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Baltic Cities

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FULL TURKU
CONFERENCE
REPORT
INCLUDED

- Challenge of the Turku Statement
- Activities, News and Events
- Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award



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EDITORS NOTE

I would like to inform you, Dear Reader, that this short four-page edition of the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin has been prepared simultaneously with the attached Turku Conference Report. The report is also intended to be used as an independent publication.

The Commission Secretariat has also recently contributed strongly to the Local Agenda 21 Edition of the Baltic Cities Bulletin. That edition can be obtained from the UBC Secretariat in Gdansk.

I hope you will find the report both interesting and beneficial.

The Editor

Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



Dear UBC Friends

Some months ago it was my city's great pleasure to host the First Regional European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference, the Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference. Many of you came to Turku then and together the four hundred of us turned this conference into a milestone event in international co-operation for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region and Europe. I would like to express my city's warm gratitude to the UBC Network for its great contribution to this event and to all of you whom my city had the pleasure to host.

Together we made a good progress in many fields of sustainable development. We contributed strongly to the local level implementation of Baltic 21, we brought into focus the social and health aspects, and we successfully sought for ways of future development of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign.

In the Conference Statement important goals were set for our future co-operation. Our common goal, as expressed in the Statement, shall be that a vast majority of municipalities in each of the Baltic Sea Region countries shall have their own Local Agenda 21 process started before the end of year 2000. As a part of this work, each individual municipality is also asked to identify and work towards five key commitments for sustainable development.

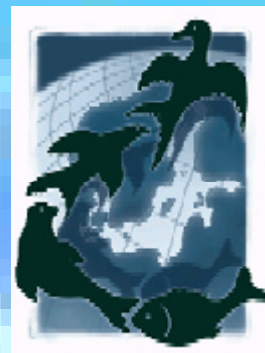
In Turku, we have already taken the first step to implement these principles. Our City Board has decided that Turku will regard sustainability as one of the most important criteria when decisions about purchasing any goods or services for the city are made. I am very glad that similar commitments are constantly being taken in an increasing number of UBC member cities.

The commitments and actions taken by respective municipalities are to be reported at the Third Pan-European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference in Hannover 9-11 February 2000. As the Union of the Baltic Cities already has become one of the driving forces of sustainable development in the region, I would like to suggest strongly that we would all accept this challenge of the Turku Statement. Let's do our best to ensure that the UBC member cities will reach the goals set in it.

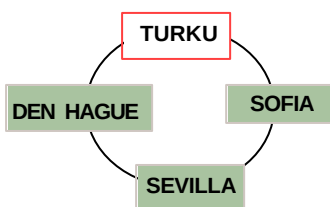
This work is of course in many ways very relevant for our cities and countries. It may be very pleasant for all of us to notice once again in Hannover that we can be European forerunners in international co-operation for sustainability. This is, however, not the most important point. The future of our cities is to a great extent in our hands. It is our great chance to make this future a sustainable one. It is for the good of all our citizens - not least to the "Children of Baltic". I think that this truly is a challenge we cannot refuse.

Armas Lahoniitty
Mayor of Turku

R E P O R T



Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference



**Turku Conference - the first Regional
Conference of the European
Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign
3 - 5 September 1998**



FOREWORD



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In the conference there were three sets of theme sessions, each with 5 or 6 simultaneous sessions. The first group of sessions "Principles and Processes" examined some of the basic principles and elements behind sustainable development and the Local Agenda 21 process. The second, "Integrated Solutions" explored how cross-cutting policy themes can be implemented within the local government that normally is sectoral divided. The third and final group "How to move Forward" introduced means how the Local Agenda 21 process can be progressed further.

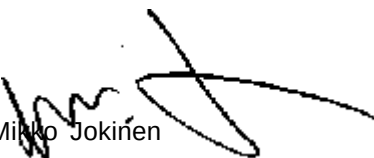


A facilitating and reporting scheme was developed for the sessions. A facilitator and a reporter were recruited and briefed for each session beforehand. The facilitator's role was both to act as a chair of the session and to facilitate the discussion. The reporter documented the discussion and analysed the results in table format (see below). The results of each session were reported at the plenaries.

Local Agenda 21 forms the basis for action for sustainable development, emphasising the role of local governments. It focuses on economic, environmental, sociodemographic and health concerns - both for present generations and for future ones. The intention with theme sessions 1 was to examine some of the basic principles and elements behind sustainable development and the Local Agenda 21 process by discussing working examples, lessons learnt and problems encountered.

The session discussed presentations about how to start the LA 21 process, how to create municipal environmental and health policies, and how LEHAPs (Local Environmental Health Action Plans) should be prepared and implemented. Oili Härkönen from the city of Kajaani, Finland, provided the session with insights into starting the process in a typical medium-sized city in Northern Finland. Irja Alakivi, Vilve Ets and Kai Tamm shared with the audience their experiences in the fields of environmental and health policies in the Estonian city of Tartu. The third presentation was given by the Finnish public health researcher Mikko Holopainen, who introduced the problems and experiences of preparing and implementing LEHAP's in Finnish communities.

The Kajaani case provided the audience with good examples of the usual questions and problems that are faced during the process by many similar cities. The city of Tartu has been a real predecessor in the field in Estonia. The city has been ICLEI member since 1997, and it is the only Estonian signatory of the Aalborg Charter (at the time of the conference). The presentation provided the audience with an image of very well-defined and advanced policies. LEHAP is one possibility for the health sector to contribute to LA 21. According to Mikko Holopainen, the LEHAP's in the Finnish municipalities have been quite successful as far as the municipalities have allocated sufficient resources for their preparation.


Mikko Jokinen

Chairman of the Organising Committee and
the International Planning Group

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Introduction

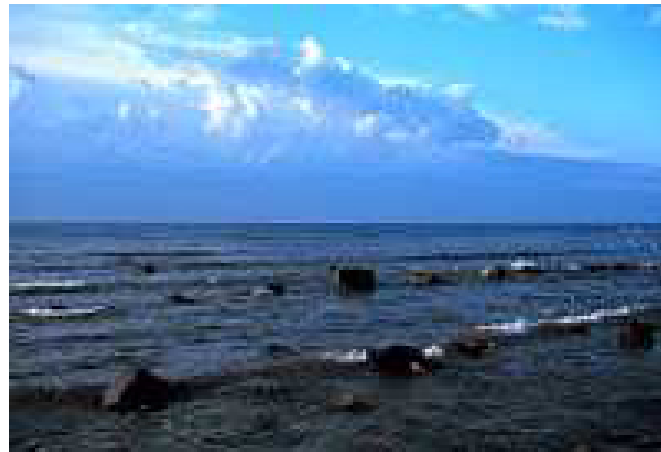
Link in the Chain of Conferences

The Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference (The Turku Conference) formed a part of the process of implementing the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, particularly at the local level. It was the first of the four Regional European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conferences, which are being organised in 1998 and 1999 within the framework of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, and it laid a special emphasis on the importance of health as a key component in the sustainable development process. The Turku Conference can be seen as a follow-up to The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio, 1992, the European Conferences on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Aalborg, 1994, and in Lisbon, 1996, the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, 1996, the International Healthy Cities Conference in Athens, 1998, and the Council of the Baltic Sea States Meeting in Nyborg, 22-23 June, 1998, where Baltic 21, the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, was adopted.

Baltic Sea Region Context

The specific regional context of the Turku Conference was the Baltic Sea Region (BSR, all the Nordic Countries, the Baltic States, Germany, Poland and the Russian Federation). This region is bound together by the sea, by history, cultural heritage, economic action and co-operation in many fields. The relevance of tackling the questions of sustainable development within the context of the BSR arises from these links and from the fact that the countries, municipalities and people of this region can reach sustainable development only through concerted action and continuous co-operation irrespective of political and economic differences and borders. The large political changes in the region during the last decades, e.g., the newly independent states and the new EU memberships, have had an effect on the rising importance of this region in the European context, and there is a considerable growing interest also in the European Union to develop integrated approaches and policies with regards to this region, e.g., the initiative of the Northern Dimension of Europe.

One of the specific characteristics of this region are the strong organisations, networks and partnerships, which provide an excellent basis for co-operation. The strong will and commitment to international co-operation in the BSR is manifest at all levels from municipal and sub-regional initiatives to the level of national governments. The latest example of the potential of the international co-operation for sustainable development in this region is the Baltic 21, which is the first comprehensive regional inter-governmental Agenda 21 Action Plan in the world after the Rio Conference. The specific challenge of the Turku Conference with regards to Baltic 21 was its implementation on the local level, hence the first part of the name of the conference: Baltic Local Agenda 21.



For centuries the Baltic Sea has been the common denominator of the region - the tie between its countries, cities and people

Regional European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference

The regional European Sustainable Cities and Towns conferences discuss the present situation across Europe with regards to sustainable development at the regional, inter-governmental and local level. The outputs from the regional conferences will provide a framework for the Third Pan European conference of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign (Hannover 2000) and initiate concrete actions at the local level which will be presented and discussed on the Pan European stage in 2000. The Turku Conference was especially closely linked with the Sofia Conference. The Mayor of Sofia sent his regards to Turku, and the Statement of the Turku Conference was given as a message to the Sofia Conference and presented there by the Mayor of Turku. The intention is, that all of these conferences will further develop the outcomes of the previous ones.

These conferences also explore the path for the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign as set in the Aalborg Charter (1994) and further elaborated in the Lisbon Action Plan (1996). With regards to the Turku Conference, this function is particularly prominent in the Conference Statement, where - as part of the work towards the Year 2000 - each individual municipality is encouraged to identify the key issues and obstacles affecting local sustainability and to strive to make real commitments to tackle these issues. The statement also claims that these commitments should reflect the principles of the Aalborg Charter and steps of the Lisbon Action Plan, but at the same time they are to move beyond these principles and steps thereby bringing sustainability to reality. The pledges made and the actions taken to meet them by each municipality will be reported to the 2000 Pan European conference and they will also be forwarded to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to be used for identifying key areas on which the Campaign should concentrate its efforts in the forthcoming years.

Health and Sustainability

A special emphasis in the Turku Conference was put on health. Sustainable development was conceived as a continuous, controlled and democratic process of societal change at global, regional and local levels, aimed at improving the quality of life for present and future generations, and improving health was seen as an essential part of this process. Sustainable development should integrate environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources into other essential social, economic and cultural activities. One of the important events that preceded the Turku Conference, the International Healthy Cities Conference in Athens, June 1998, adopted a political Declaration to express the clear and strong commitment of cities to health and sustainable development. It was also strongly underlined in Athens, that the cities have the greatest potential for improving health and the quality of life in Europe.



The Athens Declaration also conveys the commitment of the mayors and senior political representatives to the principles of health and sustainable development through commitment to the European Health for All policy and the Charter of European Towns and Cities Towards Sustainability, the Aalborg Charter. These policy frameworks mutually reinforce each other, bringing together the goals of health for all and sustainable development. One of the goals of the Turku Conference was to further demonstrate and work out these interlinkages. The Turku

Conference elaborated on the role of local government and the need to simultaneously focus on economic, environmental, social and health concerns in Local Agenda 21 initiatives by examining integrated strategies as opposed to single sector responses on both the environment and human well-being.

