

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
85TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (ON-LINE)
17 April 2020

AGENDA as of 15.04.2020

1. Opening of the meeting by UBC President and adoption of the agenda. Technical instructions. Election of two persons who, together with the President, will check the minutes.

2. Action plans and budgets of the Commissions/WG/TF (6 min each)

Cultural Cities, Rūta Stepanovaitė, Chair of the Commission, Kaunas
Planning Cities, Paulina Szewczyk, Chair of the Commission, Gdynia
Safe Cities, Kaspars Varpins, Chair of the Commission, Liepaja
Smart and Prospering Cities, Kiel, paper only
Sustainable Cities, Björn Grönholm, Head of SCC Secretariat, Turku
Youthful Cities, Dmitrijs Zverevs, Chair of the Commission, Riga
Gender Equality, Ann-Sofie Lagercrantz, co-Chair, Kalmar
Youth Employment & Well-being, Matti Mäkelä, Chair, Turku
Inclusive and Healthy Cities – no leadership at the moment

Proposal:

The Board to assign the Presidium to make a final decision on Commissions funding in 2020.
The Board to discuss lack of leadership in Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission.

3. Budget 2020.

The Board to take note of financial report 2019 and to adopt the budget 2020 (attached).

4. Questionnaire 'Mapping the needs of UBC Member Cities' – summary.

5. Strategy, policy, projects.

The current UBC Strategy ends on 31.12.2021. The Strategy is attached.

The Board to authorise the Presidium to set up task force on new UBC Strategy and task force on Policy & Projects.

6. Letter from the Parliament of Ukraine.

President Mantas Jurgutis received an official letter from Yuliia Ovchynnykova, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine. The letter is attached. Ms Ovchynnykova is proposing to strengthen cooperation between Baltic Sea and Black Sea regions and asks on what conditions Ukrainian cities could join UBC.

The Board to discuss the question.

7. EUSBSR Horizontal Action Capacity.

UBC is one of three coordinators, together with the Swedish Institute and Norden Association representing the Baltic Sea NGO Network, of Horizontal Action 'HA Capacity' of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The overall coordination of the Strategy lies on 13 Policy Areas (PAs) and 4 Horizontal Actions (HAs). They are responsible for the application of the necessary measures to guarantee the success and visibility of the Strategy.

HA Capacity task is to increase the project capacity, skills and competence of all stakeholders involved in the Strategy, through the training programs. The other dimension of the Horizontal Action Capacity is to ensure broad participation of local and regional authorities as well as all other stakeholders.

Capacity building activities of HA CAP include among others, workshops for PAs/HAs, annual meetings of EUSBSR stakeholders, as well as support to other stakeholders such as PA Focal Points/steering group members, and managing authorities of ERDF and ESF networks. HA CAP has also been responsible for organising the Networking village and Participation Day linked to the EUSBSR Annual Fora.

Executive Board at the meeting in Malmö on 18 October 2018 decided to move administration of HA Capacity from Centrum Balticum Turku to UBC.

The objectives of HA Capacity have been implemented within the project PA EDU / PA TOU / HA CAP - implementing three work programmes 2018 – 2020, co-funded from the BSR INTERREG Programme.

In March 2019 UBC signed contract for HA Capacity coordinator with Mr Mikko Lohikoski. The contract has been terminated on 4 November 2019.

UBC expenses in the 1st reporting period (7.06.2018-31.03.2019) – 16 627,82 EUR
UBC expenses in the 2nd reporting period (1.04.2019-30.09.2019) – 11 544,54 EUR

By 17 April 2020 the application on the prolongation of the project, from 1 October 2020 to 30 June 2021, has been submitted. The UBC budget in the new period: 67,700 EUR. The UBC own contribution in amount of 10,155 EUR is to be confirmed by the Board.

The Board to authorise the Presidium to decide on the next steps.

8. Idea to create UBC pool of experts.

UBC as an organisation has great potential of competences and expertise. UBC member cities, commissions, working groups, task forces, have specialists in different areas who could be of practical help to UBC and its member cities.

President proposes to create a pool of experts from UBC cities, commissions and other bodies. The pool of experts would be available online.

