



ENVIRONMENTAL

bulletin No 1, 2012

Towards new city co-operation

City Twinning
- a concept of success

page 12

The art of co-operation
in Umeå

page 6

Towards more sustainable Baltic Sea Region

Our Baltic Sea Region is one of the most interesting regions in the world. It is rich and heterogeneous when it comes to languages, cultures, traditions, environment and basis of economies. On the same time the region has a lot of similarities and common challenges. During the last 20 years it has undergone an enormous change and today it is seen as a forerunner region in Europe characterized by active international cooperation.

Twenty years ago the goals of development were quite clear. The focus was not only to strengthen the overall development in the newly independent countries but also to increase trade, safety and cooperation in the whole Baltic Sea Region.

Cities and local authorities were among the first actors to start active and concrete cooperation in the whole Baltic Sea Region. Union of the Baltic Cities is one of the organizations founded twenty years ago utilizing bilateral east-west city twinning relations of that time. Today the Baltic Sea Region has good and wide experiences of cooperation and the region has achieved a reputation as an active region with high level of interdependence.

After these successful 20 years there is now a strong common wish and need to focus on new challenges for the development in the region. During the last years an active discussion of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region has been ruling. Strengthening the capacity in economic development and to improve the ecological status of the Baltic sea are still the key goals for the region.

Furthermore, also other strategies like HELCOM Action Plan and the EU 2020 targets not only put pressure but also open up lots of opportunities for new practices and business in building stronger economies based on sustainable, inclusive,

smart growth. The challenge to further develop the region is huge as our region and our cities are competing with other regions and cities in Europe and globally.

One key to success is to further strengthen and develop the cooperation in the region and focus it more clearly on sustainable development. In UBC and member cities we need to put focus on simple but efficient, active and concrete actions. Beside relying on good and existing technologies we should be innovative and develop new ways to work and utilize possibilities of new green technologies creating new green growth. These are the key elements for building more sustainable, modern and attractive cities and the Baltic Sea Region.



Björn Grönholm,

Head of Secretariat
UBC Commission on Environment

UBC member cities (as of April 2012)

Aalborg • Aarhus • Bergen • Botkyrka • Chojnice • Cēsis • Elbląg • Elva • Espoo • Falun • Gargzdai • Gdańsk • Gdański • Gdynia • Greifswald • Guldborgsund • Gävle • Haapsalu • Halmstad • Helsinki • Jelgava • Jurmala • Jyväskylä • Jõgeva • Jõhvi • Jēkabpils • Kaliningrad • Kalmar • Karlskrona • Karlstad • Kaunas • Keila • Kemi • Kiel • Klaipėda • Kolding • Koszalin • Kotka • Kristiansand • Kristianstad • Krynica • Kuressaare • Kärđla • Køge • Lahti • Łeba • Liepāja • Linköping • Luleå • Lübeck • Maardu • Malbork • Malmö • Mariehamn • Międzyzdroje • Morska • Nacka • Narva • Norrtälje • Næstved • Oskarshamn • Paide • Palanga • Paldiski • Panevėžys • St Petersburg • Pori • Porvoo • Pruszcz • Pärnu • Rakvere • Reda • Rīga • Robertsfors • Rostock • Siauliai • Sillamäe • Sopot • Sundsvall • Szczecin • Söderhamn • Słupsk • Tallinn • Tampere • Tartu • Tierp • Trelleborg • Tukums • Turku • Umeå • Ustka • Vaasa • Viljandi • Vilnius • Visby • Vordingborg • Västervik • Växjö • Võru • Wismar • Örebro • Östhammar



Comic: Karolina Nieminen

2 Towards more sustainable Baltic Sea Region

- Editorial by Björn Grönholm, Head of Secretariat

4 Co-operation at all levels

12 City Twinning

- A concept of success is searching for future directions

16 Climate change

- From front page headlines to everyday lives

EnvCom today

Q's corner

23 Eva Hjälmered discusses about Energy efficiency in cities.



6 The art of cooperation in the city of **Umeå**

7 Aalborg Municipality focused on sustainable development and climate issues

8 New city co-operation inspired by cycling in **Kaunas**

9 Karlstad invests in environment projects

10 The city of **Tartu** is drafting a new development plan for the city centre.

11 Kärdla has increased cooperation between UBC member cities in Estonia

14 Simulations of ship emissions in the **Baltic Sea**

15 Lithuanian city of **Panevėžys** puts lot of effort in improving the air quality

18 Ecomobile collection hazardous household waste in **St. Petersburg**

20 Cycling improves the accessibility in ABC partner cities - **Rostock**

21 Shared algae problem in the **Baltic Sea**

22 Keila's waterworks renewed

23 Rakvere on the road to energy efficiency

Cooperation

26 Online or offline communication with **NEAT**

Covenant of Mayors Club for the Baltic Sea Region.

Now 600 **Good Practices** from Baltic Sea Region

Join the Europe's largest urban mobility portal **ELTIS**

Planning together for better quality of life – Guide for Integrated management of Urban Rural Interaction by project **New Bridges**

27 Back cover (inside): UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat

28 Back cover:

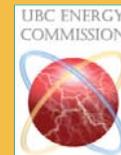
New Bridges online Toolkit out now!

Book the dates in your calendar for Ecoprocura 2012 conference

Short News

UBC Energy Commission

24-25 Partnerships through triple-helix approach
Energy efficient housing



Climate change – from front page headlines to everyday lives on pages 16 - 17



Editorial information

Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin 1/2012 is published by the Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. **Chief-Editor:** Stella Aaltonen (firstname.surname@abc.net) **Address:** Union of the Baltic Cities Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, Baltic Sea House, Vanha Suurtori 7, FIN-20500 Turku, FINLAND, Tel: +358 2 262 3171, Fax: +358 2 262 3425

More information: www.abc-environment.net ISSN 1455-0903

Cover photo: Auremar

Printing house: Newprint Oy, in April 2012 on 100 % recycled paper.



Co-operation at all levels

Text: **Stella Aaltonen** Photo: **Yuri Arcurs**

Models of co-operation develop all the time, as do the ways that people can become engaged and involved in different types of activities. Nowadays it is relatively easy to benchmark the work that is done with others, as we have many ways to find suitable information from others. This creates a lot of demand to make real measurable and sustainable actions as an outcome of the co-operation.

Win-win situations

Sustainability as a topic is a very fruitful one to create shared win-win situations, where both sides give and gain a lot. The shared willingness to do things are often expressed through different declarations, commitments, challenges or programmes. These give a promise of co-operation but are not yet true win-win situations without actions afterwards.

Triple Helix model is a very good form of creating added value for everyone and in this bulletin you can find proves of that. By combining different actors together, more insights are given to the needs and demands from all sides. Often local authorities are very much focused on networking with other organizations, that forget to take care of the engagement of the own organization into sustainability actions. Luckily making sure that the co-operation inside the organization is taken care of has, over the recent years, become one of the main focus points.

Sharing of information is power

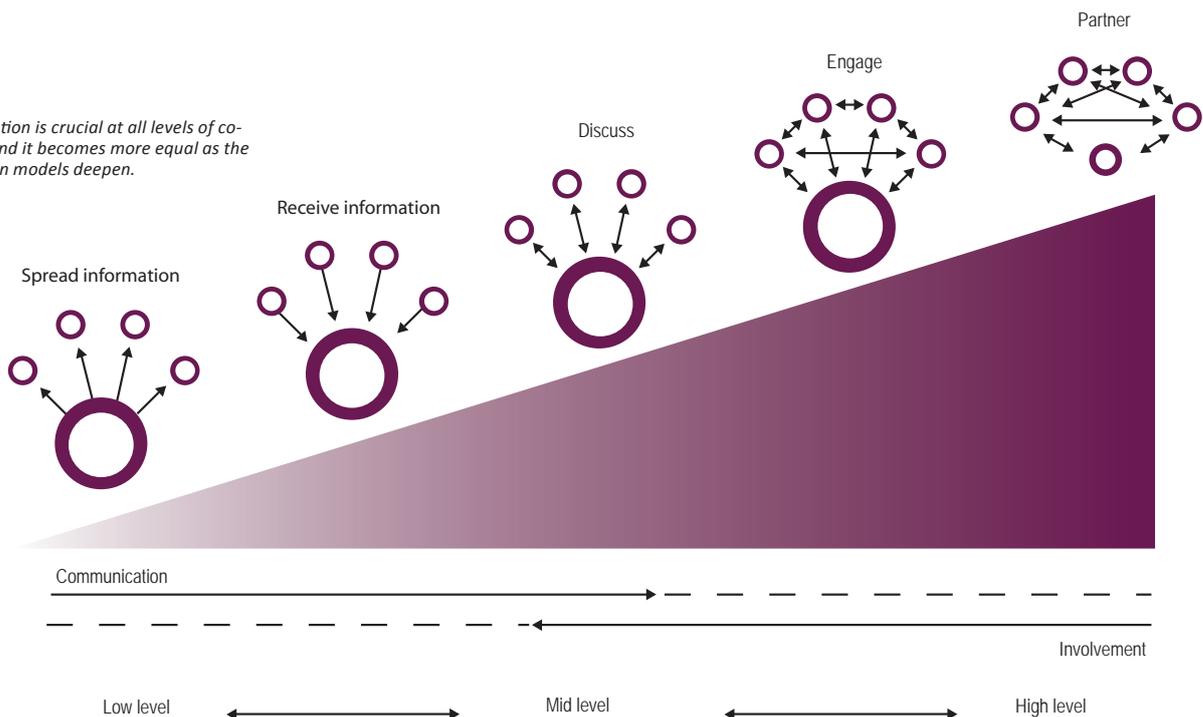
It used to be that the person that has the information has the power. Slowly the approach is changing towards that sharing of information gives much more power to the person than holding back on information. The opportunities of the different social media tools make it easier to involve and integrate a larger number of different target audiences into the processes. Clients and