Project organisation

The main organiser of the Conference was the city of Turku. Partner organisations (organising partners) included European Commission (DG XI), European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, the Baltic Region Healthy Cities Project Office, ICLEI, Union of the Baltic Cities, The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, and HELCOM. The Conference was financed by the EU, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the City of Turku. The financial contributions of the EU and the Ministry were of vital importance.

Organising a large international conference is a considerable project with many dimensions and a lot of organising work. For running the project of the Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference, a project organisation consisting of several bodies was set up. An International Planning Group was gathered for the preparations of the strategic guidelines, conference programme and the conference statement, an organising committee was nominated by the City of Turku (Mayor) for leading the whole process and setting guidelines for the practical arrangements, and a conference secretariat was constructed for running the preparations and practical arrangements.

Reporting

The reporting scheme for the conference was first drafted by the International Planning Group simultaneously with the development of the methodology of the theme sessions. The scheme was then further developed by the Secretary-General, the Program Manager, and the Reporting Co-ordinator. Specific instructions were prepared and voluntary experts were recruited to function as reporters and facilitators for the theme session. For documenting the plenaries each presentator was asked to provide the organisers with a short summary or an abstract. However, not all the speakers provided one.

In addition to the reporter, each theme session also had a facilitator for initiating the discussion and leading the process. The intention was to make each theme session as interactive as possible. The reporters and facilitators were briefed on the conference location, and several reporters' meetings were arranged during the conference. This report has benefited greatly from the voluntary reporters' work at the theme sessions. The names of the reporters, facilitators, and speakers can be found on pages 25-26.

Plenary Sessions

Opening Session

The focus of sustainable development is on the one hand at the very local level and on the other hand it is at the global level. The widely shared great vision since the Rio Conference has been global change towards sustainability through action at the local level. The integrated approach of Agenda 21 has challenged the actors on all levels to develop new approaches. During the past decades, new integrated approaches – the most integrated and holistic one being Agenda 21 - have been developed to complement the older sectoral and point source ones.

In the Baltic Sea Region the seminal combination of the integrated and focused approaches has been established also at the regional level. The point source oriented approach has been – and it still is – quite prominent and effective in the work of the Helsinki Commission. Now this well established regional intergovernmental co-operation is being complemented with the inter-governmental Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, Baltic 21. Together these two large intergovernmental environmental initiatives of the Baltic Sea Region and the policies taken to fulfil them are most likely to produce synergy and good results in the regional work for sustainability.

On the European level, the Fifth Environmental Action Plan of the European Union has been a remarkable step forward. Moreover, since its start, the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign has proved to be a very effective initiative. As it is basically based on the co-operation of various networks and European municipalities, its specific strength and appeal seems to be its ability to function as a common European denominator for the local level efforts. At the same time, it naturally forms a good channel for communicating the messages of sustainability both bottom-up and top-down.



Dr. Liz Mills, National Expert from the European Commission DGXI, presented the points of view from the European level.

With regards to initiating sustainability in Europe, one of the key questions certainly is how to integrate the work on all these levels. How do local efforts have an effect on the larger scale policies, and how can the local level efforts best be supported by activities on the regional and European levels? Our continent is – in addition to the great similarities - a continent of differences. It is a continent of different regions and its regions also contain a lot of differences within their localities. The overall intention with the opening session was to set the context for the whole conference by presenting strategies of sustainable development on European, regional and local levels. This general approach was intended to offer the participants an overview of the work carried out at different levels and to prepare a basis for the following theme sessions and plenaries.

The Opening session was chaired by Mr. Petri Lahesmaa, the Chairman of the Municipal Board of the City of Turku.

Opening of the Conference

Mr. Petri Lahesmaa opened the conference. In his opening speech he underlined the essentiality of international co-operation for sustainability in the Baltic Sea Region and emphasised the role of local governments. He also reminded the audience of the very rapid and interesting phase of development that the Baltic Sea Region has gone through during the 1990's and the consequences of this development, e.g., with regards to the city level co-operation. He also pointed out the significance of the recent EU membership of Finland and Sweden in stimulating the further development of the Baltic Sea Region and in shaping the idea of the Northern Dimension of the European Union.

Strategy for Sustainable Development of the European Union

Dr. Liz Mills, National Expert from the European Commission DG XI, represented the European level. She outlined the explicit commitment of the European Union to sustainable development as expressed in the Treaty of Amsterdam (ratified by nine member states at the time of the conference), and explained more specifically the contents and the coming effects of the Treaty on EU policy and decision-making processes with regards to environmental policy. She also introduced the links of the Fifth Environmental Action Plan of the European Union and Agenda 21, explaining the emphasis that the European Commission puts on Local Agenda 21. Moreover, she expounded upon the different environmental activities run or supported by the EU and the various central tools of environmental policy.

A special point of interest were the preparations of the EU Urban Action Plan and the integration of sustainability into urban policy. The lack of integrated approaches has - to a certain extent – been experienced also in the

policy making of the European Commission. The activities within the Commission have been quite strictly divided between the Directorate Generals (DG:s), and this has led to sectorally divided policies. The challenges of sustainability, however, demand more holistic approaches. These approaches are to be developed in co-operation between the DG:s. The preparations of the EU Urban Policy, which have been carried out in co-operation between several DG:s, provide a good example of the new approaches. The challenge of complementing sectoral approaches by integrated ones seems to be most relevant also on the European level.

Baltic Agenda 21

Mr. Svante Bodin, Secretary-General of the Baltic 21, presented the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region - Baltic 21 - which was adopted at the Council of the Baltic Sea States Meeting in Nyborg, Denmark, 22-23 June 1998. This Action Plan has been worked out jointly by a partnership of nations, international organisations, business, NGOs and international financial institutes. It has a sectoral approach focusing on eight sectors: agriculture, energy, fisheries, forests, industry, tourism, transport and spatial planning.

One of the central functions of the Turku Conference was to contribute to the implementation of this sectoral action plan by a cross-sectoral approach at the local level. The Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region aims at achieving a sustainable Baltic Sea Region - through regional co-operation between countries, international organisations, business, NGOs and international financial institutes. In parallel with the international sectoral implementation process there will have to be a cross-sectoral local level implementation process.

The structure of the implementation of the Baltic 21 demonstrates quite illustratively the complexity of international regional co-operation for sustainability. Even the work aimed to be carried out in a most integrated fashion



Mr. Svante Bodin, Secretary-General of Baltic 21



has to concentrate on some priorities. There are good reasons to believe that the sectors chosen are those to provide the best potential for positive results. However, the crucial point can be the risk of unintended trade off of holistic approaches. It is also therefore of utmost importance that the local level actors take their own responsibilities of the implementation.

Sustainable Development at the Local Level

Dr. Agis Tsouros, Co-ordinator and Regional Adviser on Urban Health Policy from the World Health Organisation, presented the sustainable development process at the local level and the integration of health and sustainable development. Dr. Tsouros introduced the recent declaration of the Healthy Cities Conference, which was given in Athens 23 June 1998 (coinciding exactly with the adoption of Baltic 21). According to the Athens Declaration, city governments have a vital role to play and cities have the greatest potential for improving health and the quality of life in the European Region. City governments should take a lead to implement sustainable health and development policies through integrated cross-sectoral approaches at the local level. The Athens Declaration set the key principles of equity, sustainability, intersectoral co-operation and solidarity for health and sustainable development.

The principles of health and sustainable development of the European Health For All policy and the Charter of European Towns and Cities Towards Sustainability (the Aalborg Charter) mutually reinforce each other, bringing together the goals of health for all and sustainable development at the local level, where agencies from many sectors should work together and learn from each other. Each section of municipal government can play an important role in advancing the health agenda and the cause of sustainable development. Cities and urban regions require implementation of policies that combine environmental, economic, social and health objectives.

During the 90's, it has become quite obvious that sustainability and sustainable development are not only about the environment. The integration of, e.g., social and health aspects to the concept of sustainable development have remarkably strengthened the potential of this concept. At the same time, there can be a risk of sustainability becoming just one more overwhelming great ideology of the modern era. The vitality of this concept probably lies in the recognition of the heterogeneity

of the conditions and solutions at the local level. Setting the focus on the local level, also the synergies of the various efforts for sustainability, e.g., Health for All, Baltic 21, and Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, can best be reached.

Second Plenary

The second plenary discussed the reports of the Theme Sessions 1, and focused on the future trends and scenarios both in the large scale and from the point of view of the cities.

The concern for the future has been one of the most important initiating factors of the environmental consciousness and also of the practical activities of public authorities launched on different levels throughout the world during the past few decades. Moreover, future scenarios and analysis of the trends are also powerful tools of Future Studies. There is a constant need to increase interaction between research and practise - between those who tackle the issues from the theoretical point of view and those who are involved in practical work. The City of Tomorrow research activities of the European Commission may provide new opportunities for this on the European level.

This plenary was chaired by Mr. Anders Engström, President of the Union of the Baltic Cities and Mayor of Kalmar, Sweden.

World Tomorrow - Trends and Scenarios

Professor Lars Ryden from the University of Uppsala presented some of the large scale challenges that humankind is facing. Starting from simple material flow charts he continued to the ethics of sustainability. The lack of equity between us living now is - of course - one of the most burning problems we are facing. One of the reasons for the lack of equity between generations are our imbalanced material flows. For a sustainable future both of these questions should be solved and, in addition to this, we should also implement environmental ethics enabling us to broaden our anthropocentric perspective thus motivating sustainable action.

According to professor Ryden, the preconditions of a sustainable society are dematerialization, reduced environmental impact and service society. Dematerialization



Dr. Agis Tsouros, WHO, explored upon sustainable development at the local level. His special point of interest was the integration of health and sustainable development.

will reduce our use of natural resources, reduced environmental impact will bring along a positive broad long term effect on nature, and the further development of the service society will contribute in many positive ways too.

City of Tomorrow - Culture and Heritage

Dr Christian Patermann from the European Commission, DG XII, presented the City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage "key action" of the forthcoming research activities of the European Commission under the theme Preserving the Ecosystem, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development. These RTD activities are planned to be carried out as a part of the fifth framework programme in 1998-2002. The activities aim at integrated approaches for sustainable development of cities and rational management of resources. Urban governance, decision-making processes and the quality of urban life are to be improved, and economic development, competitiveness and employment are to be increased. The intention of these research activities is also to develop innovative tools for the protection of cultural heritage and to integrate cultural heritage in the urban environment.

According to Dr. Patermann, the strategic goals of City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage key action are to identify the technical and socio-economic barriers associated with the most acute problems facing cities and to demonstrate improved integrated solutions, to support sustainable economic development and to help to safeguard and improve the quality of life and cultural identity of citizens. All this should lead to discovering new models of sustainable development of European Cities and city regions.

Dr. Patermann's presentation provided an excellent example of development and implementation of integrated approaches to complex problems that cannot be satisfactorily solved by single sectoral approaches - neither at the local or at the European level. Traditionally separate approaches and activities of research and technology, environmental protection, and urban policy can be successfully integrated.

