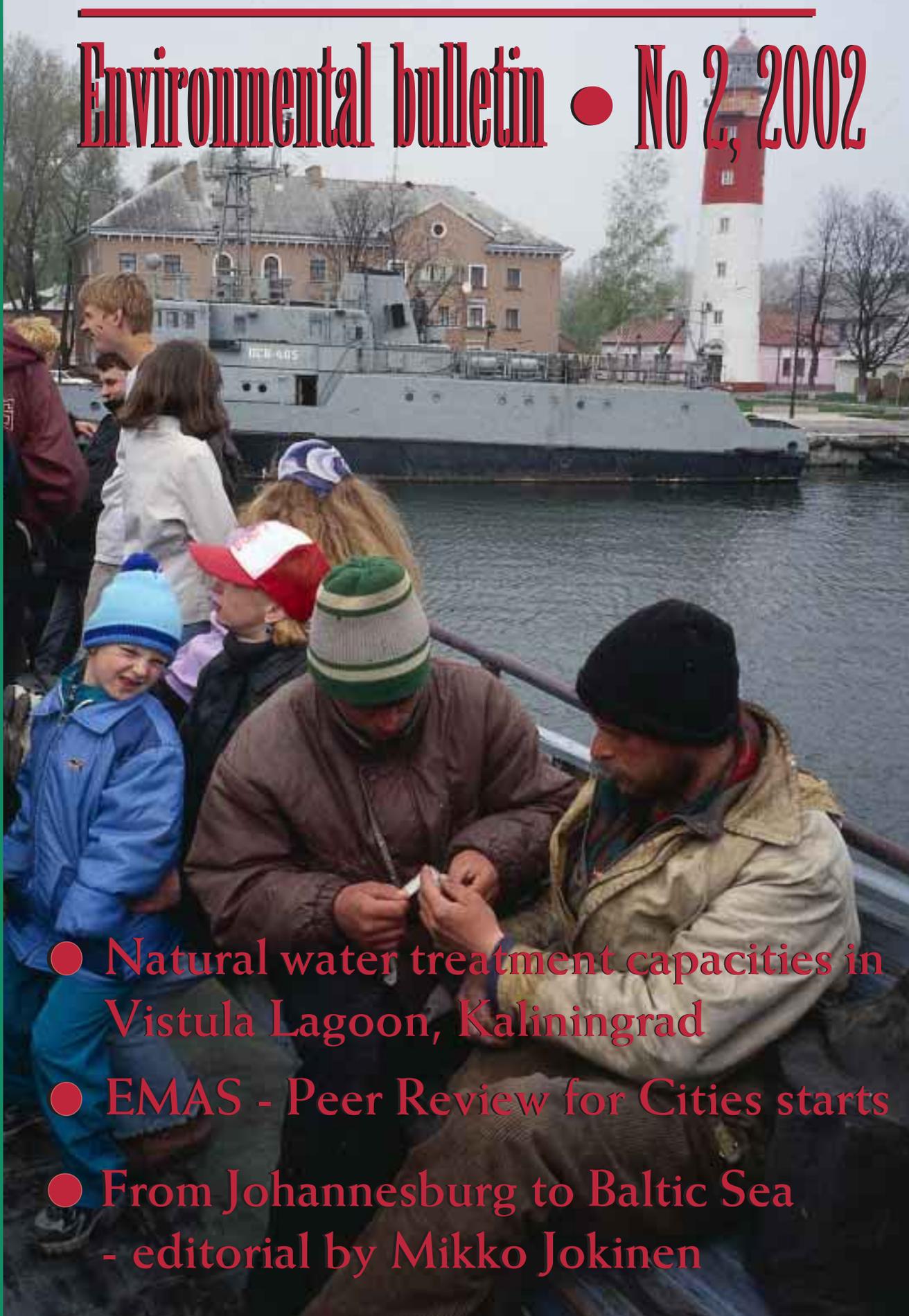


Baltic Cities

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UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

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- Natural water treatment capacities in Vistula Lagoon, Kaliningrad
- EMAS - Peer Review for Cities starts
- From Johannesburg to Baltic Sea - editorial by Mikko Jokinen



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*

PUBLISHER

Union of the Baltic Cities

Commission on Environment

Linnankatu 41

FIN-20100 Turku

FINLAND

www.ubc.net/commissions/environment.html

Tel: +358 2 262 3171

Fax: +358 2 253 8613

E-mail: sari.bowie@saunalabti.fi

ubcenv@netti.fi

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Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



Local Action from Johannesburg to Baltic Cities

During this autumn, discussions on sustainable development have been dominated by the Johannesburg Summit. All stakeholders are giving their interpretations of the success - or failure - of the meeting. In Johannesburg there were more than 21 000 official delegates representing world governments and different stakeholders, so it is natural that they are not all on the same opinion about the results.

The main outcomes of the Summit were two documents: the Political Declaration and the Plan of Implementation. In the Plan of Implementation, most important issues are poverty reduction, sustainable production and consumption models, sustainable use of nature resources - including issues like energy, water, waste and biodiversity.

During the ten years between the Rio and Johannesburg Summits, local governments have been very active in implementing Agenda 21. In Johannesburg, the Local government session, organised by ICLEI, was one of the largest side-events in the Summit with more than 700 delegates participating. The main message from local governments was "From Agenda to Actions". In practice, it means putting emphasis on concrete actions and themes in the Local Agenda 21 processes.

We should now start our discussions on how to implement the Johannesburg outcomes here in the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC Agenda 21 programme is supposed to be renewed in the next General Conference in Klaipeda 2003. Before that we should try to find a common focus for our local Baltic actions. One choice could be to give priority for implementing sustainable consumption and production patterns. UBC might consider a 10-year programme which would underline themes like Eco-efficiency and public procurement, renewed sources of energy, minimising need of mobility, public transport, waste reduction, sustainable land use and waste management.

I hope that the Johannesburg message will spread to all our cities and stimulate fruitful discussion among local politicians and other stakeholders. UBC will do its best to stimulate such discussion. The next good opportunity to test our personal sustainable consumption patterns is the coming Christmas. I wish good luck and serious consideration to everyone when doing your Christmas shopping!

Mikko Jokinen

Co-Chairman, UBC Commission on Environment
Director of Environmental Department, City of Turku

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Photo: CCB

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European Sustainable City Award 2003

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)...

... is a network consisting of 103 cities from 10 different countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC was founded in September 1991 to develop co-operation and exchange of experiences amongst its member cities. The main goal of the Union is to contribute to democratic, social, economic and environmentally friendly development in the Baltic Sea Region.

The UBC is open to all cities willing to join it. Today the member cities range from charming small towns to big cities such as St Petersburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen. In spite of the differences in size, language, location, economy, etc., the interest towards local level co-operation unites each of them.

The UBC initiates and co-ordinates projects involving its members and promotes the exchange of know-how and experiences amongst the cities by organizing courses, seminars and meetings, as well as publishing newsletters.

The UBC is led by an Executive Board and the Secretariat is located in Gdansk, Poland. The actual work is carried out by ten commissions in the following fields: business co-operation, culture, education, environment, information society, social affairs, sport, tourism, transportation and urban planning.

Please contact us for further information!

EMAS - Peer Review for Cities Project starts

By Tea Nömmann

We are happy to inform you that the "EMAS - Peer Review for Cities" Project has received positive funding decision from European Commission DG Environment under the Community framework for co-operation to promote sustainable urban development. Concrete project activities are now starting!

The main focus of the two years project is on developing and extending the use of EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) in local authorities. The EMAS-peer review method as an innovative approach will be used to encourage cities to work together. EMAS registration needs the independent third party audit which is costly. In this project we plan to use another city to be an independent auditor/reviewer. In doing that, the project builds upon existing experiences in the framework of LIFE projects, including the EURO-EMAS project and the Municipal Environmental Audit (MEA) project developed by the Union of Baltic Cities. The EMAS Peer Review Project also seeks to



assist in delivering actions in the 6th Environmental Action Plan (6EAP).

The participating cities will broaden their tools and skills in relation to improving their own capacity to manage the environmental impacts as well as capacity of local private companies. For example, cities would have higher leverage to develop their public procurement processes and purchasing criteria to favour such companies, which have environmentally sound products and services as well as environmental management systems. This would benefit directly the local municipality, Baltic Sea Region as well as European environmental quality.

An important outcome of the project will be the start and extension of an EMAS process in 16 European cities - eight cities from EU member states and eight from candidate countries. The environment sector is one of the most challenging chapters in the process of enlargement of the

European Union for the candidate countries, and one which will impact upon all including citizens, companies, local and regional authorities, non governmental organisations, etc. Participation of candidate country cities in the project contributes directly to exchange of information as well as broad dissemination of good practices.

The project, co-ordinated by the UBC EnvCom Secretariat, is a joint initiative of the UBC, Eurocities, University of West England and City of Newcastle. We are looking forward to an interesting process with the project team and the 16 cities during the next two years!

More information:
Mrs Tea Nömmann
Project Co-ordinator, UBC EnvCom
E-mail: tea.nommann@turku.fi
Tel: +358-2-262 3201

Eco Management and Audit Scheme in Rostock

By Dagmar Koziolk

In the beginning of 2002, the Environmental Department of the Hanseatic City of Rostock got a certificate for its implementation of EMAS environmental management system. It shows that all requirements of this EU standard were fulfilled and it proved the suitability of EMAS as management instrument in municipal departments.

These activities are based on project *Implementation of EMAS in the City Administration, Local Enterprises and Federal Governments in the Region of Rostock*. The aim of the project was to achieve a higher acceptance of environmental management systems in the society. The project was co-funded by the Ministry of Environment of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and was carried out in co-operation with Chambers of Commerce, entrepreneurs and the State Department of Environment and Nature (STAUN) of Rostock.

The main targets of EMAS are to develop a strong sense of responsibility for the protection of the environment and the implementation of high environmental standards in all administrative processes. The Environmental Department had to prove the savings of e.g. energy, water and material, but also the indirect effects due to planning decisions and official permissions.