GENERATION	BORN IN
X	Early 1960's
Y	Early 1980's
I (Internet)	Early 1990's
AO (Always On-generation)	Early 2000's

customers become active partners that can give a valid input to the different questions. Actually this enlarges the different options for co-operation as virtual partnerships can be part of the daily routines and questions can be answered within few minutes. This is already seen in the number of virtual portals that can be used for sharing of information, ideas etc.

New forms of cooperation depend largely on the skills of the staff members and the willingness to seize the opportunities and to challenge ourselves and others. As the working cultures slowly change, so do the models of cooperation. The generations Y, I and AO are stepping into the work force and with them the new models of cooperation become dynamic, powerful and influential. Are you keeping up to speed?

Communication is crucial at all levels of co-operation and it becomes more equal as the co-operation models deepen.



© Engage your stakeholders toolkit, UBC Commission on Environment 2009



The art of cooperation

Text: **Albert Edman and Martin Svensson** Photo: **Hybricon** Illustration: **Martin Svensson**

By creating platforms for cooperation the city of Umeå has become a major player in the field of innovation for sustainability and has taken unique solutions from ideas to working examples. In many ways the city of Umeå has become a melting pot for the necessary solutions to achieve sustainable development.



The municipality of Umeå has ambitious goals to become a hub for sustainable urban development and an arena for solutions for sustainability. The municipality cannot achieve this on its own and therefore work in cooperation with regional, national and international partners in both the public and private sector. By working together in close partnerships the municipality and the municipal companies join hands to merge their different areas of expertise and invite other organisations to seamlessly work toward a sustainable city.

The Umeå model

Working in cooperation ensures a greater supply of knowledge which has resulted in remarkable rethinking of many important areas. One good example of cooperation is the network for sus-



tainable construction and building maintenance. The network consists of companies and organizations throughout the construction and management chain that together build up knowledge in the industry on sustainable construction and building maintenance, from banks to builders. The network not only aims to become the world leader in cold climate by 2020, but also in many ways signify the Umeå model. Working by the Umeå model means to work with all aspects of sustainable development with a systemic approach where the interconnections are as important as the innovations.

Creating the sustainable

It's not all talk and great ideas that form sustainable development in Umeå, there are also current projects underway that are direct results of the cooperative model. An Umeå based company has developed the world's first fast charging electric bus and in cooperation with the municipality and the local public transport company the buses are now being tested as a part of the regular traffic. In a similar way the municipality of Umeå has created an office for projects that contribute to the sustainable development with a user perspective. In cooperation with other regional, national and international partners the office of Be Green Umeå house many different project that work towards sustainability in different ways. The Green Citizens of Europe project targets the inhabitants of the region with innovative tools and methods for interactive and co-creative citizens that work towards goals of reduced carbon emissions. Be Green Umeå also houses the Sustainable Ålidhem project where old and new buildings and their inhabitants are the main focus in creating a sustainable district for about 1 % of Umeå's population.

Lots to learn

As a city committed to sustainable development Umeå knows that knowledge and expertise are two very important factors in achieving the sustainable. Therefore two new platforms have been developed. Technical Visits to sustainable Umeå offer anyone and everyone the chance to visit Umeå and to learn first-hand more about how the city has tackled many issues. This platform is in itself a great example of cooperation between the municipality and the private companies in clean-tech and sustainable development. During September 17-19, 2013 Umeå will host the 5th Nordic Council of Ministers conference on sustainable development where leaders from the Nordic countries will meet distinguished guest from the field to further develop knowledge and know-how about sustainable development.

More information:

www.hallbarahus.se
www.begreenumea.se
www.greencit.se
and www.technicalvisitsumea.se

We are in it together!

Text: **Thomas Kastrup-Larsen, Alderman**

Photo: **Thomas Hald Madsen**

There is a lot of focus on sustainable development and climate issues in Aalborg Municipality. The city has hosted the birth of two important international documents; the Aalborg Charter and the Aalborg Commitments, a responsibility we take on with great pride and which have shaped the city for nearly two decades.

An important direction within this framework has been towards sustainable business transition, where two important public/private partnerships have emerged. One aimed at the industrial sector and one at the retail business.

The latter is known as the Green Shop concept. This is a co-operation between Aalborg Municipality, Energy Service Denmark, and local retail owners. The concept, which is voluntary, focuses on energy and environment in connection with store operations and product assortment, and it has been a huge success with close to 100 shops participating. In September 2011, the city furthermore inaugurated its first Green Street consisting entirely of Green Shops.

Another public/private partnership that has been developed also has the promise to become very successful. The focus is here on - as mentioned - the industrial sector. This concept is known as the Network for Sustainable Business Development in Northern Denmark, and it is a co-operation between the municipalities of Aalborg and Hjørring, the University of Aalborg, and a number of local industrial businesses. The aim with the partnership



The public/private partnerships of Green Shop and Network for Sustainable Business Development

is to strengthen the participating businesses' competitiveness through targeted efforts towards environmental sustainability. The individual business commits itself to making a sustainability report setting its future targets, which then will be implemented with the aid of the municipalities.

These partnerships and other similar ones are a direct result of Aalborg's Sustainability Strategy 2008-2011, and their success have prompted even more focus on partnerships across all sectors. So much so, that in the upcoming Sustainability Strategy the area has been promoted to being one of the four main pillars of the Strategy and thus will continue contributing to the shaping of the Municipality for many years to come.

More information:

Anders Du Mont-Thygesen
adm-teknik@aalborg.dk



New city co-operation inspired by cycling in Kaunas

Text: **Laima Griauslytė** Photo: **Nienke de Jong**

Last year the city of Kaunas joined the project called CHAMP (Cycling Heroes Advancing sustainable Mobility Practice), which is supported by Intelligent Energy Europe and runs until September 2014. The project brings together the pioneer cities in the field of cycling policy: Groningen, Orebro, Bolzano, Edinburgh, Ljubljana and Burgos.

The focus of CHAMP is the exchange of good practice and lessons learned in the leading cycling cities. The purpose is both to improve the cycling strategies in the CHAMP cities and to share the good practice and lessons learned with other European cities to create safer and more attractive conditions for cycling in Europe.

Strategy to promote cycling

The city of Kaunas, in line with other cities participating in the project, is going to develop a strategy aimed at promoting cycling as an environment-friendly means of transportation. In relation to this, the Lithuanian Cycling Community website will

be upgraded with the latest map of cycling paths in the city of Kaunas and other cycling infrastructure related information. Furthermore, the website and other information technology means will play a crucial role in spreading the information about cycling events in the city. This will strongly contribute to the provision of the up-to-date, easily accessible information as well as will help strengthening the cycling community in the city of Kaunas.

Peer-review visit in Kaunas

On March 2012 the CHAMP-project members of the peer review team from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom and Italy visited Kaunas. The visit programme included a 24 kilometres cycling tour around Kaunas to get an independent cycling experience, a meeting with the mayor of the city of Kaunas, interviews with different stakeholders. The peer review report will be published with the aim to provide the reflections on the cycling policy in the city of Kaunas as viewed from the outsider perspective.

More information:

Laima Griauslytė
Chief Specialist at Environment Protection Division,
Kaunas City Municipal Administration
laima.griauslyte@kaunas.lt



On cycling tour trying to choose the right way



Karlstad invests in environment projects

Text: **Charlotte Wedberg** Photo: **Annika Granlund**

In Karlstad Municipality, priority is given to the environment when funds are to be allocated. In 2007, the municipality decided to allocate SEK 100 million to energy and environmental projects over a four-year period. The changes were many and an additional SEK 100 million was therefore allocated in 2011.

