

COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVITY REPORT OCTOBER 2001 – SEPTEMBER 2003

1. PROJECTS

UBC Social Charter

The VI UBC General Conference in Rostock unanimously adopted the UBC Social Charter. To reach this aim we prepared a strategy and a network plan were prepared and presented to the 34 Executive Board Meeting 7-8 June 2002 in Viljandi.

As from September 2002 a Translation Team delivered the versions of the Charter in all 10 Baltic languages. They were sent out in March 2002. Shortly after, all versions were integrated into the UBC website. In November 2002 all UBC Commissions and Networks were contacted to contribute their ideas.

Since January 2003 we are encouraging public persons to become Ambassadors of the UBC Social Charter in order to create awareness of this paper on the international stage presenting it in Conferences, seminars, workshops. First Ambassadors were: UBC Vice-President Liisa Pakosta, Prof. Dr. Ingo Richter, promoter and organiser of the Hanse Tour Sunshine 2003, Mr Dejan Panow, member of the founding Committee of the UBC Youth Network. The UBC member cities have been contacted since April 2002, some cities already named a contact person. The financing of the scientific work in the implementation of the UBC Social Charter is pending on appropriate co-funding.

The UBC Social Charter was already presented and discussed at the following events: Conference WoMen and Democracy, 13-14 February in Tallinn; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Days in Southern Sweden, Malmö 15-19 May 2003, Conference Young Voices of the Baltic Sea Region, 15-18 May 2003 in Kalmar, Baltic Seminar on Creation and Functioning of the Regional Youth Councils within UBC, 29 May – 01 June 2003 in Sopot and during the Hanse Tour Sun-shine, 25 July – 10 August 2003 around the Baltic Sea (see press releases emitted by the Commission's secretariat).

Hanse-Sunshine-Tour 2003

for Children suffering from cancer and other chronic diseases around the Baltic Sea.

The Commission on Health and Social Affairs co-operated in the preparation of the tour itinerary including important contact work and of the previous organisational trips which took place in April and June 2002. The Tour took place from 25 July to 10 August 2003 and led the cyclists through the cities Greifswald, Wismar, Lübeck, Kiel, Kolding, Copenhagen, Malmö, Kristianstad, Karlskrona, Kalmar, Oskarshamn, Västervik, Norrköping, Nyköping, Stockholm, Turku and Helsinki collecting money and goods, taking it all to special organisations, hospitals etc. in the cities Tallinn, Pärnu, Jurmala/Riga, Liepaja, Palanga, Klaipeda, Kaliningrad, Elblag, Gdansk/Sopot/Gdynia, Slupsk, Koszalin, Szczecin. The tour became a big success, after having mobilised humanitarian aid of 3 million Euro. The Prime Minister of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, gave his personal congratulations to Prof. Dr. Richter and the whole team and expressed his respects to all who supported this exceptional initiative. A follow-up tour is planned.

International Conference 'Europe of the Future with a Look at Eastern Expansion'

held in Rostock On 6-8 May 2002 during the European Week, the Commission's Secretariat gave a strong assessment in the preparation phase.

VI UBC General Conference in Rostock 2001 – follow-up

The Commission's Secretariat gave strong assistance to the UBC Secretariat in the preparation of the follow-up documents (protocol of speeches), a follow-up exhibition '10 Years UBC' in the City Hall of Rostock was organised and the remaining financial issues were settled thoroughly.

2. PARTNERS

Social Hansa

Social Hansa, a former project within ICSW, was established as an organisation, with an office in Lübeck. Several meetings and discussions took place, analysing the possibilities of co-operation (Social Charter, mutual visit of meetings, correlation of networks, project 'Social Monitor' of the BSR, etc.) and assisting the creation of a constitution.

3. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER COMMISSIONS

EMAS (Municipal Environmental Management Systems) Workshop

of the UBC Commission on Environment, 15-16 November 2003 in Rostock. The Secretariat strongly co-operated with the organisers during three months preparing the event.

4. MEETINGS

Commission's Meeting

An explicit Commission's meeting could not be organised during this period due to organisational problems. Attempts to place it were made in Tallinn (May 2002), Greifswald, Nykøbing, Tartu, Panevezys and Vaasa – without success, mostly because of limited financial possibilities of the cities for that period.

5. VISITED / SUPPORTED EVENTS

Conference 'Aspects of Women's Entrepreneurship – Dialogues Open New Horizons'

in Rostock, 18-19 October 2002. At this international Conference (participants from Portugal, Italy, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden etc.), organised by Ressourcencenter, baltic fem and Rostock Gender Equality Co-ordinator, the Commission delivered a workshop statement about 'Networking in the Baltic Sea Region'

Third Baltic Sea Women's Conference on 'Women and Democracy'

in Tallinn 13-14 February 2003. The Commission's Secretariat was member of the International Planning Committee and introduced the topic 'UBC Social Charter' in the Programme. Leaflets of the Charter in 11 languages were sent to be handed out to all participants. UBC Office Rostock acted as well as National Co-ordinator for Germany.

Social Hansa - International Foundation Meeting

In spring 2002 the Secretariat assisted in the founding meeting representing UBC, showing the Commission's profile and establishing various contacts.

ACTION PLAN 2003 – 2005

- UBC Social Charter
- Common Project together with the UBC Women's Network
 - *Combatting the Silence and Invisibility of Trafficking Locally* -
- Working group on the EU strategy against poverty and social exclusion concerning its implementation on the national and local level
- Hanse Tour Sunshine (preparation, next tour in 2006)
- Co-operation with the UBC Commission on Environment in issues of BLA21
- Strengthening of Co-operation with partners (WHO, Social Hansa, ..)
- More awareness of our activities (Publications, Flyer)
- Strengthening of Networking, more thematic meeting occasions

Karin Wohlgemuth
UBC Office Rostock