Rostock has the first EMAS registered city department in the new federal laender of Germany. The advances consist in a comprehensive status-quo investigation and in the environmental process analysis. Another aspect, as a contribution to Local Agenda 21, is the creation of new projects in co-operation with the business sphere of Rostock. Using environmental quality criteria and indicators of sustainable development Rostock will carry out a regular surveillance of the environmental status.

The fruitful co-operation with chambers of commerce and entrepreneurs, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Environment of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern led also to a new environmental alliance between business and administration. In future all EMAS registered organisations can get tax-relieved official permissions and they will be released from certain regular inspections.

EMAS meeting in Rostock

Many new and valuable aspects arose from the Rostock project and there are also other cities with valuable experiences to be discussed in a wider circle of experts. The UBC Commission on Environment and the Hanseatic City of Rostock organised a Workshop on Environmental Management Systems and its Implementation in the Baltic Sea Region in Rostock on 15-16 November 2002.

The workshop dealt with different models of environmental management systems (EMAS, MEA, ecoBUDGET). A new UBC Agenda 21 Project EMAS Peer Review for Cities was also introduced. It is co-funded by the EU DG Environment and is important EU wide initiative. It is co-ordinated by the UBC Commission on Environment and other partners are Eucities and University of West England and 16 cities. Co-operation of this kind is very welcome!

More information:
Mrs Dagmar Koziolk
Tel: +49 381 381 7336
E-mail: dagmar.koziolk@rostock.de

The Ecological Footprint of Citizens in the City of Tampere



By Antonia Sucksdorff-Selkämaa

Ecological footprint is part of a new city strategy of the City of Tampere. In 2001 the city approved a strategy "Tampere – Working towards excellence" which is based on ecological, social and economic sustainability. One of the aims of the strategy for the on-going year was to diminish the ecological footprint of the citizens of Tampere.

The vision of the strategy which is to be realised by 2012 says, that: "Tampere will be citizens' information society and a centre of expertise growing in a sustainable manner. Its operations will be based on courageous initiative-taking, good public services, extensive networking and regional co-operation." One of the aims of the strategy for the on-going year was to diminish the ecological footprint of the citizens of Tampere.

The ecological footprint is an accounting tool for ecological resources. The ecological footprint of a population is estimated by calculating how much land area is needed on a continuous basis to produce all the goods consumed and to assimilate all the wastes generated by that population.

The result is shown in hectares. The ecological footprint was calculated by a method developed by the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities. Calculations were based on data from 1999 and the results were then compared to the footprint of 1995.

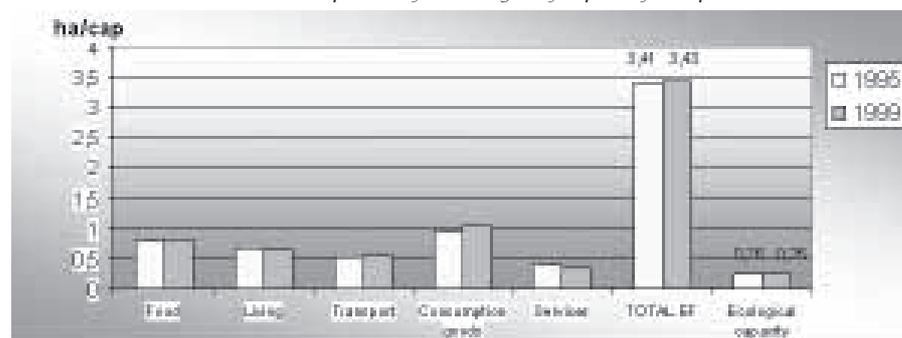
The ecological footprint in 1999 was 3,43 ha/cap and the ecological capacity 0,26 ha/cap. Since 1995, the footprint had increased 0,02 ha/cap while the ecological capacity remained the same. The growth of 0,5% is due to increased fuel consumption and the use of consumption goods and food.

The results pointed out that a few major decisions concerning municipality's energy use would make strong positive effect to decrease the footprint of citizen's of Tampere. However, it's not possible to control all the consumption through the decisions of a municipality. One of the key issues concerning the growing of ecological footprint and consumption of natural resources is how to spread environmental knowledge and how to affect citizens' attitudes.

The ecological footprint will still remain in the city's strategy during 2003, but it will be used just as an indicator for environmental protection, instead of a goal.

More information:
Mr Teemu Huotari
Tel: +358-3-314 73137
E-mail: teemu.huotari@tt.tampere.fi
www.tampere.fi/ytoteto/yva/eng/news/ecolfootpr.htm
www.tampere.fi/english/pdf/strategy.pdf

Comparison of the ecological footprint of Tampere in 1995 and 1999.



Municipal Environmental Quality Control in Kaunas

By Marija Stanikuniene

In Kaunas, a special Environment Quality Control Division was established to carry out execution of decisions of the City Council. Its work has resulted in solving many environmental problems

The Environmental Policy of Kaunas has been prepared according to Lithuanian Environmental Protection Strategy and they now meet the requirements of EU directives for sustainable urban development. Responsible for the governance of the policy is the Environmental Protection Department of Kaunas Municipality Administration.

Special programs have been prepared for waste management, protection of water and green areas, air pollution and noise reduction, and for environmental education. Special regulations have been prepared and approved by the City Council for the practical implementation of the programs. The Municipality in turn is responsible for informing the public about the existence of these documents. The governmental institutions, for example Environmental Protection Agency of Kaunas Region or Public Health Center, will control the observance of all the documents. Because of different reasons the institutions couldn't satisfy the public need for communication with citizens, enterprises, and inspection in every part of the city.

Environmental problems

Due to numerous environmental problems, as an experiment, the Ministry of Environment approved in 1995 the Kaunas Council's decision to establish an Environment Quality Control Division within the Environmental Protection Department to improve the environmental state in Kaunas. The city was divided into five parts where officials carried out supervision concerning environmental issues like illegal landfills and protection of green areas. Prevention of breach activities played a very important role. The municipal officials used several methods ranging from meetings and conversations with polluters and disturbers to giving warnings, penalties and punishments.

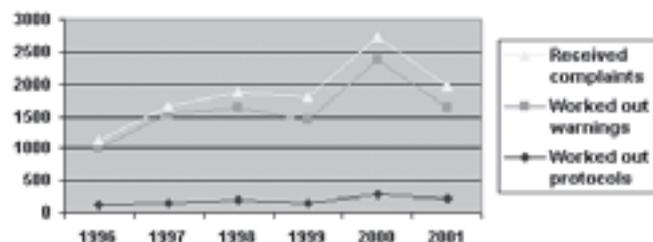
Officials usually lived in the same district where they had to supervise, so they had up-to-date information and good contacts with local community and enterprises. They also received help from the citizens.

Present situation

Rice and decrease of complaints and warnings in 2001 show the popularity and authority of the Division. Many environmental problems of city have been solved through discussions and education – in other words the informative way. The number of illegal landfills has decreased from 71 to 30 between 1996-2001. Also problems with e.g. maintenance of dogs and cats or cutting and planting trees are now ruled by observance.

The experiment to establish the Municipal Environmental Quality Control Division was a good one for Kaunas. The achieved results and experience allow us to recommend it also for other cities.

More information:
Ms Vilija Gyzyte
Tel: +370-7-424706
E-mail: vilijag@kaunas.sav.lt



Promoting Co-operation in Lithuania and Poland

By Esa Kokkonen

The Baltic Institute of Finland (BIF) launches two new environmental projects in south-eastern parts of the Baltic Sea Region.

Development of EMS in Lithuanian Companies aims to draw on existing Finnish expertise to raise the standards of environmental management in Lithuania's construction sector. Three companies will be by focusing on three Lithuanian companies. Support and advice will be provided to three companies as they strive to develop an environmental management system that corresponds to the ISO 14000 standard. It is hoped that this initial focus will help to promote the use of environmental management systems (EMS) among Lithuanian companies, public organizations, environmental authorities, media and other relevant stakeholders. BIF plan to organise an EMS conference to present the main thinking behind the project. They will also distribute promotion materials to stakeholders throughout Lithuania.

Development of Environmental Cooperation Between the Tampere Region and Polish Coastal Regions is the second new environmental project launched by BIF this autumn. The main objective is to promote cooperation between the Tampere Region and the regions of Pomerania and Western Pomerania in Poland. The project will plan to survey partnership opportunities and environmental development needs in Polish coastal regions, particularly in the fields of water and waste management. This first assessment is expected to lead to an action plan for the development of interregional environmental cooperation, which will also involve a number of pilot projects. This project, which runs until 2003 will also include the organisation of a Finnish-Polish environmental cooperation forum. This will provide an opportunity for contact among high-level officials from cities, provinces and academic institutions.

More information:
Mr. Esa Kokkonen / Director / BIF
Tel. +358 3 3146 6945
E-mail: esa.kokkonen@tt.tampere.fi
www.baltic.org

The American View on Sustainability in Baltic Cities

By Timothy Beatley

During his two weeks in Baltic region, Timothy Beatley from the University of Virginia visited several cities and organisations. He found many exemplary examples of new ways of thinking about sustainability, and many inspirational efforts to forge a more sustainable path.

One of the key issues emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development is how countries in the industrialized North can effectively reduce their ecological footprints, and gradually move in the direction of a sustainable model of development. During my visit to the Baltic region I found many exemplary examples of new ways of thinking about sustainability, and many inspirational efforts to forge a more sustainable path.

The visit was sponsored by the Regional Environmental Office (REO) of the U.S. Embassy in Denmark, and was part of a sustainable development lecture series and also part of a new cooperation between REO and UBC. My roughly two week visit took me to Copenhagen and Malmo, Aeroe Island in Denmark, Warsaw, Stockholm, and Umeå. In each city, while not always an easy process, significant achievements and successes have been made in moving these communities in the direction of sustainability.

I was able to meet with several key organizations involved in supporting sustainable development in the region. These ranged from associations of local communities, education and research based organizations, to private and non-governmental organizations. My visit suggests there is a wealth of resources and expertise in the region from which to draw and that a rich and diverse set of organizations and institutions, essential for educating and building support, exists.

