

ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUSIVE AND HEALTHY CITIES COMMISSION 2017

1. General description

Inclusive and Healthy Cities Commission began in its current form in spring 2015. In June 2015 the commission had its first meeting in Gdynia - Poland.

At our first meeting in Gdynia we chose "Open Spaces" as a topic to work on and we have held on to that topic during the years. Open Space is a place where a community can get together, work and play together, talk to each other, discuss matters of importance for the community, and act together in order to make their living better.

From the start Gdynia has taken full responsibility for all financial matters.

2. Activities and meetings 2017

Workshops in Trelleborg - Sweden, 22-24 March 2017

This meeting was a creative workshop where we had the opportunity to try the concept of service design. Design thinking starts with what people need, and it is about understanding culture and context before starting to design solutions. Our moderator guided us through the workshop sessions and helped us to use different tools to find potential projects within the theme of our commission, Open Spaces. The result of the workshop, one concrete project idea, can after some further development be included in the future work of the commission.

We also had the chance to see the uncut version of the film produced by the city of Trelleborg regarding the refugee influx in Trelleborg in the autumn of 2015. The film is based on interviews with people involved in the urgent work of helping refugees arriving to the city of Trelleborg. It's a way of trying to describe what happened in Trelleborg and how they acted to help the refugees in the best way possible. The film is made with financial support from UBC.

At this meeting, there were participants from seven cities in five nations.

Conference and annual meeting in Gdynia, 9-10 October 2017

The 9th of October Gdynia had invited the commission to participate at their conference "Intergenerational City – challenges in demography and opportunities for sustainable development". As a part of the program Gdynia had invited two speakers from our commission. Marti Merra, director of Sports and Youth Services in Espoo, Finland and Per-Inge Lidén, chairman of the labour market and the social service committee in Karlstad, Sweden. Marti Merra talked about how they are trying to increase opportunities for physical activity and recreation and at the same time make it as an intergenerational action. Per-Inge Lidén talked about the Youth council in the city of Karlstad and the challenges he saw in their work in Karlstad.

On the 10th of October, we had a workshop guided by Marek Szymanski and Piotr Wolkowinski. Marek and Piotr are the ones who carried out the workshops together with the residents of Gdynia as a part of Gdynia's intergenerational dialogue. The workshop gave us, in the commission, an opportunity to discuss and exchange experiences from our cities based on the given themes.

We also had our annual meeting, just for the members of the commission. At the meeting, we decided to elect the chairman and co-chairman for two years, not one year at a time as we have done before. For the next two years, 2018 -2019, Gdynia will be chairman and Karlstad co-chairman.

We also discussed the needs of some more active members in the commission and the challenges of finding new common themes for the commission's work. These topics are discussions we will have to continue during the next year. Anna Dargiewicz from the general secretary of UBC participated at our annual meeting. At this meeting, there were participants from five cities in three nations.

Domestic violence, exchanges between Karlstad and Gdynia, 6-8 December 2017

The city of Karlstad and the city of Gdynia has started an exchange with focus on domestic violence. For two and a half days, a group of 6 employees from Karlstad visited Gdynia to see and learn more about how Gdynia have organized their work with domestic violence. We met employees from Gdynia social service, had study visits, time for discussions and a participation at the White Ribbon Conference was also a part of the program. In April 2018, we will continue our exchange in Karlstad.

Executive Board Meetings and other activities in UBC

During this year our commission was represented by co-chair at the Executive Board meeting in Kristiansand, 15-17 February 2017 and at the meeting in Berlin on the 15th of June 2017. Our commission is also engaged in preparation of conference on migration issues in Europe. Representatives of Gdynia are members of the working team. Conference on Integration of New Citizens will be held in Rostock on 12-14 March 2018.

XIV UBC General Conference in Växjö, 24-27 October 2017

During the General conference, our commission was represented by five members from three countries and four cities. The first day of the conference we had a meeting open for everyone interested in our commissions work. Unfortunately, we had only members from our own commission at the meeting. Anyway, we got some time to talk and discuss ideas for future meetings.

Management working meetings

During this year, the chairman and co-chairman cities have had two common working days for planning and preparing the commission's work. The Chairman and co-chairman have also had regular skype meetings to prepare and communicate about the work of the commission.

Now we are looking forward to a new year and new meetings in the commission!

Lina Helgerud, Chairman, Karlstad

Katarzyna Stec, Co-Chairman, Gdynia

Jaroslaw Józefczyk, Co-chairman, Gdynia