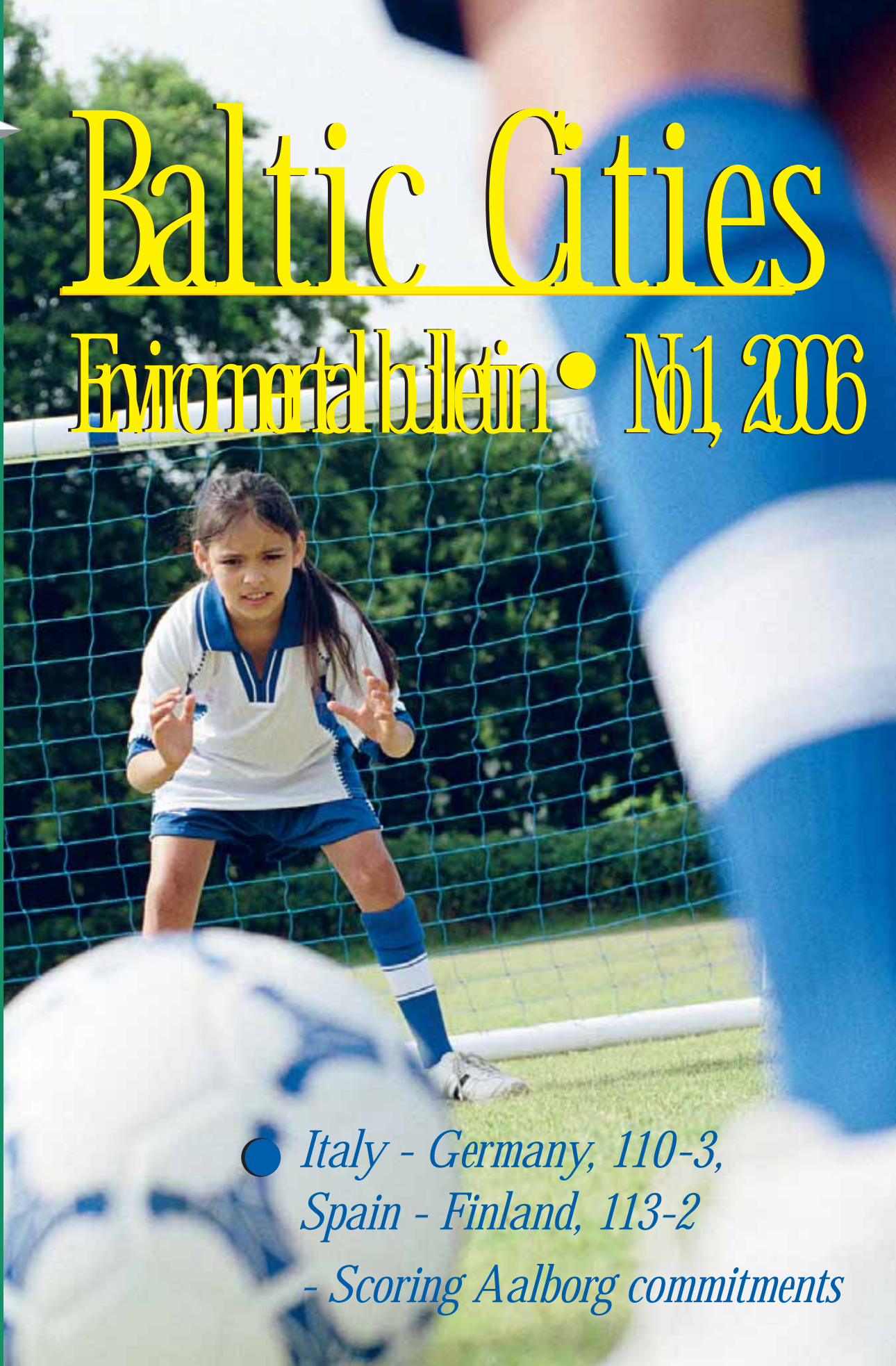




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# Baltic Cities

## Environmental bulletin • No1, 2006



● *Italy - Germany, 110-3,  
 Spain - Finland, 113-2  
 - Scoring Aalborg commitments*

**MONITORING SUSTAINABILITY AND  
 THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- special theme edition



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# Baltic Cities

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## Environmental bulletin



### **Honouring our commitment to monitor sustainable development**

As a general rule, good decision-making largely depends on whether useful background information is available to guide us through the process. This is most certainly the case when it comes to making decisions that affect the course of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, especially because our resources to move towards sustainability are limited.

Therefore, we must focus our attention on the most critical challenges of today as well as those which are likely to appear in the future. By conducting periodic assessments and in-depth studies of current trends in sustainable development, policy-makers throughout the region will have the information they need to make informed decisions. Thus, the careful and comprehensive monitoring of progress made can guide us along the path to realising our common ecological, economic and social goals in a balanced way.

Already, the evaluation of trends in sustainable development has been prioritised on both global and European levels. At the international level, the "Plan of Implementation" adopted by the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, has bolstered the role of monitoring in the global Agenda 21 process. Concerning European frameworks, since 2004, the Aalborg Commitments have accelerated efforts towards local sustainable development, as its signatories have pledged to cooperate with the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign and its networks to monitor and evaluate our progress in meeting sustainability targets. Much to our region's benefit, these existing frameworks provide us with a solid foundation upon which we can carry out mutually reinforcing policies.

Consistent with the above, Baltic Sea cities have a key role to play in meeting the commonly agreed goals and objectives – as well as the established global, regional and national commitments – to develop in a sustainable fashion. In complementing national-level efforts, cities have excellent resource-bases and unique structures in place, which allow them to monitor and evaluate trends in a way that is closer to the heart of local communities. If we indeed want to realise a sustainable Baltic Sea Region, identifying unsustainable patterns will be decisive in terms of what paths we select for future development. The Union of the Baltic Cities is an important member of Baltic 21, and is closely linked to the sustainable development process in both principle and practice. To this end, the UBC provides one of the most valuable frameworks for scrutinising trends in sustainability, and for coordinating policy approaches that aim to address challenges to realising sustainable cities.

*Marek Maciejowski*  
*Head of Unit*  
*Baltic 21 Secretariat*

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special theme  
edition

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# Scoring commitments

Italy - Germany, 110 - 3. Spain - Finland, 113 - 2. The results of a national soccer match? Far from it. The figures flashing above show how many of the local governments have approved the Aalborg Commitments by signing them. Admirably, the Mediterraneans are leading the Baltics 307 - 21. Olé!

The Nordic cities used to be the torch-bearers in the 90's when the local agenda 21 processes rose from the darkness and the Aalborg charter was created in 1994.

What has happened since the Aalborg Commitments 2004? Enthusiasm has dimmed and the torches have been put out – as far as the number of the signatories of the Aalborg Commitments is concerned.

There must be a realistic explanation. Sustainability has finally become a process that needs no explanation.

An observer on the side lines would say that there's a lot more to be done before the local actions become global. Furthermore, there is still room for further increase in numbers of local actions.

Approximately 80 percent of the citizens in the EU live in urban areas. Therefore, it is the local authorities who play a key

role in implementing sustainability issues. Signing a piece of paper with a shared vision of the future with other cities can play a surprisingly central role in the outputs of the local governmental policy.

Making a commitment will have a deeper meaning: we need to start implementing. This is what the environmental manager of The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Maija Hakanen, thinks. The Aalborg Commitments would work well promoting sustainability, especially as a means of communication, even though the local authorities have already worked persistently on the local agendas.

- The local governments may not see the benefits of systemizing their activities in local agendas. Those who have not signed the Aalborg Commitments, are missing the opportunity to compare their effort to others. I think the Nordic countries could do quite well in the evaluation, Hakanen says.

- The Aalborg Commitments are a very well formulated and all-inclusive guideline for sustainability because of the concrete targets that promote the implementation. In addition, monitoring is included.

Implementing the sustainable action plan is an effort that involves all sectors of the local government. Communes tackling financial problems and dealing with other responsibilities may need a lot of support in order to make such a commitment.

## THE AALBORG COMMITMENTS

1. Increased participatory democracy
2. Local management towards sustainability
3. Protecting and preserving natural common goods
4. Responsible consumption and life style choices
5. Strategic role of urban planning and design
6. Better mobility, less traffic
7. Local action for health
8. Vibrant and sustainable local economy
9. Social equity and justice
10. Local to global

Encouragingly, the first meeting of The Nordic & Baltic Aalborg Commitments Network was held in Gothenburg on the 16-17th March 2006. Also, the Nordic Conference on Sustainable Social Development will take place in Oslo on the 26-27th October this year.

The approval of the signature is something that only the city council can decide on, and will only be the beginning of the game. The global trend of unsustainable development will, without a doubt, be a hard-hitting challenger. After the first goal the team in the local government will need even more muscles for the baseline review, an analysis of the local situation according to Aalborg recommendations, which will take place after political ratification.

### Sustainability became a trend in Spain and Italy

While the Nordic countries are having their siesta, sustainability has become a hot political topic in Spain and Italy. A wave starting from the North has reached the Mediterranean.

The city of Barcelona started to build the Local Agenda 21 in 2002. The signing of the Aalborg Commitments in 2004 was a continuation of The Citizens Commitment towards Sustainability. It is a result of a wider process of civic participation, including 100 specific lines of action.

- Now that we are actively participating in the ACTOR Project, which is promoted by ICLEI and other networks, we

are able to compare results and indicators in relation with the Aalborg Commitments, says Txema Castiella, Director of Environmental Programmes, Barcelona City Council.

