

ACTIVITY REPORT

SAFE CITIES COMMISSION

November 2015 - October 2017

1. General description

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. We hope that joint efforts can help to make BSR a safer and tidier place to live.

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).

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.).

In 2017–2018, the main objectives are to:

- Expand partnership and collaborations of organizations which are responsible for safety promotion in the cities by creating collaboration tools;
- Disseminate knowledge about the safety of young people through their education in the schools, promote appropriate lawful behaviour;
- Continue cooperation with other organizations and institutions i.e. Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS), other UBC Commissions. The experience of these organizations with EU projects about safety and security may bring to the Commission good ideas and solutions on EU co-financed projects;
- Promote safety issues among community members using modern media and other coordinated activities in local communities of the Commission member cities;
- Prepare and participate in projects regarding safety issues;
- Continue to involve safety specialists from more fields regarding safety issues.

2. Meetings/seminars/conferences

Joint Commission between UBC Sustainable Cities, Safe Cities and Cultural Cities Commissions

Place: Slupsk and Ustka

Date: 15-17 June 2016

Number of participants: 33

Short description: Which elements make events safe and sustainable? Are all key players aware of sustainable principles and will they implement them? These and other questions were explored during the Union of Baltic Cities Sustainable, Safe and Cultural Cities Commissions' joint meeting *Cultures of Sustainability in Baltic Cities* that took place in Słupsk and Ustka, Poland on 15th – 17th June 2016. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and find key principles on how to produce sustainable events from small-scale local events to big international events in the Baltic Sea Region cities. The meeting offered a fruitful ground for experts from the three focus areas – safety – culture – sustainability – to change experiences and build new partnerships.

It was discussed during the meeting that organizing events is a co-operation between various actors, such as municipal authorities, businesses and NGOs. There's an actual demand for smooth communication, clear instructions for necessary permits and safety regulations. In addition, cultural and social values should be incorporated in all levels of the event management. As the outcome of the meeting, the participants committed to work for establishing a guidebook for sustainable event management that would disseminate smart practices from the UBC cities.

By combining different angles (safety, culture, sustainability), it is ensured that all central elements will be taken into consideration and included in the guidebook. Secondly, the participants discussed that there is a need for commonly shared principles on sustainable event management in the Baltic Sea cities. Therefore, the possibility to use the guidebook also as a toolkit for cities will be explored. Finally, participants suggested that the guidebook would be published as web-application and distributed broadly in the UBC cities and well as schools and other relevant stakeholders.

Outcomes: Various project initiatives for support to create Sustainable and safe public events. Collaboration in developing "Sustainable event management Guidebook".

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting in Kaunas, January 2017

Place: Kaunas

Date: 11-13 January 2017

Number of participants: 20

Short description: Year 2017 for UBC Safe Cities Commission has started with the Commission meeting in Kaunas, Lithuania on January 11–13. Kaunas welcomed participants from Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania with real winter conditions. During three days safety specialists from different fields – municipal police, fire and rescue services, civil protection and other municipal institutions – discussed various issues.

Kaunas city council and UBC Executive Board member Mantas Jurgutis welcomed everyone with insight into Kaunas city and possible safety issues in Kaunas. UBC Safe Cities Commission Chairman Kaspars Vārpiņš informed about latest information regarding UBC and other issues including project "Cities Resilient to Climate Change". UBC Safe Cities Commission Vice-Chairman Torbjörn Lindström informed about upcoming project "FiRe Concept".

Meeting was followed by planning of project initiative about data collection principles for civil protection prevention activities with following workshops organized by Head of Jelgava City Municipality Strategic Information Centre Gints Reinsons.

During the whole UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting, meaningful discussions about various safety topics took place. The main outcome of these discussions were, that for the next meeting, the civil protection topic should be chosen as a main topic.

Outcomes: Topic for next meeting – Civil protection, initiative to work about data collection principles of civil protection prevention activities, workshop results for data collection principles. Presentation of animation movies about safety at home.

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting in Tallinn, June 2017

Place: Tallinn

Date: 7-9 June 2017

Number of participants: 20

Short description: June 7-9, UBC Safe Cities Commission met in Tallinn, to have their second meeting of the year and elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Theme of this meeting was – crisis management in emergency situation.