Third Plenary - Open Discussion on the Conference Statement

The conference statement had already been extensively discussed in the International Planning Group before the conference and during the conference in a working group and in the theme session 3.F Towards 2000. During the discussion, following a brief introduction by the co-ordinator of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign, *Mr Anthony Payne*, comments were mainly positive and only some additions were made to the contents before the statement was endorsed.

The Turku Statement recognises the demanding challenges of sustainable development, builds on the special strengths of the Baltic Sea Region, and expresses several concrete commitments with practical implications. The overall goal endorsed by the 400 participants of the conference is that a vast majority of municipalities in each of the Baltic Sea countries shall have its own local agenda 21 process started before the end of year 2000. The complete statement can be found on pages 20-21 of this report.

This plenary and the final one were chaired by the Deputy Mayor of Turku, Mr. Timo Kvist.

Final Plenary

The demanding challenge of the final plenary was to gather together the lessons learnt in previous plenaries and theme sessions and to draw conclusions. The initiatives and conclusions of the regional conferences will also build basis for the next Pan-European conference.

Conclusions for 2000

Professor Colin Fudge, Chair of the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment, had the challenging task of drawing conclusions towards the future. The EU Expert Group on Urban Environment is a part of the Sustainable Cities Project of the European Commission. Professor Fudge put focus on the point of view of the European level. The European Urban Forum in Vienna was expected to become a milestone event in the formulation of the Urban Policy of the European Union. One of the central goals is to integrate sustainable development into this policy. Professor Fudge underlined that, in the long-term, sustainability requires changes in attitudes on all levels, changes in society and in the operation of economics. Sustainability is, however, a process of continuous change on all levels and the long time vision can be approached only through concrete (short-term) actions and increasing policy integration. The policy integration must take place both horizontally between the sectors of administration and vertically between all levels of action. Urban policy should be one field where these integral policies are implemented.

Another European milestone event of sustainable development lying ahead is the Third European Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference in 2000. In this event the advances of all the regional conferences will be drawn

together again and the guidelines for the new century sought. The practical work carried out by the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign together with the more theoretical work of the EU Urban Expert Group are to prepare for this event. There is a considerable momentum for sustainable development on all levels at the moment. This momentum can be further increased by the synergies created by the evolving integrated approaches.

Future Sustainability for Environment and Health

Ms. Vappu Taipale, the Director General of the Finnish National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health (STAKES), explored the future possibilities of combining environmental and health issues in the processes of sustainable development. She reminded the audience, that one of the founding "mothers" of the concept of sustainable development, the new Director General of the WHO, Gro Harlem Brundtland, has also been a predecessor in broadening this concept. According to Ms. Taipale, sustainable development necessarily has to be elaborated on a broad basis by integrating the activities and points of view of the different sectors of the modern world. There cannot be sustainable environmental development without sustainable social development, and there cannot be long-lasting improvements in the human health without sustainable environmental policy. The approach to health must be a broad one.

Most determinants of health are outside the health sector/administration. They include, e.g., cleaner and safer environment, reducing poverty and maintaining peace. It will be impossible to tackle effectively the health issues by focusing only on the health sector. The idea of specialised agencies concentrating each on limited narrow sectors is out of place in the complicated modern



For example recycling has become popular in many of the Baltic Sea Region countries. However, a lot of work on many levels is still required before containers like these Polish ones can be found in all cities.

world. Sustainability in the future will be reached only through a new understanding of partnerships of stakeholders - locally, regionally and globally.

Closing Speech

In her closing speech the Secretary-General of the Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Ms. Sirkka Hautojärvi, reminded the participants of the history of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area and of the relatively successful activities of the Helsinki Commission. He pointed out that the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme has been in many ways quite successful. So far it has been possible, e.g., to remove 15 of the originally defined hot spots, and 62% of the remaining ones are included in technical assistance programmes. All this progress is the result of good international co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Ms. Hautojärvi also stressed the need of all players - including local governments and their associations - to be involved in the international work for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. Moreover, she underlined the need to transform the environmental protection co-operation to involve all sectors, not just the environmental one. The Baltic 21, which involves eight sectors, can be seen as an important contribution to this direction. She also pointed out the shared responsibility of actors of all levels to work towards sustainability. Even if Local Agenda 21 always necessarily is a local effort, the national and international bodies still should play an important role by supporting these initiatives and creating circumstances where they can be successfully run.

In her speech, Ms Hautojärvi also personally endorsed the conference statement and stressed strongly the need to keep the co-operation of actors of different levels and the process of Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum moving forward.



"It is all about making our instruments play together!"



At the Reception by the City of Turku at the Banquet Hall of the Voluntary Fire Brigade.

Theme Sessions

In the conference there were three sets of theme sessions, each with 5 or 6 simultaneous sessions. The first group of sessions "Principles and Processes" examined some of the basic principles and elements behind sustainable development and the Local Agenda 21 process. The second, "Integrated Solutions" explored how cross-cutting policy themes can be implemented within the local government that normally is sectorally divided. The third and final group "How to move Forward" introduced means to further progress the Local Agenda 21 process.

Theme Sessions 1: Principles and Processes behind Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 forms the basis for action for sustainable development, emphasising the role of all sectors of society and the important facilitating role of local government. It focuses on economic, environmental, socio-demographic and health concerns - both for present generations and for future ones. The intention with theme sessions 1 was to examine some of the basic principles and elements behind sustainable development and the Local Agenda 21 process by discussing working examples, lessons learnt and problems encountered.

Principles and Processes

Theme Session 1.A, First Steps: How to start the Initiative

The session discussed presentations about how to start the LA 21 process, how to create municipal environmental and health policies, and how LEHAPs (Local Environmental Health Action Plans) have been used in Finland. *Oili Härkönen* from the City of Kajaani provided the session with insights into starting the process in a typical medium-sized city in Northern Finland. *Irja Alakivi, Vilve Ets and Kai Tamm* shared with the audience their experiences in the fields of environmental and health policies in the Estonian city of Tartu. The third presentation was given by the Finnish public health researcher *Mikko Holopainen*, who introduced the problems and experiences of preparing and implementing LEHAP's in Finnish communities.

The Kajaani case provided the audience with good examples of the usual questions and problems that are faced during the process by many similar cities. The city of Tartu has been a real predecessor in the field in Estonia. The city has been an ICLEI member since 1997, and it is the only Estonian signatory of the Aalborg Charter (at the time of the conference). The presentation provided the audience with an image of very well-defined and advanced policies. LEHAP is one possibility for the health sector to contribute to LA 21. According to Mikko Holopainen, the LEHAP's in the Finnish municipalities have been quite successful as far as the municipalities have allocated sufficient resources for their preparation.

During the discussion, the following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles
• Networking at all levels • Taking part in international projects and initiatives which allow citizens' participation • Resources in the city (universities and research)	• Changes in administration • Definition of sustainability • Interprofessional conflicts • Widening the scope of LA21 to include social issues
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• All stakeholders in the municipality should be involved • Wide intersectoral ownership • Structures close to Mayor rather than one city department • Explicit political commitment including budget and staff funding • Education, training and public awareness • Processes should include social questions, especially issues of equity	• To create a balance between the sectors/ dimensions of the SD • Need to analyse the present situation in a municipality before making investments • To establish mechanisms to make LA21 a part of everyday work

Theme Session 1.B, Managing LA 21: Internal Structures

This session discussed presentations about examples of regional co-operation in Kouvola region, Finland, and the idea of “Environmental Ambassadors” within different sectors of municipal administration developed and implemented in the Municipality of Uppsala, Sweden. LA 21 regional work in Kouvola was presented by *Arto Hovi*, and the “ambassadors” by *Hans-Olof Hansson*.

The work carried out in Kouvola Region since 1996, according to Arto Hovi, proves that many benefits are reached through regional co-operation of cities and rural municipalities. It is worth underlining, though, that the targets of sustainability on the regional and local level are not identical. The key to success in regional co-operation seems to be good communication between the

municipalities involved, and also between the local and regional levels.

The “Environmental Ambassadors” is a network of promoters of environmental points of view within a city administration. It is a tool to involve all municipal sectors in the work for sustainability and to contribute to the creation of integrated approaches. In Uppsala every department has nominated an “ambassador”, and the network has brought good results in raising awareness within the city administration.

As a result of the session, the following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles
• Knowledge and resource diffusion • Networking and building bridges	• Lack of ECU and time • The voice of ordinary people and business life is missing
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• Intermunicipal co-operation to pool resources • Long-term strategy with some immediate results • Integrating Interest Groups • Comprehensive consensus on LA21	• From strategy to action • Integration of health issues into environmental policy • Clear project management (and training for management) • Acceptance and support from the top, and opportunities to influence them

Theme Session 1.C, Methods and Tools for LA21

This session discussed presentations about the methodology of LA 21 processes: indicators of sustainability, municipal environmental auditing and a case study from the Municipality of Kolding, Denmark. *Yulia Abrosimova* from the Moscow Healthy Cities Supporting Centre shared with the session her insights into the Russian approaches to LA 21, *Mikko Jokinen* (representing the Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC) provided the audience with a review of the municipal environmental auditing method developed by the UBC, and *Michael Damm* from Kolding analysed the ways of getting the public involved in the LA 21 process and introduced the work carried out for the goals of Agenda 21 in Kolding.

According to Yulia Abrosimova, the WHO Healthy Cities Project has played an important role in Russia also with regards to formulating the general approach towards Local Agenda 21 work. She underlined the synergies and similarities between the goals of Healthy Cities and Local Agenda 21. Obviously, in the case of Russia, the innovative use of the Healthy Cities network also as the central channel of LA 21 work has been a good solution. Recently, the network has been working on the criteria of sustainable development in Russian Municipalities. The criteria developed so far extend from health measures to the conditions of the physical environment.

The UBC MEA model (municipal environmental auditing) was developed in a LIFE pilot project in co-operation with the UBC and the member cities of Tallinn, Helsinki and Turku. According to Mikko Jokinen, the model is specifically made to suit the cities in the Baltic Sea Region. One basis for the model is EMAS. The UBC has published user friendly MEA manuals in English, Russian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Polish, so the model should be reasonably easy to approach.

The following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Methods and Tools

Opportunities	Obstacles
• Co-operation, twinning, partnerships • Tools do not have to be technical and expensive	• Motivation, attitudes
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• To help decision-makers and the public to monitor the LA21 process • To provide the municipality with new information on the state of its own environment • To create methods that are participatory and available for the ordinary people • To proceed in the process systematically	• All interest groups in a municipality involved from the very beginning • More interaction between and within the Baltic Sea Region • Search for new financial resources and partners

Theme Session 1.D, Working with Partners: Consultation and Participation

This session discussed presentations about how to get support and partners for the LA 21 process: information and participation, partnerships of twin cities, and community approaches to health development in Estonia. Project secretary *Vivi Niemenmaa* from the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities introduced the participants to the information work carried out by the association. *Dalia Uptiene* and *Bo Lindholm* from the City of Kalmar, Sweden, presented the LA 21 co-operation between Kalmar and the City of Panevezys, Lithuania, and *Linda Norheim* from the Estonian Centre for Health Health Education and Promotion reviewed the community approaches in Estonia.

