

UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

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Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin

Responsibilities for Future



The General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities made a very good decision in Stockholm: it approved the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program. This decision means that work for sustainable development is among the highest priorities of our organisation.

The General Conference delegated the Executive Board to co-ordinate the implementation of the action program, and also officially founded the UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group. This Working Group is intended for wide cross-sectoral participation. From the start with seven participants in the first (unofficial) meeting in 1998, the group has grown to more than 50 participants in the last (fourth) meeting that was organised in Riga in March this year.

The commissions on environment, and health and social affairs, as well as the Women's Network have been some kind of predecessors in the work for Local Agenda 21 within the UBC. However, for the future success of the work, it is most important that also other commissions would get more actively involved. The working group is open for all commissions and member cities.

One of the most important approaches in the whole Local Agenda 21 Action Program is wide participation of member cities. The program contains 16 projects and project ideas, and almost each of these is co-ordinated by a different UBC body or member city. For example, the City of Nacka is co-ordinating a project on Sustainable Demonstration Areas, the Women's Network is co-ordinating a project on Gender Equality in Agenda 21 Processes, and several Lithuanian member cities have recently been most actively conducting municipal environmental audits (MEAs).

UBC member cities are very well motivated to work for Local Agenda 21. According to the results of the UBC LA 21 Survey (1998), over 70% of our members are actively involved in their own Local Agenda 21 process. This number is constantly increasing, and there is a full reason to believe that surprisingly soon almost every single member city may be involved in Local Agenda 21 work.

In these circumstances, it is a real pleasure to work with these cities and with all the active people who are involved. There is a strong feeling that this work is our common interest and the spirit of co-operation is very good. There is so much to be done - and together we also can do a great deal.

Risto Veivo

UBC Environmental Co-ordinator

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)...

... is a network consisting of 96 cities from 10 different countries in the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC was founded in September 1991 to develop co-operation and exchange of experiences amongst its member cities. The main goal of the Union is to contribute to democratic, social, economic and environmentally friendly development in the Baltic Sea Region.

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

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

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

Please contact us for further information!

New Projects in UBC Agenda 21

By Risto Veivo

The UBC Local Agenda 21 Working Group met in Riga 16-18 March. Over 50 representatives of member cities and co-operation organisations participated, and the Agenda 21 work of the UBC was again taken a few steps ahead. Since the approval by the General Conference, several new active projects have been included into the program. In this article, these new projects are briefly introduced.

Best City Practise

This new project is based on the first UBC Best Environmental Practice Award scheme, which was organised in 1999. The 15 applications that participated in the scheme provide the project with good practice cases that will be disseminated in three workshops in 2000-2001. There will be a possibility for interested cities to receive consultation for implementing these practices. (Please, read more about this project and the practices in the second half of this bulletin.) This project is co-ordinated by the UBC EnvCom and co-funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Gender Equality and LA21

This project aims at integrating women's experiences into Local Agenda 21 work in the three participating cities, Sundsvall, Lübeck and Lahti. The methods used are mainstreaming, empowerment and awareness raising. The project is co-funded by EU and co-ordinated by the UBC Women's Network.

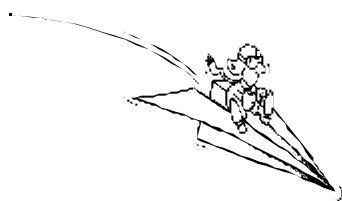
Sustainable Demonstration Areas

This project is co-ordinated by the City of Nacka. The goal is to create demonstration areas where sustainable ways of life could be shown in practice. These "areas" are defined as forerunning areas and activities where sustainable development

is being made a positive part of daily life. In UBC member cities, several such areas and activities exist. Those interested in the project are welcomed to contact the project co-ordinator Mr. Guldbrand Skjönberg.

Success Factors... Project

The Project on Success Factors in Local Environmental Policy for Local Agenda 21 and EU Enlargement in the Baltic Sea Region consists of four main components: Baltic Roundtable, Research, Education, and Information. The roundtable with 40 participants was organised in Turku 18-19 May. Starting next Autumn, the project will offer a possibility for about 15 Local Agenda 21 co-ordinators and practitioners from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to develop their skills and capacities in three workshops organised in co-operation with ICLEI's experts on LA21 capacity building. This project is co-funded by the EU and Finnish Ministry of the Environment.



Some Old Ones

Several Lithuanian cities are currently involved in on-going municipal environmental audits (MEAs). The support of the Nordic Minister Council has so far resulted in several completed processes and masses of useful information.

The SAIL Project on Local Agenda 21 information materials was finalised in March. The basic sets of LA21 briefing materials are now available in Russian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Polish. The large Sustainable Harbour Policy Project, co-ordinated by the City of Lübeck, is still in planning phase.

And Some Young Ones

The discussions on youth co-operation were one of the topics in the Riga Meeting too. The potential for youth co-operation seems to be very good, and the active participation of the active initiators of this work from the City of Sopot made a good contribution.

Hanover 2000 Conference

By Risto Veivo

9-12 February, almost 1500 representatives of cities, organisations, national administrations, European Union and other stakeholders gathered in Hanover, Germany for the Third Pan-European Sustainable Cities Conference. The conference, and the European policy developments discussed in it, provided many interesting aspects from the point of view of the UBC.

Generally, the conference concentrated on the development of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign. The amount of new members brought about with regard to the conference was more than satisfactory. The Campaign now has app. 800 municipalities as members. In near future, more networks are being invited to join the Campaign's liaison platform/forum, UBC being one of these, representing specially the BSR and cities in several EU adhesion countries.

The UBC contributed in many ways to the Hanover Conference, and UBC Vice-President Mr. Eugenijus Gentvilas was one of the plenary speakers. In his speech he underlined the will of the UBC to contribute to sustainable development and the necessity for Baltic cities to work on Local Agenda 21.

