



Best City Practices

Report





EDITOR in Chief

Risto Veivo

Co-editor & LAYOUT

Sari Bowie

SPECIAL THANKS:

Sanna Salminen, UBC,
for guidance work with
the cities on the project,
Cities of Riga, Bützow
and Turku, and ECAT
Lithuania for hosting
workshops, and
All participants from the
city couples for their
wonderful contributions:

Gotland-ECAT Lithuania

Eiblag-Siauliai

Sundsvall-Sopot

Bützow-Sillamäe

Turku-Panevezys

*

PUBLISHER

Union of the Baltic Cities

Commission on Environment

Linnankatu 41

FIN-20100 Turku

FINLAND

www.ubc.net

Tel. +358 2 262 3171

Fax. +358 2 253 8613

E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi

sari.bowie@saunalabti.fi

ISSN 1455-0903

*

Printed in Turku, 2002

100% re-cycled paper

Learning From Each Other



In the Union of the Baltic Cities, we have worked together for more than a decade now. During that time, the amount of our members has more than tripled: from 32 founding cities in 1991 to the current number of 101 member cities. There are good reasons for this great interest.

One important factor is, that in our work practical co-operation aiming at mutual benefit has always been essential. We have carried out plenty of projects on exchange of experiences and learnt a lot from each other. We do believe that best solutions can best be learnt from others.

In the Best City Practices (BCP) Project this principle was developed into an art! In good co-operation, five city couples made a benchmarking exercise on good practices, guided by the EnvCom Secretariat. The whole process was carried out with relatively small financial resources. Still the results were excellent and the active input of the participants stunning and invaluable.

Parallely with the benchmarking activities, we have also run the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award. This award has aimed at promotion of good environmental work in the member cities, and at inspiring cities to learn from each other. The other BCP activities have then provided the cities with the possibility to take the next steps by starting practical guided work with each other.

The financial resources for the project, in addition to the participants and the UBC, were provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). The co-funding of the NCM played a critical role in enabling the project. In addition, the award grants have been funded by the Per Aarsleff A/S Company. I am sure that all participants share the gratitude for these important contributions.

In this report, the results of the BCP benchmarking exercises will be presented, as well as the good practices that took part in the latest Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award. I hope that the report will be inspiring reading for you.

Carl Nielsen

Chair of the UBC Award Committee

Technical Director, City of Aarhus

Contents



- 2 Foreword**
- 3 Contents**
- 4 It all started from the Environmental Award**
Scheme of activities
- 5 What is so special about the Best City Practices Project?**
- 6 Environmental education with a Bus**
- Municipality of Gotland & ECAT Lithuania
- 11 Joint effort to establish Environmental education**
- Municipalities of Elblag & Siauliai
- 18 Co-operation helps to forward Local Agenda 21**
- Municipalities of Sundsvall & Sopot
- 24 Learning and sharing in Local Agenda 21 process**
- Municipalities of Bützow & Sillamäe
- 28 Helping to reach the demands in Air Quality Monitoring**
- Municipalities of Turku and Panevezys
- 34 Environmental Award 2001**
- Introduction and summaries of the 16 good practices



It all started from the Environmental Award

The BCP Project followed-up the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 1999. The award was a success with participation of 15 good practices. Quite soon, it was realised that these practices should not only be disseminated on paper, but could be used for learning in practice. Thus the planning of the BCP was started.

Still during Autumn 1999, the plans lead to a successful co-funding application to the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). In the Baltic 21 Joint Action 4 Kick-off Meeting in St Petersburg in October 1999, Birgitte Wøhlk from the NCM had the pleasant task to inform that the application had been approved. Then, during 2000-2001, the project was carried out with the support of the NCM and as a contribution to Baltic 21.

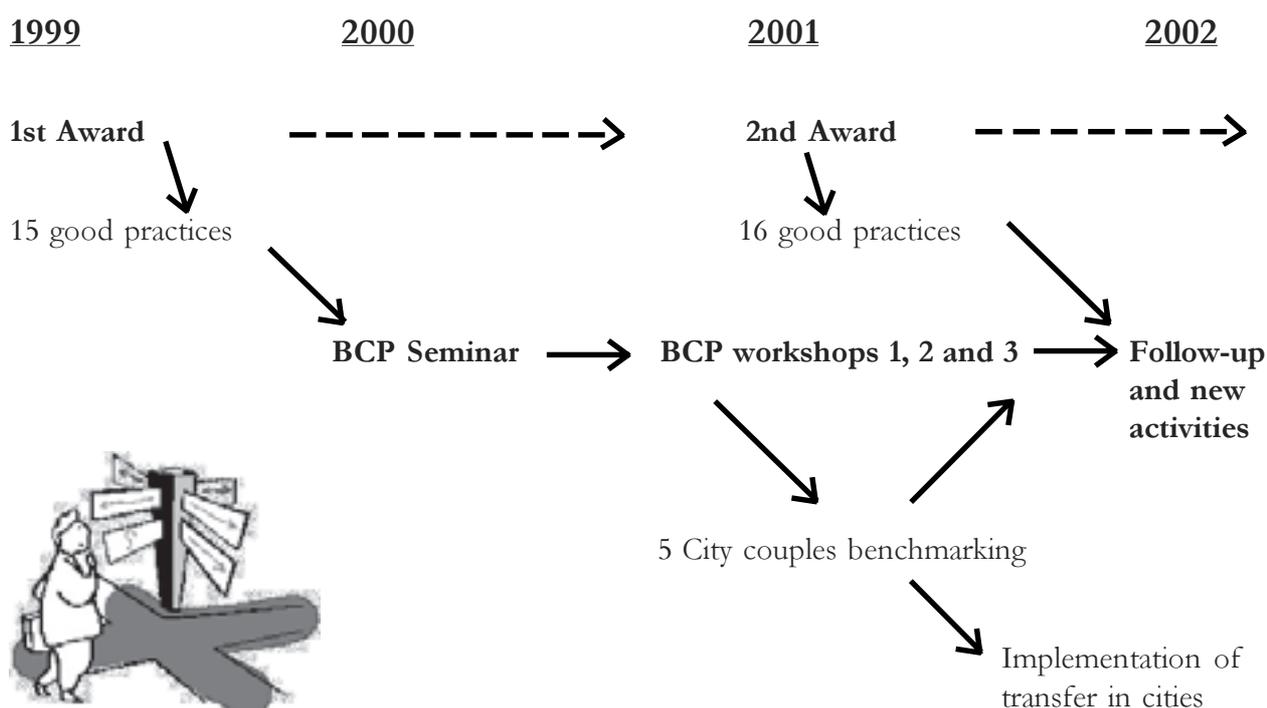
First planning seminar within the project was organised in Riga in March 2000. This was followed by the City Coupling workshop in Bützow in October 2000. Then quickly followed the selection of the city couples, their practical work and study visits, etc. The work of the couples was supported by a workshop in Kaunas, June 2001, and the final results of the couples were introduced at the last workshop in Turku in November 2001.

In 2001, as part of the BCP activity, also the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award was organised, now for the second time. 16 cities participated with their good practices. These cities were also invited for the last workshop, in order to create basis for possible follow-up of the BCP and enlarge the number of cities involved.

Brief summaries of these 16 “new” good practices are included in the third chapter of this report, and are also available in the Internet at: http://www.ubc.net/today/vith-general_award.html.

Currently, there are about 30 member cities which have expressed their interest to be part of good practice exchange activities in the future. UBC, together with the U.S. Embassy (Regional Environmental Centre) in Copenhagen, is planning for new activities to respond to the need and interest of these cities. All interested cities are welcome to contact the Commission on Environment Secretariat for more information.

UBC Best Practice Activities Scheme



What is so special about BCP, the Best City Practices Project ?

In this project, five city couples have worked together very successfully. The project budget was quite modest, but the results have been very good. The BCP Spirit has swept over some of the UBC cities.

What is the BCP Spirit?

BCP Spirit is a great spirit of co-operation. It is enthusiastic learning from each other. It has encouraged people to work together and exchange their best knowledge with each other. It is a spirit that has sent the participants to visit each other and make good friends – friends to work with.

These friends have made a good job together. They are bringing home something from each other and making it work.

Who are the couples?

The BCP City Couples were carefully selected. The chosen couples were Sillamäe-Bützow, Siauliai-Elblag, Panevezys-Turku, Sopot-Sundsvall, and ECAT Lithuania – Gotland.

What did they do?

Each of the city couples worked together on transfer of some specific good practice, as follows:

- Agenda 21 and participation of youth (Sillamäe-Bützow),
- Environmental Education (Siauliai-Elblag)
- Air Quality Monitoring (Panevezys-Turku)
- Local Agenda 21 Forum and Process (Sopot-Sundsvall), and
- Environment Bus for education in the field (ECAT LT – Gotland).

The couples made a feasibility study on transferring the good practice from one city to the other. Results were encouraging.

And what has happened afterwards?

Now several of the couples have moved on to implementation phase. ECAT Lithuania, together with seven cities in Lithuania is starting an environment bus in Lithuania. Sillamäe and Bützow have started exchange programs for youth, Sopot is developing its local Agenda 21 process on basis of models from Sundsvall, and the other couples have made good progress as well.

So What?

The Project has had an impact. It created new links between cities and it catalysed the start of many useful new activities. As a result, the participating cities have improved their performance in some practice, and this will also contribute to improving the environment.

If you want to learn more about the work and results of each city couple, you are welcome to read the articles in the next part of this publication. The full feasibility reports will be available in the Internet in June 2002 at: <http://www.ubc.net>.



Sanna Salminen from the EnvCom Secretariat (standing right) was always ready to give assistance to the city couples during the BCP project. Sanna, Grazyna Dragan and Magdalena Marchlewicz from Sopot and Marie-Louise Henriksson from Sundsvall during the third BCP workshop in Turku in November 2001.

BCP - City Coupling for Success

Environmental education

with a **Bus**

The Municipality of Gotland has used an Environmental Bus since 1994 and has thereby obtained a lot of experience, which shows that it is an interesting and attractive tool for environmental education. This mobile laboratory could reach remote places and can easily rise interest in environmental issues especially among young people.

On Gotland the Environmental Bus has been a very useful tool in the effort to spread information on biological diversity, rise awareness of how to use energy, etc. among young people.

As a result of the BASE 21 project, the Environmental Bus also has been in Pärnu, Estonia and in Tukums, Latvia. Totally, nature excursions have been carried out in approx. 20 schools in these two cities during the period of 1999–2000.

It is natural for the Municipality of Gotland to guide our neighbour with experiences on this concept. It is also in the interest of the Municipality of Gotland to spread good example of development from below perspective

towards the sustainable society.

To find out if such a Bus could be used in Lithuania, ECAT-LT and Municipality of Gotland agreed that they would do a feasibility study. The most effective way to do this would be to visit Lithuanian municipalities and to

demonstrate possibilities of how the Environmental Bus could be used.

Problems in both cities

Both partners are facing similar environmental problems. Improvement of the environment is common goal and environmental education is considered of great importance in both counties.

General economic situation is quite different. Because of difficult economic situation, high unemployment rate, many Lithuanians do not consider environmental issues as priority. There are no traditions of public participation in Lithuania and public is rather passive. New forms of environmental education and projects promoting citizen involvement would be helpful for Lithuanian municipalities.

The Plan

The fact that BCP has several phases did that we first made one origin plan for the study visit. From the result of that and workshop two we could draw up future plans.

Plan for study visit

The Environmental Bus was to be demonstrated in Lithuanian cities, because it is more efficient to show it to stakeholders directly in Lithuania: fewer people would have to travel, more people should be able to learn about the use of Environmental Bus. Everything that is necessary to see and to learn about the practise is coming with the bus.



The sun joined the children's excitement when they tried the equipment of the Environmental Bus.

If all stakeholders can see the use of the Environmental Bus in practice it will be easier to get joint broad discussion about the possibilities to use such a tool for environmental education and to make decisions for the future.

It is of great importance that a feasibility study contains sufficient substance to make well-founded decisions, hopefully towards the first Lithuanian Environmental Bus, so in addition to the demonstration of the Environmental Bus itself there's a need for meetings where the overall concept where discussed

To achieve this, it was important that as many stakeholders as possible were invited to see the bus in practice and to discuss the already existing concept.

- It is necessary for municipality administration to get acquainted with the Environmental Bus in order to make decisions about possible participation in future project and financial contributions.
- People responsible for environmental education, teachers and students are needed to decide how the bus should be equipped to serve local needs.

The most important goals of the project were to show Gotlands's experience in using Environmental Bus as an:

- Interesting and attractive tool for environmental education
- To rise interest in environmental issues especially among young people
- To find out if such a Bus could be used in Lithuania

Future plans

Already during the study visit we settled a plan over how to go on. We also gave it an, as we see it, reasonable timetable, when each moment should be in action.

A big job that is not mentioned below, is to rise funding for this project. We believe that it's an overall job for one leading organisation in the short term. (As long as this maintain as a project). And that it's one of the tasks for the workgroups to find the final solution on how the Environmental Bus activity can be financed on a permanent basis.

Future plan is to:

- Form work groups “involving” people from all categories, (2002)
- Buying the bus, equipping, (2003)
- Marketing the concept (booking), routes, (2003)
- Reaching the goal! (among others) Every 4'th grade youth in Lithuania should have at least one day with Environmental Bus. (This should be implemented latest 2005)

After WS II we had a concrete marketing plan for the Environmental Bus concept.

Shortly after WS II ECAT – Lithuania found that there was a 2-nd call for proposals in PHARE ACCESS program. (www.eudel.lt/programos/2en.html). ECAT-Lithuania has applied for funding (30000 Euro) under the project name: “Education on wheels: EU and Environmental Issues”. The Municipality of Gotland has agreed to partnership. Look under Chapter ‘Follow up’.

Realization

The Environmental Bus was demonstrated in Lithuania for one week at the end of April 2001. Of the goals, we can declare that we reached them all with one exception. The time schedule did not allow us to reach all of 12 cities, which was the original plan.

However, referring to Table 1. next column, we are more than satisfied with the result.