According to *Vivi Niemenmaa*, Local Agenda 21 should be seen as a learning process for both the administration and the citizens. The advantage of LA 21 Forum participation is not only to give people an equal opportunity to express their opinions, but also to get more points of view into the process. It is crucial that the public discussion has a real influence on the process and decision-making - otherwise people will lose their interest and the implementation will suffer.

The cities of Kalmar and Panevezys have carried out a Local Agenda 21 feasibility study in Panevezys. The study concentrated on four fields: education, health and environment, environmental management, and universities' role in supporting LA 21. The intension was to gather information for the planning and future implementation of LA 21.

Most health and environmental problems are multi-factorial and require integrated solutions. "The Community Approaches to Health Development in Estonia" Project aims at building new partnerships between the community, the health care system and other governmental authorities. According to *Linda Norheim*, the project encourages local governments and community leaders to recognise the relation between their work, citizen participation, health promotion and sustainable development.

The following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles
• Local staff • Support from the governors • Interested participants • Personal contacts • Community-based learning • "Snowball effect"	• Inconsistent funding • "Bad" history of social planning • "Bad" habits from the past • Unexpected crisis • Overemphasis on the "ownership" of the projects
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• Strengthened input in environmental education to the social dimension, citizens' welfare • Participation from administration to public • True effect = real impact on decision-making • Humanitarian aspect: partnership in learning, not teaching "our way" • Managing change in societies in "crisis" • Developing communication skills	• Learn by doing • Train for the project management skills that involves the citizens • Go where the people are • "Community-picnics" for sustainable development (cross-sectoral perspectives)



Theme Session 1.E: International Alliances for Sustainable Development

During this theme session, a number of strategic alliances and organisations active in the area of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) presented themselves to the audience. The aim was to make at least some of the large number of existing organisations better known to the participants thereby providing the opportunity for more targeted networking among all actors in the BSR.

A short introduction on the activities and remits of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign was followed by several other presentations. The 'International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI) gave explanations on its objectives, services and instruments and expressed its wish to extend its co-operation within the BSR, especially with local authorities from Russia, the Baltic States and Poland. *Johan Niss* from the Swedish Society of Nature Conservation gave an introduction into the activities of the 'Coalition Clean Baltic' (CCB) which, as a network of NGOs, was established in 1990. The Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum (BLA21F) network of Baltic cities, towns and NGOs for mutual support in relation to sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 was briefly presented. The Environmental Centres for Administration and Technology (ECATs) in different CEC countries were presented too.

During the presentation of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), it was stated that the fast growth of this network of (over 80) cities of the Baltic Sea Region proves the 'hunger for contacts after decades of separation' in the region. This network offers a considerable potential for Local Agenda 21 work, as it can allow for the integration of the environment into other policy areas. The exposition of 'Healthy Cities - Research and Networking' in the framework of World Health Organisation (WHO) -Healthy Cities Project- closed the presentations of this workgroup.

The examples given made it clear that there are a considerable number of organisations present across the BSR with a potential to further advance the concept of sustainable development and to come to closer co-operation on the underlying issues. This is especially true since most of the projects and activities presented are very practical and aim to bear concrete, tangible outcomes. The current interest of the EU to pick up on issues of local sustainability and the development of an European urban policy can be seen as an important backing in this respect, and as a potential which should be taken advantage of.

Opportunities	Obstacles
The variety of actors in one region	- Lack of networking and lack of knowledge rather than money - Language is the obstacle - Incompatibility between the NGOs and the local authorities
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
- To outline the various actors in the region (ICLEI, CCB, UBC, ECAT, WHO, Healthy Cities, BLA21F, HELCOM etc.) - To strengthen the networking of the existing actors, not to establish any new structures	Closer networking and collaboration

Theme Sessions 2: Integrated Solutions for Sustainability

Sustainable development integrates overall strategies and takes into account the long-term effects on both the environment and the human well-being. The sessions 2 explored how cross-cutting policy themes can be implemented within the sectorally divided local government. A lot can be achieved through their implementation, but at the same time many difficulties may be met.

Integrated approaches

Theme Session 2.A: Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility

Sustainable transportation is one of the most central challenges in many cities. This session discussed examples of promoting cycling as a joint effort of several municipalities, European best practises on promoting sustainable modes of transport and the case study "Fossil-free Växjö" from the City of Växjö, Sweden.

In Finland a number of cities have joined their efforts in promoting cycling. *Tapio Linna* from the Finnish Traffic League shared these experiences with the audience. Cycling is a model example of an activity which in a very practical way combines health and environmental goals. According to Mr. Linna, municipalities play a key role in creating suitable preconditions for increasing cycling.

Sarah Nilsson from the city of Växjö, Sweden, offered the participants her insights about Växjö's effort to be-

come a fossil-fuel free municipality. The city has progressed quite well in this effort. Energy production is based less and less on fossil-fuels, cycling conditions have been bettered, car pools have been promoted, etc.

The following conclusions were drawn from the discussion:

Future Steps + Recommendations

- Import image of emission-free means of transport
- Promote the positive side of sustainable transport choices
- Intergrate transport planning with other sectoral planning policies

Theme Session 2.B+C: Sustaining Economic Prosperity - Managing Resources

This theme session explored common denominators of sustainable economic development and the management of resources. It was stated that both businesses and local authorities have strong local roots and at the same time a global dimension. Thus, apart from all differences there are in fact common issues and interests which are a leverage for sustainable development.

Several suggestions were given as to how business-municipality co-operation for sustainable development could be given shape, e.g. through the combination of industrial Eco-Audit Schemes with municipal auditing programmes or by picking up on the issue of privatisation. In any case, local conditions should be developed which drive the development of more eco-efficient and less polluting industries and services.

Presentations introduced the Bremen Initiative, the role of industry in reaching sustainability (The Baltic Sea 2008 Programme), combining heat and power, and managing resources and health in the Lithuanian city of Panevezys. The Baltic Sea 2008 Programme has a very strong support from the enterprise sector. The main supporter of the programme is the International Chamber of Commerce. The programme aims at returning the water quality of the Baltic Sea to the level of 1940's.

The following conclusions were drawn from the discussions:

Future Steps + Recommendations

- Develop co-operation across the Baltic Sea region on pollution avoidance
- Better exchange of experience through networking on business and municipality co-operation
- Reducing energy consumption and increasing market share of renewable energy



Theme Session 2.D: Opportunity and Equity

This session underlined that development of democratic processes should be seen as an integral part of sustainable development at the local level. All aspects of equity should be considered: equity between gender, social groups, age groups, etc. It was also stated that the Baltic 21 should include more of the aspects of individuals' well-being and local democracy, not only "environmental" topics. Presentations were given about public health reform policy in Russia, cross-cutting sustainability policies, and developing democratic attitudes within local level decision-making.

Elena Tkatchenko introduced her insights about the public health reform in Russia. She underlined how the reform strategies are dependent on prevailing social values and local conditions. Health promotion co-ordinator *Angelika Baumann* from the City of Rostock, Germany,

introduced the linkages between Local Agenda 21 and Healthy City work in her city. These activities share the cross-sectoral approach, and many synergies can therefore be found. *Uldis Linins* introduced the Democracy Project, which includes partners from Latvia, Norway and Croatia. The aim of this project is to promote democratic decision-making at the local level.

The following conclusions were drawn from the session:

Future Steps + Recommendations

- Local Agenda 21 needs to address the democracy process
- Consider the 3 aspects of equity - socio-economic, age and gender
- Baltic Agenda 21 must include more social and democracy issues

Theme Session 2.E: Planning Sustainable Communities

This theme session set out to demonstrate the way in which the sustainable development approach enables the integration of strategies for health and for environmental protection. Three presentations were given: a project of the City of Turku which combines health and socio-economic data resources, utilising new multi-media and GIS technology (presented by Ilmo Parvinen); Environmental Impact Assessment in Tartu, a bi-lateral project launched by the Finnish government to develop EIA and its methodology in Estonia in the local planning context; and a case study of implementing the "Health for All" principle in Saldus Region in Latvia.

According to *Jussi Jauhiainen* from the University of Tartu, impact assessment can be used as a way to make the local development a public and openly discussed

issue and to raise the issues of sustainability at the local level. *Ina Behmane* from Saldus Region also stressed the importance of involving the community in a large sense.

The discussion was concluded by the following proposal for future steps and recommendations.

Future Steps + Recommendations

- Start connecting local and environmental data and setting up databases
- Establish east/west collaborative projects for the mutual exchange of best practise
- Deliver environmental education everywhere and for everybody

Theme Session 2.F: Consumption and Purchasing

Consumption is one of the very key questions of sustainability, and municipalities are large scale purchasers. The purchasing decisions and practises of municipalities have a great impact. This session discussed presentations about sustainable purchasing in practise in the City of Pori, Finland, and recycling practises in the City of St. Michels, Finland.

According to *Matti Lankiniemi* from Pori, remarkable benefits can be reached through systematic procurement practises. So far, the procurement instructions of Pori include recycling and assessment of the product life-cycle. *Timo Lehtonen* from St. Michels informed the audience that the first recycling centre of Finland was established in his city in 1987. The recycling activities of the city have after that increased remarkably, and new solutions are constantly being sought. One of the four main goals of St. Michels Agenda 21 is promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns.

The following conclusions were arrived at:

Future Steps + Recommendations

- Form groups of municipalities to exercise collective "green" purchasing power
- Give sustainability equal weighting to "free movement of goods" in EU policy
- Every municipality should have both environmental procurement rules and its own Recycling Centre as well

Re-cycling Centres

Theme Sessions 3: How to Move Forward?

The aim of sessions 3 was to explore how the Local Agenda 21 process can be further developed. The sessions picked up on lessons learnt and examples given in the first two sets of sessions, and tried to show how existing practices are moving the process forward. They also attempted to identify how future opportunities and solutions can be developed to promote sustainable development and to improve the quality of life.



Theme Session 3.A: How to Measure and Evaluate the Process

This session discussed the environmental effects of Local Agenda 21 and ecological footprint as a tool to measure the environmental burden of a single municipality.

Karen Buchanan from ICLEI presented the environmental effects of LA 21. In the case of LA 21, environmental effects are the result of concerted actions in many fields and they are not necessarily easy to measure.

Maija Hakanen from the Finnish Association of Local and Regional Authorities introduced the use of the concept of ecological footprint. It can be used as an effective method to demonstrate the overall environmental effects and to reveal the potential exportation of harmful consequences.