In the conference, also the new proposal made by the European Commission to the European Council and Parliament on establishing a framework of co-operation on sustainable urban policy was discussed. This framework would, among other things, create an improved legal basis for supporting the activities of networks of local authorities working on this field. If approved by the Council and Parliament, this proposal would enable new project proposals to be planned more explicitly for work on sustainable urban policy.

The Hanover Conference laid a special emphasis on strengthening the work on sustainable development in Central and Eastern Europe. This development is very encouraging for all Baltic cities.

UrbanTransport Co-operation for Baltic Cities

By Niko Remes

The Union of the Baltic Cities, the Wuppertal-Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy and Federal Environment Agency of Germany organised a Public Transport Workshop 2-3 March in Gdansk, Poland.



...in 1 tram

The workshop concentrated on transfer of know-how concerning urban public transport, and it was Germany's contribution to city co-operation in implementing Baltic 21.

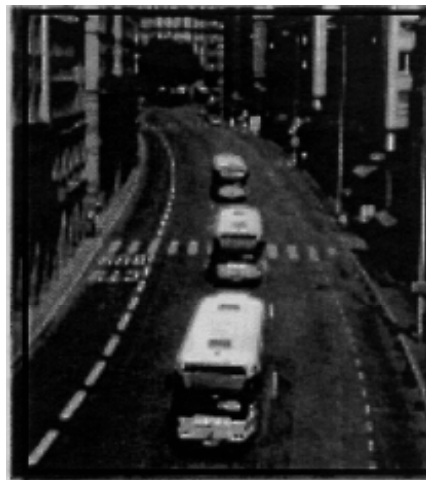
There are many current challenges concerning the situation and future plans in the field of public transport - both in Western and Eastern Europe. Especially Eastern European communities are facing new problems with regard to European integration, as they must find solutions to develop economically and environmentally sustainable transport systems. There are several questions to be solved: organisational structures of public transport need to be modernized, stable financing arrangements have to be implemented, different services must be designed efficiently in line with the market, etc.

These are just some of the questions which require concrete answers. Therefore the UBC and the Wuppertal-Insti-

tute decided to gather city representatives for the workshop, and to start to find new ways to develop co-operation between different partners in the Baltic Sea Region. The goals of the workshop were to exchange information about different starting points and situations in public transportation in European cities, share experiences and make a preliminary agreement concerning co-operation in the field of urban transport in the future.

Administrators of public transportation from different countries and the invited experts, e.g. from Great Britain and Switzerland, gave their presentations and statements concerning the situation in

240 Passangers



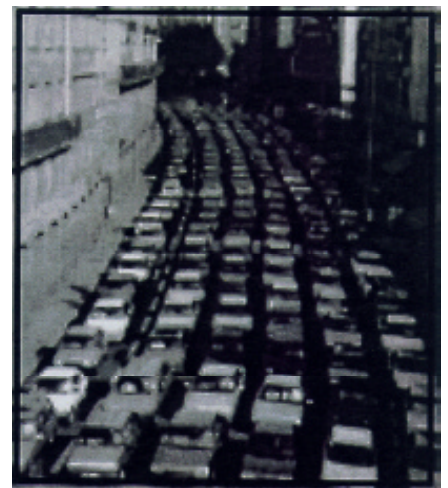
...in 3 buses

urban transportation and different approaches in European cities.

These statements included interesting new knowledge especially for Western participants about the situation in East and led thereby to deeper discussion. Presentations brought up new viewpoints about using different public transportation equipment in different cities. It was clearly pointed out that every city has its individuality, i.e. its specific circumstances, which also rule the planning of public transportation. For instance Baltic States' model for "minibuses", serving inhabitants side by side with buses, was mentioned as one possibility to apply also in some Western-European cities. Financial questions were also discussed, e.g., with regard to different traffic company models and amount of subsidies were brought up.

Concerning future plans there were some serious discussions about what kind of actions, in order to start a joint project, should be carried out next. In the conclusion it was mentioned that another workshop under the framework would be necessary when developing common co-operation. Eastern participants emphasized that following projects should be concentrated rather on concrete examples than theoretical, and new co-operation projects should be based on local initiation. The political situation of some Baltic cities may change rapidly and this can have an influence on longer term development.

Gdansk workshop was another example of how to organise experts from different cities to find each other, to come together for a shared multi-way learning experience, and how to spread information widely on local level issues. Creating a larger co-operation in this field will take time and work, interest and will to get and to give. The most important factor,



...in 180 cars

the will to co-operate on several levels already exists among all participants of the Gdansk workshop.

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Gender Equality in LA 21 - a New EU Project

By Hjärdís Höglund

Gender Equality in Local Agenda 21 Project investigates how the priorities, made by women from their experiences and needs, influence the LA 21 work in the cities of Lahti, Lübeck and Sundsvall. It's a project within the UBC Women's Network and LA21 Action program, and it is planned to last for one year.

It's a mainstreaming-project, and its goal is for the result to be integrated into the main Agenda 21 plans and processes in the cities. Most of the women participating in the project are also involved in the ordinary Agenda 21 work.

Gender equality is an important prerequisite for success in the Agenda 21 process. The need for increased recognition and real influence of women in environmental policy-making and implementation is a fundamental part of Agenda 21. This is also emphasised in the Rio Document, but is often neglected in the practical work. The project shows these aspects of the Agenda 21 work in the participating cities.

Seminars in each of the cities

Each city forms a group of four women who all work with urban planning. The project emphasises the importance of these issues in the Agenda 21 process. The groups will meet, all together, once in each city during the project period. We started with our first seminar in Sundsvall, 26-27 November 1999. Between these two-day seminars, the project groups will meet in their own cities, discussing their Agenda 21 work from a gender perspective.

The 3R method

In the project we are working with a special method called 3R, developed by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities. The "R's" stand for Representation, Resources and Realia.