Karlstad Municipality has a population of 86,400, with municipal administrations and companies employing some 7,200 people. In 2007, the municipality elected to allocate SEK 100 million for energy and environmental projects in order to be able to fulfil those goals the municipality's majority had drawn up for the term of office. The goals comprised an increasing proportion of sustainable forms of energy and a reduction in the total energy consumption. It was also deemed desirable to increase awareness with respect to energy and environmental issues amongst personnel and consumers within Karlstad Municipality.

"The municipality owns and manages the running of and maintaining of a large number of premises and our businesses can be seen throughout the city as well as in our less densely populated areas. In order to be able to fulfil our energy plans, we initiated a project to promote efficiency in which 159 properties and five water and waste facilities were included," Charlotte Wedberg, Environmental Co-ordinator at the Technology and Property Administration said.

Rationalisation and training

Amongst other things, rationalisation meant that the amount of oil used in the heating of the properties was reduced by 80 per cent, that electricity consumption decreased and that the use of energy in water and waste facilities was minimised by, for

example, replacing boilers run on oil and electric heating with remote heating. Other examples of measures to reduce energy consumption were the installation of new control systems for heating and ventilation, replacing windows and the installation of sensor-controlled lighting.

Efforts made outside the area of properties included investing in a gas facility for vehicles, the installation of solar panels and solar cells in recently built sports centres and the construction of our own filling station for bio-diesel. One other important measure was the energy-saving drives that were carried out for consumers.

Besides the practical rationalisation of properties, all co-workers within the municipality went through a training course in environment and climate awareness.

"It's important for us that all co-workers are aware of how we can be more environmentally friendly in our everyday lives and what impact this has on the climate," Charlotte Wedberg said.

More funds for environmental work

In 2011, Karlstad Municipality decided to allocate a further SEK 100 million to new energy and environmental projects for the coming four-year period. During 2012, the money will be used to reduce energy consumption even more in the properties, decrease discharge from carriers, increase biological diversity and increase water quality in the municipality. One example is that ethanol will be replaced by bio-gas in the municipality's fleet of vehicles.

"The additional investment of SEK 100 million for the environment shows that this is a prioritised endeavour producing good results," Charlotte Wedberg concluded.

More information:

Charlotte Wedberg, Project Leader
charlotte.wedberg@karlstad.se



Foreign experts came to help by taking a fresh look at city planning of Tartu

Text: **Helle Tolmoff** Photo: **Mihkel Lendok**

Deputy Mayor Raymond Tamm explained that since the adoption of the current City Centre Master Plan in 1995, a lot of changes that have had a great impact on the development of the city centre have taken place since. Many popular attractions have been constructed outside the historical city centre and this has changed the movement of different groups of people.

Potentiality in the river

The city of Tartu is drafting a new comprehensive development plan for the city centre. "We are renewing the City Centre Master Plan and we have managed to engage the foreign experts who came to attend the seminar. Their contribution is very important because they could take a fresh look and give their opinion without being influenced by the earlier plannings, ideas and disputes", said Raymond Tamm.

The city planners participating in the UBC seminar concluded, after having taken a thorough look around the city, that the city has overlooked the potential of the River Emajõgi. The river seems to be anonymous and it has not been put into proper use.

Some workshops focused on finding solutions for the use of land and building solutions on the wasteland lying on the river bank in the 'new city' area, whereas others discussed the future development of the parks and green areas on the river banks in the historical old town.



Reconstruction of bank fortifications also restores the parks and green areas lying on the banks of the River Emajõgi, which flows through the Tartu city centre.

Forty city planners and architects from the nine Baltic Sea countries visited the city of Tartu last autumn to participate in the UBC city planning seminar. The city planners of Tartu are now drafting a comprehensive plan for the city centre, whereby they use the ideas and solutions suggested during the international seminar.

The discussions held at the workshops were very practical and yielded many good ideas. In order to make a better use of the river, it was suggested that the river bank promenade to be cleaned and arranged, restaurants opened on the river and swimming places or skating rinks be developed.

A pedestrian bridge to combine past and present

The experts also suggested installing lighting, constructing cafés and sports tracks (which can now only be found in the suburbs) in the city centre parks that boast the lush greenery. A novel idea was put forward: to construct another pedestrian bridge to connect the historical old town with the Ülejõe district.

"We got some new architectural and functional ideas for the development of problematic areas in the city centre, which will be considered when developing future plans for the city centre," said Raymond Tamm.

It is very positive that the city of Tartu has been able to use European funding to restore several river bank sections, where the reconstruction of fortifications has completely changed the appearance of the entire bank. Another section was completed at the end of last year- walking paths and light traffic paths were reconstructed, lighting and benches installed, wooden platforms built above the water. A goal has been set to make the River Emajõgi, which is a very valuable attraction in Tartu, more visible and to turn its banks into attractive recreation areas for both local people and our visitors.

More information:

Raymond Tamm , Deputy Mayor
+372 736 1213
+372 515 4738

Cooperation between Estonian UBC member cities has increased

Text: **Annely Veevo** Photo: **Merike Järv**

When Kärdla was elected on year 2007 as a member of UBC Executive Board, we had a question: how to raise co-work between Estonian UBC Cities, to divide responsibility and also increase the affection of UBC Executive Board decisions in member cities. Earlier Estonian UBC cities met once during a year or two.

As a first step a mailing list between member cities was set up. Included were mayors, UBC contact persons and also some other persons who were more densely connected to UBC. Through this mailing list cities started to spread information about UBC meetings, agreed meetings of Estonian cities and gave other important information. An Internet homepage was also set up, were materials from commissions and Executive Board meetings were available for Estonian cities. Some materials were even translated into Estonian, to be sure that maximum amount of people were able to get information.

Second important step was to establish regular meetings between Estonian UBC cities. It was important for Kärdla that our city will not bear responsibility alone, but it could be spread between cities. Kärdla was the first city and first country in UBC who established a system of regular meetings. Meetings are held 3-4 times every year.

A joint meeting was held always after executive board meetings. Usually representative of Kärdla Annely Veevo made overview of important subjects on board meeting, vice chairman Urve Tiius talked about important developments, long time member of UBC Tõnu Karu spoke about Brussels news and vice director of Union of Estonian Cities Toivo Riimaa talked about importance of UBC for Estonian cities. One important point on meetings was listening of Estonian cities, mapping their needs and opinions and presenting proposals of Estonian cities to General Secretary of UBC. Through common activities Estonian cities got to know each other better, and also we got a clearer understanding, what being a member of UBC gives to cities.

The city of Keila to lead next

Estonian cities elected Kärdla to UBC executive board also for the next period: 2009 – 2011. During this period no new activities were started, rather there was a feeling of tiredness. Estonian cities were still happy having Kärdla in lead, but we felt, that being in lead for 4 years is too much. Our opinion is that one city cannot be besides everyday work an effective member of UBC Executive Board longer than 3 years. This was a reason, why we wanted to give the leadership over to another city. On 2011 we elected the city of Keila as our successor.

On February 7th, 2012 the Mayor of Keila Tanel Mõistus and spokesman of Keila Valdur Vacht visited Kärdla. Target of the visit



From left to right: Toivo Riimaa (Tallinn), Elena Sapp (Paide), Leelo Suidt (Elva), Annely Veevo (Kärdla), Innar Mäesalu (Võru) and Talis Vare (Haapsalu).

was to visit Kärdla as former member of UBC Executive Board and to learn from their experience. On meeting Annely Veevo, communication and project manager of Kärdla City, talked about position of Estonian Cities in UBC and work of Kärdla in this organisation; Kaidi Nõmmerga, Manager of Development and Economy Department, gave overview of Kärdla City development. Guests visited Kärdla City library, Information and Counselling Centre „HUPS“ and Kõrgessaare parish and subsidiaries. First meeting of Estonian UBC cities under leadership of Keila will be carried in Rakvere in the end of May.

18 Estonian cities are members of UBC: Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, Maardu, Jõhvi, Rakvere, Sillamäe, Narva, Paide, Jõgeva, Keila, Paldiski, Elva, Haapsalu, Kuressaare, Viljandi, Võru and Kärdla.

More information:

Annely Veevo, Communication and Project Manager
Kärdla Town Government
Annely.Veevo@kardla.ee
Tel. +3725275995

City Twinning – a concept of success

St Petersburg and Finnish cities have reached several tangible results in development of environmental management with financial support from the Finnish Ministry of Environment. Good examples of such results are the air quality monitoring network built in St Petersburg (Committee of Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety) and online exchange of air quality data. Opening of the environmental information to the public in St Petersburg and development of e-communication methods together in all partner cities would be another result worth mentioning. Not to forget the concrete achievements in hazardous waste management – a sector of environmental management known to be challenging in Russia.