The results of sustainable development are also published in a local yearly report, Indicator 21. Some improvements in the city's global tendencies have already been seen: water saving, increase of selective collection of waste, increase in green areas per inhabitant, more presence of fair trade products in the local economy and more private companies with environmental systems, to name just a few.

The Spanish and the Italians have been incorporated into this process at a later stage. The larger participation of Spanish and Italian cities in Aalborg 2004 doesn't necessarily represent a stronger commitment with sustainable development or Agenda 21, but a different rhythm regarding challenges and strategies, Castiella says.

In Italy the "Coordinamento Agende 21 Locali Italiane" has a key role promoting the Aalborg Commitments. It has collected the best practises and projects of Italian cities under each commitment.

Cristina Garzillo, project officer in ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, European secretariat, would advise the cities considering signing the commitment to concentrate on the deadlines, targets and the overall process, so that the initial enthusiasm turns into concrete results.

## Seville 2007 - Spreading sustainability

The Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities will take place in Seville, Spain, between the 21-25th March 2007. The main focus of the conference is the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments and the Aalborg Charter.

- In the Seville Conference, we shall aim to be as concrete as possible. This includes the opportunity to discover recently developed tools and knowledge that can support the efforts boosting sustainability, says Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI.

In the Seville conference the representatives of local governments are invited to exchange experiences with over 1000 other colleagues across Europe - and make a commitment to sustainability. The Seville 2007 conference will be organized within the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign; the main organizers are the City of Seville and ICLEI. UBC is also taking part in organizing the event.

The Aalborg commitment is a down to earth approach and is based on the Aalborg Charter 1994. The Aalborg+10 were accepted in the fourth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in 2004 where 110 cities signed the Commitments instantly and started implementing it in their policy making. Nowadays, the Aalborg Commitments is a generally accepted guideline and a thematic base for many efforts made in sustainability. This is also the case in most of the on-going European Urban Sustainability projects, in particular, Managing Urban Europe -25 and Sustainment.

**Further information:**  
[www.aalborgplus10.dk](http://www.aalborgplus10.dk)  
[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)  
[www.sevilla2007.org](http://www.sevilla2007.org)  
[www.framtid-kom.no](http://www.framtid-kom.no)

# Integrated Solutions for Sustainability Management in Baltic Cities - SUSTAINMENT project

By Björn Grönholm

**Cross-sectoral cooperation in local administrations is a major contribution to urban sustainability as pinpointed in the EU Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment, EU 6th Environment Action Programme and 2005 Review of EU Sustainable Development Strategy. This is also one of the main elements in the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004 -2009 Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities.**

The SUSTAINMENT aims to meet the needs and challenges toward a more integrated sustainability process. The intention is to develop current municipal sustainable development processes to the next level by integrating the work more in local cities. The aim is to create models for Sustainability Management Centers (SMC), cross-sectoral policy integration and increased efficiency. In the end, the project provides all European cities with models for integrated sustainability management.

This can be done by strengthening the ability of local authorities to develop their working methods, skills and people to significantly contribute to all dimensions of sustainable development within the same city. To learn and support from each other is one of the aspects in the SUSTAINMENT.

SUSTAINMENT focuses on four main themes in order to build capacities for

the creation of SMCs: Sustainable development, Management of the SMC as a strategic office, Governance for sustainability and promoting sustainable development through communication and participation.

The themes will be profoundly processed in the main activities of the project, ending up into a Competence Development Package. The Competence Development Package will be available in nine BSR languages.

## Project Partners

The project consortium consists of 14 partners: UBC, Commission on Environment Secretariat being the Lead Partner, Baltic University Programme being leader of Work-package 3, and 12 partner cities all over the Baltic Sea Region – Kouvola Region federation of Municipalities, City of Turku, Municipality of Kalmar, City of Malmö, Municipality of

Växjö, Municipality of Örebro, City of Gdansk, City of Riga, Municipality of Siauliai, Municipality of Panevezys, City of Kaliningrad and City of Novgorod.

The project is part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) within the BSR INTERREG IIIB Neighborhood Programme, TACIS, the Finnish Ministry of Environment and the partner cities. The project runs from January 2006 to December 2007.

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*The partner cities differ from each other in experience and resources but the aim of succeeding in SUSTAINMENT is common for all. Photo from the kick-off in Turku in April 2006. Photo: Laimonis Osis.*

# On the path towards an integrated management system

Partner cities in Managing Urban Europe-25 (MUE-25) have initiated their implementation of an integrated management system. Most of the cities have completed an initial assessment of their current work on environmental and sustainability issues.

The implementation phase was initiated with an international training session held in Turku, Finland in January 2006. Since the start of MUE-25, a German module has been established and it now includes 10 German cities. Consequently, a total of 24 cities in Europe will implement the integrated management system developed within MUE-25.

The system is intended to act as a backbone for any type of environmental or sustainable urban management system. The system is built upon the generic management system model i.e. the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle and comprises five steps. Parts of the system are to be repeated in annual cycles. However, a full revision will be required every 3-5 years provided that the final evaluation at the end of each annual cycle does not require reconsideration.

## How does it work

The focus of the integrated management system is on strategic rather than operational issues. The coordination of the system should be organized centrally in the city management and accompanied by a regular involvement of a central political body to ensure proper political commitment and legitimacy. Furthermore, the integrated management system should address the whole urban area, regardless of the administrative boundaries and the degree of the local authority power. The majority of cities have already entered into voluntary commitments (Aalborg Charter, Aalborg Commitment, and Local Agenda 21) and recognises the need for structures directed from the top i.e. political commitment and the need of a connection with the financial management system.

The framework model has a "journey" approach as it allows the consideration of various starting points, framework conditions and ambitions. Furthermore, it has a modular approach, which permits cities to gradually expand the system in scope and content to include various aspects, actors and spheres of government. This integration will use the Aalborg Com-



During the second MUE-25 training event in Balatonfüred, Hungary, the participating cities learned more about how to move from baseline review to the strategic programme approval. Photo: Pekka Salminen.

mitments as the reference document to identify both the direct and indirect sustainability aspects of urban areas. Finally, the model has a framework approach allowing the integration of locally applied instruments and step-by-step completion and advancement.

The full document describing the framework model for environmental management of urban areas can be found on the project web site [www.mue25.net](http://www.mue25.net).

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[www.mue25.net](http://www.mue25.net)

## The integrated management system - five main steps



# STATUS is a web tool for monitoring sustainable development

## in Baltic Cities

How to keep indicator data easily available and how to write illustrative reports on sustainable development (SD) in your city? The recent on-line tool, STATUS will help you in this.

The Urban Thematic Strategy of the EU (UTS) is a new way to support sustainable development in European Cities. STATUS (Sustainability Tools and Targets for the Urban Thematic Strategy, (<http://www.sustainable-cities.org.uk/status/>) is an easy-to-use, web-based tool for SD monitoring in European cities. It provides guidance for sustainable planning through target setting. The tool is available in six major European languages.

UTS is mainly based on the Aalborg Commitments (<http://www.aalborg-plus10.dk>), a voluntary process, where cities choose their focus areas, identify the most suitable indicators for their needs and set realistic targets for these indicators.

Indicators are used as a base. STATUS tool is developed in line with the Aal-

borg Commitments. Eight out of the ten themes were selected. All together STATUS includes 47 indicators. The selected indicators were approved in TISSUE project (Trends and Indicators for monitoring the EU Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Development of Urban Environment) and fine-tuned during the tool development.

The STATUS tool is easy-to-use. The usability of the tool was tested by two local authority workshops: the first one was held in Milan (Italy), and the second in Tallinn (Estonia) in 2005. Twenty representatives from the European cities have commented and tested the tool, and the final versions in six languages were approved by native environmental experts. UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat was a partner in the project and was closely involved in the tool development.

The tool provides an unregistered user with the necessary guidance for target setting. The registered users will have access to the indicators and database, which also shows the indicators and related targets, selected and set by the other cities. Another on-line tool, LASALA, helps the cities to evaluate sustainability of their governance process (<http://www.localevaluation21.org>).

STATUS was proposed by the EU Directorate General Environment and has been financed by the Directorate General Research.

#### More information:

[www.sustainable-cities.org.uk/status](http://www.sustainable-cities.org.uk/status)

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# BUUF promotes and monitors sustainability through networks

By Kyösti Lempa

## Developing ambitious urban indicators was more challenging than expected.

Baltic University Urban Forum (BUUF) is an INTERREG III B project, coordinating joint actions of two networks: UBC, which is a city network, and Baltic University Programme, which is a university network. The common goal of these two networks is urban sustainability. The BUUF project has had two major working methods: working seminars and monitoring of sustainable development. Working seminars provided forum for expert lectures and exchange of best practices of ten different sustainability issues.

During the working seminars, the twenty BUUF partner cities from Baltic Sea Region prepared a tentative list of indicators for sustainability monitoring. The list was

streamlined and fine-tuned by a special scientific advisory board. The BUUF indicator system was finalized and sent to partner cities in June 2005. The system consists of 49 indicators. The core indicators can also be found in the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005. The other included indicators were more demanding considering social and economic issues, for which data was not so easily available.