The first two variables are quantitative. Under the first R, *Representation*, we look at the representation of women and men at different levels; politicians, officers, managers and other people who are participating in the process. How does the structure look like and what is the influence of informal networks on the decision making process?

How are *Resources*, the second R, distributed between women and men? Not only money but also time and space. Are there discernible patterns of areas that are given more or less priority?

The last variable, *Realia*, is qualitative and stands for the content of the activities. How will the decisions, the priorities, affect men and women in their daily lives? Men and women are still living different day-to-day lives, and have differ-



Ms Hjärdís Höglund, the Project Leader, fourth from left, together with some of the participants of Lahti seminar, 11-12 February.

ent needs concerning the future planning of our society. Which norms have influenced the decisions, who has the right to formulate what the problem is, where the problem is to be found, etc.?

The goal with the 3R method is to obtain knowledge of how the division of power, structures and norm-forming must change in order to create activities that provide women and men with truly equal opportunities.

Daily-life experiences

Women are very active in the LA 21 work on the grassroot level. They are also engaged in projects in their spare time, and at work, in schools and in day-cares, for instance, which are female dominated workplaces.

Women do also most of the day-to-day environmental work, such as buying environmentally friendly products, and tak-

ing care of recycling. Women also use public transport or bicycles much more than men do.

All these different "daily life-experiences" should show in Agenda 21 plans. This is not the case today. The question of power still remains to be explicitly addressed. Women's representation in committees, steering groups and other decisionmaking bodies is not satisfactory.

It wasn't possible to involve non-EU cities in this project, but we hope that there will be opportunities of spreading the results also among other UBC member cities later on.

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Local Agenda 21 in Kaunas

By Marija Stanikuniene

Local Agenda 21 has already been developed for a large number of cities in the Baltic Sea Region, but Lithuania has limited experience with its implementation. In June, 1998 Kaunas Municipality, together with their partner Tampere Municipality, started a new project Local Agenda 21 - Kaunas, financed by EU PHARE.

This was the first attempt in Lithuania to start the local sustainable development process. The aim of the project was the development of Environmental policy (strategy and action plan) for Kaunas city as part of Baltic 21. The long-term goal was to integrate environmental protection issues into social and economic activities, to involve more public groups in decision-making and in solving environmental problems.

Participation

The project LA 21 - Kaunas involved a big number of participants, e.g. local and external experts, administration, Environmental Protection Department, uni-

versities, secondary schools, media, NGO's and other representatives of Kaunas community.

Municipal top management's positive standpoint towards sustainable development enabled to start a successful Agenda 21 process. The Environmental Protection Department took an active role in the project as well. One half of the employees of the Department were involved in the project activities. The head of the Environmental Protection Department was the co-ordinator of the project.

Experts from Tampere were invited for consultancy concerning LA 21. Transferring know-how from Finland and joint activities were very important while developing the Kaunas project.

Publicity of the activities was one of the biggest strengths of the project. The community participation in the project was ensured by spreading information about process and results of Local Agenda 21 via media, Internet, workshops and conferences. Four special issues of city newspaper "Kauno diena" as well as 6 mini-reports about LA 21 process were published and disseminated. The LA 21 home page was elaborated in Kaunas Municipality Internet Website. Raising public awareness and participation in decision-making has been an integral part of all project activities.

Results achieved

The main goal of the project was successfully achieved: Environmental Policy and strategy for its implementation were elaborated in co-operation with various stakeholders and approved by the City Council. Assessment of current situation, analysis of partners' experience and training of municipal policy-makers and officials on sustainability issues provided a basis for this achievement.



The main product of the project:
Environmental Policy of Kaunas City

Environmental Policy of Kaunas City

Five sub-groups have analyzed the current situation and trends of the City Development Management, Environmental Quality, Community Development, Environmental Education and Public Awareness and Municipal Training. The comprehensive reports with the recommendations were prepared and presented.

Diversity of standpoints and scientific background in combination with the experience of municipal work, certainly, was an advantage in the project. The fifteen workshops on sustainability issues contributed to capacity of municipal civil servants while dealing with environmental issues at local level.

The overall experience of the project is of great importance as all the reports produced during the project are available for public and other municipalities, willing to start Local Agenda 21 processes.

It has to be stated that the completion of the project does not mean the completion of the process of Local Agenda 21 even though it provided a good basis for it. It set a new task for the municipality to devise plans of action according to local conditions that should integrate all sectors concerned. New initiatives are on the way that would lead towards an integrated environmental management system in the Municipality and more sustainable development of the city.

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Natural Environment in Sopot

By Agnieszka Wilczynska

Department of Engineering and Environmental Protection presented a Report of the State of the Environment in Sopot in 1999 - with promising results.

We emphasized four main directions in protection of environment: (1) monitoring of air, surface water and coastal water of the Gdansk Bay, (2) sewage man-



agement, (3) waste management, and (4) green area protection.

In the years 1996-1999 monitoring took place in 10 Sopot's streams in 36 testing places. Monitoring has important position, because all the streams end in Gdansk Bay. In 1998 674 bacteriological tests were made on streams, 133 on determining extracts and 79 on low measurements. Between 1996-1998 all seaside-bathing areas were marked as class I and class II water. Marine coastal water corresponds to the criteria of usefulness for bathing in the whole length of the shoreline of baths (excluding small sectors in the region of the pier).

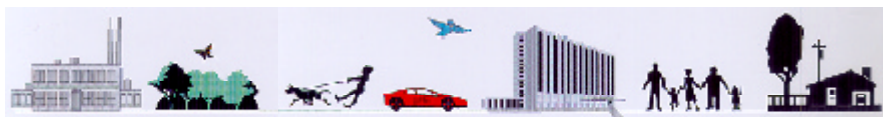
In the years 1996-1999 two sewage pumping stations - Hamo i Polna were modernized and adapted to remote measurement transfer of data. Sopot has own compost place, waste program called MIX with segregation of litter and special days to get rid of non-standard waste. Over 60% of Sopot area include green places e.g. parks, garden plots and forests. There are a lot of semi-natural and natural greenery and some unique plants. Climate of the city is shaped by its position in the middle of the Three City Landscape Park. The results of our activities formed the basis to obtain the health resort status from the government in February 2000. We are very proud of reaching our goals, but we also know, that it is a real challenge to keep all needed standards also in the future.