The following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles/Problems
Development of self-assessment methodologies as a means to receive a constant feedback on the process of Local Agenda 21	- Local vs. key/overall criteria - Integrative vs. specific indicators - Measure the process or evaluate the outcomes? - Research gap between health and environmental indicators
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
- Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Evaluation Criteria - Evaluation criteria for a "Checklist" used within the Local Agenda 21 process - Ecological Footprint: How much land is used to sustain me? - Establishment, use and interpretation of Sustainability Indicators	- Move from evaluation of processes to evaluation of outcomes, if time has come - Consider and plan for the practical consequences of the outcomes of evaluation - Develop further the concept of Ecological Footprint and methods how to integrate it in 'official' evaluation tools such as Strategic Environmental Impact assessment - Develop evaluation methods for post-soviet countries - Pick up on indicators developed for Baltic 21 - Be careful with complex indicators integrating many issues

Theme Session 3.B: Finances and LA21Session

This session discussed the possibilities of funding Local Agenda 21 activities. Presentations about government funding in Sweden and environmental accounting in the City of Tampere, Finland, were followed by examples of innovative ways to deal with the lack of financial resources.

According to *Harri Kallio* from the City of Tampere, environmental accounting can be seen as a new philosophy for management. The idea is to integrate environmental information into the management process likewise, e.g., economical information. Tampere has already included consideration of environmental information to budget planning.

Päivi Kippo-Edlund from the Finnish Association of Local and Regional Authorities strongly underlined in her presentation the benefits of combining the resources of different partners in the Local Agenda 21 work. One good solution used quite widely in Finland is to organise the LA 21 work as a joint effort of several municipalities. In many cases this even enables the employment of full-time staff. However, according to Päivi Kippo-Edlund, sustainability is also to great extent a matter of attitudes and environmental awareness rather than a matter of money.

The following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles
• Awareness raising leads to effectiveness • Finland and Sweden: Funding available for sustainable development and LA21 • Funding source EU	• Negative attitudes towards the importance of LA21 or sustainable development • Lack of resources, dependence on external fundings
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• How to raise and pool resources to create and implement sustainable development and LA21 • Co-operation on environmental issues through intersectoral, intermunicipal projects such as LA21 • Raise environmental awareness together with concrete projects and programmes	• LA21 co-ordinator should bring people and interest groups together • Equal partnership and awareness • Integrate job creation (economy) in LA21 and sustainable development • Report on environmental auditing, thereby presenting a visible way and measurable targets

Theme Session 3.C: Raising Awareness and Promoting LA21

This session discussed different ways of promoting Local Agenda 21 by information work and education from the use of mass media to university courses. Presenters included *Dagmara Nagorka* from the City of Gdansk, *Paula Lindroos* from Åbo Akademi University, and *Knut Matzon* from WHO. Three issues for teaching sustainability were distinguished as follows:

- Systems approach - understanding the complexity of the problems
- Problem based learning - increasing the comprehension
- A basis in ethics - discussion on values is essential.

It was stressed in the discussion, that there is a need for different types of knowledge in society. Environmental education should aim to educate environmental experts, environmental generalists, and an environmentally literate society. It would also be extremely important that universities and other institutions of higher education would work in close co-operation with local authorities.

The following conclusions were drawn from the discussion:

Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
• Making changes in behaviour of people • not only question of knowledge and awareness • based upon values and ethics	• "Scientists need to have their hands dirty and practitioners clear heads" e.g. co-operation between universities and municipalities • Use more encouraging examples and not only negative messages • Need for: environmental experts, environmental generalists and environmentally literate society

Theme Session 3.D: Technologies for the Cities of Tomorrow

This session discussed the possibilities of various technological solutions to environmental problems. A pilot project for saving resources in the City of Volkov, Russia, new tools developed in Hannover, Germany, and the possibilities brought by information technology were presented.

According to *Vladimir Volkov*, the resource saving program of Korolev is based on a few key targets. Considerable savings have been reached through more efficient recording of energy use and the losses in various parts of the process. It has also been of utmost importance that saving has been made beneficial for the users. The implementation of the program has been made



very transparent throughout the process in order to activate participation and increase awareness.

The following opportunities and obstacles were analysed and the conclusions arrived at:

Opportunities	Obstacles
- Combine savings of energy and money - Introduction of decentralised structures to individually distribute and measure energy are a lengthy process	- Lack of careful introduction of new measures and training - Lack of co-operation
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
- Resource saving policies in Russia and methods how to monitor and inform on resource use - The example of Korolev: Involvement of citizens and companies in measures to enhance energy efficiency - Ecological settlement Kronsberg in Hannover: Holistic approaches to planning and use of technologies	- Holistic and long-term strategic planning processes involving all important actors - Individually measure use of electricity, heat and water - Training and education centres for the correct installation and use of appliances - More exchange of experiences and good practice - Make use of open competition in planning processes

Theme Session 3.E: Sustainable Communities and Lifestyles

In this theme session presentations of Estonian Children's health promotion programme and 'Urban Food and Nutrition' were discussed. According to the presenters of the Estonian Cindi Children Program, the health problems are particularly strong among the non-Estonian part of the population. The program has been quite successful so far. During the discussion, the close interrelation between health, nutrition and the change of people's life-

styles was confirmed. Children were considered as the crucial target group for progress in the future. The sufficient integration of all activities into the life of the local community was strongly underlined.

The session analysed the following opportunities and obstacles and arrived at the following conclusions:

Opportunities	Obstacles
Children can be involved more easily, they are means to reach also their parents	- Unequal access to health services and information - Only information is not sufficient to motivate people to change their lifestyles - Health is often recognised being secondary in relation to more pressing issues
Issues + Goals	Future Steps + Recommendations
- How to come to healthier living conditions - Involvement of citizens in the creation of sustainable communities - Nutrition - Relationship between cities and their surrounding (rural) areas	- More physical exercise and better nutrition based on local production - More green space in urban areas - Health education and sport activities in schools - Improve involvement of all groups - Enforce preventive measures

Theme Session 3.F: Towards 2000

In this session presentations about strategies for good Local Agenda 21 processes in the Baltic Sea Region and about the evaluation of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign were given and the conference statement was discussed. *Bjarne Rasmussen* from Storstrøm County, Denmark, presented his global, Baltic and local visions of the Local Agenda 21 processes. Both in his presentation and in the following discussion the need to broaden the concept of LA 21 and the involvement of different actors were stressed.

The Campaign Co-ordinator *Anthony Payne* presented the evaluation plans of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. The evaluation was also already

started at the conference by distributing evaluation forms to the participants. The objective of the evaluation is to gather information about the Campaign's success in promoting sustainable development at the local level and supporting European local authorities in the development and implementation of appropriate policies and actions through Local Agenda 21 processes.

The Conference Statement was discussed rather vividly and some additions were made to the contents. The basic structure and approach of the draft were generally agreed on at this stage. (See next page for the complete statement.)



Turku Statement

Statement of the Baltic Local Agenda 21 -
Health and Sustainable Cities Conference



Framework

We, as representatives of Baltic municipalities, other organisations and participants, have gathered in Turku at the Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference (The Turku Conference) 3-5 September, 1998, to share our experiences, increase commitment, and to discuss and agree on co-operation and common goals for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.

This statement is the outcome of the first in a series of four regional conferences (Turku, Sofia, Seville and The Hague) to be organised in the various regions of our common Europe within the framework of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. These regional conferences will discuss the present situation across Europe with regards to sustainable development at the regional, inter-governmental and local level. The outputs from the regional conferences will provide a framework for the Third Pan European conference of the Campaign and initiate concrete actions at the local level which will be presented and discussed on the Pan European stage in the Year 2000.

The Turku Conference follows up on the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio, 1992, the European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Aalborg, 1994, the Second European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in Lisbon, 1996, the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, 1996, the International Healthy Cities Conference in Athens, 1998, and the Council of the Baltic Sea States Meeting in Nyborg, 22-23 June, 1998, where Baltic 21, the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region, was adopted. Despite remarkable progress on sustainable development since the Rio and Aalborg Conferences, we are still not on a sustainable course and a lot remains to be done.

Sustainable development is a continuous, controlled and democratic process of societal change at global, regional and local levels, aimed at improving the quality of life for present and future generations. Improving health is an essential part of this process. Sustainable development integrates environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources into other essential social, economic and cultural activities. Preserving biodiversity and reducing anthropogenic global climate change are examples of environmental goals of this process. Environmental, economic, social and health questions must be tackled simultaneously by implementing cross-sectoral approaches over the traditional sectors of administration. Community participation leads to an open forum that enables democratically sound local public policies and

strategies to be continually evaluated and adapted. Local Agenda 21 is a central tool in bringing sustainability to reality.

Regional Pattern

The Baltic Sea Region (BSR, all the Nordic Countries, the Baltic States, Germany, Poland and the Russian Federation) is a region of change, differences and similarities, and has an increasing importance in Europe and the rest of the world. It is bound together by the sea, by history, cultural heritage, economic action and co-operation in all appropriate fields. The relevance of tackling the questions of sustainable development within the context of the BSR arises from these links and from the fact that the countries, municipalities and people of this region can reach sustainable development only through concerted action and continuous co-operation irrespective of political and economic differences and borderlines. The existing strong organisations, networks and partnerships provide an excellent basis for this work. The strong will and commitment to international co-operation in the BSR is manifest at all levels from municipal and sub-regional initiatives - such as city twinning and organisations like the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC), the Coastal Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and NGOs - to the level of national governments.

Commitments

We recognise our duties towards the generations to come, we pledge our continuous commitment to the principles, goals and guidelines of Agenda 21, the Aalborg Charter and the Lisbon Action Plan, and we will in all appropriate ways join our efforts to implement Baltic 21 - the first regional inter-governmental Agenda 21 program in the world after the Rio Conference - and to fulfill the principles and goals of the Athens Declaration for Healthy Cities.

As participants of the Turku conference - the first regional conference of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign - we want to express our full support to the Campaign. We are willing to carry on and further develop the Campaign together with actors from other regions of Europe. We are convinced that the following points must be considered and the actions taken in order to implement Baltic 21 and to support sustainable development for the future in the Baltic Sea Region and the whole Europe.

Herewith we pledge our common support to these goals, actions and points of view.

- The vital role of the local and regional authorities in the implementation of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region must be recognised. We will strengthen and join the efforts of our distinct municipalities and organisations to fully support the implementation of the Baltic 21 action programme.

- We agree on the necessity to promote the Local Agenda 21 work in all possible ways. Our common goal will be that a vast majority of municipalities in each of the Baltic Sea countries shall have its own Local Agenda 21 process started before the end of 2000.

- We will join our efforts through the Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum (BLA21F), which as a joint effort of different organisations and municipalities will pool, co-ordinate and promote the Local Agenda 21 activities in the Baltic Sea Region. We call upon the European Institutions and the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, to actively support this European Regional initiative for the promotion of Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development, in line with European Union commitments described in the follow up to the 5th Environmental Action Programme 'Towards Sustainability'.

- We will actively seek and develop tools for co-operation and networking between our local authorities and other actors and stakeholders, e.g., NGOs and local businesses, recognising the important role that the private sector plays in global, national and local economies and the opportunities this provides for a more sustainable future. The promotion of environmental education and public awareness is an important tool in our work, as is the involvement of young people in the local agenda process.

- We will in all appropriate ways seek for international partnerships within our region as well as with actors in other parts of Europe and in the rest of the World. We are willing to develop the Baltic Sea Region as an active region aiming at co-operation across the whole continent in the interest of our common future.