Tab. 1. Participants of the study visit meetings 23 - 27 April 2001

N ^o	Municipality	Total number of participants	Number of school children	Decision making people (Municipality)	Teachers+ other adults
1.	Siauliai City Municipality	21	17	1	3
2.	Siauliai Region Municipality	51	44	1	6
3.	Radviškis Region Municipality	41	31	2	8
4.	Trakai Region Municipality	32	27	2	3
5.	Kaišiadorys Region Municipality	95	88	1	6
6.	Alytus Region Municipality	101	86	2	13
7.	Marijampole City Municipality	31	17	1	13
8.	Kaunas Region Municipality	49	37	1	11
	Total:	421	347	11	63

Study visit goals

- To visit 12 Lithuanian Cities participating in ECAT's project “Local Agenda 21 for small and medium sized Lithuanian Municipalities”.
- To get information if and how the Environmental Bus could be used to stimulate public interest in environmental issues.
- To have meetings with citizens – childrens, decision makers: to demonstrate and discuss the possibilities of Environmental Bus
- To promote environmentally friendly lifestyle.

SWOT analyse

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good connection in-between • Good co-operation • Decision-makers were involved and saw how the people reacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget limits to visit more municipalities • Money for the bus in Lithuania
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People would like to have such a bus and they are ready to do it • The bus is not necessarily very expensive • Possibility to increase co-operation and crosssectoral actions in Lithuania (regions, schools) • To create working group from the participants of the meetings (decisionmakers, teachers, children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • No people working with it

Reasonable implementation?

We created a SWOT analyse on basis of the study visit. With guidance of the analyse and the reactions from all participants, mostly positive, we agreed on that weaknesses and threats are possible to overcome with a co-operation in good spirit between all partners.

Reactions & comments

We saw that people were very interested in Environmental Bus. Teachers with school children said, that such lessons in nature would be more effective, informative and attractive of course. All of them would like to have such mobile laboratory in Lithuania. Teachers of biology said, that they can try to make simple equipment (for small animals catching) themselves, like people from Gotland did.

Decisionmakers – heads of Environmental Protection Departments in municipalities also liked the Environmental Bus very much. They saw how other people reacted to such a tool for environmental education.

It was very important that all participants took part in informal meetings without boring speeches.

All stakeholders could see the use of the Environmental Bus in practice.

It was easy to get a joint broad discussion about the possibilities to use such a usefull action towards sustainability.

What resources are needed for implementation?

- Driver (s)
- Running and Maintenance
- The bus
- Bus Equipment
- Training equipment
- A large proportion of interest and engagement in order to get a well-working organisation which sets focus on quality activities for all who want to learn about biological diversity and sustainability.

Does the city have resources?

It will be necessary to form workgroups from participants who are interested in the concept, in order to utilise the possibilities concerning economical facts, content of the bus, working/time schedule and how to share responsibilities.

One by one maybe it could have been hard to rise what's needed but together the cities have a great opportunity to succeed.



Decisionmakers and schoolchildren could see and try the bus in practise (above and below).



Follow Up

As mentioned above ECAT- Lithuania and Municipality of Gotland already started with the important work of getting fundings for the future work.

After WS II ECAT – Lithuania found out that there was a 2-nd call for proposals in PHARE ACCESS program. (www.eudel.lt/programos/2en.html).

ECAT-Lithuania has applied for funding (30000 Euro) under the project name: "Education on wheels: EU and Environmental Issues".

The duration of the project is 10 month. After the 10 months of the project activities, NGO ECAT-Lithuania will continue the operation of the bus in close co-operation with the municipalities and other organizations. The further operation of the bus and the update of the material will be partly financed by the interested municipalities and other organizations requesting the services and also by using the Environmental Bus in other projects activities carried out by ECAT.

Project summary

The main goal of the project is to support Lithuanian municipalities and local NGOs in their effort to implement the requirements of EU directives in the fields of environment and nature protection.

This goal will be achieved providing “education on wheels” for public and different groups of specialists, stimulating public involvement and participation in the implementation of sustainable development principles in their communities and by strengthening collaboration between public and municipalities. For this reason an Environmental bus will be put into operation to deliver lectures, materials, exhibitions to different target groups.

The project will be beneficial for 10 selected Lithuanian municipalities, their administration and communities, local NGOs and local organizations and institutions working on environmental issues within the actual project period. In general, it can be beneficial for all Lithuanian municipalities and their communities.

Target groups

- Lithuanian municipalities (specialists, administration) which lack experience and capacities on practical implementation of EU requirements and communicating it to the community.
- Communities.
- Local NGOs dealing with environmental issues.
- Institutions as schools, kindergartens, youth organizations due to their importance for ecological and environmental education.

Project overall objectives

The overall objectives of the project are to support municipalities and local NGOs in their effort to implement the requirements of EU directives in the fields of environment and nature protection.

It also provides education for public in general and specific groups by providing information on best practices of how EU directives are implemented in reality and on the role of the individual in this process.

Aim is also to strengthen collaboration between public and municipalities by stimulating public involvement and participation in the implementation of sustainable development principles in their communities.

Project activities

Phase I. Preparatory Phase

Kick-off meeting. The project activities will be started with a kick-off meeting in which representatives of ECAT, ministries, municipalities, NGOs and other organizations and target groups will participate. During this kick-off meeting the Working Group will be formed and detailed work plan will be prepared.

Formation of a working group. The group will consist of representatives from ECAT-Lithuania, Ministry of Environment (Public Information Department) and Ministry of Education, Center of Young Environmentalists, representatives of participating municipalities and local NGOs; additionally experts could be invited based on the specific needs.

Elaboration of a detailed project work plan and tasks of participants. This includes time schedule for meetings, deadlines for different materials, list of experts/ drivers-instructors, list of persons/organizations to be contacted, dissemination plan, and preliminary plan for visits/exhibitions.

Preparation of a bus and its operation. Purchasing of a used microbus. It will include the tender procedure according to the EU requirements.

Purchasing of equipment for the bus and its arrangement. Proposals will be requested from different companies for the needed equipment and the most suitable will be chosen. The equipment includes (microscope, trammels, magnifiers, etc.) and renovation work (shelves, scoop-up mechanism, roof, etc.).

Training of a driver-instructor. The driver-instructor will get acquainted with the operation of the bus and the equipment as well as with the materials and the content/presentation of the lectures.

Preparation of methodology and materials. The Working Group chaired by ECAT will perform the task.

Meetings and discussions of the Working Group on methodology on training in the above mentioned fields. These meetings will take place on a regular basis. The specialists will have the task to clarify the methods for information and education, to arrange the development/develop informative and educational material accordingly (leaflets, posters, task-sheets, handouts, etc.) and to prepare the content of lessons and exhibitions.

Printing of prepared materials will be organized.

Phase II. Implementation of Pilot Activities

Visits to the municipalities. Three months of the project are foreseen for the visits to the municipalities to test the efficiency of the bus arrangement

Project Budget	EURO
Total cost	34 701
Amount/contribution requested from the EC	29 901
Budget Summary (Refer to project budget IV.I)	
Total fees staff	11 640
Total man-days staff	130
Total allowances costs	0
Total travel costs	867
Total training, seminars, meetings costs	886
Total publications and reports costs	1 648
Total equipment costs	17 780
Total supplies and consumables costs	600
Total other costs	480
Total administration cost	800

in practice. During these pilot visits the methodology and materials will be evaluated and eventually adjusted to the main target groups. Also feedback will be requested from the participants. This feedback will be given in form of, e.g. questionnaires, discussions, requests for proposals for improvements, etc. The lecturer will note problems, experiences, and ideas for improvement of materials during the visits as well.

Continuous meetings of the Working Group. Remarks and notes received during the visits will be given to and taken into account by the Working Group, which will supervise and adjust the materials and operation according to the lessons learned during the visits.

Roundtable meeting. The roundtable meeting of the Working Group and key participants is planned to be held in 9-th month of the project. The results of the project will be evaluated and continuation of the project will be discussed.

Phase III. Dissemination and Reporting

Dissemination of information about the environmental bus will take place in the preparatory phase as well as at the end of the implementation of the pilot activities. During the preparatory phase the future activities will be announced and the goals of the project will be explained. The dissemination activities at the end of the project will inform the Lithuanian public about the results and further activities.

Reporting. An Intermediary report will be elaborated at the end of the preparatory phase. The final report will be prepared after the round table meeting.

Role and responsibilities of all project partners

Lead applicant NGO ECAT-Lithuania will be responsible for implementation of the project goals. Project partner Municipality of Gotland will help in the process providing the information on the Environmental bus equipping and it's using for the best results.

Conclusion

The project operations have led to results exceeding expectations when the project plan was formulated.

Aside from the need to get operations underway according the principles of the project, there is an indication that there are individuals and organisations prepared to work with them.

There are clear future plans and a strong organisation behind the project, and as long as ECAT – Lithuania, Municipality of Gotland and UBC stands behind and are prepared to straighten out problems, the Environmental bus has enough substance to realize the goal.



'What interesting things can be found here?' Both children and adults were interested in experimenting.



Follow Us to the Sustainable Society!

“We” offer you:

A way to understand nature.
Possibility for co-operation.

“You” will get:

Knowledge about sustainability.
Commitment

“We” will win:

A safer place to live in.
A “better” world.

Our goal among others:

Every 4th grade youth in Lithuania should have at least one day with Environmental Bus.

(This should be implemented latest at 2005)

Steps:

To form working groups “involving” people from all categories
(from 2002 and lead by Anders T).

Buying the bus, equipping it
(from 2003).

“Marketing” the concept (booking), routes
(from 2003).

Reaching the goal!

Important:

Study visits.
Networking.

Joint effort to develop Environmental education

We understood already in the 1st BCP WS in Bützow that Siauliai and Elblag are very similar in the terms of size, population, history and even the structure and human resources of Environmental departments. This encouraged us to begin preparations of the joint project under the title “Environmental education”. In the meeting with the President of Elblag town we discovered more facts about similarities between our towns.

The history of our towns starts almost at the same time: the first written sources where the name of Siauliai town was mentioned dates back to 1236; the history of Elblag reaches the year 1237 when the first Teutonic castle was built on the river bank.

During the World War II both towns had been ruined badly: about 80% in Siauliai and 65% in Elblag.

The number of inhabitants at present in Siauliai comprises about 135 thousand; while in Elblag - about 130 thousand.

The problems of the towns are: unemployment (ca. 15% in Siauliai and 14% in Elblag); housing; bankruptcy of major industrial companies, and other social, economic and environmental problems. These mentioned problems cause passive participation of the citizens in the process of management of towns and decision making, low interest in the projects and in the process of their implementation, finally, lack of ecological culture.

Ways and methods to achieve these goals are different in various countries and towns, therefore, the goals of our project “Environmental education” were such:

- To exchange experience related to ecological education of the citizens;
- To learn the good experience of partners and to implement their ideas in our town;

- To establish contacts among educational institutions of Siauliai and Elblag towns;
- To co-operate in the fields of environment protection, research and ecological education.

When the UBC approved the “Environmental education” project, a splendid possibility for 7 representatives of different educational institutions of Siauliai town was provided to take part in the study visit to Elblag and to get to know the experience of it in organising environmental education and raising awareness of the citizens.

A well-planned and organised visit took place on 7 - 11 May, 2001. From the very first day of our arrival everything went as planned.

During the study visit:

- we visited a waste water treatment plant and municipal waste collecting and sorting grounds;
- we took part in the conference of the school children ecological parliament of Elblag town as well as the ceremony of awards held in the Town Hall for the winners of the best poster contest;
- we visited the office of the Baltic Euroregion in Elblag, Lyceum III and a day-care centre for the pre-school children;
- spent a day in Green school in Piaski.

Goals of “Environmental education”

In the process of organising environmental education and informing citizens in our towns we were aiming at the following:

- to involve inhabitants in environment protection and research activities;
- to disseminate information about the environment to various groups of society;
- to raise environmental awareness, to stimulate participation of the citizens of the town in decision making on important issues.



Participants of the study visit

Together with the co-ordinator of the project Orinta Kazeniene, the Chief Specialist of Siauliai Municipality Environment Department and Nijole Budryte, a member of the Committee of Education and Culture of the Council of Siauliai Municipality, the 5 representatives of various educational institutions of Siauliai town took part in the study visit. All the members of the group are active in environmental education in their institutions.

Sigita Savisceviene

The Manager of the kindergarten "Ziogelis". Already in 1985 the educators of the mentioned kindergarten started to implement environment protection and healthy lifestyle activities. The kindergarten was the first institution in Siauliai which joined the project "Organisation of the environment protection education in the educational institutions in Siauliai town".

Besides the "Ziogelis" kindergarten two other educational institutions took part in it - one of them was a primary school and the other was a secondary school. In the process of the project, a system of environment protection education in the pre-school level was prepared, guidelines set, methodological booklets published.

Terese Lukosiene

A teacher of geography of J. Janonio gimnazija, the founder and the leader of the school club "Friends of the Earth". She is an active organiser and participant in various activities in school and in town, prepares and carries out local and international projects.

In 1999, the J. Janonio gimnazija received the prize of the Finnish Ministry of Environment and in 2000, the school club "Friends of the Earth" was awarded a special prize by the President of Lithuania Mr. Valdas Adamkus.

Rita Toleikiene

A teacher of physics and ethics at S. Salkauskio secondary school. The

school is also active in environmental education, takes part in local, republican and international projects. One of them is a joint project with the Ventorf gymnasium, Germany (1997 - 2000) under the title "Economy of heat at school" which was among the best projects in Europe and received a special prize.

Besides taking part and co-ordinating a number of projects, the teacher is a leader of the school discussion club "N-14".

Vita Stelingiene

A Deputy Headmaster of Rekyvos basic school. This school joined the environment protection and education process very 'silently'. It became famous after it received the prize in a contest organised in Lithuania by the Finnish Ministry of Environment.

All the school community is actively involved in environmental protection activities including the headmaster, teachers, students and their parents. Most probably here lies the secret why all the projects prepared by the school are very well-considered, planned and reasonable. Due to this, the school receives support from the municipality and other organisations.

Rima Morkuniene

A Deputy Headmaster of Didzdvario gimnazija, an English teacher. Environmental education at this school is highly supported by the administration, thus, the activities of the school have spread over the borders of Lithuania.