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Change of Site — Change of Mind

By Elena Sivolob



Sustainable Urban Development / Local Agenda 21 in Pushkin, St. Petersburg

Heating Mains and Boiler-Houses Reconstruction	Public Awareness Campaigns	Training of Municipal Services Experts	Children's Eco Training	Energy and Heat Saving in Flats and Houses
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Since 1997 in the city of Pushkin, St-Petersburg, Russia, a Russian-Danish Project "Eco City Pushkin" has been implemented by the Green City Denmark A/S, Denmark, and Regional Economic Development Agency, Ltd., Russia.

The goal of the Project is to improve the urban environment in the city which has 92 thousand inhabitants, by introducing Danish technologies of resource saving, water treatment, raising public awareness and providing training of experts in the sphere of municipal services.

In 1998 a similar project "Energy City Tosno" was started in the City of Tosno (52 thousand people) in Leningradskaya Oblast, which was mostly focused on reducing energy consumption.

In the framework of both projects 10 sub-projects were fulfilled, among them:

- Evaluation of energy saving potential of the city of Pushkin was made by the expert of "Ramboll" company, Denmark, and necessary recommendations were worked out;

- A trip of the representatives of the City Administration and local companies to Denmark was arranged to observe the Danish experience in municipal management, environmental technologies and know-how;

- Two public awareness campaigns were organized to inform the population on the issues of resource saving in every day life (about 20,000 leaflets were distributed);

- The project on reconstruction the municipal system of waste water treatment was initiated by the companies "Krueger" and "Pushkin Vodokanal";

- Two seminars were arranged for the municipal officials and NGOs (i.e. "Local Agenda 21") and for the local industries (i.e. "Energy Saving/Cleaner Technologies/Benchmarking");

- Energy audits of two public buildings and two industrial enterprises were carried out by the joint group of Russian and Danish experts.

The system of subprojects was worked out providing an integrated approach to the municipal problems. This system includes purely industrial projects like water treatment facilities reconstruction in the city of Pushkin, as well as more conceptual ones, e.g. working out a 3-years Action Plan for the city of Pushkin, public awareness campaigns, introduction of energy management systems at local enterprises, etc.

Reviewing the contents of the subprojects implemented in the framework of "Eco City Pushkin" and "Energy City Tosno", quality and quantity of the Projects' participants (about 70 Russian and Danish administrations, organizations and companies), one can speak about the unique processes going on in two Russian cities near St-Petersburg. For the first time in North-West Russia the principles of LA 21 are implemented not by some spot activities but by systematic interrelated steps, involving all levels of the municipal social, economic and administrative infrastructure.

Working simultaneously with the city administrations, NGOs, population and local businesses allow to create the ideological basis for introducing the principles of LA 21 not only by administrative but also by natural way, forming the necessary environmental mentality.

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BLA21F for Awareness

By Sirpa Laine

Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum

(BLA21F) is an open network of local authorities and other LA 21 stakeholders. After the SAIL project, the work is

focusing on awareness raising.

BLA21F is supported in this work by the Nordic Minister Council. The activities address LA 21 stakeholders like local authorities, interested citizens, educators, business, consumer groups, local organisations and institutions.

Workshops and seminars on Local Agenda 21 have been organised during 2000 already in Germany, Latvia, Iceland, Denmark and Finland. During 2000 and 2001, national seminars will be organised in other countries around the Baltic Sea as well. In connection with the seminars, national responsible groups are being formed.

The BLA21F was founded in September 1997 in Lahti, Finland, when more than 70 participants from 9 countries of



BLA21F co-ordinators Kari Porra (FIN) and Bjarne Rasmussen (DK) in the SOG meeting in St. Petersburg, 8-9 September, 1999

the Baltic Sea Region committed themselves to the development of the network. The network is continuously growing and serving as a good instrument for co-operation and exchange.

The forum is not a short term project but continuous action to encourage the local level to carry out sustainable development and to find out means to protect the Baltic sea. BLA21F aims at creating an active co-operation network to put the Rio process into practise. The forum is also actively involved in the Baltic 21 process, being a responsible actor in Joint Actions 7 and 4, and member of SOG.

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ECOLIFT Project

By Tapio Palonen

How can Finnish environmental expertise and Lithuania's needs be matched in the best possible way? This question sums up the contents of a project launched by Helsinki University of Technology Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli.

The project is targeted at Finnish environmental experts who are interested in Lithuania. The Lithuanian partners are also developing their own counterpart projects to link in with the project, designed to develop environmental training co-operation between municipalities and universities.

In two years' time...

We will have succeeded if the information has reached the target groups who need it and Finland has new experts familiar with Lithuania's environmental issues. Another sign of success will be networking that has led to environmental projects and other co-operation between Finns and Lithuanians. The aim is also to establish new contacts and co-operation between Finnish and Lithuanian universities and municipalities.

The educational sector experts taking part in the project besides HUT Dipoli come from Helsinki and Turku universities centres for extension studies and from the Finnish Environment Institute. The Lithuanian partners are Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipeda University, the Lithuanian Agricultural University, Vilnius University of Technology, Vilnius University and Vytautas Magnus University. The Finnish and Lithuanian municipalities involved in the project are represented by the UBC and Lithuania's Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology (ECAT).

The project is funded by the European Union's Interreg IIA programme. The Ministry of Education will provide the national funding.

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Base Closure, Re-use and Conversion

By Henri Myrntinen

A two-day seminar on the re-use of former military sites was jointly organised by ECAT-Lithuania and the Environmental Protection Department of Siauliai at the former Zokniai airbase just outside of Siauliai last November. The seminar was attended by over 30 participants from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden.

