments.

Aims & results:

- 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 to
 - Mainstream climate risk assessment into management and policy planning on the national and local level to
 - ensure coherence of relevant policies in the macro-region, as well as to
 - ensure sustainability and ownership of the project's results through anchoring the results in the relevant policy level, and with the relevant stakeholders

Youth for safer youth

Duration: 1.9.2019–31.8.2020

Financing: CBSS Project Support Facility

Budget: 50550 euros

Project partners: Liepaja Municipal police (UBC Safe Cities Commission) (lead), Liepaja Children and Youth Centre “Youth house”, Southwest Finland Emergency Services, Espoo Youth Services, Kaunas City Municipality

Short description: In collaboration between safety experts and youth representatives from Latvia, Finland and Lithuania

a research about youth safety in Baltic Sea region will be organized. Safety experts together with youth representatives will develop a questionnaire in which safety concerns and information about how to best reach youth will be discovered.

The main aim of the project is to research safety concerns for the youth in the Baltic Sea region and

prepare for the larger scale project in which youth in the Baltic Sea region will be educated about how to increase their safety in physical and virtual world, especially in the fields where they feel less secure. During this project the collaboration between safety experts and youth will be a crucial point and it will show the value of collaboration between safety experts and youth.

The results of the research will be publicly available and will be shared through various networks, i.e. in the network of Union of the Baltic Cities.

Aims & results:

The main aim of the project is to find out safety concerns for the youth in the Baltic Sea region. As this project will help to find out the safety concerns of our youth around the Baltic Sea Region, the project results will be the information about the safety needs of youth. So the project results will deliver long-term impact, because it will be basis for the larger scale project where it is planned to develop youth safety project, where youth together with the safety experts will develop an informal educational materials and provide them to youth using communication channels they are easier to reach.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Meetings:

- Regular participation at CBSS and EUSBSR PA Secure meetings.
- European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) conference “Security, Democracy & Cities – Coproducing Urban Security Policies” (Barcelona, November 2017)
- Swedish Institute organized Baltic Leadership Programme (Stockholm/Sigtuna, November 2017)
- CBSS Concept Development Workshop “STAC-CBRNE – Strengthening the Transnational Capacity of the Management of CBRNE agents related to Emergencies”, (Stockholm, February 2018)
- 1st International Forum of the Baltic Sea States (St.Petersburg, November 2018)
- Swedish Defence University Senior Course on Crisis Management and Civil Emergency Planning (CMCEP) (Stockholm, April 2019)
- EUSBSR Workshop “BSR – an interconnected system” (Stockholm, May 2019)
- Baltic sea youth camp (Gdansk, June 2019)

Projects: Participation in project Baltic Sea Region Research Network on Societal Security (BSR-RNSS) project (funded by the Swedish Institute).

As partners invited to take part in various projects. Still waiting for the support decisions. (A-R BOX, H8ST, ReSit – Situational Picture of Volunteerism for Societal Resilience in the Baltic Sea Region, Baltic Research network on Societal Security)

Other activities: Strong and active collaboration with CBSS PA Secure coordinators.

5. Communications

UBC Safe Cities Commission is following the UBC Communication and Marketing Strategy.

6. Other activities

UBC Safe Cities Commission took part in organizing the UBC conference “Migrants and Refugees Integration into our Civil Society” preparation meeting