Members of the Ecological club, for example, took part in an environmental conference in Germany in 2000 which was organised by UNESCO Associated schools network. For a number of years the school also carried out projects with the partner school Eco Pilots, from Sweden and in 1998 - 1999. A project funded by EU SOCRATES programme was implemented, the theme of which was "The Individual and environment" under the title "Water". The students made research of water both in Siauliai and Solvesborg, the Baltic sea, studied organic farming and got acquaint-

ed with the paper and pulp industry. The results of the project were published in a joint Internet magazine SPLIM.

Presentation and comparison of the experience acquired

In the process of preparation of the project we expected to have a possibility to share our experience, i.e., to visit both Elblag and Siauliai. In this way we could be able to apply the benchmarking method the main idea of which is learning by comparing and learning by sharing. During the study visit to Elblag we had a good opportunity to learn by comparing the experience of Elblag and Siauliai.

The results of the visit could be divided into four major parts which we will present starting in the following chapter, next page.

**- When we make investments
in children
we make investments in our
future.**

(Mrs. Czeslawa Piotrowska)



Results of the study visit - Comparisons

1. Town heads' attitudes towards environment and ecological education

Elblag

During the meeting with the President of Elblag, it was clearly seen that environment protection is one of the priorities of the town. The President expressed his satisfaction for the fact that Elblag was the first town in Poland to receive the prize of the EU (the certificate is on the wall of the reception room of the President) and the flag. In 1999, the town received the award from the President Mr. A. Kwasniewski for the most ecological town.

The support of the politicians in solving a number of environmental problems and organising environmental education is obvious and the staff members of the environment protection department are respected and supported.

Not without the determination, courage and understanding the Green school in Piaski was established. Due to the politicians and staff members of the environment department all the school students who are active in various environmental projects are appreciated and encouraged. The best

works (posters & drawings) of the school students are displayed in the Town Hall. Every year, the winners of the contests are awarded with valuable prizes (photo albums, books) and diplomas.

We were honoured to take part in the ceremony of awards of school students where the Vice President Mrs. Czeslawa Piotrowska said: "When we make investments in children we make investments in our future" and it made a great impression on all the members of the group. It illustrates ecological understanding and culture of the politicians and it was proved during sincere and warm reception of our study group.



Siauliai

Unfortunately, not many politicians in Siauliai are interested in environment protection. For example, during the activities of the Month of the Earth three seminars on research of the quality of the environment of the town, biological diversity and environmental education were held and only 1 of 31 politicians of the town took part in them. But when we ask the politicians to approve one or another environment protection program, we get claims of the lack of information.

Therefore, it happened that this year a project to develop routes for the bicycle-riders was stopped, even, the project was approved by the Council of the former election. The motivation was such: currently, there are more important problems and works in the town to be resolved. At the moment our major task is to form a positive attitude of the politicians, employers, citizens towards environment protection and education, raise the level of ecological awareness among all the groups of the town dwellers. It requires lots of attempts.

2. Comparing intersectoral contacts with other departments

Elblag

It is well known that with the efforts of one department it is impossible to achieve such international and republican evaluation and appreciation as Elblag has reached in the field of the environment protection. In our opinion, the awards received from the EU and the President of Poland is the result of the joint activities of all departments of the municipality which is supported by local politicians. Close contacts among various departments depend on the stability of the government. We realised that the social democrats won the second elections in the Municipality of Elblag. Thus, we can make an assumption that the projects planned and started in the first round are continued at present. The atmosphere of continu-

ity and consistency of ideas and works is being felt in the municipality.

Siauliai

There is no tradition of close co-operation among various departments of the municipality yet. This, we think, is influenced by the constant change of the heads and governors of the town, and as we know well, each new government introduces new reforms which includes staff reductions, allocation of new functions and responsibilities, designing new strategies and plans. There is a lack of consistent and continuous plans and works.

3. Conditions to take care and cherish environment in the towns

Collecting, sorting and recycling of waste

Elblag

We had a possibility to visit waste collecting, sorting and recycling plant which was constructed 5 years ago. There municipal wastes are being collected and sorted; glass, plastic, paper wastes as well as household items (furniture, electricity devices, etc.). It was evident, that in order to achieve good results it was needed to:

- make conditions favourable for sorting various wastes in town;
- educate and stimulate the inhabitants to sort wastes at home, at work, and in public places.

We could see the conditions for sorting wastes in all the places we visited: municipality, Lyceum, Green school and even the day-care centre for the pre-school children. Besides sorting glass and paper, there are conditions to sort plastic, old medicine, tins for beer and soft drinks and old batteries.

It is very important that all the sorted wastes are collected and delivered to the recycling plant by a special truck. In this way, the policy of sorting wastes becomes very efficient.

Siauliai

All the waste is being transported to the dump which was founded almost 50 years ago and now it is time to close it down. Only glass and paper wastes are being sorted in Siauliai but there were attempts to sort organic wastes also. The experiment was possible in co-operation with the support of Kristianstad town (Sweden) but it did not bring the expected results. At the moment there is no such complex waste treatment plant as we saw in Elblag but the projects and applications to EU IASP funds are being prepared to get grants and funds for construction of a similar plant.

For example recycling should be so automatic that you wouldn't even think of doing an environmental act. Photo from Gdynia, Poland.

Waste water treatment plant

Elblag

During the study visit we learnt that in Elblag the mechanical waste water treatment plant was built in 1988, biological one in 1992, chemical one in 1996. Currently, the plant is being modernised according to the EU standards. We were impressed by the fact that the waste water silt is made dry and it is composted for 2 years. Later it is transported to the nearby waste recycling company for covering and putting layers of soil. It is a good example of successful co-operation of the two nearby companies and allows the town to solve the problems in relation to environment protection.

Siauliai

We can be proud of the fact that Siauliai was the first town in Lithuania and in the Baltic countries where biological waste water treatment plant was constructed in 1967. There is no chemical waste water treatment plant in the town. At the moment we are facing a problem of waste water silt. Still the wet silt is being pumped to the silt collecting grounds located 8 km outside the town. Huge amounts of silt are constant threats to the environment. Currently, with the help of the governments of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Lithuania as well as the World bank a new and modern waste water treatment plant is being constructed 8 km outside the town. It is planned to start operation in 2002.



Development of the town, architecture and green spaces

Elblag

We have a picture of Elblag based on our impressions and experiences of the 5-day visit. In our opinion, Elblag is far more advanced in the field of town development, architecture and green spaces in comparison with Siauliai.

The town is developed in accordance with a well-prepared development plan. We were impressed by the ways the old town is being rebuilt. Due to the private capital and prepared plans the old architecture and authentic buildings are preserved.

Green spaces are well-taken care of and that gives an impression of a clean, modern and attractive town. A big variety of sorts and forms of plants leaves a very positive impression.

Siauliai

Construction works are rather chaotic and unreasonable in Siauliai, without integrated reconstruction plans for blocks of houses and buildings. One building is 'attached' to another and it results in chains of buildings different in style, forms, colours, etc.

Most of the green spaces in Siauliai are old and not well-kept, many trees are sick and therefore are dangerous for those in the neighbourhood. The reconstruction of the green spaces of the town has to be carried out, some of the trees should be cut down and new ones planted.

It is a very serious problem for the town in the terms of finances as well as consciousness of the people. It is obvious that the citizens of the town do not want to recognise the fact that each living organism has its beginning and its end, that old trees have to be substituted by the new ones. In this respect, we are far behind our partners in Elblag, but since 2001 in Siauliai there is town gardener who attempts to change the picture of the town in the terms of green spaces.

In general we could share our experi-

4. Comparing environmental education of youth in Siauliai and Elblag

ences in environmental education on equal basis. All the members of the group constantly repeated that in Elblag we were able to prove to ourselves that we have chosen the right ways and methods of educating and informing the citizens in Siauliai. We noticed that in Elblag sustainable de-

velopment is being emphasised more including teaching democracy while we point out only environment protection. We saw that the children in Elblag have better conditions to express themselves and their attempts are noticed, they receive warm and sincere words of support and grati-

tude. Despite this, we think that children are alike everywhere - they are initiative, active, eager to learn and able to enjoy even the most simple attention showed or a present given.

4.1. Environment protection projects of the youth

Elblag

1. Lyceum III. We had a possibility to visit Lyceum and to listen to the presentation of the environment protection project which is going to be implemented in 2001. We were pleasantly impressed by the logical (project) thinking, the way they are planning their activities day by day and design a thorough action plan and time schedule.

1st project - "A day without cars" is planned to be implemented on 21st September. The Lyceum III students will call the students of the neighbouring schools, offices and municipality employees not to use their cars on that day except for the public transport. During our visit, they had already a detailed action plan when, where and who will carry out the

project. It is the first project so the students do not expect high results. They simply want to draw society's attention to the problems of air pollution and form a positive attitude towards environment.

2nd project - which is important to the Environment department - is inventory of one of the six parks in Elblag. It is a complex project work. The students are divided into 3 groups, each of them has a specific task. One group is inventorying trees and bushes, the other is measuring and marking them on the map and the third group is working with the computer - scanning and preparing a CD.

These projects clearly show that they are useful not only for the school but,

first of all, for the town. The ideas come from the Environment department while the implementation is possible with the help of the educational institutions and it shows the high interest in the environment education of the heads of the town as well as close co-operation among them. During the study visit we had a good possibility to get to know only environmental education of children and youth.

Due to the tight schedule we had no chance to know about the participation of non-governmental institutions in environmental education, environment education of the citizens in the broader scale and information of the society.

Siauliai

From the background information about the members of the group it is possible to realise that the prevailing method of environmental education in educational institutions of Siauliai is the project work. There is a number and variety of school projects. The ideas are born within the walls of an educational institution and later, the significance and importance of project for the institution as well as for the town has to be proved.

It is obvious that a present system of project preparation, presentation and funding differs from that of our Polish partners. The number of educational institutions preparing and willing to implement environment protection projects is much higher than the funds allocated.

During the last two years we have been organising a contest of the en-

vironment education projects for the educational institutions. For example, 20 educational institutions of Siauliai presented 23 projects this year. Most of the projects deal with the construction of the ecological -health paths, green classrooms, conferences on natural sciences, research camps, research of lakes, ecological audit of schools, collection and publishing of methodological materials.

It is necessary to point out that this year we received projects from 4 pre-school day-care centres, 2 primary schools, 3 basic schools, 7 secondary schools, 2 gymnasiums, a vocational school and from a school of young naturalists. The projects show that schools are interested in the environment and proves the means and directions of the environment protection education in general.

We apply similar ways and methods of encouragement of involvement of non-governmental institutions. This year we had a contest for funding NGO and received 10 projects, six of which were approved. One of them was the Kurtuvos Green school which is very popular among school students.

We have experience in organising, preparing and evaluating of educational projects and we are ready to share it with our partners in Elblag. During the visit in Lyceum III, our teachers made contacts with the school and in the future we sincerely hope it could develop into joint and mutually successful international projects. We are aiming at establishing new contacts with all potential partners as it is stated in our project.

4.2. School student conferences

Elblag

We were invited to take part in a conference of ecological parliament of school students. It is an annual conference and very popular among 36 schools, clubs and classes of Elblag. Each year the conference has new themes. The theme of this year, 2001, was: "Past and future. Impact of civilisation on environment".

The school students made presentations on the small-scale business versus big industries: pros & cons, environmental impact of the transport and problems of the sea-port. Some of the presentations were supported and illustrated by songs, poems and drawings.

We got the impression that the students feel themselves as an important part of the society. A part which is able to make proposals to the town government concerning solution of some environmental problems. The resolution has been passed-on in the conference to prepare a letter of intentions. This will be presented to the Government of Elblag town to take actions and protect small animals in the surroundings of the settlement (the place where the conference was held).

Siauliai

A number of various conferences are held in Siauliai as well. We have to admit the fact that they are not so big in number of participants. Mostly students of 1 - 5 schools take part in them. In April, one member of the group organised a conference at J. Janonio gimnazija "Noise in the school surroundings".

Before the conference, the participants of 5 schools carried out noise tests in classrooms, canteens, discos, corridors during breaks and near streets. The collected results were analysed, presented in the conference and compared. The results have to be seriously taken into consideration - the level of noise at schools is very high, so it is the right time to take adequate measures. The conference was a great success and lots of students and teachers took part in it.

4.3. Green schools

Elblag

Green school in Piaski made a huge impression on our group but left us with the question on how to persuade politicians to approve the idea and activities of the school.

The positive use and value of the school left us no doubts. It is an opportunity for the children of 6th grade to study the surrounding environment, to practice their skills and deepen knowledge in the various fields of studies, e.g. ornithology, maritime systems, etc.

Piaski Ornithological Station was the first one in Europe. It is open two months a year, while the Green school is open all year round. The students have practical workshops with lecturers and professors from other educational institutions (University of Gdansk).

During the summer various camps are organised as are conferences, seminars and workshops. The funding is 50-50 % from the city of Elblag and from the school itself. The students have to pay ca. 54 ZLO for a study week, which we think is reasonable. This school is a good example of investment into the children which will pay back in the future.

Siauliai

There is a similar green school in Siauliai, also. This three-year-school is meant for students interested in studying environment research and protection later at universities. They can study geography, geology, zoology, ornithology, etc. Theoretical lectures and practical workshops are held by professors from Lithuanian universities. Afterwards students get an extra point in admission to Vilnius University, Faculty of natural sciences.

The activities of the school are based on enthusiasts and financed by parents and projects. Summer camp for 25 students is financed by the Municipality of Siauliai.

We think that it would be useful for similar schools to establish contacts, and maybe in the future to organise international camps or workshops.

4.4. Baltic Euroregion

Elblag

The fact that Elblag is a member of the Baltic Euroregion, established in 1988, provides the town possibility to take part in various projects, establish contacts and find new partners. Besides the Polish coastal area, the Baltic Euroregion includes coastal area of Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad region and Sweden.

We realised that the initiative and the support of the office of the Baltic Euroregion in Elblag is very helpful in organising and carrying out projects in relation with the environment protection and education, summer camps for school children, contests for the best drawing and poster, etc.

