

## UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs Activity Report - Meeting in Tartu.

On 29-31 May in Tartu, Estonia was held annual meeting of the UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs under leading title: Ways to a community based system of social services for vulnerable groups. Social welfare of vulnerable groups in the Baltic Sea Region."

On Wednesday 29.05 during welcome dinner participants were welcomed by Deputy Mayor of Tartu Mr Juri Kore and Chairman of the Commission Mr Wojciech Drozd.

On 30.05 was held seminar - the main part of the event. The participants were welcomed by Mayor of Tartu Mr Urmas Kruise. City of Tartu has invited many speakers covering plenty of aspects of social welfare development. Among speakers we had a pleasure and honor to welcome former first Estonian Minister of Social Affairs, Ms Marju Lauristin. As in the past we also invited representatives of external organizations, namely NDPHS which gradually becomes our tradition, and European Social Network. Second part of the seminar was filled with the presentations of the participating cities with short panel discussion at the end.

Last day of meeting the participants had possibility to visit and compare institutions called for people with mental disabilities care administered by NGO and the municipality.

During this meeting we managed to beat last year records regarding number of cities and participants present. There were 51 participants from 19 cities present at our conference. Among them: Tallinn, Rakvere, Sopot, Tukums, Klaipeda, Elbląg, Jyväskylä, Maardu, Narva, Naestved, Jogeva, Vilnius, Elva, Kaunas, Malmö, Helsinki, Gdańsk, Tampere and very hospitable city of Tartu.

At the end of the meeting Mr Wojciech Drozd has invited interested cities to organize next meeting and informed that according to UBC charter there is possibility after two years to elect new city leading the commission work. Actually City of Tallinn is considering the proposal.

Due to professional purposes Mr Wojciech Drozd will not be able to officiate as the chairman of the commission. Actually as a result of peculiar situation in City of Elbląg (untimely local election for mayor and city council) if City of Tallinn will not decide to accept position of the leader of the commission, next chair will be appointed by new mayor of Elbląg.

Wojciech Drozd

Chairman, UBC Commission on Health and Social Affairs