- We shall endeavour to exchange technical expertise and knowledge with local authorities in countries whose economies are in transition and between countries with developing economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This exchange should also include awareness raising, information and control on how "western" consumption and production patterns cause serious degradation on other countries.

- We fully support the goals and activities of the WHO Healthy Cities Project in the BSR. We also appreciate and welcome the establishing of the Baltic Region Healthy Cities Project Office in Turku, Finland.

- We consider it an essential responsibility of the European Union (EU) to promote and implement the principles of sustainable development in the planning of all activities, policies and programmes affecting the Baltic

Sea Region. Promoting sustainability must be regarded an essential part of the development of the Northern dimension of Europe. We see it as an essential responsibility of the governments of the BSR Countries and the bodies of the European Union to allocate appropriate resources to this work, and to support it politically.

- We urge the EU to include evidence of progress towards sustainable development as a requirement of the grant of any funding to EU and non-EU countries.

- The significance of sustainability in regard to urban issues should be taken into consideration in the forthcoming Urban Action Plan of the European Union. Special emphasis should be put on the influences in regard to the European integration in the Baltic Sea Region.

- As part of our work towards the Year 2000, our individual municipality will identify the key issues and obstacles effecting local sustainability and will strive to make real commitments to tackle these issues. Such commitments will reflect the principles of the Aalborg Charter and steps of the Lisbon Action Plan. At the same time, the commitments will move beyond these principles and steps thereby bringing sustainability to reality.

- We will identify and work towards five key commitments/pledges for the benefit of our city or town and its citizens. These pledges and the actions taken to meet them will be reported to the 2000 Pan European conference. The five commitments/pledges identified by each city and town will also be forwarded to the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign to be used for identifying key areas on which the Campaign should concentrate its efforts in the forthcoming years.

- We consider this statement as a message to be sent from the Turku Conference to the regional Sustainable Cities and Towns conferences, the next Pan-European Conference which is to be organised in 2000, to the European Union, to national governments and all municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Statement was endorsed in Turku 4 September 1998 by the participants (400) of the Baltic Local Agenda 21 - Health and Sustainable Cities Conference.



Summary of Conference Posters

Environmental and Health Awareness Raising in Tartu

Poster by **Vilve Ets, Kai Tamm, Irja Alakivi**, Development Division of Planning Dept., City of Tartu, Estonia

Sustainability principles were accepted in the document of Nature Protection Concept of Tartu in June, 1988. More than six years later the Estonian Parliament passed the **Sustainable Development Act**. The process of compiling Tartu Agenda 21 and the strategic plan Tartu 2012 is going on. Tartu is the only Estonian signatory of the Ålborg Charter, member of ICLEI from 1997 and intending to join the WHO Healthy Cities Project.

The following conclusions can be done by using SWOT analyses:

Strengths (2/4):

- already defined environmental policy objectives, concept of sustainability
- qualified personnel with mission

Weaknesses (2/4):

- city administration does not use existing skills and knowledge, does not admit problems
- co-operation with the community is insufficient

Opportunities (2/4):

- more co-operation with other towns, countries and states
- using potential of scientific research institutes, international experience and foreign aid

Threats (2/6):

- good decisions will not be implemented
- ...consideration of only present day economic interests.

“Environmental Ambassadors” - an Excellent Channel for Promoting Local Agenda 21 Ideas

Poster by **Hans-Olof Hansson**, Project Manager, Municipality of Uppsala, Sweden

There is **no existing organisational unit**, which would take full responsibility for LA 21 issues. One way to solve this problem is **to create a network**: an officially recognised informal organisation. In the Uppsala case every department has appointed an “environmental ambassador”. The ambassador’s task is to promote awareness on the environmental questions and from their local horizons promote the activities in the local district where they operate.

The goal for the “Ambassadors Project” is to support the formal way to raise awareness on the importance of environmental questions in our daily life. So far the experience shows that the project will be successful. The next step is to involve questions of public health to a greater extent.

Tools for Implementing Local Agenda 21 - How Does One Involve the Public?

Poster by **Peter Hee**, Head of the Buildings and Environment Dept. **Michael Damm**, Director of the Environmental Dept., The municipality of Kolding, Denmark

Environmental action plan from 1989, which designated no less than 34 environmental measures designed to reduce the impact on the environment. Out of these 25 measures have been implemented today.

The “**Green thoughts in Kolding**” vision plan of 1990 outlined a broad draft of measures with the aim of achieving a better ecological balance in the municipality. Among the other things, the report focused on urban ecology, where several urban ecology measures have been implemented in connection with new construction and urban renewal.

Approach to LA 21 in Russia

Poster by **Yulia E. Abrosimova**, M.D., Ph. D., Healthy Cities Supporting Centre, Moscow, Russia

The foundation of the national network coincided in time with the development and accepting of the Russian national concept of sustainable development, becoming a part of the national policy. This made it easier to justify the necessity of an integrated approach to health and environment. On the other hand, the organisational structure and methods were not too big a problem, because from the very beginning we decided to start the activities on sustainable development in the framework of our Healthy Cities network.

We believe that **to involve the Russian cities** in the LA21 movement, it is essential to have the main documents on LA21 written in good Russian. Therefore considerable part of our work is preparing the readable versions. Among them there are the Lisbon Action Plan, the European Campaign Bulletins etc.

Control of Groundwater Quality - a Measure of Public Health Care

Original Poster by **Sanislovas Šleinius**, Vilnius Hydrogeology, Lithuania

Control of the groundwater quality in Lithuanian cities is carried out according to the program of monitoring. The factory monitoring is carried out by enterprises and organisations, polluting groundwater or pumping it (water supply works). Municipal monitoring is carried out in the residential areas and on the territories of non-point groundwater pollution. Ground water monitoring (GWM) covers water table and deeper fresh water aquifers. The

quality of the drinking water is naturally an important factor of public health and analysis of the groundwater quality is therefore of great interest to municipalities.

Problems of Noise in a Local Area of Lithuania

Original Poster by **Regina Abromaityte**, Health Center of Panevezys, Lithuania

The **object** of the surrounding noise measuring was to elucidate the real equivalent level of surrounding noise in a settled territory of Panevezys city, in living rooms of citizens and evaluate traffic stream intensity and structural changes of traffic in the streets of Panevezys from 1994 to 1996.

Conclusions:

- The traffic noise has **influence** on the equivalent level of noise in a settled territory
- It is necessary to make a detailed **noise zone** map according to LST ISO 1996-2 "Acoustics"
- It is necessary to make a **combination** of various measures, e.g., technical and administrative in order to reduce the surrounding noise in cities.

Health for All in Saldus District

Poster by **Ina Behmane**, Managing Director Regarding Social Matters, Saldus District Council, Latvia

Healthy community means that it is aware of the importance of health and **strives to improve the situation in this field**. Healthy community should strive to provide several **essential qualities**, among them (4/12):

- clean environment
- an ecosystem that is stable now and sustainable in the long term
- access to a wide variety of experiences and resources, chance of contact
- diverse community economy

Eco-development Strategies in Local Communities in Poland

Original Poster by **Lidia Lewandowska**, Programme Leader, Poland

The UNPD Umbrella Project has launched a program of consulting assistance to Polish local communities. The program, Preparation of Eco-development strategies according to Agenda 21, is the first nation-wide program focusing on eco-development in small and medium-sized communities (gminas).

The **methods and tools** of the program are based on participatory communication processes. These processes are an important tool for local democracy development. An essential element are workshops with representatives from various local bodies: NGO's, local and

regional authorities, business and local leaders. The final product is an integrated package consisting of eco-development strategy, monitoring, recommendations for management, and communication strategy.

Health Promotion Developments: an Estonian Model

Poster By **Anu Kasmel**, M.D., M.S.Sc, Estonian Centre for Health Education and Promotion, Tallinn

In 1993 The Public Health Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs was formed and The Centre for Public Health Education and Promotion was founded. Its function was to **create an infrastructure** for health promotion, co-ordinate activities, carry out situation analyses, plan, implement and evaluate health promotion programmes and act as an information centre in Estonian health promotion. Several nationwide projects were designed and the implementation also started 1993 (Heart Health, Injury Prevention, Anti-Tobacco, Family Planning etc.).

Main Steps in the Process Towards Sustainability in Helsinki

Original Poster by **Kari Silfverberg**, LA21 Coordinator, City of Helsinki, Environment Centre

The specific primary targets in the preparation of the Local Agenda 21 Programme for Helsinki, defined in the City Council decision of March 1997, are the following:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the national targets set by the government,
- Protection and enhancement of biodiversity and green areas within the city area and preparation of a comprehensive Green Area Development Programme,
- Strengthening LA 21 partnerships and citizens' participation and involvement in all spheres of municipal administration,
- Development of appropriate tools and methods for the assessment and evaluation of sustainability, to be applied in the preparation of plans, programmes and activity reports by all municipal organisations.
- Implementation of suburban housing rehabilitation and renewal schemes with a strong emphasis on improved users' participation and development of ecologically sound construction methods.

Public Awareness Campaign in St. Petersburg in the Field of Solid Household Waste Management

Original Poster By **Olga Madison**, Co-chairperson, Keep St.Petersburg Tidy NGO

St Petersburg with more than five million inhabitants is the second biggest city in Russia. The issue of waste is one of the most urgent ones in the city. One of the main problems is the absence of selective collection of waste.

The Keep St. Petersburg Tidy NGO takes part in environmental activities organised by the city authorities. One of the advantages of NGO participation is good contact to citizens. The activists of this NGO for example took part in the Clean City Program by carrying out direct information work about recycling of al-cans at St. Petersburg airport. The experiences were positive and collection of al-cans got a good start.

Keep St. Petersburg Tidy NGO was established in 1995. It has taken part in environmental education and public awareness activities and also participated in international co-operation of Keep Baltic Tidy.

The Role of Journalists in the Process of Sustainable Community Development

Original Poster By **Alicja Kostecka**, Secretary General, Polish Association of Travel Journalists and Writers, Poznan, Poland

In communication the objective is to achieve compliance or, more generally, a behaviour that is not damaging for sustainable community development. Practice indicates that communication operates on different levels when it comes to influencing behaviour: 1. attention, 2. knowledge, 3. attitude, 4. intention, and 5. behaviour.

The journalist who wants to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable development has to pay attention to all of these. For example changes of behaviour may be motivated by economic consideration, but it is the journalist's challenge to communicate this message effectively. The challenge is to convince people.

Cross-cutting Policies for Sustainable Development of Rostock

Poster By **Dr. Angelika Baumann**, Health Promotion Co-ordinator, Hanseatic City of Rostock, Germany

The policies Healthy City and Agenda 21 have both strongly developed common aims, particularly regarding the participation of citizens in developing a sustainable social and ecological environment. The responsible persons for the implementation of the Local Agenda 21 in Rostock are using the practise and experience of the local Health Promotion.

Another aspect of the Health Promotion and Agenda work is the international co-operation. Rostock is co-operating within the Union of the Baltic Cities in the process of developing a Baltic Agenda 21, and is trying to join efforts with the WHO Sub-Regional Office Baltic headed by Turku.