9. Digitalisation in UBC member cities (Smart&Prospering Cities Commission/ Rostock)

Municipal digitization is one of the most important future topics for all UBC member cities. The frame conditions are extremely complex and dynamic. These huge challenges will only be met if expertise, experience and successful implementation concepts are shared and implemented with other cities. The UBC in general and the UBC Smart and Prospering Cities Commission in particular are suitable platforms for the interests of the member cities. The UBC Smart and Prospering Cities Commission recommends the UBC to focus on the theme: Digital Nordic Cities in 2021.

The concept is based on the following principles:

- The expertise and experience of the member cities with digitization are jointly developed further and made systematically accessible to all members and external interested parties.
- The added value for existing member cities and potential new members is significantly increased by the provision of knowledge, experience and the BSR-wide network.
- In the future the UBC should be perceived in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond as a competent and reliable partner for digitization of cities.

It is recommended for UBC Executive Board to set up a task force under the auspices of the Smart and Prospering Cities Commission to develop the Digital Nordic Cities concept. The cities of Kiel, Aarhus and Rostock will form the task force. It will integrate other UBC cities, too. The concept will be presented until the end of 2020.

More information is attached.

10. Information from Brussels on forthcoming events, conferences, consultations - Out of the Box International.

- The Board to take note of the information.
- The Board to discuss possibility to create UBC Antenna in Brussels.
- New project proposals

Project proposal 'Strategic Partnership in the field of Higher Education (HE)'.

Erasmus+ ICT Literacy project.

Erasmus + Welcoming Urban Culture in VET – innovative and contemporary VET project.

The Board to confirm UBC readiness to participate in the applications.

11. Severe waste water treatment problem in Guatemala. (Karin Wohlgemuth, Rostock)

The City of Rostock holds a friendship with the City of Panajachel, which is one of the largest of 15 municipalities around Lake Atitlan. During the last specialist's visit from Rostock in February 2020, it became clear that the Lake and its population is in imminent danger to collapse if no environmental and sanitation measures are taken in the near future.

The Lago Atitlán is the largest sweet water reservoir in Central America, holds about 25 km³ of water coming from rivers, springs and rain. It is located at 1.555 m over sea level, surrounded by mountains including three volcanoes (one of them active). Due to the changing weather conditions like precipitations and temperature, the water level will slowly raise or fall. The water is needed for the daily human use, and, for a healthy flora and fauna. Twelve municipal cities and several small villages depend on the good quality of the water. Furthermore, a high percentage of the urban water supply is taken from the Lake. It is very important to keep the water clean in order to sustain the livelihood of the local population that depends on tourism, fishery, irrigation for agriculture and supply of reliable drinking water.

The problem of the sewage water treatment and the solid waste disposal could only be tackled together and has to be systematic for the whole basin. The cities surrounding the lake have to unite in order to speak with one voice.

Having experience in supporting Lake Victoria region authorities, UBC could offer its environmental expertise also to the municipalities belonging to the Department de Sololá. That could be highly valuable. During the next technical assistance visit it will have to be decided how to tackle the problem in a sustainable, economical and effective way.

12. Board Member city from Norway.

XV UBC General Conference in Kaunas, 15-18 October 2019, authorised the Board to approve - after consultation with Norwegian cities - the member from Norway. Bergen informed they are not able to take the seat in the UBC Board. The Board to decide on member from Norway.

13. Secretariat.

Following the proposal of the Mayor of Gdańsk, the General Conference in Kaunas, 17 October 2019, decided to maintain the Secretariat in Gdańsk for the next four year period. President of UBC and Mayor of Gdańsk propose Paweł Żaboklicki to continue as Secretary General for the next four year period. The Board to elect Secretary General for the next four year period.

14. 11th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Turku.

Due to coronavirus outbreak the 11th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Turku has been postponed from 16-17 June 2020 till 19-20 October 2020.

More information at:

<http://annualforum2020.eu/en/annual-forum-2020>

15. Next Executive Board meeting, Liepaja, Latvia, September/October 2020.

16. Any other business.

The documents (attachments) are available at:

<https://ubc.net/document-categories/executive-board-meeting-documents/85th-executive-board-meeting-17-april-2020-930>