Siauliai

We can only feel sorry that our town is not included in the Baltic Euroregion and we can not take part in its activities as equal partners. But we know that Klaipeda is a member of the Baltic Euroregion, so we will try to co-operate with the office in Klaipeda and discuss the possibility to take part in projects as 'silent' partners.

We expressed our interest to leave contact addresses in the partner search data base and wish to co-operate in the fields of environment protection, research and education.

Benefits and results of the project

The aims of the project “Ecological education” and the study visit to Elblag were to get to know the best practice of this city. Because of the lack of time it was impossible to study and get familiar with the system of environmental education and information in Elblag properly.

Project was successful and useful in many aspects. All representatives of various educational institutions of Siauliai City saw how and with what measures the ecological education is arranged in the neighbour country. We had a possibility to compare the experience of the two cities. There is a great number of school projects, student conferences, contests, ceremonies and other events in Siauliai which are very similar to those we have seen in Elblag in the sense of actual problems and that differ only in preparation and implementation phases.

We came back from Elblag full of fresh ideas. The experience of III Lyceum students organizing a day without a car in Elblag will be very useful for us. For the first time, the Lithuanian Minister of Environment invited all Lithuanian municipalities to participate in the international campaign “The day without a car 2001”. Therefore, already this year we are going to follow the example of Elblag and propose to the NGO’s of Siauliai to organize “In the city without my car 2002”.

We have financial and human resources to implement this good practice in our city. Implementation of the Green School like the one we saw in Piaski, is impossible in the city at the moment. It is evident that first we have to solve the problem of financial resources as well as get positive attitude from politicians towards environmental protection and education.

Project was extremely useful in the aspect of information dissemination as well. An article on our visit was published in the Siauliai’s daily newspaper. On the main pedestrian street of Siauliai there is an Information Board where we had the possibility to demonstrate of the project “Environmental education”. In this case the citizens of Siauliai had a good chance to know about City of Elblag and our common project as well.

The project was useful not only in a formal aspect but human aspect as well. During the visit we met kind, warm and friendly people who took care of us during all 5 days. For every member of our group it was the first long stay in Poland. Before the study visit all of them travelled through Poland – it was a transit country. Today we can openly say that since the vis-

it this country is not just a “place name” for us. Elblag, Malbork, Piaski, Gdansk – these are the places we visited and met lovely people.

SWOT analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention and support of politicians and heads of the town towards environmental education • Close contacts with the other departments of the municipality, consecutive projects and possibility of continuity • Project works are popular in the schools of Elblag • All the 6th grade secondary school students of Elblag have a good possibility to have a 5 day course in Green school in Piaski • Membership of Baltic Euroregion opens possibilities to take part in various projects including international projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the politicians, the environment department should work with the citizens of the town and to educate and inform them about the environment • During the short period of the study visit it was not possible to see consecutive and continual environmental education system (pre-school - secondary school - lyceum) • Secondary school students of other grades have a small possibility to carry out educational - research activities in the Green school in Piaski
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good possibilities to implement programs, projects, plans consecutively and be free from misunderstandings • Provides with possibility to prepare good projects and applications to get grants and financial support • Facilitates to prepare projects which are useful for the town and make action plan for the next year or two in advance and to expect not only moral but financial and technical support as well (e.g.: computers) • To develop theoretical and practical knowledge and skills in nature, to learn new methods of teaching and learning, to get to know the school students from other schools • The field of activities expands, new contacts are being established. With the help of various projects there is a good possibility to learn about foreign countries, people, traditions and culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the government changes, their attitude and opinion on environmental education can change. In order to avoid this, the politicians and the citizens have to be educated and updated information provided on environmental issues • Change of the members of the municipality staff as well as involvement of new staff members in the process of preparation and implementation of various projects • Possibility of negative competition among educational institutions of the town • The Green school should not become a compulsory. Students interested in environmental issues should be selected and given possibility to study in the Green school

Co-operation helps to forward the Local Agenda 21



One of the most important points of the strategy for the new phase of LA 21 process in Sopot is the co-operation with the city of Sundsvall within the project Best City Practice. Local Agenda 21 in every city has common objectives and everybody can learn something from another city or person as there are issues which are international and intercultural.

Sundsvall is a city which is more experienced within this field than Sopot is – their LA21 process started earlier than the process in Sopot and from different basis. Overall achievements of Sundsvall are also a considerable step ahead from Sopot. This gives therefore the possibility for the cities to exchange useful experiences, ideas and remarks. Thanks to such a co-operation Sopot can avoid some mistakes which it might be heading for, and the work can become much more effective.

Sundsvall has a huge experience with stimulating of public participation and with activating of the municipal and private sector – the point that is now being high lightened in Sopot. This will also surely contribute to the successful development of the Local Agenda 21 in Sopot.

There are also several different projects which have been or are being implemented in Sundsvall which can be transplanted to Sopot – first of all the project “Clean Workplace”.

City of Sundsvall

Sundsvall is a medium-sized city situated in the centre of Sweden, some 400 kilometres north of Stockholm on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia. The city has ca. 93,500 residents the bulk of whom live in or near Sundsvall proper.

The labour market is however larger as within an one-hour commuting distance there is an additional popula-

tion of 50,000 in Härnösand, Timrå, Ånge and Nordanstig. Sundsvall is an important domestic transportation hub with Sweden’s seventh largest airport and a travel time to Stockholm, the capital, of three hours by high-speed train. Sundsvall also has the deepest harbour in northern Sweden which handles a considerable goods tonnage.

Environmental burden

For over one hundred years the Sundsvall region has been industrial, commercial and financial heart of northern Sweden. Timber and water power provided the backbone of industrial development in the area. Today, there are still a number of major industries in the Sundsvall area. The forest industry plays an important role with the Ortvikens Pulp and Paper Mill, the Tunadal Sawmill and the Östrand Pulp Mill. Other large industries include the Akzo Nobel’s Stockviksverken, a large chemical enterprise and Sweden’s sole aluminium producer, Kubal, Kubikenborgs Aluminium AB.

Through the years Sundsvall’s image has been intimately associated with the major industries located near the core area and consequently Sundsvall had become known as a town burdened with environmental problems. Areas like Sundsvall, with a long history of industrial activity, have to bear the weight of earlier environmental “transgressions”. Leaching landfill sites, contaminated and, in places dead, seabed in the Bay of Sundsvall, polluted soil at old industrial sites, mercury contaminated lakes and other problems have been inherited.

However, over the past few decades major improvements have been achieved by virtue of the energetic and dedicated efforts of the industries themselves and the municipality. The fruit of their combined endeavours is changing the image of Sundsvall.

City of Sopot

Sopot is a city situated in the Northern Poland, on the Bay of Gdansk and is the central part of Northern Poland’s biggest conurbation known as ‘the Tri-City’.

On its southern boundary is the industrial and historic city of Gdansk, to the north lies the modern city of Gdynia. To the west there rise ancient forests 100 metres above the town on a richly sculpted zone known locally as the Gdansk Heights, bordering a raised area of lakes beyond. The centre of Sopot is 11 kilometres from the centre of Gdansk and 10 kilometres from the centre of Gdynia. The town buildings spread out on a narrow area, within the length of about 4,5 kilometre. Over a half of the town encompassing a total area of 17.31 km² is covered with forests, parks and greens.

Tourism is back

Today the city is a closed circle town with about 42.000 inhabitants. The rate of unemployment within the city is rather low – about 4 % of the population. The main source of Sopot’s revenue is tourism, and generally Sopot is the city of tourism, recreation and entertainment. In the decree of the Ministry of Health Service and Social Welfare from 27.01.1999 Sopot was stated the status of health resort.

Each year, over 2 million tourists and holidaymakers visit the city. They are captivated not only by tourist attractions and golden beaches but also by the wide range of illness treatment cures offered by the city and rich cultural and recreational offer.

As it comes to environmental challenges, worth mentioning is a very characteristic fact of the city that there is almost no industry within the city’s area. That’s why the pollution is not that huge problem as it is in many other agglomerations. Nevertheless there are always a lot of issues that must be dealt with within the field of environmental protection.

Background of the co-operation

LA 21 activities in Sopot

Although the action towards the Local Agenda 21 in Sopot started as late as 1995-96, the first steps towards development strategy and sustainable development of the city were made earlier. Sopot's LA21 origins in 1990 when new conditions - changes in Poland and in whole Eastern Europe in 1989 - enabled the town to make its decisions about the direction it wanted to develop in. It was then when the development strategy of Sopot on its status as a health resort and tourist centre was based. It was then when the first steps in order to improve the environment and standard of living were taken.

The Local Agenda 21 process started as the result of the dialogue between the municipality and different groups of stakeholders. During the implementation of the strategy it became clear that one of the most important conditions for the success of the common objectives is the co-operation and integration of all the actors within the town and of all the social groups. It occurred also that although there was no formal Agenda 21 document the town was heading just in that direction.



It was decided that there is a need of a new strategic plan which will combine all the fields of sustainable development seen from different groups of actors' point of view. This initiative occurred in 1995. Finally the new strategic plan, which has become the local Agenda 21, was under-signed in 1996 after few months long action consisting of the diagnosis concerning the state of the city and its inhabitants and several workshops of the Team of Strategy Elaboration. During the following years detailed schedules of the undertakings were created, and the strategy was implemented.

Beach life starts again

During the following years the process was fully implemented with the contribution of all the Municipality Departments. In 1997, all of Sopot's beaches were opened for sunbathing and half for bathing. In the following years, all the marine coastal water started to correspond to the criteria of usefulness for bathing, almost in whole length of the shoreline. All this meant that in May 1998 the Minister of Health issued a decision stating that the town of Sopot had met all the necessary requirements to be hailed as a health resort.

How about waste and pollution?

In order to control the amount of pollution, a station of constant air control was completed in 1998. Two sewage-pumping stations were modernised in 1996-1999 and adapted to remote measurement transfer of data. Nowadays Sopot has its own compost place, MIX waste program with segregation of litter, and special days for inhabitants to get rid of non-standard waste. As one of the results of this successful process the city was awarded the City Towards EU Compliance Award.

Also within the field of economic and social sustainable development the challenges issues in the LA21 Action plan have been successfully dealt with, touristic, sport and cultural infrastructure has been developed and the city is booming with new charms and virtues.

Although the resolutions of the strategy have been successfully implemented, no organ or office, which had the task to verify and update the LA21 not only from the municipality workers' point of view but also of the inhabitants, have not been established.

The possibilities of the dialogue with the society have not been fully used. The society was not fully informed about the decisions taken within the municipality, the extent of the public participation has not been satisfactory. The municipality must make steps towards the public participation, one of such steps is the establishment of the Local Agenda 21 Office.

In Sopot there has not been established any particular department responsible solely for the implementation of the LA21 Action Plan. The responsibility for reporting of the realisation of LA21 lays on the city's management but also on the Environmental Commission and Strategy Commission of the City Council. On the other hand the LA21 Office, which has just been created, is lead by a NGO which got this task from the municipality.



Today Sopot is in the phase of entering the next stage of LA 21 activities. The main objectives of this process are (beside the implementation of the LA 21 Action Plan):

- Awareness raising about the idea of Agenda 21, sustainable development and the environmental directives, spreading of the information of the undertakings and decisions within the city, with the focus on the three main fields of the sustainable development.
- Initiating and supporting of environmentally friendly projects heading to goals connected with the sustainable development.
- Establishment of the dialogue and the plane of co-operation between the municipality and the society and the stimulation of the public participation with the focus on the NGO's.
- Collection of the opinions of the society and the grassroots perspective comments and conveying it to the municipality actors.
- Analysis of the situation of the city, verification of the strategic plan, calculation of needs and creation of the foundation for establishing of the Local Agenda 21 Forum.

LA 21 activities in Sundsvall

In 1990 the City Council in Sundsvall adopted the following goal:

“Sundsvall should be a municipality with a good environment in ecological balance, where people can live in good health and enjoy uspoilt natural surroundings. The image of Sundsvall as an environmentally burdened industrial centre shall be changed. Not later than 1995 the city will be well-known for the results of its good environmental protection efforts.”

Despite an economic crisis along the way, the politicians have stuck to this goal and ensured that environmental work and public health has ben allocated resources and has moved steadily up the political agenda.

Sundsvall began working on the production of a Local Agenda 21 in 1994. It was natural then to base this understanding on the same grounds as the 1991 world health conference held in Sundsvall by the WHO and UNEP. The conference theme was ‘Supportive Environments for Health’ and the closing declaration, the Sundsvall Declaration, presented both opportunities and responsibilities to the residents of Sundsvall to continue the following work.

Environmental issues in Sundsvall involve all the city’s departments and enterprises. Every department

and civic company is required to include environmental considerations in their operations and allow environmental factors to influence their undertakings. Sundsvall’s Agenda 21, as adopted by the City Council in December of 1997, requires the participation of all civic bodies. A large number of new dynamic projects have generated new approaches and ideas, which have then been incorporated in the day-to-day work of the municipality

During the preceding years Sundsvall worked to install the Agenda ideas through educational activities and via projects to examine and evaluate different strategies. Sundsvall’s Agenda 21 sets forth the overall aim of making Sundsvall a sustainable so-

ciety by year 2020. Businesses, the municipality, organisations and individuals are responsible for determining their own plan of action in order to reach the goal.

The work involved with Sundsvall’s Agenda 21 is one of the city’s central concerns and, as of January 1999, the City Executive Council’s Development Committee has assumed responsibility for these issues. The Development Committee works together with a

group of civil servants. The Committee also leads work concerning the labour market, general planning, traffic planning, public health as well as business and international collaboration. The focus is on undertakings that cross traditional boundaries and the Development Committee’s work is to lead to a city that is attractive for children and young people.



Participation of the city’s inhabitants is essential to the success of LA21. In Sundsvall people have been actively involved in all parts of the development of LA21.

The work in Sundsvall can be summarised as:

- Participation
- Knowledge
- Cyclical approach
- Long-term
- Sustainability

Sundsvall’s projects which are relevant to the BCP co-operation with Sopot

Environmental Balance Sheet (EBS)

In 1991, when the City Council adopted the city’s environmental plan it also required an annual assessment to be done in a form of an “environmental balance sheet”. The residents of Sundsvall were to be involved in work to improve the environment and receive clear information concerning the return on funds invested in the environment. Knowledge is necessary if people are to be able to influence events and therefore the environmental balance sheet has come to play a role in the democratic process.