The BUUF survey which was carried out in summer 2005 provided an excellent opportunity to test the usability of UBC indicators. The results are encouraging. Data for the UBC indicators is available in most cities. This means that the UBC monitoring system has taken its first step. The next step is the development of a more advanced indicator system for UBC: adding new ones which are supporting implementation of new European

sustainability standards and dropping out indicators, which are not useful for the cities. The modified indicator system should help city administrators tell the citizens, political decision-makers and stakeholders how the city is performing, indicating strengths and weaknesses and the environmental issues where concrete actions are needed.

The project has been prolonged by three months and will end in June this year. The ten thematic project booklets will then be ready and distributed. Although the project is not finished yet the process started in BUUF continues in the SUSTAINMENT project. Read more about the project on page 6.

#### More information:

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# Promote your great transport system Gdynia

Encourages the BUSTRIP Peer Review team

**There is a great transport system in Gdynia, but it needs to be promoted. This was one of the key findings of the critical friends, a peer review team of sustainable transport experts, who worked a full week in the city with the local politicians, businesses and transport experts in April 2006.**

The City of Gdynia has kick started Peer reviews in the twelve pioneering cities of BUSTRIP. One of the headline findings of the Peer Review is that Gdynia is committed to delivering an efficient public transport system that meets the need of businesses and residents. Already very successful the team felt the city needs new partners and new ideas to meet its ambitious targets and challenging expectations of the citizens.

The Peer Review has proved to be a fruitful tool, strengthening the sustainable urban transport issues position on the political agenda. Deputy Mayor of Gdynia Boguslaw Stasiak, said, that the city needs to improve living standards, and at the same time reduce transport growth. BUSTRIP is expected to help towards some of the solutions.

Gdynia was the first out of 12 cities to be reviewed in BUSTRIP. During the spring, Bremen, Örebro, Tartu, Göteborg, Liepaja, Pärnu and Kaunas have hosted expert teams. During the late summer, Vilnius, Turku, Sundsvall and Kouvola Region will be reviewed.

## Promoting SUTP

BUSTRIP is one of the first serious attempts in Europe to offer practical tools for planning sustainable transport systems. The project aims to decouple the link between economic growth and transport growth by promoting Sustainable Urban Transport Plans; SUTP. The success in BUSTRIP is based on a few effective steps:

The partner cities have prepared self-assessment reports for the Peer Review



teams in order to take a closer look at the current urban transport system. The next step in BUSTRIP is to use the Peer Review findings as part of the SUTP preparation process. Finally, the pilot actions carried out by the cities will help to fulfil the goals of the SUTP.

BUSTRIP is coordinated by the UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat. Two other core partners are UBC Commission on Transportation and Chalmers University of Technology. Sustainable Transport and Economy is one of the focus themes of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme. The project is financed by the European Union within the BSR Interreg IIIB Neighbourhood Programme. The total budget is 3,1 MEUR. The project duration is July 2005 – December 2007.

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*From the Peer Review team, Mrs Jaana Mäkinen and Mr Michael Koucky (on the left) interviewed Mrs Teresa Marzejon (on the right), the Head of Health Department, during the Gdynia Peer Review in the beginning of April 2006. The interview was interpreted by Mr Mieczyslaw Samogyi (in the middle). Photo: Jaana Mäkinen.*

# LVRLAC is aiming to improve their communications systems

By Virpi Kaukavuori

**An efficient communication system is a vital part of a lively network. It has also been identified as one of the major challenges of the LVRLAC network organization in the Lake Victoria region, which is now making an effort to better organise its communication system.**

The Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) has been co-operating with Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Network (LVRLAC) since 2000. One of the main goals, among the sustainability initiatives is to improve LVRLAC's capacity as a network organization. This includes upgrading the internal communication system, as well as focusing on a further progress through the creation of an information strategy.

UBC has provided technical backstopping to LVRLAC on how to proceed in the demanding field of communication. Some of the results have already become visible. The organization has recently upgraded its web site [www.lvrlac.net](http://www.lvrlac.net). At the moment the site has basic information about the network. It is to be updated and customized to be more useful for the members of the organization and other stakeholders in the region and globally.

The communication and information strategy of LVRLAC also includes increasing the awareness of the members of the organization, and promoting the achievements of its projects among the target groups.

## Regular communication needed

LVRLAC still needs to start producing newsletters on a regular basis, and engage in public relations through press releases. Project leaflets, events and presentations are also necessary channels. With a common visual outlook, web pages and publications need to be produced by a professional Information Officer, who is still to be recruited.

Although a lot of work has already been done to improve LVRLAC's capability in communications, the organization has a many challenges to meet before

the ICT facilities can be fully exploited: blackouts in electricity have lately become an everyday experience in Uganda and other parts of the region, and only limited human and financial resources are available.

Not all of the local authorities have computer access to the internet. The use of email may in many cases depend on availability of an internet cafe. The delivery of publications can be slow with only partly existing street maps. Besides, LVRLAC and its members need more education and information about the possibilities of communication systems. Addressing the communication gap in Lake Victoria region is one of the priorities of LVRLAC – UBC co-operation in the near future.

LVRLAC is now a well established organization bringing together its members under one umbrella to tackle the environmental problems and co-operate on utilization of Lake Victoria Resources. Strong linkages have been created with a number of relevant institutions and member cities from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. LVRLAC has a lot of potential to meet the challenges of environmental management if some of the stumbling blocks, such as poor communication, are dealt with by creating an effective and functional system.

**More information:**  
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## Jussi and Agnieszka join the EnvCom team



I am Jussi Välimäki and from the beginning of April 2006, I started to work as the Financial Manager for UBC EnvCom. I have a Masters degree in economics from the University of Turku.

I have previously worked in the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration as well as the Pan-European Institute as a project manager participating in designing and implementing several projects and training courses. I am married and have two children Julius (9) and Linnea (5). I do judo and floor ball and also train at gym when I have time.

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My name is Agnieszka Anna Ilola. Since the 15 March 2006, I have been working as a Management Assistant for the UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat. My position

requires me to assist the head of the secretariat and financial manager as well as maintain the upkeep of the UBC EnvCom Secretariat administration. My position also allows me to provide administrative support to the EnvCom staff and handling of organizational issues that may arise within the Secretariat.

I have a Master's degree in Environment Protection and Management from the Warmia and Mazury University in Olsztyn, Poland. My mother tongue is Polish and I also speak English, Russian and Finnish. I like new challenges and enjoy working in an international environment.

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# Support for Russian cities on environmental data management

By Kyösti Lempa

## Seven Russian cities were invited to learn good practices in environmental data management in the CAPACITY training project - as well as finding the crucial environmental issues in those cities.

Russian UBC member cities were actively responding to the Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Survey 2004/2005. The UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat is currently conducting a feasibility study to get more information about solid waste management, noise mapping, air quality and renewable resources. These four issues were found to be important in the BC SD Survey. Encouragingly, St. Petersburg has established measurement systems for both air

quality and noise management. There is little information yet on renewable sources of energy production. This is however an emerging issue the UBC aims to highlight in the forthcoming events.

Russian cities are aware of the numerous environmental problems that lie ahead. In many cases, the data management has been one of the major challenges in keeping the cities on the track of sustainable development. One of the aims of CAPACITY is to offer practical methods in collecting and delivering the data for decision-makers. The feasibility study is well in line with general environmental policy, since environmental monitoring and data management is one of the key themes in the Russian State Ecological Doctrine as approved in 2002.

The on-going feasibility study prepares for a training project, in which UBC will help the partner cities by arranging 4-6 seminars providing support in environmental data management. Seminars

around the key issues will follow the 'open house' principle, meaning that other cities apart from the UBC member cities are also welcome to join the training events.

CAPACITY, Capacity building and Awareness raising through targeted best PrActice exchange in the Baltic Sea Region city, is expected to start in the beginning of 2007. The Russian cities participating are St. Petersburg region, Baltijsk, Kaliningrad, Pskov and Vyborg as well as the UBC member cities. CAPACITY is funded by the Finnish Ministry of Environment and Nordic Council of Ministers.

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# Commission on Environment meeting in Lübeck

By Stella Aaltonen

## The UBC Commission on Environment gathered in the Hanseatic city of Lübeck in 4-6 of May.

Lübeck has recently been very active in the NewHansa project and proved to be an inspiring host for the meeting. The Second Deputy Major, Thorsten Geissler, highlighted the need for such an active exchange and was honored to have the meeting in Lübeck. Mr Ralf Giercke presented the outcomes of the NewHansa project. As a result of the project, Lübeck has installed the pilot system for on-shore power connection for ships and has thus significantly reduced pollution and noise emissions in the ports.

In her address to the meeting, Director of Council of the Baltic Sea States organization, Dr Gabriele Kötschau highlighted the need for further exchange between the Baltic Sea Region organizations. The numerous good practice presentations emphasized the need for further work as all the cities are facing similar challenges

in the development of the thematical city strategies.

Mr Risto Veivo, Head of UBC EnvCom Secretariat, informed the participants about the content and the possibilities offered by the EU 6EAP and the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment.

The meeting contributed in the development of the new Baltic Cities' Environmental Training Programme (CAPACITY) for environmental directors and experts. The working groups stressed

the need for a linkage between the different disciplines and the importance of receiving practical advices through both good examples and mistakes. The future training programme will enhance the capacity of the participants as well as in involving more citizens and using media in the strategy processes. According to Mr Guldbrand Skjönberg, co-chair of the UBC EnvCom, all discussions within the meeting will be taken into account in the future planning of the capacity project.