Text: **Pekka Salminen and Stella Aaltonen**

Few goals make things happen

It is not a coincidence that such tangible results have been achieved. Co-operation between the Finnish cities and St Petersburg has continued several years making it possible to build trustworthy relations and informal working atmosphere. Peer to peer working methods have been used and during the previous years projects have turned to be more and more mutual learning experiences.

When goals to be achieved are few and activities clearly described tangible results can be easily achieved. This seems to be the case as there have been typically two and maximum five partners in one project and implementation period have been of maximum two years.

Form of co-operation changing

Objectives of the Finnish Ministry of the Environment for Co-operation with Russia were drawn last time for the years 2008-2011. This strategy has enabled funding of the so-called city twinning co-operation that is now coming to its end. The Finnish government has decided to cut down national funding from the cooperation between Finland and its neighbouring areas as it was originally planned to cover so called transition phase after collapse of the Soviet Union.

For now on, such co-operation will be funded more from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument governed by the European Commission. This funding instrument requires bigger projects preferably with multinational consortium. It is clear that the long-term cooperation between the Finnish cities (Turku, Helsinki, Tampere, Lahti, Kotka) and some governmental institutions like Finnish Meteorological Institute has built great basis also for larger multinational projects.

Latest topics for this co-operation have been environmental awareness rising, waste management and hazardous waste management, air quality monitoring and soil remediation. More information and contacts are available on the cooperation programme web site: www.stp-fi-envco.net and on the environmental portal of the City of St Petersburg www.infoeco.ru.

More information:

www.stp-fi-envco.net
www.infoeco.ru



Environmental awareness raising in St Petersburg

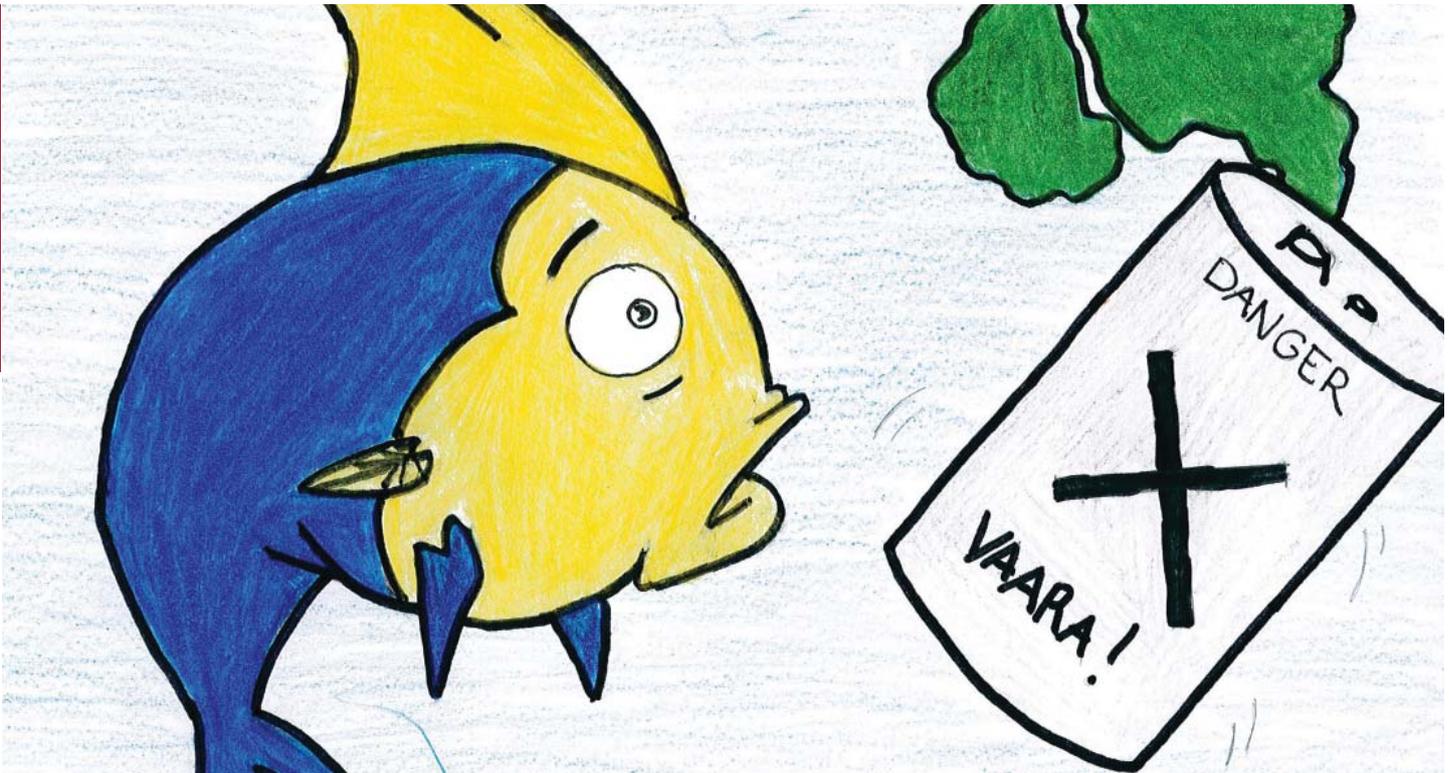
Text: **Stella Aaltonen, Elena Titova**

Photos: **Natalia Sedova** Comic: **Kaija Nyman**

Environmental education and raising of public awareness on environmental issues has been one of the key priorities of the program of cooperation between the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety of the city of St. Petersburg during the past years. As a result of the fruitful projects environmental portal of the city of St Petersburg www.infoeco.ru was launched in year 2009.

After the launch of the environmental portal the use of it has grown rapidly. The portal offers a wide variety of information for different target audiences. Partly the information is also available in English. During the past year the development of the portal has been focused on website optimization and thanks to the actions on it, the number of visitors has tripled over one year. For example in February 2012 the portal had 8500 visitors. Also the use of other social medias has been tested and as one result of it, a guidebook on "Online or offline communication was launched in March 2012 in English and Russian. These actions and the comic and game competition have been part of project "Neat 2.0 - New Environmental Awareness Tools" 2010-2012.

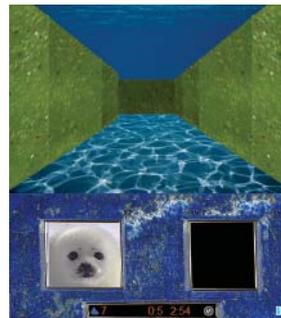
is searching for future directions



Competitions for different target groups

One good example of fruitful environmental awareness raising was a comic competition "What can you do for the Baltic Sea" organized for Finnish and Russian school students. The competition received more than 200 comic entries from St Petersburg and Finland. The comic winners were awarded in Spring 2011 and the comics are being used in the environmental portal of the city of St Petersburg.

"Our Baltic Sea" - computer game programming competition for Finnish and Russian students took place in Autumn 2011. The winner games focused on waste sorting "EcoTetris" and improving the state of the Baltic Sea "The Great Seal Adventure". After this experience the city of St Petersburg has decided to organize more such campaigns in future.



Eco-games for children and teachers

The project "Development of Environmental Games around Baltic Sea" was implemented in 2010-2011 to answer to the high interest and need for partners to create new interactive methods of environmental education, focused on specific target groups. City of St Petersburg and the city of Lahti collected and analyzed more than 100 environmental games and selected 70 of them for the project. The selected games were produced on a disk with appropriate languages (Russian or Finnish). More than 300 copies of the disk were distributed not only in St. Petersburg but also in some other Russian cities and about 100 copies in Finland. Also a special training for teachers to play the games was organized in St. Petersburg at Ecological and Biological Center "Krestovsky Island" SEI in April 2011. More than 130 people took part in training where partners from both countries presented also some new games which were not included in the disk.



More information:
Visit the Eco-portal of
St. Petersburg at
www.infoeco.ru

Simulations of the ship NO_x deposition

Text: **Jaan Laanmets** Photo: **Anu Keltaniemi**

In the SNOOP project the impact of atmospheric NO_x deposition caused by the Baltic Sea shipping on the Gulf of Finland ecosystem was studied using a coupled hydrodynamic (General Estuarine Transport Model, www.getm.eu) and ecological (Ecological Regional Ocean Model, Neumann et al. 2002) model. The model domain includes the whole Baltic Sea.

Two 10-year simulations (1997–2006) were performed repeating atmospheric NO_x deposition (with and without the ship-born NO_x deposition) for the year 2008 by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The ship NO_x deposition may impact dynamics of phytoplankton spring and nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria summer bloom. The total annual NO_x deposition to the Gulf was 13.7 kton; monthly NO_x deposition was larger during the cold season (max 1700 ton) compared with the warm season (min 600 ton). The annual ship NO_x deposition was 1.6 kton, i.e. about 12% from the total atmospheric NO_x deposition.