Numerous issues of base conversion were covered during this seminar, and several of the problems associated with the conversion process were highlighted. While former military bases can offer an opportunity to the municipalities which inherit them, more than often they end up be-

Key problems identified at the seminar included the difficulty of finding a workable solution for the site and carrying this through, problems caused by delays in the conversion process, and the question of the benefits and drawbacks of "reconverting" former military sites back to military use. Another problem that came up was the apparent lack of support from national authorities and international organisations (such as the EU) for local authorities struggling with converting former military sites.

One of several concrete proposals that came up in Siauliai was the setting up of an informal network between municipalities facing problems with converting former military sites. A network dealing with conversion problems has previously existed inside the EU and a smaller network is currently working in the State of Brandenburg in Germany. A network including municipalities dealing with conversion issues from the EU and from those countries aspiring into the EU would not necessarily need to mean setting up yet another separate structure, but could be set up within the framework of an existing network, such as perhaps the UBC.

The proposed network could increase and facilitate co-operation and sharing of information between municipalities dealing with similar problems and to help give new ideas and impetuses to the conversion process. The network could also be a possibility for the municipalities



Participants from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden tried to find new use for old military bases in Siauliai last November.

ing a burden, giving the authorities new social, economic and environmental problems to deal with.

Up to a point, the problems are similar in Western and Eastern Europe, but each site has its own specific problems that need to be addressed. The difficulties of base conversion are compounded in Eastern Europe by the fact that the process needs to take place in a society which itself is undergoing a radical transformation process.

to join forces in lobbying the respective national governments and international institutions, such as the EU for more support in facing the difficult task of base conversion.

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New Director in ECAT-LT

The first Director of ECAT-Lithuania, Mr. Pekka Pietilä, has returned to Finland after three years of comprehensive work in Lithuania. From the very beginning, Pekka has been a core persons in initiating and founding the ECAT-office in Kaunas. For the UBC, Pekka's input in implementing MEAs in Lithuanian cities has been invaluable.

After Pekka, Ms. Audrone Alijosiute, who formerly worked at the office as Local Agenda 21 Expert, has been nominated new Director.



Ms. Audrone Alijosiute

Where to Place Baltic 21 Secretariat?

During the Spring, the Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group (SOG) and the national delegations have been repeatedly discussing over the issue of the future location of the Baltic 21 Secretariat. In the discussions, two options have been considered: whether to maintain the secretariat in Stockholm and connect it closer with CBSS, or to move it to Helsinki and connect it with HELCOM. During the editing of this bulletin, final consensus/decision was not reached yet.

Panevezys MEA Finalised

The City of Panevezys, Lithuania, has finalised the Municipal Environmental Auditing. A final seminar for dissemination and discussions on the results was organised 13 June. Ms. Zita Tverkute, the project's co-ordinator in Panevezys, says that the results have already now been found very useful in the municipal departments and companies that took part in the auditing.

The Panevezys MEA was conducted with financial support from the Nordic Minister Council. With NMC support, MEAs are currently also going on in several other Lithuanian cities. The City of Klaipeda, which started briefly after Panevezys, has almost reached the final phase too.

New BSR Magazine

Hanseatic Businessman is the new high profile magazine that strives to act as a media for businesses, and banking and funding institutions that are active in the Baltic Sea Region. The UBC EnvCom Secretariat has started to co-operate with this magazine, and the second edition contained a two-page article on the environmental work of the UBC. Member cities wishing to contribute to this magazine with articles on environmental co-operation with businesses are welcome to contact the EnvCom Secretariat.



BSR Roundtable on LA 21

The Baltic Roundtable on Local Agenda 21 was organised in Turku, Finland, 18-19 May. The roundtable gathered together 42 experts from the European Commission, national ministries, cities, and city networks to discuss guidelines for effective environmental administration by using procedural policy tools such as Local Agenda 21.

The strengths and weaknesses of supporting local sustainable development were analysed from local, national and regional points of view, and basis for future developments were created. A special point of interest were also the links between local environmental policy and EU accession. National Expert Ms. Susann Pauli from EU, DG Environment, provided the participants with an overview of the current developments of EU environmental policies.

The roundtable was a part of the SUFA Project (see back cover for more information). More information of the roundtable findings and of the whole project will be included in the next edition.



The Baltic Roundtable on Local Agenda 21 was organised at the Old Town Hall of Turku. Among the participants were Sauli Rouhinen (Finnish Ministry of Environment), Mikko Jokinen (Co-chairman of Commission on Environment UBC) and Risto Veivo (UBC Environmental Co-ordinator). (Photo by Barbara Anton, ICLEI)

Campaign's Open Platform

The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign invited several European networks to an open meeting in Brussels 5 June. The purpose of the meeting was to provide basis and liaison for the development of the Campaign and to build basis for improved co-operation and co-ordination between the networks. UBC was represented by the environmental co-ordinator Risto Veivo.

In the meeting, it was felt that there is an opportunity to bring a wide range of experience, skills and capacities together in the framework of the Campaign and the context of the 'Open Meeting'. By working together, there was common agreement that a better co-ordination could be achieved and that an appropriate division of labour developed. This would also reduce competition. A key issue would be to work on the individual characteristics of the networks, avoid duplication of effort and waste of resources wherever possible. The discussions will be continued in the next meeting in October.

Baltic 21 Joint Action 4

The second meeting of the Baltic 21 Joint Action 4 Working Group was organised in Turku 19 May, on the occasion of the Baltic Roundtable on LA 21. The meeting discussed the JO4 Frame Action Program and the terms of reference for the future work of the group. The group is intended to form an efficient policy-making tool for bringing up local level issues in the Baltic 21 process.

JO4 is focused on local level issues and city co-operation in implementing Baltic 21. 22 people representing city networks, ministries, and the Baltic 21 secretariat took part in the meeting.