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Participants visited the old town during the EnvCom meeting in Lübeck in May 2006. Photo: Guldbrand Skjönberg.

# **MONITORING SUSTAINABILITY AND THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT - a special theme edition**

**Dear Readers,**

**Monitoring sustainability and the state of the environment is the most important element of all the actions carried out by the cities and municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region. It has become evident that reaching realistic targets is more appealing if a suitable monitoring system is in place.**

**In January 2006, the European Commission adopted the Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment. The Strategy is based on extensive consultation with stakeholders and builds on existing European policy initiatives for improving the quality of the urban environment. It sets out new measures to support and facilitate the adoption of integrated approaches to the management of the urban environment. The Thematic Strategy sets out the framework and together with the Aalborg Commitments, it creates challenging guidelines for the sustainable development of the cities. Combined with the different tools and indicators available (f.ex. ECI, STATUS, Baltic21) they contribute to user friendly monitoring processes for the sustainability.**

**On the following pages you will find articles on monitoring sustainability and the state of the environment in UBC member cities. These articles present good practices implemented in the Baltic and hopefully inspire and encourage you, as many of them report innovative approaches and considerable improvements.**

**One explicit and important aim of the Union of the Baltic Cities is to disseminate such good practices for inspiration and learning. We believe that this will help UBC member cities in their efforts to improve the environment.**

**We are thankful for all the cities and other authors that have contributed this special theme edition of the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin. Hopefully you will have inspiring and informative moments with it!**

**The Editorial team**

# Thirty years since the first Environmental Programme in Stockholm Today the development is reported on the Web

By Mikael Lindell

**Thirty years ago, the city politicians launched the first Environmental Programme in the City of Stockholm. Ever since, the City has systematically worked with environmental objectives in order to improve the environmental state and to limit the City's negative impact. Today, at the Stockholm Environmental Barometer website, the politicians and citizens of Stockholm can follow the development of the environment and observe, whether the environmental targets have been achieved.**

The current Environmental Programme focuses on six high-priority goal areas. These are: Environmentally efficient transports, Safe products, Sustainable energy consumption, Ecological planning and management, Environmentally efficient waste processing and Healthy indoor environment.

These goal areas are divided into detailed subsidiary goals and followed up by measurable key ratios. The subsidiary goals focus on the sources of the environmental problems. The reason for this focus is to enable the City to work in a preventative manner. The environmental state changes slowly and the City needs a system that provides fast feedback and clear indications before problems arise.

Of course it is also important to follow the development of the environmental state. The City Environment and Health Administration are responsible for monitoring the local state of the environment and follow the development in the City within five areas: Air, Water, Soil, Biodiversity and The Environment's Impact on Human Health.

At the website The Stockholm Environmental Barometer, [www.miljobarometern.stockholm.se/en](http://www.miljobarometern.stockholm.se/en), the politicians and citizens of Stockholm can follow the development of the environment and observe if the targets are achieved. In addition, they can also follow The Stockholm Indicators for Sustainable Development. These indicators describe the impact and participation of the citizens regarding environmental, economical and social aspects. The Indicators are measured in each of the 18 districts of the City. This enables a comparison between the different city districts and can be important when a priority between different measures is needed.



One purpose for communicating information about the targets and indicators on the web is to increase the knowledge and inspire participation of the citizens in the environmental work. The results from various analyses and reports are collected and displayed on the website. Our aim is to gather and report these results in a pedagogical way. Another purpose is to give impartial and current information to politicians and civil servants within the City.

A visitor at the website should be able to get a good overview of the environmental situation. We are trying to achieve this by using simple symbols and charts. However, it is very important that a report is totally transparent. The interested visitor should be able to deduce how the current measurements have been performed.

## How do we present environmental development

The Stockholm Environmental Programme is one of the three sections of the website. The other two are the Environmental State and the Stockholm Indicators

of Sustainable Development. This figure shows the six goal areas with symbols for trends and goal fulfilment. When all goals are fulfilled, the bars will be completely filled with green.

The Stockholm Environmental Objectives have been selected in view of several factors. Firstly, they are based on an analysis, on which environmental problems are considered most urgent to take actions on. The starting point has been Sweden's 16 national environmental quality objectives.

Regional environmental objectives and international agreements have also played an important role. Secondly, we have taken into consideration the possibilities and abilities of the City to improve the environmental situation. Finally, it is important to define the amount of work that is possible to accomplish during the limited time of the programme period.

A new environmental programme is being developed in the City of Stockholm. All the city administrations and companies have been invited to take part in this process. New objectives and key ratios have been suggested through a large number of seminars and meetings. One important achievement in the new programme is that it will be easier to see which objectives and key ratios are related to the City as an organisation and which ones are related to the city's population and enterprises.

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# Lahti introduces efficient environmental policy

By Timo Permanto

**In March 2006, the Lahti City Council adopted a new environmental policy for the whole City Group for the years 2006 -2009.**

**This is already the third consecutive environmental program, since the City of Lahti phased in a modern environmental management system in 1996.**

The new environmental policy contains ten wider objectives. According to the policy, those primarily responsible for implementation are the top managing officials of the city. Also, the policy emphasizes the importance of environmental awareness of each city employee and politician in different departments, boards and committees. The objectives are fairly traditional. They concentrate mostly on protecting the physical environment, preserving the good quality of lakes, ground water and green areas, reducing harmful impacts on the environment and saving resources. Furthermore, they include the development of environmental education and business as well as stakeholder participation in environmental planning and managing.

The Lahti Group EMS is convergent with EMAS or ISO 14001 standards. Reporting the performance of the system and the quality of local environment is made annually in an environmental balance sheet as well as every four years, which is also the council period in a wider environmental report. The Environmental balance sheet has ten different themes according to the Environmental policy. In each theme the state of environment or level of emissions for example, are presented with three to eleven individual indicators. Altogether the Environmental Balance Sheet for 2005 contains 45 indicators.

The next environmental report will be published on the World's Environment Day 5 June 2006. This report presents both history and future of the state of the environment in the Lahti region. It also informs the readers about responsible administrative units or companies in implementing the environmental policy.

## Regular update on used indicators

We also have a set of indicators that measure the state of sustainable development in Lahti and few neighbouring municipalities. This set contains in addition to environmental indicators also social, cultural and economic ones. These indicators are updated every four years and the most recent ones, based on the data from 2005, will also be published on June 5.

While renewing the environmental policy, a new organization of the environmental management of the Lahti City Group was also planned. As the first phase of the reorganization process took place at the end of February this year, the city board decided to assemble an environmental leading team in order to steer the environmental management work in the city. Some parts of this managing organization have already been working since 2002, so there are a number of experiences to work from.

## Positive attitude towards environmental issues

The co-operation between different units in the city organization and the companies of the City Group has in itself created a positive attitude towards environmental issues. Nevertheless, it sometimes requires a lot of efforts to make the municipal officials understand that also they are responsible for environmental impacts caused by the city organization. Public administration is nowadays highly divided and very much expert oriented. In many municipal services "environmental" means more or less how to use materials and energy efficiently and at the same time save money and reduce harmful impacts on the environment. In regards to this

aspect, environmental expertise is needed less than technical know how, economic perspective and systematic management of these issues.

In Lahti, different methods in various sectors of environmental protection have been



studied. One example is water protection where intensive quality monitoring and active and participatory management of the lakes as well as even smaller surface water areas has guaranteed a good recreational value of our water system. It is safe to swim and fish in all lakes and ponds. Social welfare is promoted by the intense co-operation between the citizens and the city organizations which are in charge of maintaining greeneries and water areas. Also stakeholder participation in environmental planning and management is active in many ways.

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*Photo: City of Lahti*

## Exchanging best indicator practices through city twinning

– the case of Helsinki and St. Petersburg

*By Kyösti Lempa*

### Two UBC cities, St. Petersburg and Helsinki, have exchanged environmental indicator practices during implementation of a city twinning project.

UBC member cities are actively monitoring the state of environmental and sustainable development. Well-established monitoring procedures and indicators systems provide an opportunity for the exchange of a good practice. Two UBC cities, St. Petersburg and Helsinki, have exchanged environmental indicator practices during implementation of a city twinning project which is financed by the Finnish Ministry of Environment.

The project planning meeting was arranged on April 2005 in Helsinki, in connection with the St. Petersburg Information Days and Exhibition. The event was attended also by the Governor of St. Petersburg Mrs Valentina Matvienko and the Lord Mayor of Helsinki Mr Jussi Pajunen.

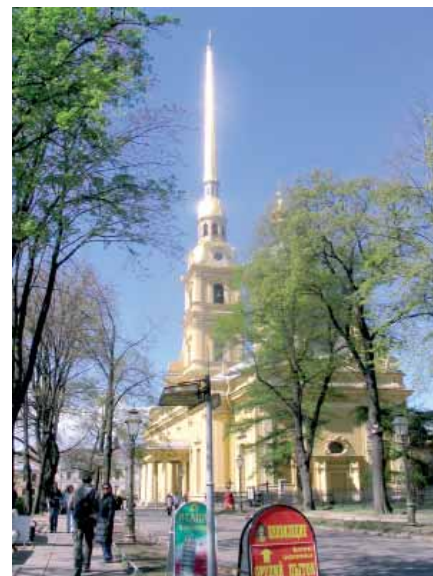
The first workshop on sustainability and the state of environmental indicators was organized on June 22 in St. Petersburg. From St. Petersburg the participants included environment administration and selected academic institutions, and from Helsinki Environment Centre and Helsinki Urban Facts.