Preliminary results

The monthly ship NO_x deposition was larger during summer (max 220 ton) compared with the cold season (min 60 ton). During May–August the share of the ship NO_x deposition increased up to 20–30%. The phytoplankton growth and biomass in the Gulf are nitrogen-limited. Therefore, the additional NO_x deposition due to shipping may result in the increase of phytoplankton biomass. The simulations showed that the increase of the spring bloom biomass was about 1% in the Gulf, while the summer cyanobacteria biomass decreased by 3–6%.

The cyanobacteria bloom is influenced by the ship NO_x deposition: 1) the increase of spring bloom decreased the amount of excess phosphate for cyanobacteria bloom and 2) the smaller phytoplankton size fraction responds faster to additional NO_x deposition compared with the bigger size fraction (cyanobacteria). The nitrogen fixation by cyanobacteria is an important source of nitrogen in the Baltic Sea. The simulation without the ship NO_x deposition showed that the annual nitrogen fixation in the Gulf varied within the range of 19.3–39.4 kton during the 10-year period. The inclusion of the ship NO_x deposition decreased the nitrogen fixation varying within the range of 18.3–36.9 kton.

No statistically significant trend was observed in the inter-annual changes of nitrogen fixation. Regionally the effect of ship NO_x deposition on the decrease of nitrogen fixation was larger in the western Gulf. Thus, the preliminary results showed that the increase of nitrogen pool in the Gulf caused by NO_x deposition due to shipping was partly compensated by the decrease of nitrogen fixation.

More information:
snoop.fmi.fi



SNOOP project

During the three-year (2009–2012) project the nine Finnish and Estonian SNOOP partners, City of Turku (Lead Partner), Finnish Meteorological Institute, HSY Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority, Centre for Maritime Studies of University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Kymenlaakso University of Applied Sciences, Estonian Environmental Research Centre and Tallinn University of Technology / Marine Systems Institute work together to produce policy-relevant, scientifically based information on emissions from shipping and their effects. The project is financed by Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007–2013 and Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY) of Southwest Finland.

The total budget of the project is approximately 1.3 MEUR.



This story reflects the author's views and the Managing Authority of Central Baltic INTERREG IV A programme 2007-2013 cannot be held liable for the information published by the project partners.

The policy of air quality and pollution through sustainable development and cooperation

Text: **Zita Tverkutė** Photo: **Rolandas Bitcheris**



The air quality has impact on the daily life of citizens and health in urban and rural areas. In improving air quality the priority is given to public health and environment protection. At the same time balance, sustainable development, between economical development and fight against the air pollution is sought. Strengthening of the environment protection and public health provides a huge impulse to the economy as well.

The largest problems and obstacles concerning air pollution appear in the cities. Though the municipality has taken all the necessary measures, hard particles were determined. The marginal values of hard particles cannot be maintained all the time. The air pollution has international and national dimensions and in preventing air pollution and decreasing the amount of pollutants in the locations, the measures taken are connected with all the levels of management. Up till now the carriers of pollutants between cities, states and continents are not being measured. It would be an important part of the cooperation among the cities of the Baltic Sea Region.

The city of Panevėžys in Lithuania has put lots of efforts in improving the air quality. These measures include:

- a more attractive public transport (buses of EURO 5- EURO 6 standards);
- development of cycling and pedestrian paths;
- prohibition to come into the city with the motor vehicles that pollute the most;

- promotion of ecological transport;
- development of forestry parks;
- a special policy on car parking;
- limits of traffic speed for vehicles;
- improvement of quality of road pavement;
- development of centralized heating supply system;

Achievements through co-operation

The involvement and co-operation of municipalities of smaller cities and towns into the plans to decrease the air pollution of the city of Panevėžys turned out to be rather successful. It resulted in joint prevention and control activities for grass burning. In such a way lots of pollutants were escaped from the city air basin. Thanks to the co-operation a long term programme agreements of bio-fuel supply into the city centralized heating system were made and a joint planning started of the spring plough of suburb fields by selecting necessary air conditions in order to decrease the carriers of air pollution.

This is the way to work with the implementation of long term sustainable development programmes.

Though, the policy of city is directed towards the decrease of discharged air pollutants from local sources, while huge concentration of fixed pollution is still influenced by international and interregional emissions of pollution.

More information:

Zita Tverkutė, Head of Ecology Department
Panevėžys City Municipality, Lithuania
zita.tverkute@panevezys.lt
www.panevezys.lt

Climate change

— from front page headlines to everyday lives

Text: **Lotta Mattsson** Photo: **Anna Stenberg, Pekka Salminen**

During the past decade, a lot has happened in the climate field at the local level. Climate change has shaken off the 'greenie' label attached to it, and local authorities have incorporated climate change mitigation and adaptation into their everyday practices, says Pekka Salminen about mainstreaming climate work. He is project manager for the CHAMP project.

Salminen is in a good position to overview the climate policy in the Baltic Sea region. The UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat, located in the city of Turku, is a member of several national and international networks addressing climate and environmental issues.

The CHAMP project, now coming to an end, has supported municipalities and regions in four European countries (Finland, Germany, Hungary and Italy) to tackle the challenge of climate change through an integrated approach.

Systematic approach to climate work

Many European municipalities already have climate change strategies in place, but few apply a very systematic approach to the implementation of their climate work. In CHAMP, the pilot municipalities were encouraged to an increasing degree to move away from climate work led by the environmental sector, towards an integrated management system that involves all sectors and is often led by the central administration.

The Integrated Management System (IMS) has been at the heart of the CHAMP project. Altogether 58 municipalities from four countries (Finland, Germany, Italy and Hungary) have participated in the project.

The IMS may sound bureaucratic, yet many municipalities have introduced the system because it is simple and easy to adapt to different organisations. The IMS does not fundamentally alter the way municipalities carry out their climate work. Instead, the system introduces a structure that municipalities can follow to implement the different stages of climate work in a way that is systematic and participatory. Salminen emphasises that to better deal with climate issues, municipalities would be well advised to alter the organisation of sector-specific work. The central idea of the model is to integrate climate work into the municipality's other activities.

Collaborating and communicating

In Salminen's experience, good results have been achieved in those municipalities where climate targets have been cascaded down to staff by eco support persons. The staff has been excited, but also relieved that they can do something tangible. Concrete measures show how strategic goals are turned into action. This success fuels motivation and makes people pull together in the climate work. Salminen says that the next step is to know how to encourage people from different sectors to start working and to ensure that the devised plans are put into action.

It is important to translate climate work into concrete local measures that will awaken the interest for participation in others as well as in the environmentalists. The inclusion of stakeholders and communication are easily forgotten in local climate work. Sticking closely to the familiar practices largely explains why the possibilities offered by communication and inclusion are not always used. Summing up the challenges of climate work, Salminen says that working with stakeholders is not easy and only few have the training for it.

Agents of change showing the way

Salminen believes that even with minimal effort and investment, climate work can be put on the right track. The CHAMP project emphasised the role of individual municipal officeholders and elected representatives as agents of change. Change always begins with the individuals, and to trigger change, active change agents are needed to show the way to others.



Pekka Salminen giving an IMS training



CHAMP training workshop on evaluation and reporting of local climate work was organised in Lahti, Finland

To succeed, the change agents need the support of the municipality's senior executives. Without their support, the effectiveness of climate work will remain poor. In Salminen's experience, climate issues arouse resentment among some decision-makers. He has, however, noticed that there are many people who are able to look at the broad spectrum of climate issues and who are ready to change the municipality's direction faster than the surrounding world. This is the only guarantee for success, Salminen adds.

More information:

Pekka Salminen
pekka.salminen(a)ubc.net



The IMS cycle step by step

Online guidance on the Integrated Management System is now available

In order to enable European local governments to actually apply this new management form and as the main output of the CHAMP project, an online Capacity Development Package (CDP) was developed.

The online guidance has been developed together with municipalities and it can be used to organise climate work efficiently and systematically. The step-by-step guidance contains practical tools and many examples of climate work carried out by European local authorities.

Find the CDP online in six languages at www.localmanagement.eu!

Collection of hazardous household waste in St. Petersburg: “Ecomobile” collection point

Text: **Alexey Petrov, Alexey Trutnev and Yulia Sakovich**

Photo: **Alexey Trutnev**

The household waste contains hazardous elements: mercury-containing lamps, mercury thermometers, used batteries, discharged accumulators, office equipment and household appliances, tires and car accumulators, household chemicals, paints and varnishes and expired medicines. All these things, which are quite safe during their life-time, are labeled with a crossed recycle bin. It means that when disposed such things should not be mixed with normal household solid waste and transported to municipal waste landfills.