Official working session began with warm welcome words from Kalle Klandorf (Tallinn Deputy Mayor), who expressed his pleasure to invite UBC Safe Cities Commission to Tallinn. During these 3 days, UBC Safe Cities Commission members from Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Poland had the possibility to get information on how Tallinn Municipal Police is preparing for the new task – crisis management. After the introduction, other cities presented on how they are preparing for crisis management and how they really work during an emergency situation.

Following the presentation and discussions, meeting participants were visiting one of the Estonians Emergency Centers to see in reality how the work is carried out in Tallinn.

In the last day an election of the UBC Safe Cities Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman was held. The participating Commission members agreed, that current Chairman Kaspars Vārpiņš from Liepāja Municipal Police and current Vice-Chairman Torbjörn Lindström from Southwest Finland Emergency Services should continue their duties as Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Outcomes: Re-election of UBC Safe Cities Commission Chairman and Vice Chairman. Exchanged experience in Crisis management in emergency situations.

3. Projects

Applied project, there are no results yet.

Name: CASCADE – Community Safety Action for Supporting Climate Adaptation and Development

Duration: Two years from 01.01.2018.

Financing: European Commission, Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Prevention And Preparedness Projects In Civil Protection And Marine Pollution

Projects partners: UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (Main), Council of the Baltic Sea States, Frederiksborg Fire and Rescue Service (Denmark), The Main School of Fire Service (Poland), Hamburg Fire and Rescue Service, Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre, The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Åbo Akademi University

Short description: The project addresses climate change risk management at the local authority level in the Baltic Sea Region. It will contribute to the objective “build up resilience and prevention towards emergencies and threats at the local level” of Policy Area Secure within the EU Strategy for the BSR, and it will apply the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The project will increase the connection between local administrations and national civil protection authorities. Relevant international bodies, ensuring high-level support and visibility, will facilitate the project to achieve its goals. The project will create closer contacts between practitioners and climate change and/or risk management experts, creating mutual learning processes. The project will create improved capacity to understand, assess, and treat current and future climate change related risks on the local level, focusing on the particular BSR conditions. It will increase practical risk management capabilities of local authorities, creating positive cascading effects through training trainers who will use the developed training material to enhance the capacity of urban communities.

Aims & results: The project will develop an online tool for integrated climate change and disaster risk reduction management in urban contexts in the BSR. It will prepare guidelines on how to operationalize the proper risk treatment options. These activities are accompanied by training courses for the target groups. The project will organize policy dialogues between local, national, macro-regional, and international actors, to develop policy recommendations to increase policy coherence in the BSR.

4. Cooperation with other organisations

Meetings: Regular participation at CBSS and EUSBSR PA Secure meetings.

Other activities: UBC Safe Cities Commission has received a full membership to The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Policy Area Secure (PA Secure) Steering Group.

5. Communications

UBC Safe Cities Commission is following the UBC Communication and Marketing Strategy. The Communication activities will be more active after UBC General Conference in Vaxjo.

6. Other activities

UBC Safe Cities Commission has produced three short animation movies about safety at home. As the Union of the Baltic Cities includes around 100 cities from the Baltic Sea Region, these animation movies were made without an actual word spoken, so that they can be clear for everyone.

These animation movies teach how to ensure your property, so you know who is coming to visit you and that you don't have to open your door to everyone, as well, that you don't need to show off to your friends with the valuables you have at your home.

Enjoy the movies, download and share them through your available channels.

The movies are available in two quality modes – FullHD and 4k. Movies are available here – <http://files.inbox.lv/ticket/folder/5bcbd29cfa4981964a3d551da54475f43f153117>.

UBC Safe Cities Commission has been represented in various meetings and shared the UBC Cities experience regarding safety (i.e. , VASAB Conference "Achieving Good Living Environment: territory matters. What's beyond 2030 for macro-regions?", Warsaw, 07.06.16., Sustainable City Development 2016, Malmo, 30.11.-02.12.16., Soft Security and Migration conference, Helsinki, 30.-31.05.17., Smart Metropolia conference: Openness and safety, Gdansk, 23.-24.11.17.

Kaspars Varpins

19.09.2017