### Discussions on indicators and availability of data

An expert seminar was held on November 24 in St. Petersburg, where issues that emerged in the first workshop were further discussed and elaborated. Particular attention was given to the principles of sustainability assessment, environmental and socio-economic indicators and availability of statistical data. Also environmental issues of the social and economic development programme of St. Petersburg for 2005-2008 were discussed, and a joint programme of environmental and sustainability of the large Finnish cities was

presented. Representatives of the environment administration and the Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Commerce participated in the seminar on behalf of St. Petersburg. Representatives from the Environment Centre, Helsinki Urban Facts and the Turku Environmental Protection Office participated from Finland. During the seminar, several questions and topics were discussed, the socio-economic indicators raised particularly interest.

It was agreed that the City of Helsinki will translate the updated report of the Helsinki Core Indicators for Sustainability into Russian. The translated report will be sent to Russian experts, and specific indicator themes will be studied in more detail during a future seminar in Helsinki.



*Peter & Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg. Photo: Elena Valkama.*

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# Baltic 21 – creating avenues to accelerate sustainable development



**Baltic 21 is a regional multi-stakeholder process for sustainable development that was initiated in 1996 by the Prime Ministers of the 11 Baltic Sea countries. The mission of Baltic 21 is to pursue sustainable development by providing a regional network for cooperation, through which the globally agreed upon Agenda 21 and World Summit on Sustainable Development activities can be implemented on a regional level.**

Evaluating key trends in Baltic Sea regional sustainability has been an important priority for Baltic 21 since its founding, and it continues to serve as an information facility for assessing developments in the Baltic 21 process. Over the years, Baltic 21 has developed a monitoring framework based on over 100 indicators, enabling the organisation to monitor and gauge how advanced we are as a region in achieving our common goal of sustainability within a 30-year perspective.

To bolster this process, since 2000, Baltic 21 has also issued a number of periodic reports and other publications, which highlight the progress in and challenges implementing Agenda 21 regionally. These reports and various other information materials are published by Baltic 21 in both electronic (web-based) and printed form, and can also be accessed via Baltic 21's CD-ROM which is available free of charge from our Secretariat.

In May 2006, the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group adopted Baltic 21's latest Triennial Report covering the 3-year period from 2003-2005. It examines the course of regional sustainable development during these years and provides a number of concrete recommendations for the future. The Triennial Report also focuses on regional trends within the contexts of the key dimensions of sustainable development, economy, ecology and society. The report is scheduled for release just before the next Baltic Sea States Summit convenes in June 2006.

Perhaps the most recognisable tool that Baltic 21 utilises to promote sustainability

in the Baltic Sea Region is its initiative to develop and implement Lighthouse Projects (LHP), which encompass the objectives of ensuring high project-visibility, the participation of as many stakeholders from as many countries and sectors as possible, as well as the broader application of existing and new solutions. Currently, Baltic 21 operates as the umbrella organisation for four fully-fledged Lighthouse Projects – which must meet the Lighthouse Project Criteria before being labelled as such – and also supports two tentative Lighthouse Projects.

The latest addition to the growing number of the Lighthouse Projects is New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities, which was upgraded from the status of a tentative LHP in February 2006. One of the many remarkable outcomes of the New Hansa project has been the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Port and Maritime Policy for the Baltic Sea Region” by 15 major Baltic ports and cities at the VIII General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities in October 2005.

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## Sustainable Siauliai

**Several policies support Siauliai to become more sustainable**

The Lithuanian city Siauliai participates in the Managing Urban Europe-25 (MUE-25) project which supports the implementation of an environmental management system. The participation provides support and experience on the success and failures of other cities implementing EMS and will stimulate further progress in the city's sustainable urban development. The knowledge gained during the project and experiences shared with other project partners are very important.

Further on, the EU Structural Fund supports the implementation of a project that develops a system on environment information management and dissemination. This project aims to shape the environmental policy and to foster motivated community initiatives to take a more active role in innovative environmental solutions and the decision-making process. The aim is to form a foundation for the development of an efficient information system for the community, operating according to the so-called one-stop-shop principles. An eco-library, seminars, international conferences and various campaigns that are part of the principles, aim to encourage people to care more about the environment around them.

The financial support provides a possibility for the development of the “Siauliai City Sustainable Environment Development Strategy” including the “Environmental Policy for 2007-2016”. This Strategy will ensure the follow-up of long term environmental programs and collaboration, as well as the partnership of various institutions without having to worry about changes in the political conditions.

With the Environmental Strategy and the Environment Information Management and Dissemination System the City of Siauliai aims to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development.

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# Finding common environmental practices through common indicators

By Juha Kalli

**Ports are special cases when comparing to “normal” companies. Many of the environmental risks are formed by other companies operating in the port area, not by the port itself. The ports differ from each other, e.g. by size, location, traffic and cargo. However, some problems and challenges are definitely common so we should seek resources to solve them also from the outer side of the port fences.**

There are numerous environmental problems and developed practices in different ports and a lot more development ahead. One possibility to meet this challenge is to gather the stakeholders, e.g. ports, cities and shipping companies together and to discuss harmonized environmental practices.

The project “New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities” ([www.newhansa.net](http://www.newhansa.net)) was started up to create an environmental policy and harmonize practices in international shipping and ports. It included a study\* to collect information about sustainable development and good practices in the partner ports. The project and the study concentrated on ship generated air emissions, wastewaters and solid waste.

Ports and the nearby cities have the same spatial interests and same problems to solve. The study showed that cooperation between ports and port cities is close and continuous. Ports and the cities have challenges in land use, the management of ship generated waste and atmospheric emissions while shipping companies are developing their performance and trying to comply with varying practices in ports. The socioeconomic influence of a port to its surrounding area is important.

The data for the study was collected by a survey from partner ports and port cities. This task was harder than expected. Data from the ports were often fragmented, lacked common indicators and in some cases did not exist.

## Statistics needed also in ports

Environmental management needs solid statistics and monitoring of environmental indicators. The ports have little statistics that could be easily and effectively compared and used for the development of harmonized practices. The chain of solid waste, amounts and fractions, from ships to the port and to the treatment facility is complex. Practices and waste regulations vary.

There is also a lack of comparable data regarding atmospheric emissions of ships in ports. Indicators are generally the same but the methods of calculation of emissions are different in each port. They vary from air quality measurements near the ports, giving a rather imprecise picture, to calculation of atmospheric emissions of ships based on emission factors and traffic statistics. Using the same indicators and

methods to produce environmental data in ports would form a new possibility to develop common sustainable practices.

Environmental challenges of ports are to be solved individually albeit harmonized practices could and would give a positive contribution. Development of international maritime legislation is slow. Therefore voluntary agreements between stakeholders could solve environmental problems and speed up the development of harmonized practices and maritime legislation. The “Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Port and Maritime Policy in the Baltic Sea Region” which is a product of the project New Hansa, is a good example of a voluntary effort for a better environment.

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\* Kalli J., M. Alhosalo, A. Erkkilä, J. Åkerström & P. Sundberg (2005). SHIP ORIGINATED AIR EMISSIONS, SOLID WASTE AND WASTEWATERS - a Feasibility Study of the New Hansa Project. University of Turku.

Photo: City of Malmö



## Results of the Aalborg Commitments baseline review of urban sustainability

# Riga seeks to make urban development more sustainable

By Andis Zilans & Kristine Abolina

**Even though the City of Riga has put its signature on a number of international commitments to sustainable development and has incorporated this concept into city development planning documents and sector plans, sustainable development is far from being part of mainstream development planning policy.**

The new Riga Development Plan (2006-2018), adopted by Riga City Council in 2005, includes the concept of sustainable development, but the environmental pillar of sustainability is substituted by “urban environment” consequently diminishing the role of the natural environment and ecosystems in the development of Riga. The new Riga Development Plan entails a significant change in the designation of land use in Riga - up to 41% of land zoned greenspace in the previous development plan is rezoned development land and expansion of Riga harbour is planned in an area designated NATURA 2000. Furthermore, a new motorway is planned through the central part of the city with financing from the EU Cohesion Fund.

In 2005, Riga undertook a baseline review of the environmental and development policies and trends as the first step in the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments. It included the analysis of the statutes of the municipal government and administration, the municipal sector plans and the new Riga Development Plan against the Aalborg Commitments. Riga City Council deputies, municipal government administrative units and personnel were surveyed on sustainability issues. Furthermore, the two indicator sets presently used by the municipality (European Common Indicators, State of the Environment in Riga 2001) were analyzed for their

ability to reflect the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments.

### Results of baseline review

The baseline review revealed a limited degree of coherence between the Aalborg Commitments sustainability criteria and Riga environmental and development policies and policy outcomes.

Sustainable development is not included as a goal or responsibility in the statutes of the Riga municipal government and administration. Presently, there is no municipal planning document that serves to coordinate the implementation of sustainable development in Riga.

Municipal administration statutes do not reflect or only partially reflect 33 of 50 Aalborg Commitment issues. These issues are consequently not the direct responsibility of any municipal sector and they are not, or are incompletely, addressed in the work of the municipal government and administration.

The policy goals of municipal sector plans do not reflect or only partially reflect the majority of issues addressed by the Aalborg Commitments. Taken together, the policy goals defined in the sector plans give development in Riga only a weak orientation towards sustainability. Only six Aalborg Commitment criteria are fully represented in the actions of municipal sector plans, whereas 22 criteria are only partially reflected and 22 are not represented at all.