Improper disposal of household waste results in environmental pollution with dangerous substances such as heavy metals, organochlorine compounds and others. Toxic substances may leak into ground waters, contaminate soil and air, impact the human health.



Through pilots towards mobile collection

The greatest danger is posed by fluorescent and energy saving lamps, containing mercury, which are attributed to wastes of the 1st hazard class (extremely dangerous) according to the Russian legislation. For example, an energy-saving lamp, which replaces lamp bulbs in households, contains about 2-5 mg of mercury, fluorescent lamps used in commercial buildings and institutions include 50 to 110 mg of mercury and a medical thermometer contains 2000 mg. The continuous presence of mercury in the urban environment and household waste is largely caused by the improper disposal of broken mercury-containing appliances.

In 2008 and 2009, the Committee for Nature Use, Environmental Protection and Ecological Safety of the City of St. Petersburg implemented pilot projects in collection of hazardous wastes - fluorescent and energy saving lamps – from residents using a mobile collection point.

Based on that positive experience, in 2010 the Committee established a system of regular collection of hazardous waste from households, using “Ecomobile” mobile collection point. Thus, the pilot projects in two municipal units were extended to regular citywide household hazardous waste collection.

In 2011 two “Ecomobiles” were put into operation in St. Petersburg, which visited each municipal unit of the city for at least 15 times during a 10-month period. The residents could bring used mercury lamps, mercury thermometers and tonometers, batteries, discharged car accumulators, office equipment, household appliances, tires, household chemicals and expired medicines to the “Ecomobile” and discard it free of charge.

Raising interest

The schedule of hazardous household hazardous waste collection by the “Ecomobile” is published the environmental portal www.infoeco.ru. of the official Website of the City of St. Petersburg. To inform people on the “Ecomobile” operation, leaflets were distributed during the stops. Posters were placed in municipal units, polyclinics, schools and other public buildings. Information was published in local newspapers. Information stickers were placed in the subway cars.

The Committee receives many phone calls and letters from residents who are interested in “Ecomobile” activities. For communication and discussion of “Ecomobile” activities a social group “Ecomobile – a mobile hazardous waste collection point” was set in one of the largest social networks Vkontakte.ru. The number of participants reached 4 110. This was done as part of Neat –project, more about it from page 12.

In 2012 the schedule of “Ecomobiles” was drafted with due consideration of proposals of district administrations. New “Ecomobile” parking points were added to the schedule this year: now

at weekends, people can bring the waste to the collection points in the vicinity of subway stations. The 2012 schedule is available at the Environmental portal of St. Petersburg at www.infoeco.ru and at the official Website of the Government of St. Petersburg.

"Ecomobile" is becoming more and more popular among the residents of St. Petersburg, judging from the amounts of collected household hazardous waste. Since the beginning of the operation of "Ecomobiles" the number of collected mercury lamps increased by more than 20 times, batteries and accumulators by more than 40 times. In 2011 over 14 000 mercury lamps and over 40 000 batteries and accumulators were collected from households.

Disposal of collected waste

Hazardous wastes collected by "Ecomobiles" are disposed as follows:

- Mercury lamps are neutralized at a special facility of the company "Ecostroy". As a result, broken glass is disposed at landfill, aluminum caps go to recycling, mercury sludge is placed in sealed steel boxes and disposed at "Krasny Bor" landfill, which is specialized in treatment and disposal of hazardous industrial waste.

- The metallic mercury is removed from thermometers and other mercury devices, and delivered to specialized companies for recycling.
- Chemicals are neutralized to less hazardous compounds and disposed at "Krasny Bor".
- Expired medicines go to "Krasny Bor" as well.
- Car tires are processed and recycled at companies manufacturing industrial rubber goods.
- Office equipment is processed selectively, and is split into secondary material resources (printed circuit cards waste, plastic chips, metal) and industrial wastes. Secondary material resources are given to relevant industries for recycling.
- Car batteries are emptied, the dangerous electrolyte is delivered to "Krasny Bor", cases and plates are recycled.
- Batteries are sealed and disposed at "Krasny Bor", till a better disposal technology is identified.

More information:

www.infoeco.ru

Yulia.Sakovich.sakovich@kpoos.gov.spb.ru



ABC: Cycling improves the city

Text: **Mr. Steffen Nozon** Photo: **Mr. Grzegorz Krajewski**

ABC means “Access by Cycling”. Cycling improves the accessibility of cities. Bicycles are accessible for most inhabitants from young to old, from rich to poor, female and male. Nearly all places in a city are accessible by a bicycle. Providing accessibility by cycling is basic and sustainable like teaching the ABC. Cycling instead of driving motorized vehicles reduces congestion, pollution, noise and accidents. Cycling protects health, environment and climate in a very easy and cost saving way. Five partners in the South Baltic Region cooperate in this project until 2014 to integrate cycling into multimodal transport system and mobility culture.

The multimodal transport system becomes more flexible, individual and smart by integrating cycling. The ABC-partners aim to find solutions how to improve conditions for cycling in the multimodal transport system. They involve experts (city / traffic planner, traffic engineers, mobility advisors, politicians) and inhabitants as “users” to improve planning processes.

Following the common draft of a master plan every city partner will carry out a target group analysis in selected target areas:

- Rostock chooses a corridor along a route from suburbs to the city centre.
- Kalmar deals with shopping areas.
- Gdansk selects mass media centres as target area.

For these selected areas the partners identify users of transport system with their needs, habits & attitudes and in following steps they will develop action plans.



Cycling Monitor

Cycling is an important part of a multimodal mobility culture. ABC-partners aim to develop and implement soft measures for motivating people to integrate cycling into their personal mobility and for shifting the mobility culture of the cities towards more cycling and multimodality. They work with experts (like media consultants, teachers, politicians) and with volunteers to become experts for cycling promotion.

The continuous counting evaluates the effectiveness of cycling promotion. Counting and indicating numbers of cyclists give a direct feedback to cyclists about their contribution to growing cycling traffic and reducing CO₂-emission. The information is visible also for car drivers and pedestrians in public space. The cycling monitor clearly aims at public recognition for cycling. Data from cycling monitors are automatically collected and published on the project website.

Cycling connects people at different places by moving from A to B by cycling. ABC-project partners are connected by the common goal to promote cycling: The Hanseatic City of Rostock, the ADFC Rostock (German Cycling Association Rostock), the Kalmar Municipality, the City of Gdansk, the PSWE (Pomeranian Association Common Europe) and two associated organisations MV Bike (the network of cycling friendly towns in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) and the UBC Commission on Transportation. The history of the project started with the Kalmar declaration at the end of the project “Baltic Sea Cycling”. The Hanseatic City of Rostock took the initiative to apply for a new project.

More information:

www.abcmultimodal.eu and for abc-newsletter subscription:
www.abcmultimodal.eu/newsletter.html

Mr. Steffen Nozon,
Hanseatic city of Rostock, steffen.nozon@rostock.de

Mr. Thomas Möller, abc-information manager,
Thomas.moeller@radplan-nordost.de



Cycling makes happy : the abc-project team at the Gdansk-Workshop 2/2012

Shared algae problem

Text: **Matilda Gradin** and **Patrick Finnis** Photo: **Matilda Gradin**



The sandy beaches of the Baltic Sea are a treasure little known outside the region's coastal zones and it may only be the uncertain summer weather that prevents the area from being compared to resorts of the Mediterranean.

However a problem that faces some parts of the Baltic coastline are the very visible signs of eutrophication. In Trelleborg on the south coast of Sweden some sunny days by the sea are disturbed by the massive amounts of filamentous algae engulfing the shallow coastal waters. This is more than a nuisance to the sunbathers, it is also an ecological disaster for the plants and animals inhabiting the ecosystems of the Baltic. The eelgrass fields and bladder wrack biotopes, that are highly important nursery grounds for fish, are threatened by the more short-lived and expansive filamentous algae.

Dedicated to solve the problem

Similar problems take place in Sopot, Northern Poland. Sopot municipality is part of the three-city region of Gdynia, Gdansk and Sopot, and is a famous holiday resort with one of the Baltic's most beautiful beaches. However, the city shares the same algae problem as its Swedish counterpart Trelleborg.

The cities Sopot and Trelleborg are now working together with research institutes and biogas organisations in Poland and Sweden as part of the WAB-project (Wetlands, Algae, Biogas – a southern Baltic Sea eutrophication Counteract project). The intention is to create a system where algae are collected and energy is produced from them in the form of biogas. The machines to collect the al-

gae have been tested on the beaches of Trelleborg and Sopot. In addition, at the legendary wooden pier of Sopot, the Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Science (IOPAS) has installed a monitoring system to examine the parameters that stimulate algae growth.

