

ACTIVITY REPORT
SAFE CITIES COMMISSION
2018

UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting

Place: Lahti, Finland

Date: 12-14 June 2018

Topic: youth safety issues, organizing of large-scale event, climate change and collaboration between institutions

Short description: During the commission meeting information on regional government, health and social services reform in Finland was given, followed by presentation and discussions about youth concerns regarding safety and security issues. It was decided, that it is necessary to think and act about what we can do to make youth feel more safe and secure. It was highlighted, that it is necessary to collaborate with UBC Youthful Cities Commission and involve youth in the process. Chair of the Lahti City Board Pekka Komu highlighted, that youth safety concerns today are the safety concerns for the whole society in the future. During the commission meeting, a study visit to Hollola was made. In Hollola in the following weekend a large scale international orienteering relay competition "Jukolan Viesti" was organized with planned 20000 participants and 30000 spectators. It was presented how the security is made in such a large-scale event. In the UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting information about climate change, risks and vulnerabilities in the Europe was given, as well as the visit to the new police station in Hennala was organized and the information about the cooperation within Finnish authorities was presented. The UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting was concluded with demonstration/training of Finnish Police Rapid Response Unit.

Outcomes: It is necessary to collaborate with UBC Youthful Cities Commission in organizing a safety activities for youth in Baltic Sea Region. The next UBC Safe Cities Commission meeting will be held in December 2018 in Liepaja, Latvia.

Projects

Supported project.

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

Duration: Two years from 2019

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

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

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.

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.

Other activities

Participation at the Baltic Sea Region Research network for Societal Security Kick-off meeting

It was discussed that there is need to create mechanism for sharing results (projects and research), available for policy makers and practitioners and that it is necessary mapping to find out the gaps to fill.

Project result and research result summaries should be short and concrete, with easy to understand language, to produce interest in the results easier. The network should be based on real problems, i.e. provided from the cities. More concrete information will follow after upcoming meetings.

Planned activities in 2019

1. Project Cascade will start in 2019, so this is one of the SafeCC activity for 2019,
2. Collaboration with UBC Youthful Cities Commission regarding youth safety. Together we plan to write a project application during this year and early next year to apply for funding in February 2019, and if we'll get that, so we'll have the project running from mid 2019,
3. 2019 first UBC SafeCC meeting will take place in Tartu (Estonia) in May (that's the idea for now),
4. Continue collaboration and active participation at the EUSBSR PA Secure Steering group and to it related activities.