UBC EnvCom in Nacka

One of the highlights of the tour was participation in the UBC Local Agenda 21 meeting in Nacka. A convening of local Agenda 21 representatives from all over the Baltic region, the meeting was for me a tremendous window on the important role of organizations like the UBC in facilitating and encouraging local sustainability initiatives. A number of varied presentations took place, from new UBC initiatives and progress on the UBC Agenda 21 Action Plan to site visits to important

local sustainability projects, to discussions of new initiatives and ideas for future work.

The Nacka meeting exemplified the importance of networks and networking – bringing together people from around the region clearly had the positive impacts of building good will, a sense of a common regional vision, and personal and organization support for doing more in their home cities and countries. The Nacka meeting exemplified a spirit of regional collaboration, mutual interests, and peer support for the goals of community sustainability.

An important part of the Nacka meeting was the possibility of sharing experiences and highlighting best practices around the region. Over the days, amazing stories of communities leading the way to a more sustainable world emerged: Sundsvall's environmental balance sheet; Växjö's plan for becoming a fossil fuel-free city; waste management initiatives in Gdansk; nature schools in Panevezys among many others.

Perhaps most impressive on this visit were the many tangible examples of a new more sustainable way of developing. The Hammarby Sjöstad is a case in point. Here design has been guided by ambitious set of ecological goals and targets, addressing energy, water, and waste. The project centrally incorporates waste recycling, eco-cycle balancing (e.g. biogas extraction from waste and wastewater), and environmental education (including an ecological information center). Hammarby exemplifies the importance of recycling urban sites and re-envisioning them as compact, mixed-use neighborhoods, where walking, bicycling and transit are viable options and living sustainably is real possibility.

Major new ecological growth districts and new examples of ecological development can be found in each of the major Baltic cities visited. In Malmö, the Västra Hammen project, or the so-called City of the Future—a redevelopment of the city Western Harbor and part of a European hous-



Mr Timothy Beatley during his visit to Baltic cities.

ing expo (in 2001)—sets a high ecological standard. Perhaps most impressively, the district has set, and reached, the goal of obtaining 100% of its energy from locally produced renewable energy by using wind energy, photovoltaics, and ground-sourced heat pumps, just to mention few good examples.

Projects like Västra Hammen and Hammarby Sjöstad are profoundly important for several reasons: they demonstrate that green development is possible, indeed desirable, at relatively high densities, close to and building onto the existing city; that it is possible to imagine a circular metabolism in which waste is returned as a productive input to something else (organic household wastes returned in the form of biogas for energy production); and that to bring about such places requires new forms of collaboration and coordination between different actors, agencies, and organizations. Through an American lens these examples also demonstrate the importance of a greater government role in participating in sustainable development, and in underwriting pilot programs, sustainability initiatives, and efforts to creatively extend ideas and technology in ways that set the way for other actors in the private sector (e.g. developers, builders). The importance of local government leadership is a critical lesson from these places.

More information:
Associate Professor Timothy Beatley
University of Virginia
E-mail: tb6d@virginia.edu

Finnish Government Program for the Baltic Sea

In April 2002, the Finnish Government approved a decision on Finland's Programme for the Protection of the Baltic Sea. The programme is a major set of measures to improve the state of the Baltic Sea and protect marine life.

The decision stressed that action is urgently needed to reduce environmental risks faced by Finland and neighbouring countries from eutrophication and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea, and from the increasing volume of oil and chemical transports.

One of the key environmental aims of Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen's Second Government Programme was to establish a national Baltic Sea protection programme. The programme measures will be carried out over the next 10-15 years. To implement the programme, Finnish invest-

ments amounting to some EUR 300-370 million will be required. Most of the sum will be spent on improvements in nitrogen removal from municipal wastewater, on water protection in sparsely populated rural areas, and on improvements in maritime safety and the combating of oil spills.

The largest single sum for annual investments, however, consists of environmental subsidies for agriculture, which accounts for almost half of Finland's nutrient load entering the Baltic. Special subsidy agreements are directed at establishing more wetlands and protective buffer zones along watercourses, and at improving drainage systems and the use of manure.

Halving Finland's own nutrient load into the Baltic is one of the programme's key aims. Signs of reductions should first be come evident in coastal waters and near discharge sources. Conditions in the open sea are expected to improve more slowly, but the quantities of blue-green algae should be reduced.

The state of the open sea in the Gulf of Finland can be more effectively improved by reducing discharges from the St. Petersburg region. In this regard, Finnish

environmental investments in neighbouring countries are of great importance. The most important of these focus on improving wastewater treatment in St. Petersburg and increasing the regional capability to deal with oil spills. Other regional co-operation will involve support for projects in the Karelian Republic and the Leningrad District, and for reducing discharges from the Baltic States.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) gave the Finnish Government the 'Gift to the Earth' recognition for launching the Baltic Sea programme, noting also the value of the concrete initiative as an example to other countries in the region. The relevant ministries are cooperating in implementing the programme by preparing a plan of action with detailed measures. The action plan should be ready by the end of the year.

More information:
Mrs Eeva-Liisa Poutanen
Ministry of the Environment
E-mail:
eeva-liisa.poutanen@ymparisto.fi

HELCOM List of Hot Spots in the Baltic Sea Region

Tea Nömmann

The 19th meeting of HELCOM's Programme Implementation Task Force (PITF) took place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 18-19 November.

Meeting was attended by delegates from the Baltic Sea countries, representatives of the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO), as well as observers – Union of the Baltic Cities, World Wildlife Fund and Baltic 21.

PITF is responsible in implementing the 20 years Joint Comprehensive Baltic Sea

Environment Action Programme (JCP). JSP or better known HELCOM Hot Spots list was adopted in 1992. The efforts in the Baltic Sea countries during recent years resulted in the deletion of 17 Hot Spots during Stockholm meeting. UBC raised the concern on deleting Fish farming Hot Spot in Aland Sea in Finland as nutrient load has not reduced. Finnish Ministry of Environment assured that fish farming issue will be closely followed after deletion and there are national programs to deal with the matter. In the past ten years, 51 hot spots have been cleaned up. In the Hot Spots list still 81 locations remain which need environmental improvements.

During the last ten years when the environmental action programme JCP has been implemented political situation in the Baltic region has changes a lot. Soon eight of the nine Baltic Sea countries will be

members of the European Union. The means to tailor the implementation of the programme to the new conditions are being currently discussed in HELCOM.

More information:
Mrs Tea Nömmann
UBC / Project Co-ordinator
Tel: +358-2-262 3201
E-mail: tea.nommann@turku.fi

Natural Self-Cleaning Capability

- What is its role in water treatment in Vistula Lagoon, Kaliningrad?

By Dr Boris Chubarenko

News on local environmental research indicate that the water flux from Vistula lagoon to the Baltic doesn't coincide with the typical river discharge. Sewage stays in the lagoon for some time instead of leaking quickly into the Baltic coastal waters. This is the way to enable the natural self-cleaning capability of the lagoon, which may to surprising extent serve mechanical and biological treatment.



Vistula lagoon one of two international basins in the South-Eastern Baltic.

The Vistula lagoon is a shared water basin between Poland and Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia. The lagoon, as well as the City of Kaliningrad and others cities in its catchment, is in the HELCOM Hot Spot list. All pollution from the catchment area consisting of 23870 km² passes through the Vistula lagoon before entering the Baltic Sea. The lagoon serves like a natural filter for organic material, nutrients and pollution loads from the terrestrial area toward the Baltic Sea.

Is it possible to prioritise the local hot spots in the Vistula lagoon watershed in terms of their negative influence on the Baltic? Which ones are more important? Is it the City of Kaliningrad with population of 420.000 inhabitants and partly treated sewage entering the lagoon far from its mouth, or is it another towns located closer to the lagoon entrance? Is it possible to reduce the loading to the Baltic Sea by utilizing the specific features of the lagoon's hydrodynamic behaviour?

The experts from Laboratory for Coastal System Studies of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences came near the solutions for these questions. The Institute started fundamental researches in the lagoon in 1992. In parallel with the research the environmental management applications were developed. A simulation model MKIE21, which was meant to measure the lagoon's hydrodynamics and water quality was adopted by Danish-Polish-Russian joint group in 1994 - 1997. This model was prepared and transmitted to Kaliningrad and to Polish local environmental authorities to

be used like an equivalent tool for practical use, planning and impact assessment for both sides of the lagoon.

Since then the water exchange process between the lagoon and the adjacent Baltic Sea area has been investigated in more detail. It was found out that the Vistula lagoon mainly modifies the pollution and nutrient loading from the terrestrial area. Due to significant residence time, more than 3 months in average, the lagoon's water quality depends on the loading intensity as well as on natural seasonal variations. It is also the reason for a shift between the maximum of terrestrial loading and the response in pollutant concentrations in the lagoon water issued to the sea.

In such conditions the weak sources of pollution located closer to the lagoon inlet could have more influence to the Baltic than strong sources far from the lagoon entrance. And in our case, the City of Baltiysk with population of 350.00 people located at the mouth of the lagoon takes on special significance when prioritizing local hot spots in the area. It discharges the untreated sewage directly in the lagoon inlet actively washed by the Baltic Sea.

The water flux from lagoon to the Baltic doesn't coincide with the typical river discharge. The alternative water exchange is the reason why the loading from lagoon towards the Baltic acts impulsively. Such feature allows the adaptive approach in the management of outflow from the sewage system of the City of Baltiysk: to discharge sewage now when more clean seawater is coming into the lagoon. In this

case the dilution factor is increasing, and more importantly, sewage stays in the lagoon for some time instead of leaking quickly into the Baltic coastal waters. This is the way to enable the natural self-cleaning capability of the lagoon, which serves both mechanical and biological water treatment.

All these peculiarities are to be considered in the water management and planning to reduce the pollution and nutrient load toward the Baltic Sea. Development of exact recommendations is currently under consideration.