The first EBS was published in 1991 and was not only the first for Sundsvall, but also the first in Sweden. Today, roughly one-third of the local governments in Sweden release annual environmental audits/balance sheets. Work is currently underway to create a system of green key ratios. Each Miljöbokslut is a published

document that concentrates on describing the environmental situation in Sundsvall and the work carried out to improve it by the municipality and others over the preceding year.

The EBS is just one tool used to increase understanding and interest in our environment. The local media presents and analyses the contents of each annual copy. It also serves as a source of information when environmental issues are up for discussion by the City Council. Residents are welcome to get a free copy at their local library and information is also available at the city’s website

Follow-up and evaluation are important elements in the work of generation change. The Environmental Balance Sheet is a important component of the eco-auditing process in Sundsvall.

Sundsvall's Environment Plan

The environment plan contains a series of detailed proposals to improve the environment. This action plan also aims to reach the goals set down by the City Council in 1990 with respect to our natural surroundings and environment. Among the goals is to alter the image of Sundsvall as an industrial centre burdened by environmental problems.

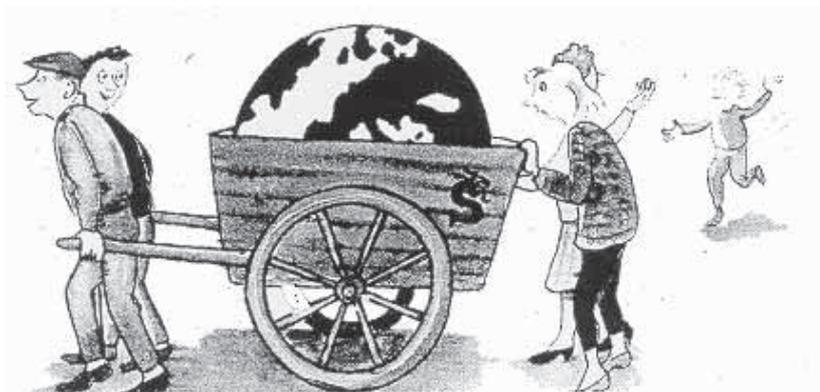
Work associated with the Environment Plan was conducted in project form within the city executive until end of 1997, when a Local Agenda 21 was adopted. Agenda 21 undertakings are now the responsibility of City Planning Unit of the Office of the Executive Board which continues to strive towards a healthy living environment.



Clean Workplace

The project Clean Workplace! was launched in May of 1993. The aim was to get underway an effective and self powered work for the environment at a minimum of 50% of the municipality's workplaces. The work would be part of the Agenda 21-work and the goal was to reduce the pressure on the environment, to show a good example, to increase the consciousness about the environment and to profile the municipality regarding the work for the environment. The project ended in June of 1998.

The method of work for Clean Workplace! aimed at inspiring people to work for the environment at the workplace. The project was to put forward good examples in order to inspire others to follow suit. The different workplaces decided themselves, management together with the workers, whether they wanted to participate in the project or not, what measures to concentrate on and what to pace to be set.



The most important outcome of the Clean Workplace! was an increased awareness and deeper knowledge about environmental problems and Agenda 21. Apart from that, most of them have changed their behaviour towards a more environmentally friendly one - at home as well as at work.

Furthermore they have acted as ambassadors for the municipality's environmental work. Other important results are a higher degree of self-confidence, an increased willingness to take on responsibility and a better concord at work together with improved contacts between workplaces. The method of work has been especially appreciated among women who make up 85% of the employees.

Money saving as well

Clean Workplace! has also saved money. The cost for the project amounted to SEK 450.000 per year including cost for project management. The effects on the economy calculated on a choice of actions indicated that the municipality had saved at least SEK 1,4 millions per year the project ran. If these changes were to be made at all the municipality's workplaces SEK 5,5 millions could be saved. Many of the changes have since been carried out.

The method of Clean Workplace! is almost completely bottom-up-engineered and is quite unconventional. However, one experience learned from the project is that when people are given the opportunity to obtain knowledge and then are allowed to try their own ideas, things start to happen. The pace of change has rarely seen to become as powerful as this one. Without the employees commitment the project would have been considerably less successful.

Green Purchasing

The Purchase Guide has become the basis for ecological purchase that all local authorities in the province have adopted. The first guide was published 1994 and it is constantly evaluated by its users. It also works for purchasers in the private sector and is used at schools and other educational situations.

The guide is divided into sections for goods and services: transportation, packaging, plastics, vehicles, fuels, batteries, furniture, textiles, office machines, provisions etc. The material can easily and without too much revision be used in different kinds of purchasing.

Local Agenda 21 Calendar

Each family living in Sundsvall received a special calendar, which consists not only the normal information about the year but also all the essential information about environmentally friendly living. Information about waste management, recycling sites, In town without my car - event, projects ongoing within the city etc. can be found there. It contains also a competition for the citizens on the theme of sustainability.

Information Office

Spreading information within the society is one of the most essential parts of the dialogue between the municipality and citizens. To enable the inhabitants of Sundsvall to get information they need and to inform them about different matters an office has been established with the task to answer all possible questions. Various meetings on e.g. LA 21 issues can be held there also.

EveryDay Environment – the family project

During the autumn 2001, 12 families will participate in a project to test different measures for an improved environment. Families will implement one environmentally friendly habit into their everyday life. One family will use energy-saving bulbs and one, water-saving instruments. Another family will purchase eco-friendly food and one pair will eat more environmentally sound food (more vegetarian, more game and lamb).

Several families will compost and sort their waste at source. One family will learn eco-driving, another one will cycle to work instead of taking the car. All families will receive information and support from variety of experts.

Every family will keep a diary of how they feel about changes that environmental adaptation involves as well as noting successes and setbacks. The families will also be interviewed by media which will report the results of experiment. Good example and especially direct benefits for the families will surely have big impact on the other people's attitude towards the so called sustainable habits.

Feasibility study

Local Agenda 21 is the issue that is utterly international and intercultural. Although the strategy towards the sustainable development is different in each city and each country as it depends on the local circumstances, the main objectives are. That is why a lot of ideas, projects and initiatives can be implemented in different cities. Of course it is impossible to copy all the process as the conditions are different. This is also the case of cooperation between Sopot and Sundsvall. But there are several projects that have been implemented in the city of Sundsvall which can be easily launched in Sopot, even without bigger changes

Examples from Sundsvall which will be used in Agenda 21 activities in Sopot

Local Agenda 21 Calendar will be edited in Sopot already this year. It will include information of LA21 and the sustainable development and events, project and meetings prepared by the LA 21 Office and the municipality. Unfortunately due to the limited financing possibilities the calendar will not be distributed for free to each household. It will be delivered at least to all classes at schools, organisations etc.

The calendar will also be distributed at the meetings with the citizens. It will be used also as an award in the youth competitions organised by the LA21 Office. The plan is to publish 3000 issues this year and hopefully next year the edition will be at least doubled. We hope this will help to activate the public participation and contribute to the overall awareness raising process.

We have also planned to organize a **project for families and households** during 2002. The idea of choosing several families which could become an example of sustainable way of living is already accepted by the LA21 Office in Sopot and the project will most probably start next summer. Now the families must be chosen and convince the media to take the patronage over it. Another issue is the funding. Some funds must be available for buying of necessary equipment, e.g. energy-saving money and some kind of rewards for the participants, as in all likelihood the fame itself will not be encouraging enough.

Inspiration to Sopot's LA 21 workers gave also the **Information Centre**. There is no such centre covering all the possible questions touching the citizens life and it is rather unlike to create such. As this role is divided into several small places and offices, we decided that we could adapt at least one idea. This

project will organise meetings with citizens in the LA21 Office in Sopot, which will also become a kind of information centre within the framework of Local Agenda 21 and environmental issues. This idea have already been discussed in Sopot, but the study visit in Sundsvall confirmed us that this is the project that can become a success. The meetings with citizens in LA 21 Office will start in the beginning of 2002.

Further project that can be suggested in Sopot is the **"Green purchasing"** initiative. This project should be implemented gradually and without haste. It is essential to mention that in Sundsvall project started in 1994. The idea of green purchasing will be presented to all the municipal departments and municipal companies, including schools. The same suggestion will be given to NGOs acting within the city. What can become a threat to this project can be the price of "green" goods – that's why the initiative must be prepared very carefully. It will not be enough to give advice on which goods should be purchased, the suggestion should also include financial calculations and examples of such goods.

Another important fact is that Poland has not so well developed ways of indicating for environmentally friend-



How to get healthier and enjoy life to the full is one part of the EveryDay Environment project in Sundsvall.

ly goods. Most likely the green purchasing can become at first one of the suggestions to Clean Workplace Project.

The **Clean Workplace project** is also possible to be implemented in Sopot. But just as with the case of “green purchasing”, this is not an initiative that can be started too quickly. It has to be detailed and adopted to Polish conditions. The funding can be a problem and that is why the aspect of money-savings must be directly high-lightened.

First, several meetings with the city authorities and municipal departments must be held. It is essential that the municipality as such will join the project, as the example will be beneficial for convincing the other possible participators. The media must be made interested in the project and information materials must be prepared for the potential participants reporting about the results in Sweden and possible solutions chosen by the Swedish participants. The problem is that the Agenda 21 co-ordinating body, which will be implementing this project, is not part of any municipal department. They will act as an impulse from the outside.

The idea of **Environmental Balance Sheet** is in a way known already in Sopot. The Department of Engineering and Environmental Protection publishes annually “Report about the state of the environment”. Unfortunately, unlike in Sweden, this document is not that widely spread as it could be. The example of Sundsvall made Sopot think about changing this fact.

It is important that the benchmarking process is not only the case of using ready ideas. Still, it is interesting as such to observe the others at work, especially when you are heading towards the same goals.

During the co-operation between our cities there have been plenty of smaller cases, perceptions and ideas that were beneficial for both sides. There was a lot of inspiration, even by the way of collecting data, by some pattern on the poster or some special gadget. During the study visit in Sundsvall guests from Sopot also could see different projects, which are not applicable for Poland. Even they were inspiring and educative.

Strengths and ...

Very important fact for the future implementation of the projects connected with the benchmarking process is that Sundsvall and Sopot, although being cities of different environmental and social problems and different characters, have similar objectives and goals for sustainable development. We can say that Sopot is in a way heading towards the direction Sundsvall is already walking towards. An example of this is public participation and awareness raising. Some of the projects implemented in Sundsvall were already thought about in Sopot – this will facilitate launching of the projects.

Furthermore, the Sustainable Development and LA 21 is now becoming more and more “fashionable” in Poland. It gets easier to engage people to work with it and to encourage them to do something. The motivation to work with ecological, social and economic problems is strong because of the situation in Poland before 1989. This job is starting by grassroots level and that’s why it can be successful.

Another strong point of the co-operation is the coincidence that the person responsible for the project from the Swedish side is Polish and the person working with the project from the Polish side understands Swedish.



This let us avoid the troubles of translating of materials and made especially the starting of co-operation considerably easier.

... weaknesses

The biggest weaknesses is connected with money resources. The budget for LA21 in Sopot is limited and not constant. Some of the projects launched in Sweden were rather expensive.

What is also a drawback of the Local Agenda 21 process in Sopot and can make the realisation of the project more difficult is the fact that there is no particular department responsible for the implementation of the LA21 Action Plan. The LA 21 Office is lead by NGO which got this task from the municipality. This means unfortunately lack of influence on some issues and projects can not be implemented so easily. Personnel by Agenda 21 Office has limited employment that’s not good for the continuity. The job with Agenda 21 is a process and it takes many years.

Next steps

January 2002:

- publishing and distribution of the LA 21 Calendar in Sopot
- initiation of the monthly meetings with citizens in LA21 Office

Spring 2002:

- Everyday Environment Project in Sopot

Whole 2002:

- preparing of the background for the Clean Workplace Project
- information meetings with the Municipality
- publish booklets and infosheets
- fundraising

2003 - 2005:

- implementation of the Clean Workplace Project

What is the most important now in Sopot is to prepare the implementation of the projects in all details. It is essential to convince as many people as possible to the ideas and engage the authorities. This will let include the initiative into the general planning of the city (especially Clean Workplace project and “Green purchasing”). A lot of effort should be put into preparing of relevant materials and info-sheet. Another challenge is of course fundraising. Its very important to create the solid organisation for Agenda 21 in Sopot with a staff and a budget.

BCP City Pairs - Municipalities of Bützow & Sillamäe

Learning and sharing in Agenda 21 process

Sillamäe and Bützow are cities where an Agenda 21 process is integrated. The process in Sillamäe is mainly directed to solve ecological problems and the main topic in Bützow is the participation of Youth in a sustainable development of the town.

Both cities got own experiences in the youth work and during the first BCP-workshop there was a great interest from Sillamäe in the participation process and the Agenda 21 work of Bützow. So we started a common project in the frame of the BCP- project under UBC management to proof the feasibility of the LA 21 project of Bützow in Sillamäe.

The city of Sillamäe has similar problems as Bützow as there is high unemployment rate after the collapse of the biggest factory "Silmet" after the soviet period. The migration of active people means that the average age of the population is increasing in Sillamäe. There are low chances for the young people to find work after vocational training. Young people do not also participate in decision and participation processes.

The main aims of the project are to proof the feasibility of the experiences of Bützow in the field of participation especially of children and youth to Sillamäe and to find ways to a city-partnership on the basis of youth and Agenda 21.

Participation and LA 21 process in Bützow

After an initiation process of a half a year, in which the city council, the municipality and different inhabitants of Bützow discussed how to run an Agenda 21 process in Bützow, in September 1997 the city-council of Bützow made the decision to start an Agenda 21 process.

The Agenda 21 process is directed to reach the vision in the city development of Bützow. In the discussions of the Agenda 21 and of the city mar-



Mayor of Bützow, Mr Lothar Stroppe listened to a presentation during the study visit to Sillamäe

keting process the following vision was found:

"Bützow will be a family friendly town with an intact environment as a centre in an agricultural region. All the citizens especially children and youth are involved in the city development process".