Analysis of the new Development Plan (2006-2018) indicates that defined goals are only partially consistent with the Aalborg Commitments, but at the same time policy measures defined in the Plan frequently contradict defined policy goals, and are minimally consistent with the Commitments. The Riga Development Plan poorly orients development towards sustainability and is not a document that is capable of coordinating implementation of sustainable development in Riga.

### Next step is a deepened understanding of SD

The baseline review indicates that



there is a knowledge gap, as sustainable development is not fully reflected in the planning documents. Evidently, Riga City Council deputies and administration personnel need more detailed information, guidance and tools to comprehensively put into practise principles of sustainable development in urban planning and development. To this end, City of Riga is partner in two major UBC projects, MUE-25 and SUSTAINMENT, which will support both administrators and political decision makers to manage sustainability issues in the city

### Insufficient indicators

The State of the Environment in Riga 2001 and the European Common Indicators used by the Riga Environment Centre Agenda 21 are not directly linked to the development goals of the city. They are mostly informative in nature and do not fulfill a reporting/monitoring function regarding development trends to support sustainability policy formulation and implementation. Analysis of these indicators against the Aalborg Commitments indicates that in their present form they are only partially capable of monitoring the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments.

As proposed by the Deputy Mayor of Riga during the final Aalborg Commitment seminar, the creation of an Executive Management Board at the political level to champion and coordinate the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments would help to mainstream sustainable development in the development planning and political decision-making process.

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# Environmental quality and sustainable development in Cesis

By Inta Adamsons



Doing things together has always been one of the top issues in Cesis. Here participants from NGOs and citizens are clearing wood. Photo: City of Cesis.

## The Environmental Policy Plan and Action Programme have proved to be invaluable tools for monitoring the environmental work in the Cesis City Municipality.

The Environmental Policy Plan and Action Programme, which was approved in September 2005, has already helped to transfer knowledge on environmental issues between experts and specialists. It has also raised awareness on environmental protection and on sustainable development of urban and landscape planning within the city and amongst its citizens.

The document consists of environmental tools of Cesis municipality and problem analysis's on water, air, waste, urban environment, nature protection, social and cultural environment, tourism and environmental education.

The Plan and Action Program has given additional help in the municipality's budget planning process. The document also

works as educational material for officials of local authorities, NGOs, schoolchildren and rest of local society. The preparation process of the Environmental Policy Plan itself is an excellent lesson for other municipalities. During the preparation work, 30 external students from Latvian University CESAM worked alongside the officials from the Cesis Development Planning Department. This proved that integration of studying and practical work can be combined.

The Latvian Environmental Protection Fund financed the preparation of the Environmental Policy Plan and Action Programme with 2500 LVL. The document was initiated by the officials from Cesis Development Planning Department.

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## Eco management system for SMEs

**Eco-Lighthouse is a Norwegian eco management system especially created for small and medium sized enterprises (SME) in both public and private sector.**

Since 1996, this EMS, originally a Local Agenda 21 project run by the municipality of Kristiansand, has grown into over 1000 certificates, and a substantial national program to give more focus on sustainability and a more environment-friendly society.

The main reason for the success is that the system implements result-oriented actions in the fields of energy-saving, waste deposit and sick leave. Furthermore, it creates understanding of which cost reductions can produce a more environment-friendly focus and can aid enterprises as well as the public sector. Enthusiasm and positive attitude from both the involved enterprises and national and local administrations were also key factors for the success. Likewise it gives both local and national administration and politicians a useable indicator regarding sustainability focus and the willingness to take action.

Due to the shortage of human resources within the Eco-Lighthouse administration, it has not been possible to export the EMS to other countries. However, it has been deemed "Best Project" within the European Union and has the Seal of Approval from Baltic 21 (INTERREG IIIB). It is now focusing on further – and an even more active – rise in the number of certificates, as well as increased branding of the trademark through the most active regions and member chains (such as hotels, banks, insurance, trade of all kinds). Likewise, it will strengthen the environmental issue and the obvious need of sustainability documentation towards a very important focus area: Purchasing in both public and private sector.

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# Implementing Environmental Management System in Kaunas

By Marijas Stanikuniene

**Implementation of an Environmental Management System in Kaunas will minimize negative influences to the environment and maximize positive results and service quality. It will help politicians, officials and active citizens to find the right solutions to environmental problems.**

Municipalities play an important role in the implementation of the principles of sustainable development. They represent local communities and act on their behalf. The main function of the Municipality is city planning, regulation of waste management, water supply, housing, transport, energy saving, etc. Municipalities can also influence citizen's thinking. Furthermore open and democratic Municipality is the institution, which can meet the Community's needs, expectations and problems.

An impoverished environment will block further economical development and will worsen human wellbeing. However, among the municipal activities, environmental protection plays a secondary role, since it is overpowered by social and economical problems. The main attention is paid to education, health protection, and in particular to economical development, which aims to attract investors. Since the different municipality departments have differing tasks and problems, environmental protections and sustainable development, as global issues, are postponed.

This is the main challenge in the achievement of sustainable development in Kaunas. It is necessary to change the view of most municipal officials at different levels and direct them more towards sustainable development and therefore teach them to take into consideration environmental perspectives in their work.

Environmental Policy in Kaunas is set by the City Council; the City Administration and Environmental Protection Department are in charge of its implementation. Environmental Protection Strategy and Action Plan will be approved at the end of 2006; these will be very important documents in beginning the implementation of EMS in Kaunas.

## Data collection is the main challenge of baseline review

Currently, the City of Kaunas is participating in the Managing Urban Europe-25 project which supports the implementation of an environmental management system. The first step in implementing an environmental management system is to carry out a baseline review, by analysing the current situation.

The main challenge in starting a baseline review is that the Departments of the Municipality only collect data in their field of responsibility; in addition the data collected is not accessible to others. Some of the data is forwarded to the Governmental Statistic Department; the rest remains in files within the Municipality. As well as municipality data collection enterprises are also involved in some data collection. The Environmental protection division currently have data on air, water quality, noise, soil pollution, waste production, biodiversity, green areas, and information relating to the environment in the city. In addition, from other departments and institutions, documents on territory planning, new construction, energy use and transport, and information about disturbances in the city, and extreme situations are also available.

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# Students learn about sustainable development

By Lukasz Pakula



## In Gdynia, school students raised their awareness on the state of environment and analyzed factors influencing it in a special project which went on in 2005.

One of the aims was to familiarize students with methods used in the monitoring of water quality. To reach this aim, school students collected water samples from different parts of River Kacza, which is the longest river in Gdynia, and also from the various parts of the city's coastal line. Back at school, the samples were analyzed to define their chemical contaminants and the presence of growing bacteria.

Students also visited natural reserves and parks, where they could observe flora and fauna and learn more about nature conservation. Additional visit to Kacze Łęgi Natural Reserve was organised to learn about the history of the River Kacza formation and the neighboring natural environment.

Visits to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Dębogórze and Solid Waste Treatment Plant in Łężyca familiarised the students

## Monitoring Environment in Gdynia



Photo: City of Gdynia

with modern methods of waste treatments and its recycling.

To spread their own knowledge, the students decided to participate in ecological education of kids from the local childcare center. For this purpose, the students planned and organized a visit to various hydroelectric power stations to demonstrate renewable sources of energy to kids. After the visits, a special drawing competition for children taking part in the excursions was organized, where the children were asked to draw one thing that was most memorable from the visit.

The students organized multimedia presentations for their fellow students from Gdynian schools to increase their awareness on sustainable development. The presentations demonstrated alternative energy sources and methods for good management of water energy and waste in a "sustainable" household. Additionally, the event was a summary of all the actions launched during the project.

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## Environmental report 2005 for Rostock

The Hanseatic City of Rostock presents in its new environmental report a comprehensive survey of the current environmental situation in the city. The report will not only inform readers about what has been reached but will also sensitise particular problematic fields of environmental protection and thus motivate an active co-operation.

The report starts with the Local Agenda 21 as its guidelines for a sustainable urban development; it determines the basic aims as well as the environmental issues. On this basis, the working groups and running projects are presented in detail. Resulting from one of the projects, for example, was the Environmental Departments Environmental Management System (EMAS) 2004 certification, which was presented for its outstanding environmental performance. All of these activities, particularly the contribution of saving natural resources act, was an example for other departments, authorities and administrations, as local authorities have to act not only more ecologically but also more cost-efficiently in the future.

The plan for landscape-use is currently being updated. Apart from the objectives for the next 10-15 years, it also deals with the development of practice-oriented strategies. Nature conservation and woods are a big part of Rostock's environmental work as there are 21 parks altogether with a total territory of 367 ha. The Environmental report shows projects on nature conservation, green and wood care as well as the management of playgrounds. It also shows that there are decreasing amount of funds available for this line of work due to the tight budgetary situation.

### Acts on climate protection

Climate protection is very important to the City of Rostock. The environmental report contains information about the framework concept of climate protection, the development of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions, energy saving efforts and details regarding public relations. All these will contribute to halving the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in Rostock by 2010 in relation to the starting year of 1987.

### Noise, waste and water

Noise control is one of the main challenges the local authorities face and it needs to be solved in the interest of healthy residence and living conditions. About 14,000 people living in Rostock are affected by traffic noise harmful to health. Precise projects, instigated on some streets to reduce traffic noise, have been implemented successfully. Despite this, the Report stresses that even more people should be convinced to use public transport system which has already been expanded in an exemplary way. Within the EU-project Baltic Sea Cycling Rostock also lobbies for improving the attractiveness of cycling.