More information:
Dr. Boris V. Chubarenko
Head of Laboratory for Coastal System Study,
Atlantic Branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology,
Russian Academy of Sciences
Tel: +7-0112 451574
E-mail: chuboris@ioran.gazinter.net

TBestC Project Started!

By Risto Veivo

The new UBC project on transfer of good practices has been started. TBestC will give ten cities a chance to work with another city on transfer of good practices during 2003-2004. These city couples will be selected only after the large TBestC good practice seminar, which will be organised in Kaunas, Lithuania in April 2003. All cities are Warmly Welcomed to participate!

The project activities will concentrate on five themes: *Biodiversity, Energy, Environmental Health, Air, and Information and Education*. These themes will be presented and discussed at the good practice seminar, and they also form basis for transfer of good practices in city couples, as well as for the information work within the project.

TBestC builds on the success and the experiences resulting from the former good practice project, BCP, and develops the exchange and city coupling methods further. One interesting aspect with the new project is co-operation with the United States Regional Environmental Office for the Baltic Sea Region. This will bring into the project also American experts and will hopefully enable participation of U.S. cities in some of the city couples as "third partners". There have also been preliminary discussions on possible study visits between the Baltic and the United States.

What does TBestC mean then? The full name of the project is Transferring Best

Environmental Practices between Towns and Cities. It aims at targeted transfer of good environmental practices between five city couples and to wider dissemination and promotion in the fields of Biodiversity, Energy, Environmental Health, Air, and Information and Education. The project is a joint initiative of the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology Lithuania (ECAT-LT), and the United States Regional Environmental Office for the Baltic Sea Region (U.S. REO). Nordic Council of Ministers is co-funding it.

The activities will consist of the large good practice seminar, followed by recruitment of city couples, transfer of good practices within the couples (supported by continuous tutoring and two intermediate workshops), the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities 2003 Award scheme, and the final seminar. The city couples are not pre-elected for the project, as the intention is to give all cities a similar chance to participate.

Education "On Wheels"

By Dalia Gineitiene

In October 2002, the Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology (ECAT) finished implementation of "Education "on wheels": European Union and Environmental Issues" -project supported by Phare ACCESS programme.

Our project resulted from the Best City Practices project implemented by the Union of the Baltic Cities in 2000-2001. In this project we had the possibility to learn how the Municipality of Gotland had used their Environmental Bus as an interesting and attractive tool for environmental education.

Following the example, ECAT arranged to have a similar kind of bus also in Lithua-

nia. The outside of the minibus was designed according to the pictures of Smiltys Andrikonis, a five-year old boy from Kaunas. The interior of the bus was arranged so that it is possible to carry all necessary equipment.

A group of experts prepared methodology papers on different topics, which were suggested by municipalities. These include for example waste management, water quality and wastewater treatment, energy saving, ecological farming and biodiversity.

In October, we visited towns and villages with the Environmental Bus in various parts of Lithuania. We also gave lectures and organised exhibitions for different groups of local people from pupils to farmers and municipality officials. Total number of people who participated in these lectures-discussions was over one thousand! It became obvious that to have such a mobile education form, which allows reaching



also remote places, is of great importance. Everywhere after the lecture given, discussions on what everyone could do to make his or her environment better, started.

We have noticed how active and concerned people could be when they learn things. Most of the communities, which we have visited, asked us to come again to discuss other environmental issues. This encourages continuing the operation of the bus also in the future.

More information:
Dalia Gineitiene /ECAT Lithuania
E-mail: dalia@ecat.lt

Five Years of Local Agenda 21 in Bützow -

Five Years of Urban Development with the Focus on Youth Participation

By Andreas Beck

The Agenda 21 project "My Town - 2010, young people develop a concept for a sustainable city and region", celebrated its five-year existence in Bützow this autumn. The festivities gathered numerous participants including the Minister of Environment, Dr. Methling.

A special festive meeting was organised to celebrate the five-years of local Agenda 21 work in Bützow in September. Among the nearly 80 guests invited by the Mayor Lothar Stroppe were among others Professor Dr. Methling, the Minister of Environment of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Mrs. Dr. Brueckner, the federal business guide of the German child welfare organization, Professor Dr. Riedel from the University of Rostock and Professor Dr. Dehne from FH Neubrandenburg. This special day was named as *Agenda 21 with young people in a rural area in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania*.

During the day's panel discussion, Minister Methling explained that there are a wide variety of ways to start Agenda 21 process. The main point is to deal with questions of sustainable development and to organize participation in this field. The way the City of Bützow has taken children and youth in the Agenda 21 work has been important and just as correct as more ecological or economical strategies (to create a local Agenda 21 process).

The panel raised also talks about the possibilities of participation process regarding the sustainability education of youth,



The real highlight of the day was the exhibition of the project results with many interesting informations and discussions.

and also of the advantages which would benefit the municipality. The conclusion was that moderation and co-ordination require target group oriented knowledge and competence, particularly for the motivation of the children and young people involved. Stefan Seidel, pupil and a member of the youth council for five years, referred to the high value of participation for himself and the fun and joy he had had during his work.

One part of the celebrations was an exhibition of the projects and the results that were made in the Agenda 21 process. Naturally not all of the over 100 projects could be presented but the Minister and other guests could discuss about some of the results and efforts with the young project collaborators.

Future visions for Bützow

The integrated development process of Bützow is based on vision where urban development of the city and its approach regarding Agenda 21 combines social, economic and ecological aspects. This includes for example family-friendliness with healthy environment. The citizens and enterprises of the area are also per-

manently included into the organization process. The principal purpose of the local-political work is stated to be the development of Bützow into a family-friendly housing and tourism location.

Co-operation of the UBC Commission on Environment and the LA 21 working group was very helpful for the city, because of the exchange of experiences with other cities in the Baltic Sea Region. Here the Minister of Environment mentioned the co-operation of Bützow and Estonian city of Sillamäe in the Best City Practise Project. After the BCP Project other projects were started with the aim to develop the city partnership further. The attention the City of Bützow has received during the past five years through UBC work has been a great motivator to continue local Agenda 21 work in the city.

More information:
Bützow Agenda 21 Office
E-mails:
Agenda_21_Buetzow@t-online.de
Stadtmarketing@Buetzow.de
www.twfg.de/agenda21_Buetzow/home.htm

The Second Southwest Finland Agenda 21

Action Plan is Ready

By Jaana Itälä-Laine

The second Southwest Finland Agenda 21 Action Plan was published in September. The Action Plan for years 2002-2006 is to be a sustainable development tool for the currently 27 municipalities participating in the Southwest Finland Agenda 21 work.

The aim is to implement concrete actions stated in the action plan and to make the sustainable development changes permanent in the municipalities.

The municipalities themselves decide which of the goals of local Agenda suit them best and the ways how to realize these goals. One of the key aims of the program is also to give every citizen the right to participate in the implementation of Agenda 21 work.

The Southwest Finland Agenda 21 Office, based in Turku, is the main responsible for the co-ordination of the work. Other quarters responsible are all the municipalities, and regional organisations. The work follow-up is done regularly.

The second Action Plan includes the same main themes as the first one: water protection, environmental education, environmental awareness and community structure. The concept of these themes has been broadened so that economical and societal issues have been emphasised more. Social Responsibility has been added as its own chapter to highlight the global responsibility better. Saving biodiversity, controlled use of natural resources and sustainable consumption have also got more important role in the new Action Plan.

Another new theme in the Plan is energy. In Southwest Finland acts a special Energy Office, which' one aim is the use of energy the sustainable way. These two offices have many ways of co-operation. The ways vary from organising energy



Themes like water protection, environmental education, environmental awareness and community structure are the base for Southwest Finland Agenda 21 work.

saving seminars, helping the school teachers to find material to use in classes, to organising energy saving guidance for small and medium sized enterprises.

Social and ecological aspects side by side

Social responsibility is an integral part of the realisation of sustainable development. The social part goes side by side with the ecological one in nearly all targets and actions stated in the Action Plan because getting the citizens to participate, and to hear them, are both regarded as social actions.

Participation and co-operation are prerequisite of the success of local Agenda. The work of Southwest Finland Agenda 21 is based on participation of citizens, businesses and municipalities and activating them all to take part in sustainable development work. Participation to training events, to different happenings, projects and evening events gives everybody the possibility to influence and also to receive an equal treatment.

The Southwest Finland Agenda 21 was founded in 1997 and its work is based on regional co-operation, the work being co-ordinated by S-W Finland Agenda 21 Office. The work is done in workgroups which include representatives from a wide range of municipal bodies, ranging from mayors to non-governmental organisations.

The new Southwest Finland Agenda 21 Action Plan 2002-2006 is available also by in Swedish and in English at request.

More information:
Mrs Jaana Itälä-Laine
Southwest Finland Agenda 21
E-mail:
jaana.itala-laine@vsagendatoimisto.fi

Local Agenda 21

Activities in Estonia

By Maret Merisaar

In Estonia, municipalities have several ways to show how they are going to implement local Agenda in their work.

It is often asked why a separate national Local Agenda 21 programme is needed if each municipality has a legally binding obligation to compile a local action plan on their future development, and also a detailed plan in a form of a geographical map. Also, the public has many possibilities to be heard and consulted due to the latest amendments in the Estonian legislation. The NGO activists promoting sustainable development think that all these three documents are necessary. They also think that the local LA21 differs from the national one by being a non-political document and reflecting the expectations of the local community better. National Local Agenda covers a longer time period, usually 10-15 years instead of the 3-5-years the local development plan lasts and which will be changed after every election.

The campaign for Local Agenda 21 networks on municipality level, as well as for Estonia as a whole country, has mainly been led by the Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development (SEI-Tallinn). The local initiatives are supported by organising training seminars and inviting there people who are interested in LA21 work. In these meetings, the experiences of the hosting community are analysed and all practitioners have an opportunity to exchange their views from "actor to actor". Summaries of the materials from these seminars can be found on the webpage www.agenda21.ee.

Some good examples of LA 21 work can be found in Kuressaare (there the Island of Saaremaa and local highschool), Tartu, Pärnu, Valga, Island Muhu, Municipality of Pühalepa, and village of Kabli.