The Agenda 21 project of Bützow consists of three subject areas

- Participation of inhabitants especially children and youths in decision-planning and realisation processes
- Sustainable economical and social development of Bützow as a part of the Warnow-region
- Creation of a positive image of the city and supra-regional work

The participation of inhabitants, especially children and youths in decision-planning and realisation processes is the main topic of the BCP-project between Bützow and Sillamäe. In addition to participation structures there are several projects to solve concrete problems of the city development.

Youth council activities

One main participation structure is the youth council. The youth-council meets monthly and is coached together by the project-office, the city-council and the municipality. The young of 14 - 24 years are having a creative circle which discuss, plan and organise different practical projects like cultural events, theatre performances, exhibitions and so on with the support of the mayor and the municipality according the question formulations.

Second important instrument for participation is the meeting of children with the mayor and members of the city council twice a year where children of 6 - 11 years can take part and ask questions of their interest regarding their life in Bützow and make proposals. The results will be evaluated by the municipality, realized together with the children if possible and it will be a permanent information to the children. Another result of this are a several practical projects.

Children and young people can work in several concrete participation projects like the creation of a playground, inspection of ways to school for safety or the rearrangement of a schoolyard. All these projects are carried out in accordance with the question formulated in the participation structures.

Questions for feasibility study

The feasibility study aims at creating the necessary knowledge for later implementation of the good practice in the partner city and it should serve specifically to the answer of the following questions:

- Which methods in the field of “Youth and Agenda 21”, especially in participation of youths, are feasible to Sillamäe?
- How the Agenda 21 process may be integrated in Sillamäe? Are the same methods possible as in Bützow?
- Are direct contacts between young people of both cities possible?
- Is it possible to create school-partnerships?

Study visit

In spring, 19 - 24 March, representatives of Bützow visited Sillamäe with the support of the UBC. The visit was perfectly hosted and guided by the Mayor of Sillamäe, members of the Sillamäe municipality, youth-workers and private persons.

The aims of the study visit were to proof the feasibility of the Bützow-Project „Participation and LA 21“ to Sillamäe, to find ways to a city partnership on the basis of youth and education projects and to learn about each other.

During the study visit, several meetings took place with Youth Organisations, Women Organisations and between the the mayors. The representatives gave a presentation of the LA 21 projects in Bützow.

Furthermore, there were visits to rooms for young people, the Sillamäe Vocational School, the Creativity Centre, the Private Institute and the Silmet Group Company.

Participation process

The Agenda 21 is integrated in Sillamäe and it is directly related to solve environmental problems. Structures for participation are not used in Sillamäe but there is a basis for building up structures for participation of youth and women because there are some very active inhabitants. At the meeting with the representatives of the youth groups there was a great

interest in building- up a youth council like in Bützow.

It was also found out that there are people in Sillamäe who are able and willing to serve structures for participation. In the building-up of the structures for participation a wish to get support from the City of Bützow was presented.

The fundamental question for the building-up of structures for participation is how will the Municipality of Sillamäe handle the instruments for the participation?

This problem could not be solved due to lack of time so it must become clarified in the next step. After this it is possible to answer the above mentioned question completely.

Methods of participation

During the visit there were discussions especially about the methods of “Youth council” and “Co-operative planning”. There are existing school parliaments in Sillamäe and they are good basis for both methods. They are also transferable if the required frame conditions will be established. An exchange of experience between the municipalities of Bützow and Sillamäe on subject “Agenda 21 and youth participation” is conceivable and could be helpful for this subject.

The question how has the frame conditions for these methods to be organised in Sillamäe may be one main topic of the exchange of experiences between the municipalities.

Direct youth contacts

In general that there are various possibilities for direct youth contacts between youths of Bützow and Sillamäe. The following topics can be in the foreground:

- assistance from youth of Sillamäe in the YCSF- network
- information days about our cities
- work camps
- exchange in the field of youth participation (Youth councils ...)
- exchange in in the field of sports and culture
- youth and environment (network of environmental groups)
- Russian language lessons for youth from Bützow in Sillamäe

- German language lessons for youth from Sillamäe in Bützow
- Exchange between NGO's

Permanent contacts between youth groups (youth councils ...) or single youths for example by the use of new media could have a positive influence on a co-operation between youths of both cities.

School co-operation

Is it possible to create school-partnerships? There are environmental groups in two secondary schools in Sillamäe and one secondary school in Bützow and all these groups deal with terms of environment and Agenda 21 in their city. The exchange of experiences of these groups and the organisation of common projects between the environmental groups could be a starting point for co-operation between the schools in various areas.

Is it possible to create a partnership between the vocational schools? The vocational schools of Sillamäe and Bützow have similar structures and offers in vocational training. Exchange projects are possible (exchange experiences, networking, aspects of culture and language) and they are currently being prepared. The vocational school of Bützow has experiences in the treatment of local subjects and both schools have experiences in international projects.

Higher Education

There is a possibility to create common projects of the Institute of Economics and Management in Sillamäe and the Faculty of Country culture and Environmental care of the University of Rostock. The first contacts are made and subject areas could be practical experiences in environmental care and landscape planning.

The compatibility and relevance of the programs of the institutes need to be learnt during our further co-operation.

Conclusions

During the discussions between the mayors Mr. Ain Kiviorg (Sillamäe) and Mr. Lothar Stroppe (Bützow) it was confirmed that steps to a city-partnership are conceivable and can be based on exchange projects in the fields of the Agenda 21 (youth and education).

First steps to create exchange projects will be done directly after the study-visit, a first in the field of vocational training.

Central Problems

In June 2001, took place the second BCP workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania. The city couples presented the current state of their projects and many interesting discussions took place.

The central problems of Sillamäe and Bützow were defined as youth and women participation, how to exchange experiences concerning structures and methods in participation and how to establish further co-operation between the cities.

Also the distance between Estonia and Germany can cause difficulties in organising co-operation. The question of how to finance the common projects remains still unsolved.

Next Steps

We want to create a partnership between the vocational schools. So far there has been a visit of a management group from Sillamäe vocational school to Bützow. Similar visit from Bützow in Sillamäe is planned for spring 2002.

Concrete projects with environmental and Agenda groups are planned up to spring '02. The definition of youth exchange projects in form of workcamps, new media and others will also take place during spring '02. An invitation to the international youth meeting to youths of Sillamäe in May 2002 is planned. The plan is also to get in contact with the German – Estonian Society to finance project activities. Further we plan an exchange of experiences in moderation of participation process and to find ways to the financing of the project and all sub-projects.

SWOT analyse

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A21 topics are integrated in both cities • active youths in both cities • municipalities of both cities are interested in a city-partnership • a good basis for developing structures for participation of youth and women in Sillamäe • existing school parliaments may be a basis for the development of a participation structure in Sillamäe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frame conditions for participation structures • handling of instruments for participation by municipality of Sillamäe • no experiences in local field with participation structures • no instruments for participation in Sillamäe
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • co-operation of vocational schools • co-operation of environmental /agenda groups • youth council & co-operative planning • partnerships between institutes on basis of common interests • direct contacts in form of workcamps, language courses and new media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in case of government changes, their attitude and opinion on general environmental problems can change • change of the municipality staff as well as involvement of new staff in the process of preparation and implementation of various projects • participation depends on political structures • different languages, large distance



Participants from Bützow and Turku together with some of the hosts in Sillamäe during the study visit in March 2001.

Project partners are the A21 office, municipalities, schools, women and environmental organisations.

In general, exchange projects in the field of youth and school groups are depending from approval of external funding because the cities of Bützow and Sillamäe don't have the money to finance those projects. The staff for the Agenda office in Bützow become guaranteed over the second labor market and if there will be any cuts this would cause a bad situation for the Agenda work.

What happens after BCP-project?

First it is planned to build up direct contacts and to create projects between the environmental groups and youth NGO's (in spring 2002 like mentioned above). A co-operation of educational institutes is to be established and the participation process is further to build up.

One aim after the BCP-project is a possible city partnership between Sillamäe and Bützow.

On the 28th of August Sillamäe City Council adopted a creation of LA 21 commission in Sillamäe, that involves representatives of local authorities, companies, local environmental groups, women's organisations, youth organisations and private citizens. The first official gathering of the commission is planned on October.

Helping to reach the demands in Air Quality Monitoring

The basis for the participation of Panevezys in BCP-project can be found from the Municipal Environmental Audit (MEA) done between March and September in 1999. In the MEA-process, the air monitoring system was named as one of the audit targets and the strengths and weaknesses of air quality monitoring system were indicated.

The main weaknesses were found out to be low level of capacity and reliability of the old measurement equipment, no on-line measurements and none of the air monitoring stations located in the city centre where air quality guidelines might be exceeded because of the high traffic emissions. Weaknesses were also the fact that there were no possibility to compare the existing air quality to national and international standards and that the informing of the society about air monitoring results was poorly organised.

City of Turku has good experience in air quality monitoring. The air quality monitoring started in the 1980s and the system has developed a lot during the 1990s. Today there are eight monitoring stations in Turku region.

Background of Turku

According to the Finnish Environmental Protection Act, it is the responsibility of the municipality to promote air pollution control within its area. Furthermore municipality has to control compliance with Environmental Protection Act and the rules and the regulations passed under the Act. In addition any operator responsible for an activity causing an air pollution risk must be sufficiently aware of the impacts of these activities on the environment.

The beginning of air quality monitoring in Turku region is based on the mathematical modelling of emissions from traffic and from stationary sources such as energy production plants.



From left: Solemeja Skvarnaviciene, Zita Tverkute, Rimante Zinkute, Markku Kivivirta and Tiina Hartman during the II workshop in Kaunas, in June 2001

The information got from this modelling was fulfilled with information got from biological samples i.e. bioindicators. This basic study was carried out by the Finnish Meteorological Institute in 1980s. The study showed that monitoring of sulphur dioxide was important but also monitoring of the components emitted from exhaust gases, mainly nitrogen oxides, is important. The study also indicated the places where monitoring should take place. The mathematical modelling was repeated in 1994.

For the purpose of arranging monitoring of air quality as required by the former Air Pollution Control Act (currently Environmental Protection Act), an Air Protection Co-operative Group was established in 1988 in Turku Region. In 2001 the group consisted of the representatives of the Cities of Turku, Raisio, Naantali and Kaarina, and the companies Fortum Service Oy (Fortum Power and Heat Oy), Fortum Oil and Gas Oy, Turku Energia Oy, Varissuonhuolto Oy, Wärtsilä NSD Finland Oy Turku Factory and Fortum Lämpö Oy.

The Environmental Office of the City of Turku is responsible for carrying out the measurement and for reporting of the air quality. The costs of air

quality monitoring are divided in two so that municipalities pay one half and industry the other half. The exact amount of payment depends on the sum of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide and particle emissions.

In Turku region there are approximately 230 000 inhabitants from which 172 000 inhabitants live in Turku. Nowadays the air quality monitoring network consists of eight measuring stations (table 1). In Turku there are three monitoring stations: two in the city centre and one in Ruissalo.

The station in Ruissalo is so-called urban background station. One monitoring station is in Kaarina, one in Naantali and two in Raisio. The eighth monitoring station is a meteorological

The aim of the BCP-project between Turku & Panevezys:

- to introduce the Air Quality Monitoring system used in Turku region to the City of Panevezys
- to share information of the requirements set for the air quality monitoring by EU and the compliance of ambient air quality assessment and management with EU requirements.

The quality assurance is the main requirement in air quality monitoring both in Finland and in Lithuania.

Table 1. Monitoring stations and the measured components in Turku.

Measuring station	Components
Market Square, (Turku centre)	NO _x , PM ₁₀
Aninkaistenkatu, (Turku centre)	CO, TSP
Ruissalo	NO _x , SO ₂ , O ₃
Juhauskukkula	temperature, wind speed and direction
Kaarina, centre	NO _x , PM ₁₀ , SO ₂ , CO
Naantali, centre	NO _x , PM ₁₀ , SO ₂
Raisio, centre	NO _x , PM ₁₀
Raisio, Kaanaa	SO ₂

station where temperature, wind speed and direction are measured.

Nowadays in Turku region the most important emission sources are energy production, traffic and oil refining. The emissions of traffic have a significant effect to the quality of urban air because of the low emission height. The total emission of sulphur dioxide in Turku region has reduced significantly from the 1980s being 4 300 tons in 2000. The total emission of nitrogen oxides has reduced only a little during the 1990s being 6 400 tons in 2000. Figure 3 shows the sources of nitrogen oxides emissions in Turku region.

Background of Panevezys

The main aim of Lithuania, including Panevezys, as well as Finland, including Turku, is to ensure compatibility of national laws with EU requirements of directives 96/62/EC (on ambient air quality assessment and management) and 1999/30/EC (relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, par-

ticulate matter and lead in ambient air) and to implement these requirements.

Panevezys is an industrial city with 138 000 inhabitants. Since 1994, the volume of industrial production has decreased significantly and many small companies have been founded. This has led to the change of the form of air pollution from large point sources to scattered, smaller emission sources. At the same time the number of the old cars increased. Since then the traffic emissions have been the main pollution source in Panevezys as well as all round in Lithuania.

The emissions of pollutants from stationary sources have been determined according to the reports from the enterprises. In 2000 the industrial and energy enterprises emitted about 2 319 t of dangerous substances to atmosphere. The most important emissions from the stationary sources are sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC) and solid particles. The main emissions in Panevezys in 2000 were: SO₂ (530

t), NO_x (860 t), CO (630 t), VOC (150 t) and solid particles (130 t).

