

On 4-7 April the UBC Youthful Cities Commission had its first meeting in 2017, hosted by the city of Gävle, Sweden.

31 youth and officials representing 11 member cities from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Germany discussed questions related to the "Digital Renewal".

*In Gävle we work broadly to adopt digitalization opportunities and challenges and the social upheaval we face - Ms Inger Källgren Sawela, The Mayor of Gävle, said.*

*At the moment we are also developing initiatives on, among other things, "choice of school" and improved communication between teachers and students in both the Culture School and the Adult Education. During 2017, we will begin the implementation of free "Wi-Fi zones" in the city and also targeted measures against recreational facilities".*

The meeting started with the Commission's latest news. Then the teacher Martin Alexandersson and two of his pupils, Edwin and Bjarne from Polhemsskolan, an upper secondary school, took us through their work building Gävle as a map in Minecraft. With Marie Nilsson from the IT-department we got an update of the digital renewal in Gävle and then the workshops on the same topics were held.

During the evening the municipal Commissioner Jan Myléus welcomed the participants to Gävle and spoke about the importance of the work of the Youthful Cities Commission, not just for Gävle but for the whole Baltic Sea area. The politicians and civil servants also had time to meet youth representatives from the commission and discuss issues of mutual interest.

The third day of the meeting was themed for the upcoming Växjö UBC General Conference, the Youth Conference and the interaction between the two. Many interesting ideas were discussed. Also other ongoing projects and future ideas were put to the table for open discussion.

We also had an inversed study visit (El Sistema), 2 cultural workshops (animation and ukulele's) followed by a historical city tour.

The meeting ended on April 7<sup>th</sup> with workshops on future cooperation with BSSSC and ERB and meeting evaluation.

Next commission meeting will be during the GC in Växjö.

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