Work of Coalition Clean Baltic in Estonia

Coalition Clean Baltic, a network of major environmental organisations in the Baltic Sea countries, considers the promotion of

the Local Agenda 21 campaigns to be its priority activity. That has been their priority ever since the unique regional Local Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Catchment area was started at the end of the 90's. Since then, CCB has been the international NGO observer in this process, commenting its shortcomings, proposing new activities and goals and 'watch-dogging' the compliance of the following of various international decisions regarding the sustainable development of the region.

In 1998, CCB initiated as a follow-up of the Baltic 21a project "Local and National Agenda 21 in the Baltic Countries" to analyse a selected list of ongoing LA21 cases and outlined several suggestions for improving them (see "CCB Newsletter" No 2/1999 and 3/1999). Funding was received from the Nordic Council of Ministers to produce five national reports in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Baltic Russia, and Poland.

More information:
Ms Maret Merisaar
Estonian Green Movement
Tel: +372-553 7701
E-mail: roheline@online.ee

Rostock is a Sustainable Municipality

By Gisela Jacobs

In July, Hanseatic City of Rostock won the national Sustainable Municipality Competition, which the German Association for Support of the Environment carried out during 2001 - 2002.

The aim of the competition was to achieve an objective evaluation of the development of towns and municipalities by the use of 52 indicators of sustainability including the assessment of the Local Agenda 21 process. Over 90 municipalities from all over Germany took part in the competition. The City of Rostock shared the first place with City of Saarbruecken in the category of over 80.000 inhabitants.

Concerning the indicators of sustainable urban development as well as the LA 21 process Rostock got a good evaluation. The city did well in the local commitment

for disabled persons and for children and young people. They also got merit for public transport and in the ecology-efficient generation of energy. And it could be shown that there are still remarkable reserves in the fields of economic efficiency, employment chances and crime rate.

Within the evaluation of the Agenda 21 process in the city of Rostock the quality of the organisation as well as the results were recognised. Especially the participation of the citizens in the development of their own city and the co-ordination of the process of urban development and of the Agenda 21 activities across all involved departments were pointed out as a convincing basis for sustainability. Also the role of the agenda 21 Council and the local Guidelines of the city development were regarded high.

More information:
Ms Gisela Jacobs
Rostock Local Agenda 21 Office
Tel: +49-381 456 2617
E-mail: Agenda21@rostock.de
www.rostock.de/Agenda21

Environmental Days in Cesis

By Inta Adamsone

Environmental Days were held in 5-9 June in Cesis now for the third year running. The Days included informative as well as practical activities.

Over 50 school children participated in a competition "Nature Trail" where six stops with different questions and games related to environment, waste separate collection, forest and humans and vulnerable plants was organised. After the competition the children made creative work out of recyclable material.

Environmental Days events were remarkable also because of the opening of Environmental Information Centre. The Cen-

tre has a wide library collection with information for example of environmental quality, and EU legislation of nature protection. The Centre was opened with assistance from the Cesis City Council, the Cesis Regional Council and from local entrepreneurs. The Environmental Centre and all its facilities are meant for all citizens of the municipality.

During the Days people had possibility to learn about waste management, like collection, sorting and disposal of waste and demonstrations of technologies related to these.

Soon everybody in Cesis will have the possibility to start separating their waste when the first collection point will be opened later in the autumn.

The Environmental Days ended once again to a bee near Rucosais Spring. This year a walking trail, and a bench from natural material were constructed.



Eggshells and cardboard were used to make this funny looking creature at the Environmental Days event.

The events were organised by Cesis Unit of Latvian Nature and Monument Protection Society, Cesis Division of Valmieras Regional Environmental Protection Board and Cesis City Council. In the organisation work took also part the Northvidzeme Waste Management Organisation, KOM-AUTO, the Cesu Culture Centre, and the Cesu children library.

More information:
Ms Inta Adamsone
Environmental Officer
Tel: +371-41 23687
E-mail:
inta.adamsone@dome.cesis.lv

Tri-Partite Contract for Sustainable Urban Development - a Way Forward?



By Anthony van de Ven

Following the publication of the European Commission White Paper on Governance, in July 2001, EURO CITIES and the Stockholm Region presented the European Commission with an ambitious proposal for the development and implementation of tri-partite contracts between the European Commission, Member States and sub-national authorities.

Tri-partite contracts, in the framework of the *Governance White Paper*, were presented by the European Commission as a potential new instrument supporting improved implementation of European policies, particularly those with a territorial dimension. These 'better policies' could, in theory, be achieved through closer cooperation between different spheres of government in the setting of targets and the means through which to achieve these targets.

The initiative presented by EURO CITIES and Stockholm Region is entitled "Sustainability Pacts" and aims to take forward existing political commitments to sustainable development, such as the Aalborg Charter and Lisbon Action plan, into practical actions.

The Sustainability Pact has been selected by the European Commission as one of the pilot initiatives for the development and testing of the tri-partite contract idea in the next few years. It is likely to be mentioned as such in the framework of the upcoming Commission Communication on Tri-partite contracts, which is due to be published by the European Commission this autumn. The initiative brings together some 30 cities and regions of dif-

ferent sizes from across Europe with their Member States and the European Commission in an effort to develop a contract template in the field of Sustainable Urban Transport. It is envisaged that, in later phases of the initiative, this theme will be followed by other themes such as possibly climate change.

The first step in the initiative is to reach agreement among all partners on the framework for a contract.

The proposed framework consists of three building blocks, the Vision, The Challenge and Response and the general implementation specifics. Each of these addresses a specific part of the tri-partite contract.

The Vision

The Sustainability vision is proposed to base itself fully on the Aalborg Charter for Sustainable Urban Development and the Lisbon Action Plan. The vision will include *sustainability principles*, which the contracting partners commit to, as well as a set of *processes or management practices*, which they intend to follow.

The challenge & response

This section forms the core of the contract. It identifies the context of the contract by setting out the existing European, national and sub national legislative and policy context on an issue. Following this, a description of the challenge faced is given after which a set of actions is presented which will be the essence of the contract. The contracting parties each will commit to their specific contributions to achieve the targets set in the contract. The current proposal on the table speaks of the possibility for partners to commit to different (3) levels of targets. Contributions from partners will vary with the European Commission, for example, currently examining the possibility to develop a 'bonus point' system allowing contracting local and regional authorities that have signed up to ambitious targets a head start when accessing European financial support programmes. Much of the hard work will be at the local level where the vast majority of practical action will have to be developed and implemented.

General implementation

Naturally, each contract will have to include a series of general items such as the monitoring specifics setting out not only how monitoring is to take place, but also how often, and who will assess. A possible avenue may be to give a role to the European Environment Agency, as a relatively independent body, to monitor the progress on contracts.

Towards more sustainable cities?

The objective of this initiative is to provide government at all level with a new and flexible instrument that will support all in the quest for more sustainable government. This means much more than merely environmentally friendly cities. One of the main innovative elements is the new ways of cooperative working it will entail, bringing local, regional, national and European administrations in contact with each other. Furthermore, within each of these administrations, internal coordination and cooperation will have to increase considerably to allow for the integrated and holistic approaches that the Sustainability Pact requires.

Obviously, we are only making the very first careful steps on the road to this integrated way of working. A first meeting of the Pacts initiative took place on 11 September 2002. This meeting brought together some 70 representatives from across Europe and clearly showed the interest from the side of local and regional government in Europe to work with national and European spheres of government to create policies and policy implementation that better achieves urban sustainability. Further meetings are planned in Rotterdam and Brussels in the course of 2002 and 2003 leading to a completed contract template in early 2003.

More information:
Mr Anthony van de Ven
Senior Policy Adviser / EURO CITIES
E-mail: a.vandeven@eurocities.be

Thoughts after Johannesburg

By Trevor Graham

In Malmö, the city officials are thinking how to integrate sustainability in all aspects of their work, beyond just environmental issues.

Returning from the red dust of South Africa to the sub-tropical heat of global warming Sweden, it was impossible not to wonder whether the political hot air of Johannesburg will result in any significant changes in our unjust and unsustainable world. Whilst the Summit has, like Rio, received much criticism, the overall progress made can only be assessed after a certain lapse of time, time which is, however, increasingly short.

The joint display 'Sustainable Cities' of Cities of Malmö and Copenhagen attracted significant attention in Ubuntu Village, the large exhibition centre set up for the summit. Two Malmö representatives were also amongst the 750 delegates participating in the Local Government Session

that expressed the willingness of local government to take an increasing responsibility whilst calling on national governments, and the international community to create a strong framework for sustainability within which local government can operate. The conference adopted the term Local Action 21 as the motto for an intensified programme towards local sustainability building on the successes of Local Agenda 21.

Within the Local Government Session there were a number of Type 2 Partnership initiatives launched, including one led by the EU and the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, of which Malmö (and UBC) is a leading member, supporting the potential development of similar Sustainable Cities Campaigns in other regions of the world. A number of delegates from other continents expressed their support for the partnership proposal and discussions are now taking place regarding the start of the project.

Back home in Malmö we are now considering the implications of Johannesburg in our future work. The need to integrate

sustainability in all aspects of our work, beyond just environmental issues has again been underlined. To do this, our partnerships across sectors with community organisations and the business community must be strengthened and mechanisms for increased participation in the development of our city must be found.

Malmö must consider in which ways it can support development at a global level both in our everyday operations in the city, but also by exchanging skills with other cities on different continents.

In Johannesburg we witnessed extremes of luxury and poverty in a segregated and scary city, and whilst it in many ways made us thankful that our situation in Europe is significantly better, we must still not ignore the same phenomena at home. And, in the face of the insurmountable challenge of our unsustainable world, we must not forget the unrivalled optimism of the South African people who have shown that the impossible is possible.

More information:
Mr. Trevor Graham
E-mail: trevor.graham@malmo.se

Ten Years Since Rio & Agenda 21 - How to Proceed?