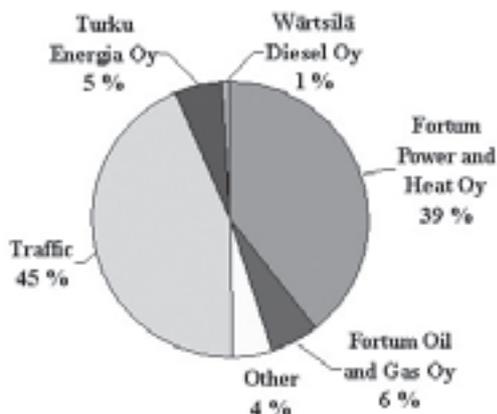
In 2000 the total amount of emissions decreased 1 025 t compared to 1999. This decrease was caused by a lower production volume both in industrial and energy companies and in addition to that the energy companies reduced the consumption of mazut (black oil) and used gas more. Only the amount of NO_x emissions increased by 137 t. This was mainly influenced by increase of nitrous oxides in glass melting furnaces.

Unlike in Turku, in Panevezys the heating companies are not the main polluters so their emissions make up the smaller part in the total balance of pollution from stationary sources. Comparison of the absolute amounts of pollutants shows that industrial pollution in 2000 increased slightly compared to 1999 (industrial pollutants make up in total 1 550 t), pollution from energy strongly decreased and comprised 770 t (1 892 t in 1999). Total decrease of pollutants can be explained by decrease of emissions from energy.

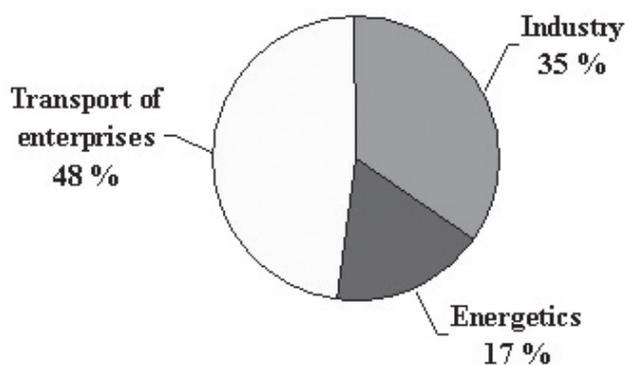
The structure of main air pollutants in 2000 is shown on figure 4 below.

Sources of pollution and monitoring them

The main polluters of the ambient air in Panevezys in 2000 were the following: JSC “Ekranas“ (TV-tubes plant), JSC “Panevezio stiklas“ (glass melting), JSC “Panevezio cukrus“ (sugar works), PSC “Panevezio ketus“ (cast iron processing), JSC “Linias“ (flax processing), JSC “Panevezio baldai“ (furniture production) and two heat-



The sources of emission of nitrogen oxides in Turku region.



Structure of main polluters in Panevezys in 2000.

ing companies and JSC “Naftenas” (oil refinery). Total amount of emissions in these 9 enterprises were 2 141 t of pollutants which is 92 % of all emissions from stationary pollution sources in the city. The emissions from the other 36 enterprises were not significant. In some enterprises specific and very dangerous substances such as tricresole in “Lietkabelis” (enamelling of cables) and lead in “Ekranas” were emitted.

According to previous state monitoring programme of air quality there has been three stationary monitoring stations in Panevezys and from January 2000 only one stationary station (figure 5). The components measured in these stations were total suspended particles (TSP), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ammonia (NH₃). These measurements were carried out manually three times a day six days a week.

In 1992 the complex mixture of pollution in the environment in Panevezys was evaluated using the methods of bioindication and biotesting. *Sphagnum megallanicum* Brid. was used as biological sorbent and *Lepidium savitum* L. as biotest. According to biotesting in July-August no extremely contaminated places were found in the city territory. It was concluded that relatively scattered pollution is characteristic to Panevezys. The greater part of the territory was categorised as the zone of average polluted air whereas the pollution was the greatest in the centre.

These investigations were repeated in 1993 and 1994. The cleanest air was found in the southern and northern parts of the city, while the territories in its eastern part and centre were extremely polluted. In the greater part of the city the level of air pollution was middling.

In Panevezys a new and automatic station for air pollution state local monitoring programme was established at the end of year 2000. The automatic monitoring stations is equipped with SANO multi-component analyser. The analyser measures the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene, toluene and formaldehyde. Monitoring of breathable particles (PM₁₀) will be included to the monitoring system later.



There is only one air quality monitoring station in Panevezys.

Problems

City of Turku

In the European Union the directives given by the European Council regulate the air quality monitoring. The basis of air quality monitoring are set in the European Council directive (96/62/EC) of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management. It is said in this directive that in order to protect the environment as a whole and human health, concentrations of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or reduced. In the directive is also said that limit values and/or alert thresholds should be set for ambient air pollution levels and the ambient air quality needs to be assessed against limit values and/or alert thresholds.

The directive is European Council directive (1999/30/EC) is relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air. The aim of the directive is to establish limit values and, as appropriate, alert thresholds for concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air intended to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.

These two directives are the two most important guides that affect the air quality monitoring in member countries of EU. To fulfil the needs set in the directives a lot of effort has to be put into quality assurance of air quality monitoring. To make sure that the air quality data is reliable a good maintenance and calibration of the system is required.

There are only two people working in the air quality monitoring in the Environmental Office of the city of Turku. Two people and eight monitoring stations requires a careful planning of maintenance and calibrations. The improvement of air quality monitoring system requires extra money and time which are not available at a present time. Some of the analysers used in the monitoring network in Turku region are old and as they get older more problems arise and more money and time is needed to make the analysers work again.

City of Panevezys

Since 30th of October 2000, Lithuania has taken the responsibility to implement the EU requirements of the directives 1999/30/EC.

In Lithuania, the municipalities are preparing, adopting and implementing the programmes for reducing air pollution. Nowadays municipalities are organising municipal environmental monitoring systems according to the Law of local air quality monitoring approved by the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment has also prepared a programme of State environmental monitoring.

In Panevezys both Municipality and Environmental Protection Department of Panevezys region, as well as the Ministry of Environment participate in the management of air quality of the City. In Panevezys the air quality monitoring has been and is still handled by the Environmental Protection Department of Panevezys region.

New equipment that didn't function to the need

The preparing to the continuous air quality monitoring in the region of Panevezys has led to the purchase of a new SANO multi-component analyser. This new air quality monitoring system is not functioning very well. This non-functioning issue relates to

using a multi-component analyser, because when it is not functioning well, there is not any air quality data available. The reliability of the air quality data got from these kinds of multi-component analysers is not very good due to the huge problems relating to the calibration of the laser beams. The length of the measuring line is too long to be calibrated fully in a laboratory circumstances.

After the Law of Local Air Quality Monitoring was adopted, the role of municipality in air quality monitoring has increased in Panevezys. The law obligates the municipality to start creating its own air quality monitoring system. The national comparability of the air quality data has to be kept in mind.



Salomeja Skvarnaviciene and Rimante Zinkute visited also Fortum, the oil refinery during their studyvisit to Turku, in spring 2004.

Solutions for problems - Turku

The make sure that the air quality monitoring data fulfils the requirements set in the directives the **Quality Handbook** was invented. In this book all the necessary information of all procedures relating to any action which concerns air quality monitoring is written down in detail. The quality handbook consist of procedure manuals. Each analyser has its own procedure manual as has also all other activities that relate to the air quality monitoring such as reporting of results.

Preventive maintenance of all the analysers is very important in order to prevent possible failures in the functioning of the analysers. In the procedure manuals all the stages relating to preventive maintenance are explained in detail. In every procedure manual of every analyser there is a detailed maintenance schedule. Also calibration of analysers before and after maintenance is very important so there is a detailed procedure manual concerning calibration.

By following the exact procedures described in the quality handbook one can be sure that requirements set for the reliability of data are fulfilled. And by following the careful maintenance schedule it is also possible to prolong the lifetime of the analysers.

Sharing the information about issues relating to air quality monitoring is a very important aspect of the air quality monitoring. Inhabitants of Turku region are interested about the state of the environment they live in. Giving information of the air quality in the region on hourly basis fulfils the requirements set by EU for the informing the citizens of air quality.

Advising people about how they could improve the air quality with their own actions is also important in Turku region. Air quality data must be available for citizens via different channels e.g. internet.

Implementation of Good Practise - Panevezys

The direct implementation of the good practise in air quality monitoring has a lot of difficulties. First the current system in Panevezys is totally different than the system in Turku. Nowadays in Panevezys the air quality monitoring is handled by the Regional Environmental Protection Department acting under the Environmental Ministry of Republic of Lithuania.

The analyser used in Panevezys is a multi-component analyser which analyses different components simultaneously. According to EU directives this multi-component method is not a reference method for monitoring the air quality. The quality handbook used in Turku is based on single-component analysers which can be maintained and calibrated easily.

Since 2001, according to the Law of Local Air Quality Monitoring, the City of Panevezys is starting to create its local air quality monitoring system.

The project proposals to EU PHARE funds to receive financial support are being prepared. The support is meant for buying monitoring equipment, training people and, especially, to create a system to improve information spreading and raise the awareness of local people.

According to this activity the Municipality of Panevezys needs the collaboration with the specialists of air quality monitoring in the City of Turku in order to take over their experience and to involve them in direct activity to create the quality handbook in Panevezys system. Another very important aspect is to involve the specialists directly in EU PHARE project implementation processes.

Secondly, building an air quality monitoring system similar to the system used in Turku requires a lot of money. Before even founding that kind of system some basic studies are need-

ed. The mathematical modelling of air quality based on the emissions of point sources and traffic together with a bioindicator study gives enough basic knowledge of the air quality. That information is very useful in deciding where to place the air quality monitoring stations.

At last but not least the air quality monitoring system in Republic of Lithuania is under construction. It is pointless to invent an air quality monitoring system without knowing whether the system is comparable with a national system. One issue concerning this comparability is the software operating the monitoring stations. The similarity of software is the key issue in changing the air quality data nationally. By using analysers based on the EU reference methods the question of comparability nationally is not on issue because reference method is always reference method.

Needed resources

The EU PHARE funding application is for three years. From PHARE, it is expected to get about 500 000 to 600 000 EUR in total. The obligatory financial involvement from the Municipality of Panevezys is 20 % of all the PHARE investments, in this application the maximum of 120 000 euros. Also working time from specialist from both Turku and Panevezys is required.

The total investments costs which includes equipment and creation of the system are 340 000 euros. The annual costs for the whole three year period are 280 000 euros. The annual costs include human resources, training of specialists, raising the awareness of citizens. The details of the investments are listed below.

A. Human resources

Starting an air quality monitoring requires a lot of work, because everything must be planned from the beginning.

In Panevezys at least one full-time person is required. Aid and advice from a specialist is also needed and therefore also some working time from one person from Turku is needed to help in building up the air quality



Smiles all-around when Markku, Tiina and Sanna made a study visit to meet their colleagues in Panevezys.

monitoring system. The estimated costs would be 150000 EUR /year or total.

B. Equipment

Analysers used in air quality monitoring are rather expensive (about • 15000 - 30000) depending from the type of the analyser. Also a data collecting system (software) with proper data lockers is needed.

C. Creation of the system

In order to fulfil the requirements set for the air quality monitoring by EU, the location of the measuring stations is essential. This usually means that the measuring stations need to be build for this specific usage. The estimated costs for this would be 40000 EUR (total).

D. Training of specialists, interpretation

Two visits to the air quality monitoring locations is required because building an air quality monitoring system is not easy. Estimated costs would be 50000 EUR / year or total.

E. Involvement of the citizens and raising their awareness

Many kinds of educational systems are required to raise the awareness of the inhabitants. Spreading the air quality information which needs also some resources is also important. Costs estimation 80000 EUR /year or total.

Timetable of implementation

March 2001; study visit to Turku

May 2001; interim report

June 2001; II workshop and study visit to Panevezys

September 2001; final report and project proposal to the PHARE funds

November 2001: III workshop in Turku

2002-2003; planning and creation of the air quality monitoring system in the City of Panevezys together with the City of Turku.

Implementation of the good practice of the City of Turku – Quality handbook

2003-2005; implementation of the system together with the City of Turku using EU funds, Panevezys City Municipality funds and different other funds.

Environmental Award 2001

Inspiring UBC Member Cities

Award 2001 invited UBC member cities to present and share their good work. There is a lot to learn and get inspiration from these successful stories.

In the Fall 2001, the competition on The Baltic Cities Environmental Award took place for the second time. The competition was active and the cases presented very exciting. Special emphasis was put on innovative combination of environmental and social goals.

Several cities performed very well by the different criteria. The winning city Gdansk and their Ecological Sobieszewska Island project was thought to cover best and most broadly many aspects of sustainability – economic, environment and social as well as involving ordinary citizens showing their positive attitude and effects.

Patina Sustainable Consumption Centre from the city of Lahti received also very high scores as an excellent example of dealing with two challenging issues – unemployment and environment protection. Similar issues were successfully dealt also by the Neighbourhood Improvement project of the City of Kolding.

Cities of Helsinki, Pori, Sundsvall, Visby give good inspiration how to tackle the sustainability problems via revitalising urban areas and improving real estate. Infrastructure improvements in water sector are introduced by Keila. Urban greenery developments are shown by the City of Tallinn Kadriorg Park project. Community and LA work are elaborated by the Cities of Cesis, Norrköping and Bützow. Youth, sports, environment and education are innovatively dealt by Vaasa, Rostock, Panevezys and St. Petersburg.

In the following pages we provide some more insights to these excellent practices. These practices will also be part of the planned new exchange and city coupling activities.

New ideas and proposals for the focus of the 2003 award are most welcome!

Ecological Sobieswska Island in Gdansk

Sobieswska Island serves a delightful example of how the change for more ecological direction can boost both the economy and the wellbeing of local people. In the beginning of 1990s the Island, which lies on the Baltic Sea coast, in the Municipality of Gdansk, suffered from severe environmental problems, such as polluted soil and surface and also air pollution caused by coal fires.

The project started in 1994 and was initiated by Environmental protection Department. The aim was to improve environmental protection when, on the other hand, the possibilities for recreation and agriculture were increased. Elaboration of new spatial plan for the Island (EWS), landscape preservation, construction and modernisation of infrastructure, green tourism and recreation as well as ecological education are examples of activities proposed and implemented.

The project is still going strong, but has already reached some of its goals. The image of the Island has changed to be positive, local people have been involved and play an active role in the development. Also the economical situation is flourishing. To put a long story short: sustainable development has become more than words in Sobieswska Island.