With pre-processing the waste, a new waste management era started in 2005. Rostock has developed an ecologically oriented waste management concept and commissioned a mechanical-biological plant to do the work. The Environmental report presents examples of the high-quality infrastructure on waste disposal and shows how the City tries to support waste prevention by financial stimulation, i.e. by the way of structuring the waste disposal fees.

Regarding clean drinking water, bathwater sanitation and environmental-medical consultation, 44 million Euros have been invested since 1993 to supply the Hanseatic City of Rostock and part of the surrounding area with water of appropriate quality.

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# Environmental monitoring started in Klaipeda in 2005

By Daiva Berankiene

**Environmental monitoring started in Klaipeda in 2005. Monitoring includes measuring of noise and atmosphere pollution, hydro geo-chemical and hydro-biological analyses of water bodies, and research on bio diversity. The monitoring of data helps to realize concrete objectives of the Klaipeda City Strategic Development Plan.**

As a composite part of the environmental monitoring system of the Republic of Lithuania, Klaipeda environmental monitoring includes regular observation of the status of the natural environment, its components and their reciprocity, as well as the evaluation and prognosis of the anthropologic impact on the environment. Under a rapid change of different environmental components, the monitoring of data can help to realize the concrete objectives of Klaipeda City Strategic Development Plan, by analyzing and forecasting environmental changes and evaluating their influence based on the quality of the citizens' living environment.

## Noise

Noise measurements are carried out at 40 points three times a day during the seasons of spring, summer and autumn. In the yards of residential houses, preschool and educational institutions, the equivalent level of sound exceeded the highest permissible level 3 – 11 dBA on average, the maximum sound level was up to 8 dBA on average. The lowest permissible excesses were fixed in autumn.

The major source of noise pollution is transport and the phonic environmental noise. The permissible noise limits were also exceeded because of street reconstruc-



*The environmental monitoring is expected to help to realize the concrete objectives of Klaipeda's strategic development plan. Some of the analyses will be ready this summer. Photo: City of Klaipeda.*

tion, constructions work and stevedoring at the port.

## Air pollution

In 2005, air quality analyses with passive fibroil started in Klaipeda. Spatial distribution of the average concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and other volatile organic combinations in the air were evaluated. During the period of the analyses, the concentration of nitrogen dioxide fluctuated between 10 and 55.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The concentration of sulphur dioxide was between 0.5 and 17.9  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The summary and the conclusions will be drawn in June 2006.

## Surface water bodies

Nine bodies of water in the city were chosen for monitoring. During the analyses, the temperature was taken, as well as combinations of phosphorus and nitrogen, the concentration of oxygen dissolved in water, pH, sediments of heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Cu, (Zn). In addition, the diversity and abundance of bottom communities and the water pole were analyzed.

The highest concentration of oxygen dissolved in water was recorded in spring and autumn in all water bodies, while the lowest concentration was recorded in summer, when, due to high temperatures, the

decomposition process of organic materials was at its most intense. According to the average concentration of phytoplankton and photosynthetic pigment, chlorophyll, the analyzed Klaipeda city water bodies show clear signs of eutrophication. This conclusion is also emphasized by the extensive growth of water based plants.

## Bio diversity

Many smaller ponds of the city are popular among fishermen, therefore, fish resources within the ponds are poor, fish value is low and is mainly made up of roaches, perches, three-needle sticklebacks, all of which are small. In contrast to rivers, the diversity of ichtyofauna is much wider; there have been 30 fish species found within them. Moreover, two amphibian species, reed toad and crested triton, listed in the Lithuanian Red Book have also been noted in Klaipeda.

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# Environmental objectives for Örebro

By Ulf Sandström

**Örebro municipality adopted a policy document Environmental objectives for 2005 – 2010 in April 2005. This document will guide every local government officer, as well as every local government committee, to apply a sustainable thinking in their daily work.**

Today, Sweden has 16 environmental quality objectives which have been adopted by the Swedish Parliament to guide the nation towards a sustainable society. The objectives define the state of environment, which environmental policy aims to achieve and provide a coherent framework for environmental programmes and initiatives at national, regional and local level. The objectives will function as benchmarks for all environment-related development in Sweden, regardless of where it is implemented and by whom. The overriding aim is to solve all the major environmental

problems within one generation, i.e. within 20 years.

The 16 environmental objectives and other activities are to be implemented in the planning processes in all local governments in Sweden. The policy document *Environmental objectives for Örebro Municipality 2005 – 2010* was adopted in April. In this document, 13 out of the 16 objectives are transformed to the local level.

For every environmental objective considered in the local policy document, there are certain obligations expressed that must be carried out during the period when the document is relevant. To fulfil these obligations, different departments in the municipality organisation have responsibilities depending on the objective concerned.

In accordance with the intentions of the policy document, every local government officer, as well as every local government committee, should apply a sustainable thinking in their daily work. It is also important to implement the environmental objectives in the dialog with inhabitants and companies etc. in the municipality in order to obtain sustainability.

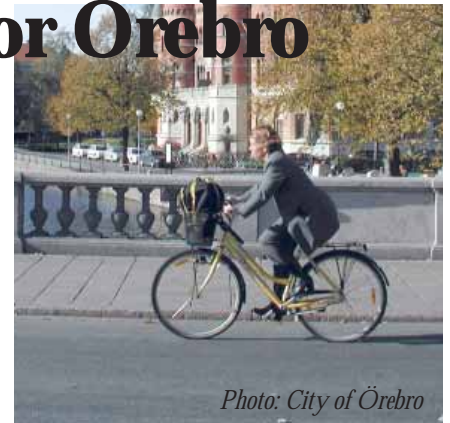


Photo: City of Örebro

How do we then know that we are moving in the right direction? For this, we have tools, for example, indicators, which indicate if sustainability is in progress. These indicators will also be a pedagogical instrument as they clearly give a picture of our achievements and the future goals to fulfil the objectives stated in the policy document *Environmental Objectives for Örebro Municipality 2005 – 2010*.

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## Malmö implements new environmental programme

**In 2003, Malmö adopted a new environmental programme for 2003-2008, which was based on the 15 national environmental quality objectives. These were broken down to 58 local environmental objectives. Measures that should be implemented are linked to these objectives.**

The follow-up systems used for the implementation of the environmental programme are the Environment management systems ISO and EMAS. Other systems used are environment monitoring and environment audit. A special environment auditor has been employed, and the audit also happens externally for those administrations that have completed environment management systems. Environmental reports are made annually.

The local objectives are often more ambitious than the national ones. One of the objectives is to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions by 10-15% by 2008/2012 (data for comparison taken from the 1990's).

However, Malmö is located in a growth region where the population grows by 2000-3000 persons every year. Managing an unchanged emission level during a 20-year period would then entail that emissions from 40-60 000 persons would have to be saved through energy saving or transition to renewable fuel.

For each Swedish environmental quality objective, a responsible state authority exists on the national level. On a regional level, responsible bodies are the county administrative boards. They make their own environmental programmes based on the objectives. Parallel there are also national data hosts: either authorities or

research institutions. They have the task to develop fundamental statistics and help with indicators. Furthermore the county administrative boards carry out indicator work and the organisation of Sweden's municipalities and county councils supports the municipalities.

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**Trial scheme on integrated transport management in Kristiansand**

# Working together to increase the use of sustainable transport modes



**In order to cope with the growing car traffic, there are many challenges to we must confront. A population growth and an improved economic situation has lead to increased traffic. There are several public organizations and authorities that handle these problems and it is important to get these organizations to work together. Common goals and strategies are necessary in order to increase the use of sustainable transport modes.**

Initiated by the Norwegian State Transport Department, the transport officials in the municipalities and counties within the region have created a trial scheme on integrated transport management. It will focus on sustainable transport and will have the necessary authority and financial support to be able to reach its goal. The Area and Transport Project (ATP-project) started in January 2004 and will last for 4 years.

The key issue of the trial scheme on integrated transport management is cooperation between regional, state, county and municipality levels of government. The overall aim of this trial scheme is to address the transport challenges of the region, such as mobility and environment in a more integrated and coherent manner. The need for such a scheme is arising out of the fact that tasks and responsibilities in this field are divided between the state (main roads infrastructure), counties (public transport, regional roads) and municipalities (spatial planning, minor roads).

## Promotion of more sustainable modes of transport

The project aims to attain the following goals: The growth of car traffic shall be less than the growth of the population (1%). There will be an increase of over 10% on passengers using ordinary buses (20% on the "Bussmetro" lines). Cycling shall increase by 20% and more people shall be encouraged to walk to school and work. One important aim is to reduce the number of traffic injuries.

These objectives are to be achieved by improving the public transport, while restricting the use of cars. Investments in walking and cycling facilities are also needed as is the need to take action within the field of traffic safety. Further strategies include awareness drives and information,

sustainable land use and environmental measures.

The project cooperation between the nine different partners is good. The political cooperation is very fruitful and, thus, the project serves as a good example of how a successful collaboration can lead to remarkable results. This also emphasises the fact that we are all working in the same direction to achieve more sustainable transport, increased traffic safety and a healthier environment. The politicians in the project political board consist of the leading politicians in the area, including almost all the mayors from the municipalities. The partners in the project have a common understanding that cooperation is the best way to solve the future challenges in transport.