Local Agenda 21 in the Hämeenlinna Region

Original Poster by **Heli Jutila**, M.Sc., department of Environment, Federation of Municipalities for Public Health Work in the Hämeenlinna Region

The focus during the years 1997 and 1998 has mainly been in implementing the measures set in 1996. **Examples follow (11/14):**

- Lecture series and an open regional Agenda Seminar
- Information materials
- Participation in Local Agenda 21 project of Finnish Authorities
- Questionnaire on environment health care in the region. Image maps included.
- Educational meeting for ecological cleaning
- Outdoor map of recreation areas
- State of environment reports
- Environmental impacts of a big public happening
- Co-operative planning and public participation in water protection
- Mobility Forum: traffic and environment in everyday life
- Environmental Parliament for the teenagers

In the future:

- Foundation of environmental education centre
- Indicators of sustainable development and state of environment reports
- Social and health aspects of sustainable development
- Increasing the participation of people and co-operation with business.



Conference Program

Topics, Speakers, Facilitators and Reporters

Thursday, 3 September 1998

9.00 Opening Session

Chair: Mr Petri Lahesmaa

Opening of the Conference

Mr Petri Lahesmaa, Chairman of the Board, City of Turku

Strategy for Sustainable Development of the European Union

Dr Liz Mills, DG XI, European Commission

Baltic Agenda 21 - a Common Effort Towards Sustainability in the Region

Dr Svante Bodin, Secretary General, Baltic Agenda 21

Sustainable Development at the Local Level

Mr Agis Tsouros, Coordinator, Healthy Cities project

11.00 Theme Sessions 1: Principles and Processes behind Local Agenda 21

1.A First Steps: How to Start the Initiative

Facilitator: Knud Matzon

Reporter: Leah Rothstein

Speakers: Oili Härkönen, City of Kajaani, Finland, Irja Alakivi, City of Tartu, Estonia, Mikko Holopainen, National Public Health Institute

1.B Managing LA21: Internal Structures

Facilitator: Wolfgang Güssow

Reporter: Jussi S. Jauhiainen

Speakers: Arto Hovi, Kouvola Region, Finland
Hans-Olof Hansson, Municipality of Uppsala, Sweden

1.C Methods and Tools for LA21

Facilitator: Mikko Jokinen

Reporter: Annika Lindblom

Speakers: Yulia Abrosimova, Healthy Cities Supporting Centre, Moscow
Mikko Jokinen, UBC
Peter Hee, Municipality of Kolding, DK

1.D Working with Partners: Consultation and Participation

Facilitator: Pasi Rinne

Reporter: Mari Hakkala

Speakers: Viivi Niemenmaa, Association of Finnish Local Authorities
Dalia Uptiene, Bo Lindholm, City of Kalmar
Linda Norheim, Estonia

1.E International Alliances for Sustainable Development in Baltic Sea Region

Facilitator: Anthony Payne, Agis Tsouros

Reporter: Peter Löffler

Speakers: Barbara Anton, ICLEI
Johan Niss, Coalition Clean Baltic
Sanna Ahvenharju, ECAT Lithuania
Agis Tsouros, Healthy Cities Network

14.30 Theme Sessions 2: Integrated Solutions for Sustainability

2.A Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility

Facilitator: Kari Salovaara

Reporter: Marjo Nummelin

Speakers: Tapio Linna, Traffic League
Sarah Nilsson, City of Växjö

2.B + 2.C Sustaining Economic Prosperity, Managing Resources

Facilitator: Sauli Rouhinen

Reporter: Peter Löffler

Speakers: Marcelo Palazzi, Bremen Initiative
Curt Nicolin, Baltic 2008
Launo Tuura, Helsinki Energy
Zita Tverkute, City of Vilna, Lithuania

2.D Opportunity and Equity

Facilitator: Mark McCarthy

Reporter: Sanna Ahvenharju

Speakers: Elena Tkatchenko, London School of Hygiene
Angelika Baumann, City of Rostock
Uldis Linins, Democracy project

2.E Planning Sustainable Communities

Facilitator: Stefan Skog

Reporter: Karen S. Buchanan

Speakers: Ilmo Parvinen, City of Turku
Jussi S. Jauhiainen, University of Tartu
Ina Behmane, Saldus District, Latvia

2.F Consumption and Purchasing

Facilitator: Michael Lettenmayer

Reporter: Ann-Marie Lidmark

Speakers: Matti Lankiniemi, City of Pori
Timo Lehtonen, St. Michels Region

Friday, 4 September 1998

9.00 Plenary

Chair: Mr Anders Engström, President of the Union of the Baltic Cities

Reports back to plenary from the Theme Sessions 1 and 2

World Tomorrow - Trends and Scenarios
Assistant Professor Lars Ryden, University of Kalmar

City of Tomorrow - Culture and Heritage
Mr Christian Patermann, DG XII, European Commission

11.00 Theme Sessions 3: How to Move Forward

3.A How to Measure and Evaluate the Process

Facilitator: Marko Joas
Reporter: Barbara Anton
Speakers: Karen Buchanan, ICLEI
Maija Hakanen, Association of Finnish Local Authorities

3.B Finances and LA 21

Facilitator: David Meyrick
Reporter: Jussi S. Jauhiainen
Speakers: Anders Engström, City of Kalmar, Sweden
Harri Kallio, City of Tampere
Päivi Kippo-Edlund, Association of Finnish Local Authorities

3.C Raising Awareness: Promoting LA21

Facilitator: Mari Hakkala
Reporter: Sanna Ahvenharju
Speakers: Dagmara Nagorka, City of Gdansk, Poland
Paula Lindroos, Åbo Akademi
Knud Matzon, WHO

3.D Technologies for Cities of Tomorrow

Facilitator: Teppo Koski
Reporter: Ann-Marie Lidmark
Speakers: Vladimir Volkov, City of Korolev
Reinhard Martinsen, City of Hannover

3.E Sustainable Communities and Lifestyle

Facilitator: Ilmo Parvinen
Reporter: Peter Löffler
Speakers: Lagle Suurorg, Viive Sirge, YWCA-YMCA of Estonia
Robert Pederson

3.F Towards 2000

Facilitator: Colin Fudge
Reporter: Anthony Payne
Speakers: Bjarne Rasmussen
Anthony Payne

14.30 Plenary:

Chair: Mr Timo Kvist, Deputy Mayor of Turku

Rapporteurs from Theme Sessions 3

Open Discussion on the Statement

16.00 Plenary: Strategies for the Future

Chair: Mr Timo Kvist, Deputy Mayor of Turku

Approval of the Statement

Conclusions for 2000
Professor Colin Fudge, Chair of the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment

Future Sustainability for Environment and Health
Ms Vappu Taipale, Director General, National R&D Centre for Welfare and Health STAKES, Finland

Closing Speech
Ms Sirkka Hautojärvi, Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment, Finland



Project Organisation

Body	Responsibilities	Members / Person
International Planning Group	Strategic Guidelines Conference program Conference Statement Contacts and Liaison	Open to representatives of all organising partners
Organising Committee	Leading the whole process Guidelines for practical arrangements	Nominated by the mayor of Turku, consisting of persons involved with the arrangements and/or offering expertise
Conference Secretariat	Practical arrangements	Risto Veivo, Tuomo Poutiainen, Kaija Lindgren, Susanna Kharroubi, Leena Winter and Minna Helin
Chairman of the International Planning Group and the Organising Committee	Chairing of the organising bodies Budget Decisions with large effects on several fields of the arrangements	Mr. Mikko Jokinen, Head of the Environmental Department, City of Turku
Secretary-General	Co-ordination of the preparations and arrangements Contacts and marketing Secretary of the organising bodies	Mr. Risto Veivo, Environmental Co-ordinator of the Union of the Baltic Cities (employed by the city of Turku)
Program Consult	Preparations of the program and contacts to the presentators	Mr. Otto Lehtipuu, GAIA Network
Reporting Co-ordinator	Planning and running the reporting scheme at the conference	Mr. Peter Löffler, European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign Office
Budget Secretary	Budget planning and preparations	Ms. Susanna Kharroubi, Project Manager at the Office for Health Affairs, city of Turku
A member of the organising committee with specific responsibilities	Contacts with the WHO and representation of the health aspects in the preparations	Ms. Mari Hakkala, Expert, Baltic Region Healthy Cities project Office

Representation of the Organising Partners at the Meetings of the International Planning Group

12 February, Helsinki

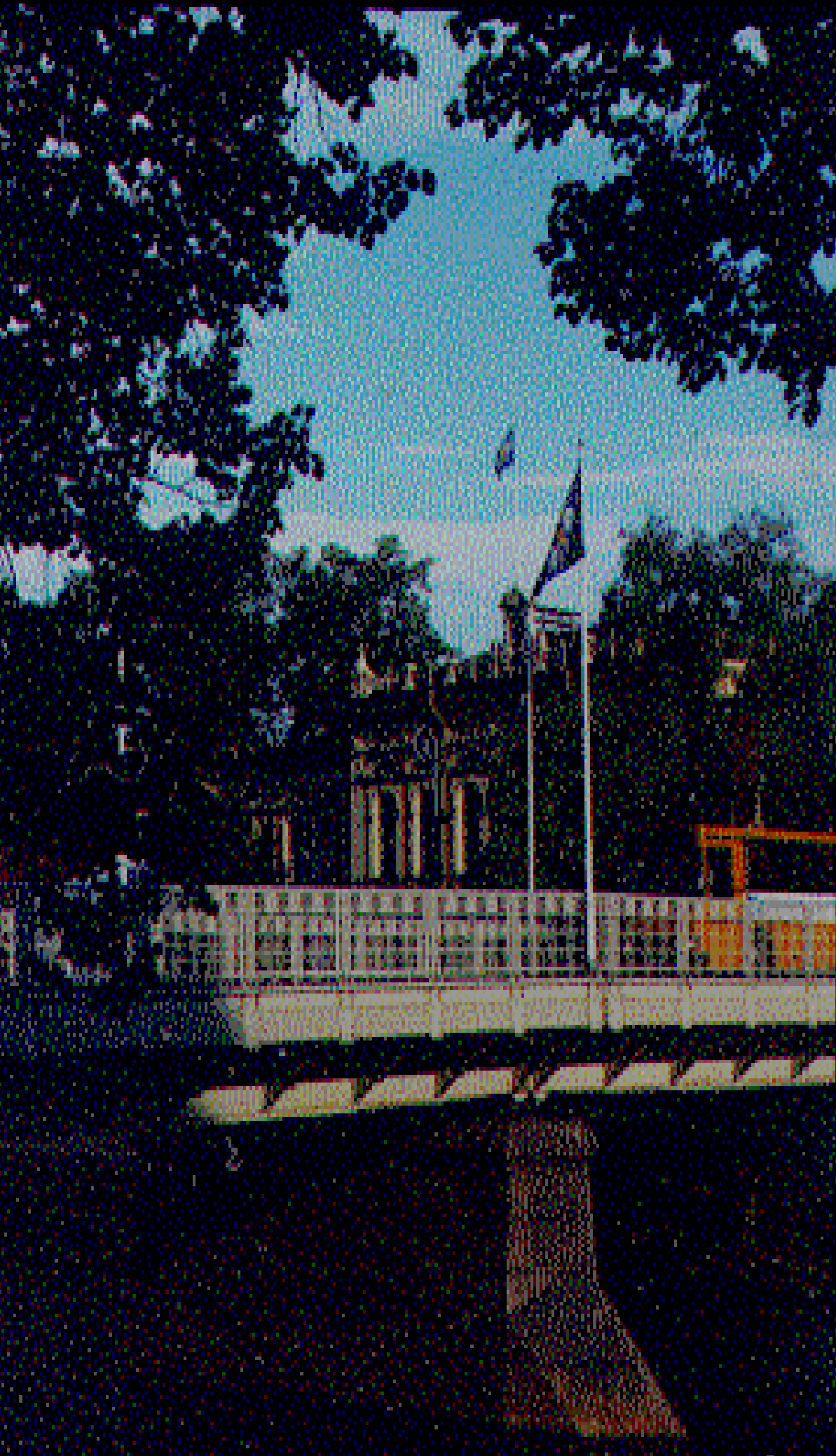
Pasi Rinne (Finnish Ministry of the Environment), Mikko Jokinen, (the City of Turku), Anthony Payne, European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), Peter Löffler (European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), Mark McCarthy (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Mari Hakkala (WHO Baltic Planning Office), Barbara Anton (ICLEI), Annika Lindblom (Finnish Ministry of the Environment), Päivi Kippo-Edlund (Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities), Mr. Kari Porra (Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum / the City of Lahti), Antonia Sucksdorf-Selkämä (UBC Commission on Environment), Otto Lehtipuu (GAIA Network Ltd.)