By Peter M. Hee

How do we make most of the experience gained from the first 10 years of Agenda 21?

In August 2002, the Johannesburg Summit was held on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Agenda 21 in Rio de Janeiro. The Summit was attended by top leaders, government officials and NGOs – almost everybody who had, or ought to have, an opinion on how the country members should translate the 1992 agreements into action.

Following the conclusion of the conference, it became clear that huge differences exist between the individual countries. Their needs differ as does the level at which they can work on. In Europe, the situation is more homogeneous, notwithstanding the differences which exist between north and south, and between east and west.



From a European perspective, many found that results of the Summit were lacking. However, two important issues were included in the official documents: The local authorities' role as an active partner in Agenda 21 was underlined, and a partnership between the business community and public authorities was discussed as a serious possibility for solving environmental problems. As a result of this, there will be more work to attend to in regions, counties and municipalities across Europe. It

also means that the notion 'Local Agenda 21' will now become a reality in relation to local authorities at all levels.

Now it is no longer adequate just to create a framework in which local people can be active in relation to Agenda 21 – many issues must be clarified first before the work can begin. Questions like how do we make most of the experience gained from the first 10 years of Agenda 21 or how can we prepare an Agenda 21 strategy must be answered first.

These were just two examples of questions that were asked and discussed at the international Johannesburg + Europe Conference held in Kolding in 4-5 November. You can read more about the Conference on page 19.

More information:
Mr Peter M. Hee
Buildings and Environmental Manager
E-mail: pemh@kolding.dk

INTEGAIRE Aims to Improve the Air Quality in Europe

By Tiina Hartman

The INTEGAIRE project aims at improving the quality of air in Europe. The innovative aspect of INTEGAIRE is the involvement of cities to define the air quality management policies. Thus, the project is at the same time a thematic network consisting of cities, research institutions and network organisations to achieve the better air quality by improving urban governance and decision-making.

In dealing with the everyday air quality management issues local authorities face different problems such as the lack of integration between national and local level, difficulties in meeting the needs set for the air quality management in EU legislation and the lack of integrated urban governance. The INTEGAIRE project was founded to solve these kinds of problems.



The partnership of INTEGAIRE brings together academics and researchers in air quality with the managers in the cities responsible for ensuring clean air. The unique aspect of this project is the involvement of cities which will provide a pan-European local vision of the air quality situation. The best practices and lessons learned will be identified and further introduced and disseminated to a wider audience of European cities.

The project is divided into six work packages. Three of the packages are thematic and the other three horizontal packages. The thematic work packages concern Governance and Management, Air Quality, Land and Transport Planning, and Legislation and Implementation. The horizontal work packages concern Project

Management, Dissemination and Exploitation of outputs and Thematic Strategy.

UBC takes part in Dissemination and Exploitation, Thematic Strategy, and Legislation and Implementation. Within these packages UBC is committed in representing the views and concerns of our member cities and more broadly in the EU accession and implementation process of EU

directives and policies. One important aim of the Thematic Strategy work package is to interact with CAFE (Clean Air for Europe) project. UBC's role is to inform both the member cities of

UBC and INTEGAIRE partners of CAFE.

INTEGAIRE(Integrated Urban Governance and Air Quality Management in Europe) is a three-year project, which started in March 2002. The project is financed by the European Commission and co-ordinated by EUROCITIES. UBC acts as a partner in the project.

More information:
www.integaire.org OR
Ms Tiina Hartman
Turku Environment Protection Office
Tel: +358-2-262 3431
E-mail: tiina.hartman@turku.fi

IMPROVE

By Irja Alakivi

The project "IMPROVE" has been designed to help the understanding of EU environmental policies, strategies and action plans among local level key actors in Estonia.

This is done in order to foster sustainable development and EU accession in the Baltic Sea region.

So far 50 environmental and development specialists have participated in the project designed by the Association of Estonian Cities. EU environmental policy goals and their development into sustainable development policy, as well as new bearings of the Nordic countries, have been presented, analysed and discussed at two project seminars, held for the local decision-makers, in June 28 and October 11. Feedback from the participants on both events has been positive. Contributions to the project's data-base development have been given by environment, sustainable development and LA 21 experts working in the offices of the associations of local authorities in Baltic countries.

As part of the project a comprehensive Briefing Sheet was published to introduce the Nordic consensus-building skills and experience on sustainable development strategy planning and implementing. Booklet explaining EU environmental policy and the 6th environmental action programme "Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice", has been translated and published into Estonian in the frames of project work.

The project has been financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers, and printing of the "Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice" in Estonian by the European Commission.

Participants of IMPROVE have given positive feedback of the project contents.



More information:
Mrs Irja Alakivi / Project Leader
Tel: +372-6943417
E-mail: irja@ell.ee

Adriatic LA 21

By Emilio D'Alessio

The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns has been working on LA 21 since 1999. Now they have invited UBC for exchange.



The Forum is currently working on a project that was included on the list attached to the plan of implementation approved at the Johannesburg Summit. It seeks to develop and implement the LA 21 for the Adriatic Sea Region.

This process will start with the activation of a sustainable development managing system at local scale including exchange of knowledge and best practices and environmental reporting. Next steps will be a shared model of integrated sustainability balance and eventually the definition and implementation of an Adriatic Action Plan by 2005.

Few examples of the results envisioned are the improved integration of communities that border the Adriatic, training of local authorities and administrators and building a model of sustainable tourism. The project will also make provision for use of "performance indicators" to monitor achieved progress, defining a set of dedicated indicators and using the methodological approach of the ten European Common Indicators.

The Forum has asked UBC to be a partner in the project, since it is one of the best European examples of a well-established network of cities. There are also similarities in the Baltic and Adriatic political complexity, both with a border position in EU context and both ideal bridges between eastern and western Europe.

The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns was founded in 1999 in Ancona, Italy and has 43 coastal member cities. The Forum has a permanent secretariat in Ancona while the presidency for 2002-2003 is held by the Croatian city of Rijeka.

More information:
Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns / Mr Emilio D'Alessio
emilio.dalessio@comune.ancona.it

CCB-NGO Cooperation for a Cleaner Baltic

By Eva Frössling

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) is an umbrella organisation of 27 environmental NGOs active in the Baltic Sea catchment area.

They are all working together to improve and to protect the Baltic Sea environment.

The CCB, which was founded over 10 years ago, has grown into a strong and forceful network. It is a party-politically independent, a non-profit organisation which works mainly through means of lobbying, informing and giving environmental education, and organising activities to raise public's awareness towards environmental issues. They have also concrete cooperation projects, and they support their member organisations.

A common denominator for the CCB network is to look for opportunities and encourage new and constructive way of thinking. They also try to engage people to be part of the solutions instead of the problems.



The Course Leader Eva Jansson at the CCB 2002 Baltic Sea Summer Course, is showing Veronica Irmann and Eneli Niinepuu a watersample taken in the Baltic Sea.

CCB Priority Activities

The work of CCB has focused on three priority areas: 1. Reduction of harmful nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea. 2. Prevention of installations and activities harmful to the Baltic Sea environment and 3. Development of sustainable Baltic Sea fisheries. Under each area, there are a number of activities and projects.

More information:
E-mails: secretariat@ccb.se
gunnar.noren@ccb.se
Tel: +46-18-71 11 55 or 71 11 70
www.ccb.se

UNEP/GRID-Arendal Office in Stockholm

By Magnus Magnusson

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) strengthens its presence in the Baltic Sea Region via a new UNEP/GRID-Arendal Satellite Office in Stockholm

UNEP/GRID-Arendal (UNEP/GA), UNEP's key centre for Polar issues and environment information management for decision-making, has opened a new satellite office in Stockholm. The role of the office include the representation of UNEP in Baltic 21 and HELCOM, the management of UNEP/GA's programme for the Nordic countries with adjacent seas and the fostering of co-operation with Nordic and Baltic public and private sector partners and stakeholders.

UNEP/GA, established in 1989 with a mandate to support the United Nations via its Environment Programme UNEP, was a pioneer in utilizing information technology in environmental information management and produced the first electronic state of the environment report (for Norway) prior to the Rio-summit in 1992. UNEP/GA offers e.g. a wide range of capacity building services and interactive maps. UNEP/GA collaborates with a large number of environment partner institutions and governments.

In the Nordic-Baltic region UNEP/GA has been instrumental in establishing environment information services such as BALANS (Land Cover Information for the Baltic Sea Drainage Basin) and BOING (Baltic On-Line Interactive Geographical and Environmental Information Service). UNEP/GA also contributes to the development of capacity for managing environmental information in Northwest Russia. Furthermore, UNEP/GA assists countries, regions and cities in establishing and managing indicator based electronic state of the environment reports.

More information on the CEROI:
www.ceroi.net

More information on UNEP/GA :
www.grida.no

Internet as a Tool of Ecological Education

By Adam Kaldunski

The Department of Environmental Protection and Agriculture organized a competition for the most interesting ecological website in the schools of Gdynia last spring.

The main aim of the competition was to broaden the knowledge of the environment and to develop ecological consciousness among children and youngsters by means of the most modern computer equipment - Internet.

Competition, under the auspices of Mayor Mr Wojciech Szczurek, was addressed to pupils and teachers from all primary, junior secondary and secondary schools in Gdynia. Observing the enrolling process, it was visible that the idea "hit the jackpot".

The challenge was taken-up from over 30 schools and 62 teams. Pupils collected information, selected it and then constructed their school's websites with information on environment protection. Finally, 39 teams submitted their work which meant that nearly 250 pupils and teachers had been involved in the project!

The websites didn't present only the review of various ecological initiatives carried out by schools, but also a lot of information on the environment and its protection. One could learn about different plants growing in districts of Gdynia, check one's knowledge on interactive, ecological test or crosswords, and visit protected areas in the Pomeranian region.