Sopot and Trelleborg are two Baltic Sea cities facing the same environmental challenges, whilst also being similarly dedicated to solving the problems. This work is of the utmost importance, as the future and prosperity of the region depends on a clean and healthy sea that can provide its inhabitants with food, recreation and tourism.

More information:
wabproject.pl/en

Project name: Wetlands, Algae, Biogas – a southern Baltic Sea Eutrophication Counteract Project

Financing: South Baltic Programme

Duration: 2010-2012

Project partners: Municipality of Trelleborg, Municipality of Sopot, Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Science (IOPAS), Pomeranian Agricultural Education Center (PAEC), Competent Authority of the South Baltic Water District, Linneaus University (Marine Science Center), The Skåne association of Local Authorities, Community Union Dolina Redy I Chylonki, Pomeranian Center for Environmental Research and Technology (POMCERT)

Associated partners: Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Selfgovernment of Pomorskie Voivodeship

Keila's waterworks renewed

Text and Photo: **Valdur Vacht**

Veiko Kaufmann has been the head of Keila's water supply company AS Keila Vesi since 1997. The town's water economy has been transformed ever since. Soon after Veiko took the job, a member of the town council visited him, bringing along a jar of soggy water - it had sediment and turned ruddy when he shook the jar. The council member had just one question "When will the water be clean?" Veiko did not have an answer then. Today Keila's mayor Tanel Mõistus is satisfied with water quality.

Improved water supply and sewage system

Sixteen years ago the town's water economy lacked a perspective. Due to a primitive water purification system and poor condition of pipelines, the quality of drinking water was dissatisfying. Water loss from pipes was up to 50%. Almost half of the private houses that did not depend on the public water supply had wells that had been contaminated due to irresponsible action of the Soviet Army and industrial establishments. As more than half of Keila's residential area was without a public water supply network, the sewage treatment plant was literally falling to pieces.

Today Keila has ca 61 km of water pipeline and 62 km of sewage pipeline. Most of them are either brand new or freshly renovated.

"Today I can say that Keila's water economy works. Keila is one of the first towns in Estonia where all high density areas have proper water supply and sewage systems, renewed water intake and a modern sewage treatment plant," the mayor proudly says.

Before water reaches the supply system, it is forced through an aerator and special sand filters. The aerators oxidise iron which gets stuck in filters. Aeration also reduces the levels of aggressive carbon dioxide in the water. The whole process is automatic and run by computers. The plant was established together with the Danish company Ramboll and cost 275,000 Euros of which 192,000 Euros came from the Kingdom of Denmark. The rest was covered by AS Keila Vesi. Every day AS Keila Vesi sends 1,100 litres of clean drinking water to the town's water supply system. Water loss, mostly technological, is under 15%.

Soil production facility as the latest achievement

With the latest project that was completed last year, a soil production facility was established to utilise waste mud which is a by-product in the sewage plant. Before the mud had to be stored in a landfill for a high fee. Now there is a special compost tumbler that is used to produce planting soil. Veiko Kaufmann, head of AS Keila Vesi says: "Waste water mud is mixed with turf. The mixture stays in the tumbler for a week until harmful bacteria are thermally destroyed. After 6 months of maturing the fertile soil

is ready for use. Having such a compost tumbler was a big investment but it is worth it because the result is a cleaner environment." The first produce can be sold already before summer. AS Keila Vesi hopes to earn extra income with the soil.

The sewage treatment plant built in 2000 with the help of Denmark has a capacity of 5,000 m³/d. This enables the town of Keila to grow and also treat the sewage of neighbouring areas. Sewage is treated by the use of mechanical and biological processes. The quality of the water leaving the plant is very good.

"Without aid we would not have such good water economy. We could not have afforded all this with our own resources. Keila has received considerable aid from the European Union, Denmark and Norway for renewing its water economy," says mayor Tanel Mõistus.

More information:

Valdur Vacht
Keila Linnavalitsus
vvacht@keila



Energy efficiency in cities

Text: **Stella Aaltonen** Photo: **the Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad**



There is a lot of action going on in local authorities in order to become more energy efficient. More insight to the topic is given by Eva Hjalmered.

What, to your opinion, is a good way to start work on it?

I think we need to look up a bit, to get a perspective. We need to think about what are the major costs when it comes to investments, maintenance and energy consumption. If we take lighting,

for example, the different departments of the municipalities need to work together, so it is not just a design issue and not just a technical issue. We also need to think a bit longer than just the costs of the investments.



Answers provided by Eva Hjalmered, Head of UBC Commission on Energy Secretariat

How to overcome possible obstacles on changing the way we think about energy efficiency?

It is a bit boring to say “think outside the box”, but that is often needed. Can we, for example, use the excess heat from district heating? Can we combine heating and cooling? But it is not just the ideas that are needed. We need driving spirits in the management and the organizations who are willing and daring to go the extra mile.

What kind of co-operation is beneficial in becoming more energy efficient?

I think that cooperation between departments and between the municipality and public utilities is of great importance. But I also advocate the empowered politicians who understands the system and the economy so we don't have separated budgets for investments, maintenance and energy consumption as an example. We need to understand that others have information and competence that we can gain from.

In this Questions & Answers' Corner we bring interesting issues into discussion.

How renovating a 24-year-old building can be one of the key projects to a more sustainable town?

Text: **Kairi Maasik, International Relations Specialist of Rakvere**

Rakvere, the 7th largest city in Estonia, is determined to become an energy –efficient town. Reaching this goal means that Rakvere will be able to provide a more comfortable and greener environment for all its residents

Going green entails many activities; one of these activities is renovating old high- energy consuming buildings. In 2008, Rakvere carried out an analysis to find out, which of the municipal buildings are the most energy consuming and drew up energy plans for all of them. An elementary school built in 1988 was then stated as one of the five most high-energy consuming buildings in Rakvere.

Big benefits in many levels

Plans for reconstruction have been set and calculations show that the renovations will give up to 6 times less energy costs. The tasks to be undertaken are not small; the renovations will be very thorough including different modifications to the ground plan to optimize the space usage, insulating walls, and using mechanical ventilation throughout the building. It will also be designed to use renewable energy, namely solar power and geothermal heating.

The plans to reconstruct the building will not only result in energy efficient building, but is mainly about providing a pleasant environment for the people using it. The elementary school will become a kindergarten because there is an increasing need for kindergarten places. The renovated kindergarten will be a place providing high quality- and low energy-consuming service to approximately 272 children. Together with their parents it means that there will be up to 816 people in Rakvere directly benefiting from this reconstruction which is about 5% of the entire population of Rakvere.

Of course, this project isn't only valuable to the people directly benefiting from it. Rakvere will cut energy costs and give a positive example to all towns in Estonia that reconstructing high-energy consuming buildings is beneficial. Moreover, it will provide our children with a safe and environmentally friendly space for growing up. Growing up in a sustainable environment will give them tools for the future to follow the same kind of thinking and in the end raise a more environmentally aware generation.

More information:
www.rakvere.ee

Partnerships through triple-helix approach

Text and photos: Eva Hjalmered

We can all agree that we can learn a lot from each other, both culturally and practically. The newly started project RENSOL highlights the importance of joint regional energy planning through close cooperation with Russia as a major energy supplier to the EU. Behind RENSOL you find actors as the Baltic Development Forum, the Nordic Council of Ministers Information Office in Kaliningrad, the Chamber of Commerce in Kaliningrad the Universities of Immanuel Kant in Kaliningrad and Lappeenranta in Finland. You also find the municipality of Oskarshamn, the host of the UBC Energy Commission.



A family photo of the group and one is at a site visit at Oscarsgymnasiet, Oskarshamn



Guided by Matz Johansson from the Technical Department of Oskarshamn

The municipalities are major consumers of energy. For example the public lighting often takes up 10-38 % of the energy costs of a municipality. This can be seen as a problem or as a possibility to improve the situation. The RENSOL project's key focus will be on energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy solutions (RES) in Kaliningrad Oblast. The overall project objective is to enable partners in Kaliningrad – in collaboration with Nordic partners – to tackle climate change challenges more effectively through EE and RES solutions, and thereby supporting the cross-border and cross-level cooperation.

Inspiration towards energy efficiency

Within the project framework we are to initiate and facilitate the creation of long-lasting partnerships based on the triple-helix approach. We strive to see the complete perspective by involving the stakeholders cross-border, cross-sector and cross-level - in the Baltic Sea Region. We strongly believe in benefits of close dialogue, exchange of best practices and good networking tools.