Best City Practises

- From Environmental Award to Co-operation Project -



The first Best Environmental Practice in the Baltic Cities Award was organised in 1999. The City of Tartu, with its Local Agenda 21 work, won the award. 15 excellent practices took part, and on the basis of these a new project has been designed.

On the following special section of this bulletin, all the practices that took part in the award scheme will be presented. All interested cities will also be warmly invited to join the Best City Practices Project. This project will provide them with possibilities to take first steps to implement some of the presented practices.

The Environmental Award 1999

Fifteen UBC member cities participated in the Best Environmental Practice in the Baltic Cities Award Scheme in 1999. Among the excellent applications, the City of Tartu, Estonia, with its widely developed Tartu Agenda 21, was selected as the winner.

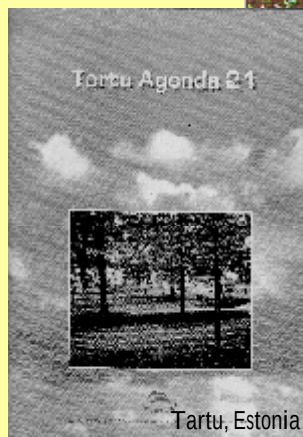
A grant of 5.000 USD was donated to the city by the Danish company Per Aarsleff A/S. The purpose of the grant was to co-finance a study tour for employees directly involved with the winning project. The company is world wide known as INSITUFORM and for its expertise in using No Dig methods in sewage renewal.

The Best City Practises Project 2000 - 2001

The Best City Practices Project will provide cities with a possibility to learn from the practices that took part in the award scheme. Three different workshops will be organised, the first one 12-15 October 2000 in Bützow, Germany. The idea is to give a chance for cities to study each others projects and create "city couples" for implementation. The Best City Practices-project is part of Baltic 21 in cities (Joint Action 4) and it is co-financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

All participating cities are expected to give their very best contribution for the project - a principle of "no free tickets" leads the implementation. This also means that cities are welcome to influence the content of the workshops. The EnvCom encourages all interested Baltic cities to pick the challenge to spread good environmental practices!

Gdynia, Poland



Tartu, Estonia



Norrköping, Sweden

Pori, Finland



Siauliai, Lithuania



Kaunas, Lithuania



The Best City Practices Project is co-funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 1999

Since 1997 the members of the Union of the Baltic Cities have planned to create an environmental award scheme, which would be held every second year. However, the project plan for future would be decided on the basis of the first concrete experiences.

In 1999 this idea was realized: fifteen cities sent their applications with summaries about different kind of environmental projects, which had been implemented, or were under a long time-term implementation process. The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award was published in Stockholm the 25th of September 1999. The winner of the Best City Practices (BCP) Award 1999 was the City of Tartu in Estonia.

There was, and there still is, a concrete need for a project such as BCP. All the Baltic Sea Region Cities represent the Baltic heritage in many different ways. Also all the applying cities are different, and therefore the experiences of this process are many-sided and interesting. The BCP-cases' needs arise both from big and small problems and common will to make changes in peoples' environment. These changes represent a very large field from cleaning up peoples' own work place as starting point to the changes of whole living environment in general.

Most of the projects were carried out within the framework of Agenda 21, which gives a wide ground for reaching different objectives. Agenda 21 was used as a common tool for instance when creating forums for inhabitants, including different community sectors and developing financial structures.

Many of the BCP-projects were started already several years ago and are still ongoing. The results in general were encouraging: even small positive environmental changes can effect our living environment a lot. No doubt BCP was also a good way to get publicity for different city cases both on national and international level.

The BCP process has shown that gathering different samples is a concrete way of spreading good practices. Implementation and results of this process also showed some essential guidelines for the future. One crucial question is how to carry out an effective method to spread these results and make them suitable for other cities. This is a task for "receiving cities", which have the most essential knowledge concerning their own situation, possibilities and will to make changes - hopefully the next BCP will give answers for this questions. The following summary will introduce the Best City Practices cases by countries.

Tartu Agenda 21, Tartu, Estonia

The City of Tartu won the Best Environmental Practice Award 1999. Tartu has carried out projects for sustainable environmental development within the framework of Tartu Agenda 21 since 1995. The cornerstone of Tartu Agenda 21 was laid already in 1994 in Aalborg together with other European local authorities. This kind of co-operation has led Tartu further on to carry out a successful Agenda 21 process.



According to the evaluation guidelines Tartu Agenda 21 has fulfilled the following key elements, which were mentioned in the Best Environmental Practice Award evaluation: Tartu Agenda 21 has been initiated by local actors and the benefit of the result has been used for good of the whole community - it serves citizens widely and gives its strong contribution for sustainability.

Tartu Agenda 21 has also been innovative: efficient brainstorming has been carried out in different fields, surveys, seminars and forums to reach as many opinions as possible. The innovative attitude and structures supporting creativity have promoted an atmosphere, where the starting point is consideration of local circumstances.

Basic structure of Tartu Agenda 21 included work groups and sub-groups represented by experts from different fields. Tartu had also valuable "back-up" from participation for Estonian Agenda 21 and international sustainable development network.



Ms Irja Alakivi received the first Best Environmental Practice in the Baltic Cities Award 1999 on behalf of the city of Tartu in Stockholm, 25 September.

Contribution for a common goal

The City of Tartu has been very active in several fields with different co-operation partners, who have been involved in the implementation process of Tartu Agenda 21. There are many groups, which have been working efficiently by giving their contribution for a common goal, for instance all Tartu City Government services and departments, executives from private sector, representatives of school teachers, people responding articles etc. Also members of all the other theme groups of Tartu 2012-project gave their contribution by participating in seminars, information days and forums.