The best teams were:

Grade 6th H – Primary School Nr 47;
www.pecado.z.pl/ekologia

"Ekowodnik"- Junior Secondary Nr 13;
www.ekowodnik.gdynia.ids.pl

Michal Ceszke - Complex of Refrigerator Schools;
<http://ekologiazschie.republika.pl>

Complete results: http://www.gdynia.pl/?co=inf_miejski/konkurs_ekologia

More information:

Mr Adam Kaldunski

Tel. + 48 58 661 71 75

E-mail: a.kaldunski@miasto.gdynia.pl

eGlobal Conference was held in Tampere

By Seppo Sisättö

The experts and participants of Tampere eGlobal Conference, held at the end of July, tried to find new ideas to boost the slacking eEurope development to discuss and evolve actions to ease the differences between the technically developed and less-developed countries and regions.

The goal was to find new ideas on the ongoing development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at its different levels. This was done by analysing the misjudgements, e.g. failed projects caused by the overoptimistic phase of the 1990's, and trying to find new ideas to boost the slacking eEurope development. One of the main goals was to discuss and evolve actions to ease the differences between the technically developed countries and less-developed countries and regions.

One of the speakers Mr. Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, emphasized the progress made by eEurope –programme. He also pointed out that Europe has the world's fastest research backbone network, and more of the Governmental services are available online than are anywhere else in the world.

Mr. Kimmo Sasi, Finland's Minister of Transport and Communication said that Finland can be regarded as a test platform for how the 'Information Revolution' will conduct business and consumer behaviour in the future.

Dr. Reino Paasilinna, the Member of European Parliament, reminded listeners that ca. 16 % of the people can't read, that 1/3 of the households have no electricity and only 5 % of the world population has Internet access.

The Organizers of the Conference included the United Nations ICT Task Force, the European Commission eEurope –programme, and the eTampere –programme. The next Tampere eGlobal Conference will be on 22-24 March 2004.

More information:

Dr Seppo Sisättö

Tel: +358-50 596 7715

E-mail: seppo.sisatto@uta.fi

www.eglobalconf.net

Sustainable Development & LA 21 in Panevezys is a UN Ambassador Project

By Vytautas Paliukas

The project *Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21* of Panevezys, Lithuania was awarded an honourable title of Ambassador Project at the international United Nation's event in Stockholm in July 2002. The project was acknowledged to meet all the requirements regarding environmental protection, information society and sustainable urban development. Independent international jury selected 14 best and 20 ambassador projects out of 540 from altogether 53 countries.

The ceremony was organised on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the World Environmental Protection Day and the 750th Anniversary of Stockholm.

The Award ceremony was part of Stockholm Partnerships for Sustainable Cities event where intensive discussions on solution examples to the problems of urban sustainability took place. The event gathered 360 delegates from countries all over the world. At the exhibition of the event all projects including Ambassador projects were introduced. Two days were dedicated to group discussions on four themes: knowledge sharing, the market and sustainable development, sustainability in the information society and sustainable urban governance.

More information:

Mr Vytautas Paliukas

Mayor's advisor for public affairs

Tel +370-501-344

E-mail: patarejas@panevezys.sav.lt



Ms Zita Zverkute, the author of the winning project and the Head of Department of Environment of City of Panevezys.

Johannesburg + Europe Conference in Kolding

By Mr Peter Hee

International follow-up conference of local governments and Local Agenda 21, Johannesburg + Europe Conference, was held in 4-5 November in Kolding, Denmark. The purpose of the conference was to focus on the way in which co-operation between the business community and national, regional and local authorities may contribute to the acceleration of sustainable development in Europe.

The main themes were EU policies and strategies for sustainable development, possibilities for local action with focus on co-operation, national and local strategies, and plans for sustainable development and contributions from industry and agriculture for sustainable development.

The conference was aimed at politicians from all levels, officials, including purchasers, environmental experts, technicians and planners, business managers and environmental experts from both industry and agriculture and European NGOs.

How do we make the most of the experience gained from the first 10 years of Agenda 21?

How can we prepare an Agenda 21 strategy?

How can we improve co-operation between all sectors?

How can industry, agriculture, retail trade and municipalities work together to promote a sustainable development?

How can 'green purchases' become a feasible and important tool in promoting Agenda 21?

It will be possible to create a coherent relationship between the international and local political levels. Thus, contributions described what can be done at these different levels. An attempt will be made to set up milestones for activities within Agenda 21 at local level for the coming years. Proposals will be presented as to how counties and municipalities can start working together constructively. Also, proposals will be made as to how those municipalities, which have so far been successful, can inject new energy into Agenda 21 activities at the local level.

Conference was organised by the Danish Ministry of the Environment, the Association of County Councils in Denmark, the National Association of Local Authorities in Denmark, Green Network, the Danish Association of Environmental Protection Officers (FMK), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (OCLEI) and the Municipality of Kolding.

More information:
Mr Peter Hee
E-mail: pemh@kolding.dk

Environmental Report of Turku was Chosen the Best

The Environmental Report of the City of Turku was chosen to full-fill best the requirements in the category of public organisations in a Finnish national competition of reports regarding environment and community responsibility this year.

According to the jury, the City of Turku has published a thorough and well-done general report where the basic goals of environment and sustainable development, their concrete action and implementation have been described especially well.

The Environment Report and Closing of the Books 2001 of the City of Turku was done now for the second time with main focus more towards the sustainable development.

Over 150 companies and organisations took part in the competition where a record number of 46 environment and community responsibility reports were evaluated. The competition was organised now for the seventh year running.

The Environment Report of the City of Turku will be further developed based on the gained experiences. The next report for the year 2002 will be published in spring 2003. Further on, the sustainable development program of the City of Turku will be up-dated in 2004.



ICAROS-NET' to help EU Environmental Policy-Making

Commission satellite project 'ICAROS-NET' detects fine particulate matter from space. Fine particulate matter is now one of the biggest threats to human health from air pollution. The results should help improve environmental policy making in the EU and the effectiveness of international environmental treaties.

A new technique monitors the concentration of air pollution in more cost-effective approach than traditional land-based monitoring. Test areas to validate the system are Athens (Greece), Budapest (Hungary), Munich (Germany), and the region of Lombardy (Italy). These trials will also evaluate the performance of a telematics network designed to allow integrated monitoring and forecasting of air pollution across the whole EU.

By integrating the information measured by satellite sensors with a data derived from ground-based pollution dispersion models, the ICAROS project should give a consistent picture of air pollution over a wide geographic area. This information, to be shared across the EU, could then be used in an urban environmental management decision support system.

The first trials of this system will be presented in Athens on 15 October 2002. The project runs until September 2004.

More information:
<http://mara.jrc.it/icaros.html>
<http://mara.jrc.it/icaros-net/index.html>

GMES:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/space/gmes_en.html

New Environment and Agenda 21 Webpages of UBC



The UBC EnvCom and Agenda 21 Secretariat have upgraded their webpages this Autumn.

The aim was to update the current information on the Commission on Environment's webpages and also to make the pages user-friendlier. The pages are made so that they are not too heavy to be loaded even with older computers or slower connection.

The structure of the pages is designed so that it is easy for reader to find current information on all the work EnvCom does. For example all projects are introduced on their own individual pages. Also all relevant partners, funders or/and documentation are linked.

We hope that these new pages will serve you well and you will find the information on them interesting and relevant.

More information:
Sari Bowie
sari.bowie@saunalahti.fi
www.ubc.net/commissions/
environment.html



UBC EnvCom in Kolding

The UBC Commission on Environment and Agenda 21 Working Group had this year's second meeting in Kolding 6 November. Special emphasis was put on workshops to develop a project on local Agenda/Action 21 in CEEC.

The meeting was organised back-to-back with the Johannesburg +Europe Conference, 4-5 November, so our participants had the chance to attend both events. This also enabled the EnvCom meeting to take onboard fresh outcomes of Johannesburg into the discussions.

As the focus in Joburg was put on concrete actions, especially in the outcomes of the Joburg Local Government Session, organised by ICLEI, the EnvCom discussed on including work on concrete themes into its future strategy. Such themes could be for example sustainable consumption, water, waste, energy and bio-diversity.



Some of the 23 UBC EnvCom participants during a break in Kolding. The meeting was organised in the multi-functional venue of "LAB-COM" in the centre of Kolding.

Large part of the meeting was dedicated to workshops on developing local Agenda 21 activities for Central Eastern Europe. Thanks to good contributions from participants, these workshops were very resultful, and will eventually lead to concrete projects to be implemented.

A large project on Local Agenda/Action 21 theme is under preparation with ICLEI, and ICLEI's European Director Gino Vanbegin was also actively participating at the EnvCom meeting. Nordic Council of Ministers supported the workshops financially, enabling good participation of experts from the target countries.

New UBC Agenda 21 Program publication

A new publication of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Program was released in October. This publication includes information on the whole program process in 2000-2003, as well as the up-to-date official program document.

The UBC Agenda 21 Action Program was launched by the UBC General Conference in 1999, and further updated in 2001. The program both commits the UBC as an organisation to advancing sustainable urban development and guides our work in practice. It contains policy, network service and project parts, as well as annexed sustainability guidelines for member cities. All these you will find in the UBC Agenda 21 Action Program 2000-2003 publication.

The purpose of the action program is to communicate our vision, create strategies, set guidelines and define actions. The Program will give you an overview of the activities already implemented, as well as familiarize you with our goals and on-going activities. We hope that you will find it interesting and beneficial reading, and you are also Cordially Welcome to participate in the different activities of the program!

As the program will be renewed for the next General Conference - this is good time to join the discussions and influence!

More information:
Risto Veivo
E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi

Building Bridges for Environmental Governance

Over 150 delegates took part in the European Commission Conference on Environmental Governance in Aalborg on 19/20 September 2002. The Conference, co-organised with the city of Aalborg and the Danish EU Presidency, provided an opportunity for NGO's, local/regional government, and business, to discuss the future scope of environmental policy within the context of the wider governance debate. The second in a series of decentralised events on environmental governance, the Aalborg conference aimed to improve partnership between the European Commission and participating stakeholder groups.

