

Initiatives from Safe & Sustainable Cities Commissions

In the last year UBC Safe Cities Commission and Sustainable Cities Commission strengthened collaboration. The first collaboration outcome was Joint commission meeting including UBC Cultural Cities Commission - "Cultures of Sustainability in Baltic Cities" in Słupsk and Ustka, Poland on 15th – 17th June 2016. The main aim was 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.

In our collaboration, we have created two new initiatives.

1st initiative

FiRe Concept – Regional Fire and Rescue concept for a safe and secure archipelago region

Funding instrument – Central Baltic Programme Application

Partners – Finland, Åland, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, UBC Safe Cities commission, UBC Sustainable Cities commission

Project idea – Changes in the organizations of regional authorities has caused new emerging risks and an increased need of strengthening the regional safety and security. In many areas, national, regional and local authorities have after pulling out left the areas with less safety and security back up. The project promote local and regional authorities in the creation of a *Regional Rescue Concept* including Fire safety, Oil spill prevention and Rescue activity with focus on accidents and first aid. The current situation in respective pilot area Finland and Sweden are similar and there are the same kinds of problems to be solved in all countries. In all pilot areas there is old or none fire- and rescue equipment and there is a lack of educated users that are able to act in bigger crises situations. There is a lack of coordination, capacity building and exchange of information between different regional authorities in respective country. There is lack of safety education given to people living in the sparsely populated areas.

The project idea was presented for the funding programme (Central Baltic Programme) in 22 August 2016; the project idea was of great interest for the funding programme and they supported a project application.

2nd initiative

CRCC - Making communities resilient to climate change: cross-sectorial cooperation in capacity building

This initiative has been developed in collaboration with Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

Funding instrument - DG ECHO

Possible partners – UBC Safe Cities Commission (possible lead), UBC Sustainable Cities Commission, CBSS, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (Europe Office in Brussels), Frederiksborg Fire and Rescue Service (Denmark), Estonian Rescue Board, Main School of Fire Services in Warsaw (Poland), Jelgava Municipality (Latvia), Resilient Regions Association

Project idea

1. Expanding the existing network of civil protection stakeholders in the BSR by widening the geographical coverage of the partnership and by building up new partnership between stakeholders of civil protection sector with the regional development stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, associations of the local governments, regional development agencies, etc.) in order to join efforts for reducing the vulnerability of the societies towards the emerging climate change
2. Larger cooperation project aiming at increasing the resilience of the communities to the negative impacts of the climate change by enhancing the capacity of local governments and other stakeholders on climate risks assessment as well by mainstreaming climate change into local spatial planning processes and into procedures of contingency planning for specific natural disasters.

To these ends, the project will involve partners relevant for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in joint activities aimed at identifying gaps in existing framework of adaptation to climate change, in particular in prevention, preparedness and response phases of policy cycle, and proposing most efficient ways to overcome shortages of capacities in these areas. Ensuring cooperation of experts representing civil protection agencies, local and regional governments and academia, will provide the project with an opportunity to develop a comprehensive concept of the mechanism enabling local and regional communities to strengthen capacities to respond effectively to major threats permanently rising with the climate change. This approach will be supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Europe by providing the project with an access to relevant expertise and assuring linkage of project results with National Strategies of Disaster Risk Reduction in the BSR.

Which are the main objectives?

A multi-level governance cooperation model, linking national, regional and local level:

- using prognostic risk assessment
- incorporate climate change factors into the risk methodology
- measuring instruments (indicators + methods) for comparability of results