The compilation and implementation of Tartu Agenda 21 is a motivating activity, which has raised environmental awareness among Estonians. Tartu Agenda 21 was based very widely on different factors. Anyhow the Tartu Agenda 21 is not just serving the needs of Tartu alone, but it will define different needs and problems and also support and assist other Estonian local governments in general. The aim of this kind of co-operation is to eliminate several problems concerning environmental issues and efficiency of environmental management and search for solutions on the way to sustainability.

Ways of public participation

The City of Tartu informed people about Tartu Agenda 21 in many ways, which increased the awareness of sustainable development in the city. The most active schools had an essential role as participants in the preparation of Tartu Agenda 21. Although Estonians are active internet-users there are people who can not be reached electronically. Therefore there is also printed information about Tartu Agenda 21 available at very different institutions, like public and professional libraries, universities, scientific institutions, offices of NGO-s etc. Public participation has been involved efficiently with several methods. One essential indicator is the large number of visitors on Tartu Agenda 21 - home pages: www.tartu.ee/Kohalik_voim/tartu_kvoim.html (in Estonian) and www.tartu.ee/english/admin/agenda21 (in English).

The City of Tartu became a winner after several years of hard work, which had logical and realistic aims concerning sustainable environmental development. Tartu Agenda 21 is more than a "project"; it is a way to reach lasting improvement in a society in general. With the local initiation The City of Tartu has followed the "clue" of Agenda 21, applied it in the local circumstances by sharing responsibility and results together with other people and implemented a model, which surely can be used in several cities in the Baltic Sea Region.

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Sustainability through Children, Elblag, Poland

The Environmental Education Program of Elblag has been implemented since 1994 and it will go on next years as well. The most essential aim is to increase the ecological awareness and to improve municipal environment. The city of Elblag has used the local mass-media to popularise environmental issues. A very important idea is to start awareness raising already from the school and kindergarten age. Sustainable thinking will be natural part of peoples' life if they learn to act early enough.

Children's role as teachers

In Elblag in kindergarten No 5, children are taught how to act and at the same time develop own open attitude to life and environment. Children and parents are encouraged to give their effort in saving natural resources. No doubt childrens' influence on their parents opinions can be considerable. A good example about learning process and also about spreading good practices in general is that of a visit of Elblag school representatives to Sweden, which inspired them to establish a school club of LA 21. Especially schools have been in very essential role when raising awareness in Elblag. Different contests and meetings concerning environmental questions have encouraged both children and adults to consider and also implement concrete plans and actions of Agenda 21.

The City of Elblag has also offered concrete possibilities for instance to implement different acts. One of them is participating in "Clean Vistula River and Clean Rivers of the Coast Area"-ecological program. This is an educational program, which uses results of school monitoring of environment. Some of the main purposes of the program are to get environmental

information, examine changes which take place in the environment, prepare results and make conclusions, teach rules on how to manage natural resources etc. This program is addressed to schools and to whole local communities.

There is also a concrete sample of uniting sustainable thinking and education with environment: "Green School" in Piaski in the territory of Vistula Peninsula Natural Park is a place, where pupils really can study environment and nature. All these examples show, that Elblag has been able to implement several ideas into concrete projects, which no doubt will be key guidelines on the way to sustainable development.

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Cleaning Time at Sundsvall, Sweden

The project in Sundsvall was already launched in 1993. It was called Clean workplace!, and it was part of the Agenda 21 work. Clean workplace! was a successful project, which improved the knowledge concerning the environment of people at work. In the end of the project, 1998, there were 200 workplaces involved.

It is no wonder that the City of Sundsvall started this kind of project: Sundsvall was one of the first industrialised towns in Sweden. Because of this, the region became heavily polluted and this caused demands for companies concerning environmental questions. Environmental influences of industry in Sundsvall region are not so large anymore, because environmental improvements have been made since 1970's, but there are other problems to be solved in the same field: traffic in general, and large number of small discharge of chemicals from households and workplaces have required new acts. Clean workplace! was one of these acts. Employees had a good possibility to affect the development of Clean workplace! which gave several new ideason how to improve the environmental behaviour at work.



The financial point of view

The most common steps that were taken were starting the recycling of refuse, cutting down the use of disposable materials and reducing the energy use. Also money was saved: the total cost of the project for one year was 450.000 SEK, and the municipality saved at least 1,4 million SEK every year during the project 1993-1998. Many of the experienced changes will be

carried out, also because the financial effects are considerable. If the same changes were made at every workplace of the municipality, 5,5 million SEK a year could be saved.

Changing attitudes by learning

All this encouraged to continue the project, and to start similar processes also in other municipalities. An education course was arranged to inform people about things like recycling, different chemicals etc. After the course participants shared their knowledge at work. For instance schools, nursery schools, day central, homes for the elderly, sport centres and public parks were participating in the project.

This project showed, that this kind of implementation can be carried out in very different kinds of work places. The most essential result of this project was an increased awareness concerning environmental issues and Agenda 21. Participants of Clean workplace!-project have had possibility to increase their environmental knowledge, which has changed their behaviour and opinions concerning environmental questions in general.

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Fossil Fuel Free Växjö, Sweden

The programme is called Fossil Fuel Free Växjö. The City of Växjö has made large investments during the last ten years to increase the use of renewable energy in different fields. This concerns the whole municipality, for example industry, energy production and transport. In these areas there has been a lot of co-operation between industry, NGO:s and citizens.

There are successful results like bio-fuel-powered combined heating and power unit, re-built cars using ethanol or electricity, increasing number of solar panels, and alternatives for using cars by developing efficient traffic plans etc. In 2003 90% of inhabitants will be connected to bioenergy district heating.



Spreading fossil free fuel energy in practise!

Changing the energy system has so far been quite easy, bigger difficulties will be faced in the field of transportation when searching realistic alternatives for 'normal' cars.

Concerning transportation questions Växjö has co-operation with Swedish National Road Administration to reduce traffic. Concrete solutions for this problem have been building of new cycle paths, developing a new type of fuel (ethanol) and converting cars to use it. In addition to this Växjö has made an effort to encourage companies and individuals to buy hybrid and electrical cars.