The economical contribution to the project mainly comes from the partners. The municipalities contribute with a certain

amount per inhabitant and the county municipalities contribute with the amount they would have used for investment in county roads whereas the state contributes with the amount they would have used for investment in regional roads. The total project budget is 27 million euro.

The main results from this project are still to come, and will be available in 2008; the preliminary interim results are very satisfactory.

### More information

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*Photo: City of Kristiansand*



# Koszalin works towards a better environment

By Joanna Socha

**Koszalin is one of the Polish municipalities, which care for the natural environment and develop economy at the same time. On example of this is the local drinking water which is famous for its purity and taste.**

The water is provided by the Municipal Water and Waste Systems which is a city owned company. In addition, the company successively extends and revamps the sanitary sewerage system in the city and administers the modern wastewater treatment plant in Jamno near Koszalin.

There are a number of institutions in the city that are involved in activities in favour of natural environment protection as well as in environmental education. The Public Utilities Company (PUC), is responsible for pro-ecological actions in Koszalin. Since the year 2000, the PUC has co-operated with the Centre of Biological Education. Together they organise classes on environmental protection for primary and nursery school children.

The PUC has been awarded several certificates for its work such as "Company Friendly to the Environment" in 2003-2005 and Environmentally Friendly Product in 2005. The company invests in various actions aimed at improving the natural environment condition in the city and commune. Such actions

comprise, among other things, revamping of the already existing waste sorting, storage and management facilities in the Waste Reclaiming Plant at Sianów near Koszalin.

The city's involvement in actions for natural environment protection has also been reflected in distinctions being awarded to pro-ecologic communes. In 2003 and 2004, Koszalin won the "Environmental Friendly Commune" title in the National Ecologic Competition organized under the high patronage of Mr Aleksander Kwazniewski, the President of the Republic of Poland.

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# Importance of local commitment

**For several years, the municipality of Norrtälje in Sweden has been implementing nature conservation and restoration projects, in which the local commitment of the citizens has been very important.**

Between the years 1998 and 2000, a project "Preserving the cultural landscape in the archipelago" was executed. Within this project, 74 hectares of both meadows and pastures located on 14 islands were restored. The work was done by clearing land and mowing, in some areas also fencing was used, grazing animals was also introduced on some islands. The work has been done by non-profit associations, and, in total, 200 persons have been involved in the work. The project was financed by national as well as European funds.

In order to run the restoration projects well, the municipality of Norrtälje employed a project leader who has helped with the planning work and who also gave practical advice out in the fields.

The inhabitants of the islands performed the practical work. Until 2005, some of the restored meadows and pastures were still managed by mowing or grazing. During 2006, a follow-up of the whole project will be performed, and this will give valuable information on how to work with local commitment for nature conservation.

The local commitment of the inhabitants has been shown to be very important in many projects carried out by the municipality of Norrtälje. This has been seen several times as the local commitment has been a condition for the success and the continued existence of many projects.

It is important to disseminate information before and during the practical work and also to involve the inhabitants in



Photo: Municipality of Norrtälje

the practical work. In addition, financial support and information and advice are important as well. Very often, there is a lack of knowledge about management, for instance, of cultivated areas, such as meadows and pastures.

The above mentioned actions are important for the continuity of the work, but not the sole ones. The interest of the inhabitants is in the long run crucial for the existence of the projects. Environmental work that includes local commitment is a way to increase the knowledge of nature conservation for present and future generations.

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## HELCOM Youth Forum 2006

The third HELCOM Youth Forum will be organised by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in co-operation with other partners from the 15 to 17 August 2006 in Flensburg, Germany.

The HELCOM Youth Forum is intended to further the exchange amongst youth around the Baltic Sea. An interesting event including an attractive social programme will offer the possibility to feed in and receive new and additional impulses with regard to co-operation in a developing and prospering region.

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## Changing the unsustainable trends

During the presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Baltic 21 and Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation (BASREC), Sweden will operate an information campaign on unsustainable trends in the Baltic Sea Region.

A folder containing six different themes: demography, health and living, transports, energy and farming and its effect on the Baltic Sea, will be printed and distributed in Sweden and in the member states of CBSS. Problems within these areas will be presented.

The campaign will last from summer 2006 to the end of June 2007. The campaign originates from the research report "Realizing a Common Vision for a Baltic Sea Eco-region" from a research symposium on sustainable development patterns in Kaliningrad, October last year.

Non-governmental organizations and Swedish authorities are invited to take part in the campaign and to spread the information in events during the presidency.

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## Towards sustainable Gdansk

Since the first ecological policy in 1993, the City of Gdansk has done a lot of work and different strategies for developing the city. The current City Development Strategy was revised in 2004 consisting of 22 operation programs, which are expected to be consequently implemented by 2015.

Local Agenda 21 Forum was established in 1998, consisting of local authorities, district councils, scientists, businesses, NGOs and citizens. During the recent years, the members of the Forum have evaluated the ecological policy and influenced the implementation of the Action plans mentioned in the City Development Strategy. They have also helped to identify the new priorities listed in the Environmental Protection Program.

Since the 1990's, many positive changes have occurred, but more must be done. Like most of the Polish cities, Gdansk is facing the problems caused by increased economy growth and huge consumption of resources. Therefore there is a need to increase the use of renewable sources of energy and to improve the waste management system.

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## Kaunas excels in Energy

### Performance of Buildings Directive

City of Kaunas has excelled in the Display™ Campaign. To improve energy efficiency in public buildings many measures have been implemented, e.g. improvement of the buildings' thermal insulation and installation of thermostatic radiator valves. By using the Display™ Campaign, the city hopes to improve their communication with the building users. The calculation tool has been translated into Lithuanian and it is expected to see some more Lithuanian cities joining the Campaign soon.

The European Display™ Campaign is a voluntary scheme designed by energy experts from 20 European towns and cities. It encourages local authorities to publicly display the energy and environmental performances of their public buildings using the same energy label that is used for household appliances.

The idea is to engage citizens and make them more conscious of their energy consumption in order to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and achieve financial savings.

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## State of the world graphically

"Earth: A Graphic Look at the State of the World" summarizes the conditions of the world's ecology and humanity and how they interact and affect each other. This wall poster presents an unparalleled collection of over 100 charts, 15 maps, and explanatory text. Themes linked to each other are wealth distribution and climate change, oil supply and food production, global warming and global fisheries, toxics and soil degradation, population and bio-diversity.

**More information:**  
 The Knowers Ark Global Education Project  
[www.theglobaleducationproject.org](http://www.theglobaleducationproject.org)



# 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 100 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!

In addition to the meetings, we organise several Environment and Agenda 21 workshops and seminars every year, as well as publish the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin and 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!

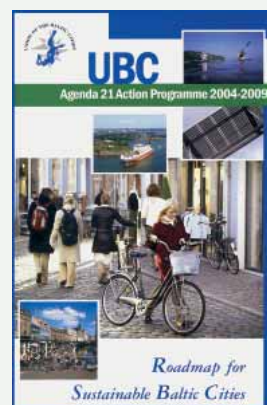
The staff of Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat currently consist of 18 professionals working fulltime for the UBC.



*BUSTRIP is a project where 12 Baltic Sea Region cities create sustainable urban transport plans (SUTP). Part of the process is a peer review that is done in cities by special peer review team. Here the PR team is evaluating Gdynia's transport system in April 2006. Read more about BUSTRIP on page 9.*



*SUSTAINMENT aims to create models for Sustainability Management Centers. The project provides all European cities with models for integrated sustainability management. Photo is from an excursion during the project's kick-off in April 2006 in Turku. Photo: Laimonis Osis. More on SUSTAINMENT on page 6.*



*The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat acts as the Programme Management Agency for the UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 - Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities. The Programme includes several big and excellent projects that concretely implement sustainable development actions in the cities. The overall budget goal of 10 MEUR has been reached and is now being mobilised for the different projects and activities of the programme.*

*Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 - Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities*

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

### **5th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns -Spreading Sustainability- 21 - 24 March 2007, Sevilla, Spain**

The City of Seville and the partners of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign are pleased to invite you to the **Fifth European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, Spreading Sustainability**, which shall take place in Sevilla, Spain, 21-24 March 2007.

The 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns offers an opportunity to meet with more than 1000 local government leaders and officers, European and national networks of local government, representatives of European institutions and agencies, donors to local government projects, NGO's, selected local, national and international experts as well as high level representatives of the city of Seville, the regional government of Andalusia and the national government of Spain.

The 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns builds on the success and tradition of European local governments to meet, to exchange and to concretely commit to advancing sustainability in Europe and follows the series of conferences held in Aalborg 1994, Lisbon 1996, Hannover 2000, and Aalborg 2004.

Sevilla 2007 will offer you a unique opportunity to

- Gain an insight of the progress and achievements in local sustainability in Europe, made through the implementation of the Aalborg Commitments and Aalborg Charter.
- Discover recently developed tools, instruments and knowledge that can support your city or town in its efforts to accelerate sustainability.
- Foster sustainability in your own city or town.

In addition, the conference will seek to bridge with local governments from our Neighbourhood Countries as well as from Latin America.

**We look forward to welcoming you in Sevilla!**

You will soon find more information on the conference website

[www.sevilla2007.org](http://www.sevilla2007.org)

**Registration will be open in June 2006**

For more information please contact ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability  
[sevilla2007@iclei.org](mailto:sevilla2007@iclei.org)