More information:

Mrs Jadwiga Kopec
Head of Environmental Protection
Tel: +48-58-326370
Fax: +48-58-320134
E-mail: wosr@gdansk.gda.pl

Participation on Local Agenda 21 in Bützow

Participation and LA 21 process started in 1997 after a decision of the City Council. The central concern was how to get the young people to participate in the future planning of a more sustainable Bützow. To find a solution to this a “Family Friendly town” project was proceeded.

As part of the project the inhabitants could take part in the decision-, planning-, and realization- processes. Bützow was also decided to develop

into more sustainable, economical and social city as a part of the War-now-region. Part of this decision was to create a positive image of the city and supra-regional work. All this was done through education and sustainability, and evaluation of development in questions of sustainability through the indicator system.

Agenda 21 project has resulted in discussion process for a sustainable development. This includes youth participation in town-planning and daily decision processes, and co-operation work with the schools in the field of education for sustainability. This work is felt to be very important and so it will continue in the future.

More information:

Mr Lothar Stroppe
Mayor of the City of Bützow
Tel: +49 38461 50-111
E-mail: info@buetzow.de and
Dr Mathias Alsleben
Tel: +49 38461 52272
E-mail: ubc-buero@buetzow.de

World Environmental Days 2002 in Cesis

“World Environmental Day”, which is part of the LA 21 events in Cesis, has been celebrated since 1999. The aim of the day is to interest society in implementation of the Agenda 21 and rise awareness on local and global environmental problems and simultaneously improve living conditions of the inhabitants.

This year’s plan will involve all active school children, pensioners, and other active people in making “World Environmental Day”.

The plan is that also NGO sector will take part in activities, especially those who work with environmental and social issues.

More information:

Ms Inta Adamsons
LA21 Co-ordinator
Tel: +371 41 23687
Fax: +371 41 22130
E-mail: varis@apollo.lv

Residential areas by the seafront in Helsinki

The City of Helsinki is turning its waterfronts from industrial areas to residential areas. As a part of this development, The City Council decided in December 1986, that the Herttoniemi Oil Port will be developed into a residential area for approx. 9500 people. At that time, the metro traffic from the city centre had already started and the metro station near the old Herttoniemi suburban area, from the late 40's and 50's, had been built.

Before, the Herttoniemi Oil Port was surrounded by traffic, its nature was poor and the industrial production there caused environmental harm to people living in areas nearby. But, as the area opened to the sea and it was located only a walking distance from the metro station, the City Council saw the possibilities for developing the oil port and its industrial area to a new residential area. After planning and designing the City Council approved the general master plan of the 'Herttoniemi Port waterfront' in 1990.

In 1991 and 1992 several design competitions were held in order to get new ideas and visions of housing and the environment of the old oil port area. The aim was to create a high quality, city-like area of multi-storey buildings in such a way that the surrounding attractions can be utilised in the best possible way. The building of the first dwellings began in 1993, and the residents moved in in 1994.

The Herttoniemi Waterfront has an own swimming beach. This beach was artificially made during the removing of the polluted soil and replacing it with clean one. The land-filling works were implemented in 1993-1995. Due to the fact that the polluted soil had to be changed with clean one, the beach is considered to be made with no extra costs – it was formed on its place "for free". The quality of the water is excellent according to the EU standards and the beach is safe.

More information:

Ms Sirpa Kallio
Project Manager
Tel: +358-9-169 2482
E-mail: sirpa.kallio@hel.fi

Environment protection in Keila

Keila used to have an housing area of 650 houses with ca. 2100 inhabitants who had to use shallow, private wells to get water, because the water supply network was developed only to limited extent. The central sewage collection system didn't exist at all and wastewater was collected in cess-pools out of which 70% were leaking.

As a result of pollution from the local flourmill and former Soviet tank regiments' area, the upper groundwater layer was heavily polluted. Problems were caused also by wastewater, which was not treated before let into the river.

After feasibility study, a project to solve the problems started 1997. It consisted of expansion of water & sewage network and construction of the treatment plant, pumping stations and sewerage of the waste water.

After all hard work the new waste water treatment plant was opened in August 2001. Now the same hundreds of households were connected with the central water and sewage system. This meant that the standard of living rose and pollution of soil, river and groundwater was reduced. Also health aspect was influenced as the threat of epidemics diminished.

More information:

Mr Leino Magi
Tel: +372-678 0302
Fax: +372-678 0303

Neighborhood improvement in Kolding

Sydvest Kvarteret residential area with 6000 inhabitants was badly affected by social problems such as drug abuse and unemployment.

The neighborhood improvement project was a scheme to improve the environmental, social and cultural aspects of the neighborhood, as well as the local buildings and facilities. The project was based on co-operation between e.g. local residents, associations, businesses and a number of local government services.

The community's identity has strengthened with the project. Peo-

ple have been directly involved in a large number of individual projects enhancing social responsibility of the community. The local neighborhood newspaper has written articles about the project and environmental guilds have enabled residents to collaborate on less tangible environmental projects such as the sorting of waste, composting or the creation of playgrounds.

More information:

Mr. Peter Mogens Hee
Environment and Planning
Manager
Phone +45 75 50 15 00
Direct ph. +45 79 30 16 00
E-mail: pemh@kolding.dk

Sustainable Consumption Centre Patina

Patina was founded to promote participation among citizens in actions towards sustainable development. Patina tries to do this by encouraging people who have been long unemployed to adjust themselves to the tasks of recycling activities. Special attention is paid to on supporting the persons who have been drawn aside from the working life and who want to re-locate in working and other activities in the society.

As part of the centre, several training and education sessions have been organised to unemployed, adults and disabled. Patina has also acted as an employee for people who have been unemployed for over a year or who were at the risk of getting unemployed. These working periods have led to the improvement of their self-control and they are now more ready to face and solve problems.

The awareness in environment aspects has been increased also by solid information both in Patina and by organising different kinds of happenings and shows.

More information:

Ms Irma Tolonen
Planning officer
Phone: 358-3-814 3228
Fax: 358-3-828 3731
E-mail: irma.tolonen@phnet.fi

Residential steps towards a sustainable future

To get strong support for the ideas in LA 21 the City Council Executive Board in Norrköping together with the Environment and Urban Planning Committee are now working in smaller, geographically well-defined areas of the Municipality of Norrköping. One of them is the Oxelberg area.

The residents in Oxelberg have chosen to start the work in parks, play-grounds and traffic. Information about the project and its events is distributed in a special newsletter.

Today the Oxelberg Park has once again become a place for leisure and activities. The play-grounds have been repaired and tidied-up. Cars driving through the area and their speed have been reduced. The residents are feeling very positive about Oxelberg now.

This has proved to be a successful way to implement the thoughts and ideas in our LA21 and at the same time increase the local democracy.

More information:

Mrs Eva Lindahl
Environmental Manager / LA 21
Tel: +46-1115 1985
Fax: +46-1113 7756
E-mail: eva.lindahl@norrkoping.se

Environmental school and early prevention of crime

The protection of environment, the engagement of society, education and training as well as social, economical and emotional issues are mostly being solved at Environmental School-Young Environmentalists' Centre, in Panevezys.

Two years ago the Department of Environment created the model of sustainable development of the city. That model was Environmental School which was entrusted to carry out the activities connected with the Ecological Pedagogical Centre of the Local Agenda 21.

Children of all ages are educated at the Centre. Also local enterprises, medical specialists, pensioners, parents and politicians take part of the activities which include economizing

of energy, training, programs concerning the protection of environment and developing personal interests.

In the activities of early prevention of juvenile delinquency six institutions of City of Panevezys took part in combining environmental and social goals. Positive changes have been observed in children who have taken part in the projects. They have acquired practical skills of looking after animals and plants, economizing water, heat, electric power. They have also acquired the experience of environmental research activities.

More information:

Mrs Regina Kliminskiene
Director of Young Naturalist School
Tel: + 370 5 461521
Fax: + 370 5 461521
E-mail: kliminskas@takas.lt

Maintaining Built Heritage

Renovation Centre 'Toivo' was founded in 1995 and is maintained by Satakunta Museum. Maintenance of the Built Heritage in Satakunta project financed and supervised around 100 projects of renovation of buildings valuable in terms of cultural history, and of the man-made environment.

The main activities of Toivo include a renovation exhibition and consultation for traditional and ecologically sustainable renovation and building materials service. Also maintenance of network of builders specialized in traditional building methods, instruction and experience workshops for children and recycling of used building parts are parts of their work.

Projects sought new ways to take care of our built heritage and aimed at chronologically stratified and multifaceted living environments. The way to achieve this is disseminating information on renovation aimed at maintaining the special characteristics of buildings to the general public, not only to experts.

More information:

Ms Liisa Nummelin
Leader of the project
Tel: +358-2-621 1077
E-mail: liisa.nummelin@pori.fi

Energy Saving Competition

In 1995, the Civil Council of Rostock decided to found the Rostock Agenda 21. At the same time the senator of finances and business has recommended the implementation of an Environmental Education Program at schools. Similar to MEA this program aimed at gathering information about economic and ecological saving possibilities. The decision about the installation of a competition in order to find saving methods for drinking and waste water as well as for energy was informed 1999.

The first competition for saving energy and water of the Hanseatic town of Rostock in 2000 showed that costs of energy, water and district heating can be saved comparatively with low expenditure. Therefore, initiatives by one's own and commitment of the schools are important. A change of behavior is easily reached by pupils and teaching staff.

The educational training within the project included special advising in different workshops, individual consultations by the Building Department and the exchange of experience between schools by organizing central meetings.

The energy saving competition will continue in 2002.

More information:

Dr. Dagmar Koziolk
Environmental Department
Tel: +49 381 - 4562 871
E-mail: R73UM029@rostock.de

Environmental education for school children

The project 'Complex research-training-ecological expedition of the school children of St.-Petersburg' presents combination of social and environmental matters - from organising summer rest for pupils and training environmental and civil responsibility to young to scientific monitoring in the preserves and national parks, social work with local population and participation in environmental protection activities.

The purpose of the project is to create a working structure of ecological education based on socially important scientific researches made by the

pupils in different ages, who in turn would shape the future of the city.

Young people aged 12-16 carry out socially and environmentally important scientific researches with rather professional results. For example, landscape maps of the territory are studied and sociological and ethnic profiles are created. While working, they study ecological techniques and approaches to the environment.

The urgency of organization of continuous ecological education of the schoolboys of St. Petersburg is obvious. The main task here is to choose an appropriate structure that would allow to include practical and research elements into the educational process without breaking its integrity.

More information:

Chief expert Ms Elena Ivanova
Phone: +7 812 276 1504
Fax: +7 812 276 1244,
E-mail: scdic@mail.cl.spb.ru

Social, health and environmental improvement

Ten years ago the Nacksta housing estate suffered from social problems, vandalism and high resident turnover. A political decision started a process to change this. The two main ways to achieve the change were resident participation and cross-sectoral work.

The residents showed great voluntary interest towards improving their neighborhood. They started their work by fixing the outdoor pool that was threatened with closure but which is now well-run and can be regarded as a symbol of the Nacksta residents' commitment to their neighborhood. The residents are also ready to take greater responsibility in the future.

Since the work of change started the important hub for activities in the area has been Public Health Nacksta with its own co-ordinator. Much of the cross-sectoral work between the residents, municipal departments, the housing corporation, organisations etc has developed around it.

Improvement of the physical environment include more sustainable building processes and making the build-

ings more attractive inside and outside. Area is now greener and waste handling has been sorted out. Considerable effort has been put to create a sense of security and prevent crime. Motor vehicles are not permitted in the area for environmental and safety reasons.

More information:

Mr Peter Gavelin
Chief Executive Officer
Tel: +46 60 191000
E-mail: peter.gavelin@sundsvall.se

Biggest park in Tallinn

Kadriorg Park, as unique monument of architecture and nature, is the biggest green area in Tallinn. Besides environmental importance it serves as the best loved recreation area with traditions over centuries. Today it is becoming once again one of the key tourist attractions.

The construction of the park has been done to the best international environmental standards. All the trees of the main green area have been inspected, the damaged ones cured and thousands of new trees planted. Drainage has been built and two ponds have been reconstructed.

The leaders of the project have succeeded in attracting the people of Tallinn to participate in the reconstruction works and making them feel that the park is their own. The park can also provide new activities for the children during their summer vacations. The most eager and remarkable team of children have been the disabled ones. As the Castle, its Garden and the Park itself are barrier free, they are easier for all disabled people to access.

Response from numerous local and international sponsors has been good. An important donation was received from the Swedish Government "Österled" project. Public-private partnership created very good basis for the next stages of the reconstruction of the park.

More information:

Mr Indrek Jalakas
Tel: +372-6404 562
Fax: +372-6313 204

Environment and Sports

The project 'Environment and Competitive Sports' was to improve the safety and environmental aspects of Vaasa Ice Stadium for the users of the stadium, the people working in it, and the society around it. In April 2001, the Stadium became the first ice stadium/sports hall in the world to receive the ISO 14001 certificate.

The project aimed at developing an integrated operational management system for the ice stadium based on the ISO 14001 environmental management system standard. Also safety and occupational health aspects were included. The most urgent needs were found on vigilance, first aid and rescue, cleaning services and waste management.

The main benefits have been the clarification of responsibilities inside the organization, minimizing the overlapping and improvement of professional skills. Benefits include also improved safety conditions, e.g. evacuation plans.

More information:

Ms Riitta Niemelä
Tel. +358-6-326 3264
E-mail: riitta.niemela@puv.fi

The Almedalen library

The library has heat storage in the building construction and highly insulated external structures. The glazing has been optimized with respect to heat loss and cooling load. Environmentally sound materials and renewable energy supply systems are also used. Seawater based cooling driven by photovoltaics and a seawater based propane heat pump are also used. Energy efficient lightning with occupancy detection and automatic control are used. A low velocity ventilation system with building integrated channels and heat recovery and "export" of excess heat to older and less energy efficient neighboring buildings is also done.

The Almedalen library is part of European Bio-climatic Architecture with Integrated Renewable and Real-Time User Feedback project that aims at reducing CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions.

More information:

Mr Bertil Klintbom
E-mail:
bertil.klintbom@tf.gotland.se