Among a number of highly acclaimed speakers were the European Commissioner for Environment Margot Wallström, and the Danish Environment Minister Hans Christian Schmidt. The Conference programme as well as a selection of the presentations is now available at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/governance/index_en.htm

DGEnvironment is currently preparing to organise the third decentralised governance conference in co-operation with the approaching Greek EU Presidency. This conference will focus on sustainable tourism and will take place in Volos in May.

Sustainable Baltic Harbours Proposal

Sustainable Baltic Harbours project proposal to INTERREG III B is proceeding well. The initial team of project main stakeholders, cities and harbours, have been extended to relevant national bodies and shipping lines. In addition to EU member cities and harbours there are several interested cities and harbours among candidate countries. Candidate country partners will apply to PHARE funding to fully participate in the project. Project proposal and Sustainable Baltic Harbours initiative has received many encouraging comments from partners, relevant authorities and experts. We look forward to submit the proposal to INTERREG III B in coming Spring.

Indicators to Measure and Plan for Sustainability

By Tea Nömmann

Successful indicators for sustainable development rely on focusing on how they are integrated into the processes of governance.

The issue of measuring sustainability performance and what indicators to use emerged with the definition of sustainability in late 1980s. During 1990s a lot has been achieved by scientific community, international organisations, national and local governments, NGOs, private sector in developing, testing and implementing various indexes and indicator sets to measure sustainable development of the states, regions, local governments, companies, individuals, etc.

For the municipalities the benchmarks are the Aalborg Charter (1994), a political commitment to working towards sustainability, calls on the signatory local authorities to establish systems and procedures for monitoring and reporting on progress towards sustainability. The Lisbon Action Plan (1996), a follow-up commitment to action, promotes the use of sustainability indicators for this purpose. The Communication "Sustainable Urban Development in the European Union: A Framework for Action" adopted by the European Commission in 1998 emphasises the importance of using comparative indicators for assessing urban performance and the need to explore methods of monitoring progress.

European expert group on the Urban Environment in close consultation with local authorities have developed through a bottom-up approach European Common Sustainability Indicators. Currently more than 100 European local authorities from 18 countries have signed the agreement to join the initiative and are committed to produce relevant data. Those who are interested in methodology and preliminary results can visit project web site

www.sustainable-cities.org/indicators/. Those who want to join the initiative could contact ecip@ambienteitalia.it.

UBC cities from Sweden and Finland have joined the initiative. Cities from other Baltic Sea Region countries have also expressed their interest to use the common indicators to measure and compare the sustainability among themselves. There are also many cities who are testing those common indicators by themselves but not have joined the initiative. We encourage you to join the initiative and network of the cities to learn from each other!

PASTILLE Consortium

It is though important to remind that the indexes and indicators are valuable tools to plan and measure sustainability only when they are integrated into, and also influence significantly decision-making. Recent research by PASTILLE Consortium under the EC 5th Framework Programme presented at PASTILLE and ECI Conference on September 12-13 in London, concluded that "sustainability indicator sets do not readily and automatically lead to changes in decision-making nor make major policy impacts." Creating successful indicators for sustainable development relies far more on focusing on *how they are integrated into the processes of the governance* and far less of working out, designing, and fine-tuning particular indicator sets or indexes.

The Pastille Test has been developed by the Pastille consortium for practitioners who are working with sustainability indicators. The test helps them to gain a better understanding of their indicators or indicator sets, in order to improve effectiveness. The test can be applied to a single, or to a set of indicators, as a whole. The process of completing the test is a valuable one for practitioners as it can stimulate different ways of seeing things and illuminate new strategies for improvement.

More information:
www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/geography/Pastille/test.xls

Coming Events

Next UBC EnvCom and Agenda 21 Working Group meeting

will be held in April 2003 in Kaunas, Lithuania. The meeting will be arranged on the occasion of the large TBestC good practice seminar. All interested are welcome to participate. Exact dates will be informed during January 2003

For more information please contact the EnvCom Secretariat.

Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2003

The Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award will be organised for the third time in 2003. The award scheme will be launched durind the Spring 2003. This time, the award will focus on several themes. A preliminary - non-confirmed - list of themes is: *Biodiversity, Energy, Environmental Health, Air, and Information and Education*. Final selection of the themes will be done in Jan-Feb 2003. Following that, award brochures will be disseminated and information put into the UBC website. All member cities are encouraged to apply. The award schemes of 2001 and 1999 were highly beneficial for the good practice work of the UBC - and several participating cities also found their way into the good practice exchange projects organised accordingly. The Award Ceremony will be organised on the occasion of the UBC General Conference in Klaipeda, Lithuania, Autumn 2003.

TBestC Launch Seminar

-Transferring Best Environmental Solutions between Towns and Cities-

The large TBestC Good Practice Seminar will be organised in April 2003 in Kaunas, Lithuania. All interested are welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact the EnvCom Secretariat.

European Sustainable City Award 2003

competition is currently on-going. Applications from any city, town and local authority situated in Europe are welcome. The dead-line for completed applications is 31 January 2003.

For mor einformation, please contact European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, Rue de Treves 49-51, Box 3, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

Tel: +32-2-230 5351, E-mail: campaign.office@skynet.be
www.sustainable-cities.org/award2003.htm

36th UBC Executive Board Meeting

will be organised 28-30 March 2003 in Umeå, Sweden. The meeting will have an open session for member cities.

For more information, please contact the UBC Secretariat.
Tel: +48-58-3010917, E-mail: info@ubc.net, www.ubc.net

VII General Conference of UBC

will be organised 17-19 October 2003 in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

For more information, please contact the UBC Secretariat.
Tel: +48-58-3010917, E-mail: info@ubc.net, www.ubc.net

Conference on Sustainable Development after Johannesburg

will take place 7-8th February 2003 in Malmö, Sweden.

The goal of the conference is to discuss the results of the World Summit in the light of Agenda 21 and to define priorities for the future. The conference appeals mainly to non-governmental organisations but participation by municipalities, businesses and other actors working with sustainable development is welcome.

The three goals of the conference are:

1. To study and discuss the results from the Johannesburg Summit.
2. To define priorities and discuss methods and processes for sustainability work.
3. To initiate debate and create new contacts between NGOs, municipalities and enterprises

The conference is organised by Agenda 21 Skåne in co-operation with a number of other actors. **You are warmly invited to participate!**

More information:

Agenda 21 Skåne (a regional NGO dealing with sustainable development in Southern Sweden)

E-mail: otto.ilmonen@malmo.se

European Conference on Mobility Management

will be held 21-23 May 2003 in Karlstad, Sweden.

Managing transport demand to attain sustainable development and economic effectiveness, why and how?

The conference includes plenary sessions, keynote speeches, workshops and excursions. There will also be an exhibition for companies and organisations related to the theme of the conference. The accession countries will have the possibility to participate to a lower fee.

Mobility Management is primarily a demand-orientated approach to passenger and freight transport that involves new partnerships and new tools. The aim is to support and encourage a change of attitude and behaviour towards sustainable modes of transport. The tools of mobility management are based on information, communication, organisation and co-ordination.

More information:

www.karlstad.se/ecommm/

Mr Mikael Schultz

Head of the Environment and Health Department

E-mail: mikael.shultz@karlstad.se

Tel: +46-54 29 56 61





UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat

Network is a 'net' that 'works'. Partnerships are invaluable and best solutions can best be learnt from others. In the work of the UBC such practical co-operation has always been essential.

In the UBC, our Agenda 21 work is a joint initiative of 103 cities and other partners. The fora for joint work of these cities, their representatives and other partners, are the UBC Commission on Environment and the Agenda 21 Working Group. They are open to participation of all member cities, and also many partner organisations are regularly present at the meetings.

You are most welcome to join! Two meetings are organised every year. It is in these meetings that you are also most likely to find partners for your own initiatives, or use the opportunity to join projects in the pipeline!



Meetings in the seminar room are usually accompanied by on-site excursions. This is one way to combine "theory and practice" to provide a holistic learning opportunity. Here a group of EnvCom participants visiting the new waste water treatment plant in Rostock, October 2000.



Mikko

The EnvCom Co-chairs are currently Mr. Mikko Jokinen from Turku, Finland and Mr. Guldbrand Skjönberg from Nacka, Sweden. In his every-day work, Mr. Jokinen is Environmental Director of City of Turku and Mr. Skjönberg is Manager to the Boards in the City of Nacka.



Guldbrand



Tea, Risto and Sari

The EnvCom secretariat staff consist of a core team of three professionals working fulltime for the UBC. They are UBC Environmental Co-ordinator Mr. Risto Veivo (center), Project Co-ordinator Mrs. Tea Nömmann (left) and Publications Officer Mrs. Sari Bowie (right). This core team is regularly accompanied by project officers and interns.

In addition to these meeting, we organise several Environmental and Agenda 21 workshops and seminars every year, as well as publish the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin and utilise the website. The bulletin offers you an excellent forum to publicise your activities and initiatives on environment and sustainable development. If you have an idea for a story, just contact us!

We are here for you. The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat is the co-ordination and service unit for the environmental and Agenda 21 work of the UBC. It runs the services for the cities: organises meetings and policy work, prepares documents and publications, as well as initiates and runs projects.

The UBC EnvCom and Agenda 21 webpages have just been upgraded. In the new pages you can find up-to-date information on the activities. You can also check the Documents & Publications page for the latest reports in pdf-format. These include for example the Local Agenda 21 Good Practice Review for city leadership. If you have any questions, ideas or comments regarding our services, please, never hesitate to contact us!



EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE CITY AWARD
PRIX EUROPÉEN DE LA VILLE DURABLE
PREMIO EUROPEO CITTÀ SOSTENIBILE
PREMIO EUROPEO CIUDAD SOSTENIBLE
EUROPÄISCHER PREIS ZUKUNFTSBESTÄNDIGE STADT



2003



- Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (ACRR)
- Climate Alliance / Climate Leaders / Aliados del Clima
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
 - Europe-Cities
 - EUROCTHR
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
 - Mayors
- Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)
- World Federation of United Cities (WFUC)
 - WFOC - Healthy Cities

www.sustainable-cities.org/award2003.htm

Supported by the European Commission - DG Environment

