

The UBC Gender Equality Working Group in partnership with the City of Gdańsk and the European Solidarity Centre organized the conference on *Attractive and Inclusive Cities - Promotion of Equality of Men and Women in Local Life* in Gdańsk on 11 April 2017. Its aim was to get more cities to sign the *European Charter of Equality of Women and Men at the Local Level* by informing the participants what it means in practice.

The event gathered around 50 participants including the representatives of the local authorities, namely Ritva Viljanen, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Piotr Kowalczyk, Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk, , and Andrzej Cieśla, Mayor of Aleksandrów Kujawski (representative of one of two Polish cities that signed the Charta). Mikko Lohikoski, UBC Strategy Coordinator, Marion Boeker, co-founder of the "Initiative for a Gender Sensitive Budget in Berlin", Jaimie Just, Policy Officer - Gender Equality and Diversity, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Kaspars Varpnis, Chair of the UBC Safe Cities Commission were among the speakers.

The discussion focused on the questions: Why the *European Charta on Equality between Women and Men at the Local Level* is the right tool to achieve equality between women and men on the level of the cities? Does gender equality foster development of the city?

The participants of the conference were informed that the Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz had obliged the Council of Equal Treatment of Gdańsk to prepare the indicators and timetable for the implementation of the Charta. The participants of the conference supported by acclamation the final declaration of the conference: "We, the participants of the conference "Attractive and Inclusive Cities organized on 11 April, 2017 in Gdańsk, support 6 basic principles of the European Charter for Equality between Women and Men, adopted in 2006 by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and declare cooperation for the implementation of the Charter by the Gdańsk local government.

Despite many legal changes, equality between women and men still does not exist in practice. Social, political, economic and cultural inequalities are still present in our lives, such as the lack of equal pay or the lower political representation of women.

We are pleased that the decision of the Mayor of Gdańsk Paweł Adamowicz to start the process of adopting the Charter by Gdańsk. We declare the support for the Gdansk Council for Equal Treatment in the development of best solutions for Gdańsk. We invite other local governments to cooperate in implementing equality standards.