One part of the project is arranging study visits to two Nordic countries. The 19-21st of March a Russian delegation (and two researchers from the Lappeenranta University of Technology) visited the three UBC member cities Kalmar, Oskarshamn and Växjö in Sweden. The aim of the visit was to show good examples of energy efficiency, technical solutions and inspiration

that can be implemented in the Kaliningrad region. Lectures were combined with site visits to accommodate all delegates and to give an overview. The agenda held various topics, for example LED-lighting, pre schools, Energy Performance Contracting, planning for new city districts, renovations of older buildings, new buildings and lighting and design plans. 24 delegates got to see lighting installations, ventilating systems, schools etc. Many questions were raised about how, when, why etc of all the activities. We are only in the beginning of the project, but we hope we can inspire each other to become more energy efficient and to find sustainable and renewable energy solutions.

Energy efficient housing

Text: **Eva Hjalmered** Photo: **Ny Teknik**

With increased energy prices and a bigger awareness about the ongoing climate changes it becomes all more important to find measures that join to sustainable energy systems as a whole sustainable society. There are many measures that both give economic profits and slimmed-down climatic impact. But all measures do not become implemented, despite that they are profitable. How does one come from potential proposals to really implemented measures? What is the mystery with driving spirits? How do we create sustainable energy systems? One area where major steps towards the 20-20-20 targets can be taken is buildings.

The EU Climate and Energy Package

The EU Climate and Energy Package is considered to be the key to an energy efficient and low-carbon Europe. The three overall objectives have become generally known as 20-20-20 targets: a 20% cut in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020, compared with 1990 levels; a 20 % share of renewables; and a 20% cut in the energy consumption. Know-how of actions to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, being the main objectives of the EU Climate-Energy Package, is essential in order to improve the energy efficiency and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

The strategic documents of the European Union emphasize the role and importance of the public authorities at all levels, particularly local authorities, who are directly involved in the planning and implementation of management actions to improve the energy efficiency.

Educational sessions

By educating politicians, public and municipal staff about the sustainable energy systems and measures that can be implemented in the municipal and public buildings changes can be made. The project EEMTE (Energy Efficiency in Municipality – Training and Exchange of Experience) aims at developing and improving instruments and tools for authorities and staff members of the public administrations.

The UBC Energy Commission and the municipality of Oskarshamn are partners in the project. Five training sessions for civil servants from the municipalities and public bodies together with politicians will be held. The broad perspective is used to improve the understanding, planning and the results. The first session will be held in Oskarshamn the 22nd of May and led by Louise Trygg, Associate Professor at Linköping University. On the agenda for the introductory session are efficiency improvement in a system perspective, obstacles and driving forces for energy efficient improvement and a workshop.

About EEMTE

EEMTE is a sub-project to EnercitEE (European networks, experience and recommendations helping cities to become Energy Efficient). EnercitEE identifies, analyzes and transfers good practices, fosters the exchange of experience and carries out light pilot implementation to increase the level of Energy Efficiency of local authorities and their citizens.

More information:

Eva Hjalmered
eva.hjalmered@ubcenergy.org
+46 491 76 42 92



Mrs Louise Trygg guides the way to an energy efficient municipality.

More information:

Eva Hjalmered
UBC Energy Commission
eva.hjalmered@ubcenergy.org
www.ubcenergy.org

UBC ENERGY
COMMISSION



The UBC Energy Commission is part of the Union of Baltic Cities, for more information please visit: www.ubc.net.



Short News

“Online or offline communication - when to use, what to consider?”

The guidebook aims to make it easier to find the right channel to communicate the intended message to the audience. It is meant to motivate local authorities to experiment different channels of communication and to work as a reminder and a check list. Guidebook is based on the experience gained in a project called: “NEAT 2.0 – New Environmental Awareness Tools” 2009-2011. The guidebook is published in English and Russian.



Covenant of Mayors Club for the Baltic Sea Region

As part of the NET-COM project, the UBC Commission on Environment will launch The Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Covenant Club to support its member cities achieve their commitment to the Covenant of Mayors. The Covenant Club will connect cities that have signed the Covenant of Mayors with other interested local authorities and enable experience exchange. The Baltic Sea Region Covenant Club will be launched during the UBC Joint Commission meeting in Halmstad, Sweden, on 9-10 May 2012.

The Covenant Club will be open to all signatory member cities and other interested local authorities that are willing to sign in the near future, as well as national actors.

Now 600 Good Practices from Baltic Sea Region. Have a look at www.ubcwheel.eu.

If you know or have a good practice – do not hesitate to let us know about it. The UBC Good Practice Database is an excellent way to market your good practices and also get inspiration and ideas for your own work. We warmly invite you to register and insert your own cases to the database at: www.ubcwheel.eu – LOGIN.



Join the Europe’s largest urban mobility portal ELTIS

ELTIS is a Europe’s biggest web portal on urban mobility. It offers information and concrete advice on how to develop urban transport systems that use less energy while improving the mobility of freight and passengers and the quality of life of its citizens. ELTIS is aimed at professionals working in the fields of urban transport, environment, energy and health. At the ELTIS portal you can find:

- News
- Case studies
- Video clips
- Events
- Tools for practitioners and many more...

You can now become a friend of ELTIS. To be a friend doesn’t give you any obligation. You will receive the ELTIS-newsletter, a password that enables you download ELTIS videos and photos, browse case studies, news items and tools for practitioners. You can even submit your own city case example. All of this is free of charge.

For more information check www.eltis.org.

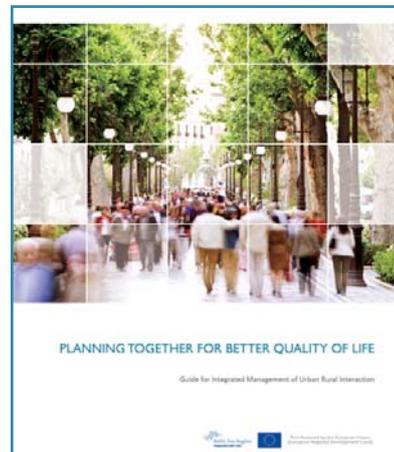


Planning together for better quality of life – Guide for Integrated management of Urban Rural Interaction

The guide is now also available in Estonian, Finnish, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Swedish.

Download now!

At www.urbanrural.net





UBC ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) is a network of 106 cities from all ten Baltic Sea countries, with an overriding goal of contributing to the democratic, social, cultural and environmentally sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. UBC Commission on Environment (UBC EnvCom) is one of the 13 commissions of the UBC.

Practical work of the Commission is carried out by UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat. Its services for the cities include for example organising meetings and policy work, preparing documents and publications, initiating and running projects, and consulting and training. The Secretariat carries out Baltic Cities Sustainable Development Surveys biannually, publishes Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin, and offers Good Practice Database for local authorities at www.ubcwheel.eu.

The current staff of Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat consists of 16 professionals working fulltime for the UBC.



EnvCom, Turku

Our aims

UBCWheel

UBC Good Practice Database (UBC Wheel) is a database full of practices that cover sustainable development in Baltic Sea cities including all topics from transport to health and from social aspects to economic instruments; all dimensions of the Aalborg Commitments. At the moment, there are 500 cases inserted in the database.

www.ubcwheel.eu

Projects



PRESTO - PURE - CHAMP - NEW BRIDGES - BaltCICA - Eltis+ - QUEST - SUSTAINMENT - BUSTRIP... just to mention a few.

Contact us

Our address is:
UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat
Baltic Sea House
Vanha Suurtori 7
FIN -20500 Turku, Finland

Tel: +358 2 262 3172
Fax: +358 2 262 3425

www.ubc-environment.net

The logo for 'NEW BRIDGES ONLINE TOOLKIT' is positioned at the top left. 'NEW BRIDGES' is written in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline, set against a stylized white map of Europe. To its right, 'ONLINE TOOLKIT' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. The background of the top section is a collage of images showing a busy city street with many people walking.

NEW BRIDGES ONLINE TOOLKIT

The NEW BRIDGES Online toolkit is a series of practical advises on how to apply more integrated approach to planning: how to go through systematically different planning activities together in the city-regional context; how to involve individuals, private sector actors, politicians and other stakeholders into the planning process; how to increase the cooperation between urban and rural municipalities.

The toolkit is aimed at all practitioners working at the municipality or regional administration and planning departments, policy makers, and all the other stakeholders involved in regional development.

The toolkit is now also available in Estonian, Finnish, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Swedish.

The Online toolkit has been developed in the framework of the NEW BRIDGES project – Strengthening of Quality of Life through Improved Management of Urban Rural Interaction. More information at www.urbanrural.net.



JOIN US AT ECOPROCURA 2012!

New opportunities to deliver sustainable procurement and innovation

Malmö (Sweden) on 19-21 September 2012

www.ecoprocura.eu/malmo2012

The enormous potential of public procurement is continuously gaining recognition as a new policy tool to support the shift towards a resource-efficient and socially responsible society. EcoProcura 2012 will look at the arguments surrounding this discussion and examine solutions that work in economically challenging times.