17 April, Turku

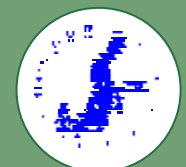
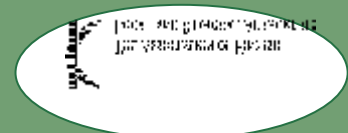
Mikko Jokinen, (Chairman, the City of Turku), Anthony Payne, European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), Peter Löffler (European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), Leah Rothstein (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Mari Hakkala (WHO Baltic Planning Office), Kristina Adolfsson (Stockholm County Association of Local Authorities), Ann-Marie Lindmark (the City of Stockholm), Annika Lindblom (Finnish Ministry of the Environment), Päivi Kippo-Edlund (Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities), Risto Veivo (Secretary-General of the Conference, UBC), Tuomo Poutiainen (member of the Conference Secretariat), Otto Lehtipuu, GAIA Network Ltd.

28 July, Turku

Mr. Mikko Jokinen (Chairman, the City of Turku), Mr. Peter Löffler (European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign), Ms. Leah Rothstein (WHO Regional Office for Europe), Ms. Mari Hakkala (WHO Baltic Planning Office), Ms. Karen S. Buchanan (ICLEI), Ms. Annika Lindblom (Finnish Ministry of the Environment), Mr. Kari Porra (Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum / the City of Lahti), Mr. Risto Veivo (Secretary-General of the Conference, UBC), Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen (Member of the Conference Secretariat)



Organising partners



Web Sites of the UBC Member Cities

Original report by Trainee Mari Leheste

The UBC Commission of Environment had a quick look in internet to see how the UBC member cities are being represented. Here are the results: out of 84 member cities 67 have their own homepages. 53 out of 67 are offering some information in English and 33 have pages on environment but not all of them are available in English. The contents of the pages vary (history, culture, economics). The environment sites are often included as links. Trying to estimate the amount of relevant information on environment is difficult: most of the pages are in native language and the ones that are in English don't usually give you more than just basic information.

In most cases member cities' web sites are useful for finding general and basic information or even new project partners. In their present state they are also useful for practising most of the Baltic Sea Region languages. Most pages have correspondence information and some even have email addresses.

EIB Environmental Financing

The European Investment Bank has announced a loan of EURO 20 million to the Republic of Latvia for municipal and environmental infrastructure projects. The finance is mainly meant to support environmental priority investments made by medium- and small-sized Latvian municipalities. Particular focus is given to projects in sectors of water, wastewater, solid waste and urban infrastructure and equipment with a significant positive impact on the environment

Futher information: <http://www.eib.org>

Air Quality in Helsinki

Every spring the sand dust on the streets of Helsinki causes a major environmental problem. When the sun comes out and dries the streets the dust is raised up in the air by the passing traffic. The dust comes mainly from gravel that has been used to sand the icy streets during the winter. Some comes from the wear and tear of the streets, some from the emissions of traffic, energy production and industry, and some is pollen.

The Environment Centre of Helsinki has come up with an idea: the streets in the city centre will be watered with salt solution. This results salt stains but the problem is thought to be solvable by using mild

enough solution. If this new idea works it will help numerous people suffering from asthma and will help to prevent infections of respiratory organs.

The City of Helsinki has also tried to tie down dust around street-tram tracks. The idea is to have durable lawns in the immediate space next to and around the tracks. In the spring when threes and bushes are still bare the lawn will help to tie down the dust raised by wind and passing traffic. In addition, grass also makes the areas look much nicer than vast amounts of tarmac or concrete.

9-12 August, 1999

Lübeck Meetings

The City of Lübeck kindly hosted the UBC Commission on Environment 15-16 January. The meeting decided on the commission's action plan, heard many interesting presentations about sustainability work in participating cities and devoted a whole day to planning the Local Agenda 21 work of the UBC.

Carl Nielsen from Aarhus was chosen to continue as the chairman and Mikko Jokinen from Turku as the vice chairman of the commission.

The meetings gathered together 40 participants from member cities. The hosts offered great hospitality and venue at the Old Town Hall. Mr. Ralf Giercke from the Stadtwerke Lübeck was responsible for the successful organising work on the location.

LA 21 Program

Local Agenda 21 work is very important for the whole Baltic Sea Region at the moment, and the UBC has become one of the driving forces of this work. Therefore it is necessary for us to further elaborate our strategies and to search for co-operation and synergies in this work. The making of the UBC LA 21 Program was started already last year and the work was successfully continued in the Lübeck meeting in January.

The four workshops at the Lübeck meeting made good progress and provided plenty of new ideas and insights for the program. Right now the commission secretariat is further developing the program draft and the next meeting will be organised in Viljandi, Estonia, in June. After the Viljandi meeting the program proposal should be finished and taken to the UBC Board already in Tartu 28 June. All UBC member cities are invited to take part in the process.

Gone SAILing

The first SAIL Project workshop on Local Agenda 21 was held in Jurmala, 11-14 March. The workshop made good progress and the roundtable with local experts gathered together 40 specialists. The project will arrange altogether five workshops, the next ones being held in Tartu, Gdansk, Kaunas and St. Petersburg. The goal of the project is to boost Local Agenda 21 work. The project will produce LA 21 info materials in all Baltic languages, Polish and Russian. The project partner ICLEI provides its advice on request to all interested via the SAIL Website (see UBC pages for link). At the final phase, next winter, the project will arrange five dissemination meetings for municipal decision-makers.

Schedule of Next Workshops:

10-13 June, Gdansk

5-8 August, Kaunas

30 September-3 October, St. Petersburg

Further information:

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Head of Environmental Protection
FIN-15210 Lahti
Tel. +358-3-8165121
kari.porra@lahti.fi

MEA News in Lithuania

Two Lithuanian member cities, Panevezys and Klaipeda, are currently implementing the UBC's model of Municipal Environmental Auditing (MEA). The MEA in Panevezys was launched in December, and now the information gathering phase is nearly finished. The work is being carried out by a team of Lithuanian project workers assisted by Finnish trainees and lead by Ms Zita Tverkute, the Head of the Environmental Department of Panevezys. Mr. Pekka Pietilä, the leader of ECAT-LT, has kindly contributed to contact work, team-building and human resources. The Commission on Environment acts as an overall co-ordinator of the project. These new MEAs are funded by the Nordic Minister Council (NoM).

The running of MEA is also possible by mutual co-operation of member cities, like Finnish cities Pori and Turku are doing this year. The UBC Commission on Environment follows their activity and encourages other cities to follow the example. Any UBC member cities interested in starting new MEAs are advised to contact the Commission on Environment.

Event Calendar

This calendar is compiled with help from the Regional Calendar published at the BALLERINA homepage:
<http://www.baltic-region.net/meet-poin/calend.htm>

Listed below are some environmental as well as other seminars, conferences, fairs, etc. that you might find interesting and useful. For more information, please contact the organizers. You are welcome to announce your event in this calendar as well: for this purpose, please contact the UBC Commission on Environment.

May

7-10 May, 1999
Forests as Source of Raw Material
Scheverdingen, Germany
Contact: Forum Office, Alfred Toepfer
Academy for Nature Conservation
(NNA)
Tel. +49-5199-989-21
Fax. +49-5199-989-46
E-mail. infocus@oln.comlink.apc.org /
naturschutzakademie-nna@t-online.de

25-28 May, 1999
Ecological Revitalization of Great River
Basins, ICFE-99
Nizhny Novgorod, Russia
Contact: Tatiana G. Sosokina
Tel. +7-8312345595
Fax. +7-8312345568
E-mail. tatiana@yarmarka.ru

June

23-25 June, 1999
Local Agenda 21, Sustainable Development in Cities
The Fourth Regional Conference of the
European Sustainable Cities & Towns
Campaign
Den Haag, Netherlands

7-12 June, 1999
Coastlines '99: Connecting Science
and Management in the Coastal Zone
Szczecin, Miedzyzdroje, Poland
Contact: Dr Kazimir Rabski, EUCC-Poland
Tel/Fax: +48-226481852
Email: krabski@mos.gov.pl Or
EUCC International
Tel. +31-715124069
Email. admin@eucc.nl

July

9-10 July, 1999
Meeting of Ministers of Trade and
Development in the Baltic Sea Region
Vilnius, Lithuania

11-15 July, 1999
Incidents and Indicators of Sustainable
Development
St. Petersburg, Russia
Contact: Dr Irina G. Malkina-Pykh, Centre for International Environmental
Cooperation, Russian Academy of Sciences
Tel. +7-812 2329772/+7-8122721601
Fax. +7-8122724265
Email. malkina@mail.admiral.ru Or

Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award

UBC Commission on Environment is calling all UBC member cities to apply for the first Best Environmental Practise in the Baltic Cities Award. The award ceremony will take place on the occasion of the UBC General Conference in Stockholm 24-25 September 1999.

The intention with the award is to encourage all member cities to develop their environmental administration, management and services in innovative ways for the good of the whole municipality and its citizens. The Commission on Environment is calling for innovative practises which are initiated and developed by environmental administrations, but which benefit also other municipal sectors and the citizens. The intention is not to look for the absolutely very best overall environmental management, but to look for innovative practises which function well in the local circumstances of the applying cities.

Please, contact the Commission on Environment for application guidelines.



Deadline for applications for the Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award is 1 September 1999.