Discussion with companies is also one concrete way to find proposals and solutions for traffic planning in general. The City of Växjö received the Swedish Council for Inner City Environments' prize for its city traffic environment. The City of Växjö is also spreading its positive experiences to other Swedish cities. There are now four co-operating cities in Sweden with a common goal: to be fossil free fuel. This network wants to be a leading force in national politics on climate issues in Sweden.

International interest

Experiences and results of this kind of co-operation have raised a great interest also internationally. According to Mr. Bo Frank, the Vice Mayor of Växjö, there have been several delegations around the world visiting Växjö after the sensational decision to cut the fossil fuel energy in Växjö with 50% before 2010. The City of Växjö is member of several environmental networks inside and outside of EU. Växjö has strongly experienced that international co-operation is another good 'competition' in this field. All interested are welcome to Växjö and to a competition to increase the use of fossil fuel free energy!

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Better Quality of Life for Citizens, Bützow, Germany

There are several things, which really don't give a positive picture of the city of Bützow. The number of unemployed people has increased strongly, leading to a very high migration rate, especially among the youth.

This has created a negative circle concerning financial possibilities of the city; minimised trade and industry, and as a consequence, decreasing amount of money for culture, environment and urban development.

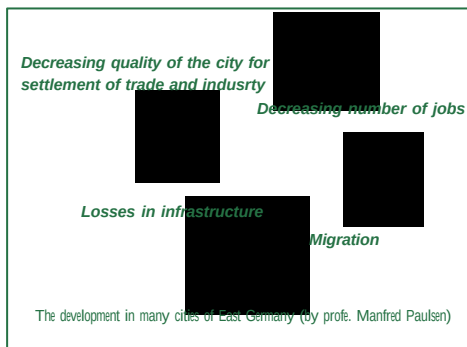
On the basis of this kind of circumstances Bützow decided to start an Agenda 21 process in 1997 to find a way for sustainable development, which would lead to a better quality of life for the inhabitants of the city and for settlements of trade and industry.

Start of LA 21 work

A project office with two employees was founded for the Local Agenda 21 project. The main element for the LA 21 discussion process is a LA 21 work-group, which is involved in creation of new subprojects and in follow-up procedure of the whole process.

Problems and solutions

Bützow wanted to reach sustainable development to change the negative trend. The main tasks were to stop the radical migration process concerning especially the youth by giving them a chance to participate in the future planning of the city. The process was centralized much around the youth and their environment. Future planning included ecological investigations to reach a better waste management at school, touristical cycle paths to create more of sustainable tourism, and comparison of centralized and de-centralized structures to get a concrete overview of more sustainable alternatives. The process included also projects such as planning a playground, schoolyard and traffic situation by children and pupils.



These changes were implemented as a result of the process with the knowledge of changes in thinking. The main outcomes of the Local Agenda 21 project in Bützow are the discussion process for sustainable development, youths' participation in town planning and in daily decision-making process, and the work with schools of Bützow in the field of education for sustainability.

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Clean Beaches for Gdynia, Poland

The City of Gdynia has lived through many different periods which have effected also Gdynia's environmental situation. Once Gdynia was a small fishermen's village, but it started to develop rapidly into a big modern city especially because of a port in the northern part of the city.

The growth of the city encouraged the city authorities to create a new holiday resort and to extend an old bathing beach. All these economic changes were interrupted by the Second World War. After the war Gdynia was reconstructed intensively, but the industrial development of the city wasn't created by the construction of proper technical infrastructure. Bad condition of waste water equipment, disposal of rain water without any purification processes caused closing of all Gdynia's beaches in the seventies.

Clean Beaches - project

After a 17 years long period the beaches were opened again, thanks to the project aimed at restoring leisure values, which has definitely had a great positive effect on Gdynia's inhabitants. The project was started by working out an analyse of the environmental situation in Gdynia. Most essential pollution resources were defined and project activities were approved. Different departments of the City of Gdynia, and also enterprises,

were participating in the implementation process: each year schedules were worked out concerning opening the beaches, investment plans were specified, and in the end of the season an evaluation was made, which indicated the number of different works carried out.

The first concrete results were reached in 1994, when the first bathing beaches were opened again after 17 years. In 1995 the next two beaches were opened, which naturally encouraged to continue the process. In addition to Clean Beaches-project there was also a project concerning building of sanitary sewage system, which also helped to improve Gdynia's environmental situation: over 20 km of sanitary sewage system was built between years 1991-1999. Also the rain water sewage system was modernised. In addition to these acts there were many other concrete measures, which have been carried out to improve the whole sewage system of Gdynia.

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1994 beaches in Gdynia were opened again after 17 years.

Environmental Bus, Gotland, Sweden

Also Municipality of Gotland has made several environmental projects. One of them is the Environment Bus, which has been a great resource in environmental education. Environment bus is an excellent sample on how to offer environmental information for a large number of people in different age, and in several places.

This bus is a second-hand Mercedes which was bought in 1994 and renovated into a mobile biology laboratory, which offers access also for people tied to a wheelchair. During the renovation process a drawing contest for the appearance of the bus was arranged. The contest inspired ca. 200 school children to send their applications. The winner was 10-year old Sara Sjögren from Sanda school, and the bus was painted after her drawing - by the way, it looks very ecological!



The outlook on the bus was designed by Sara Sjögren from Sanda school.

The bus is planned in a way, that it is easy to arise interest and probably also to start new environment hobbies among young people. Mobile laboratory of the Environment bus includes different equipment for biological research: microscopes, binoculars, different bag nets for small land- and water animals, just to give few examples... and of course there is also a small library. During the last two years over 5000 school children have used the bus for environmental and energy education.

Mr. Anders Tenquist is the driver of the bus. He is also instructing and teaching people about environment and on the use of the bus. Anders drives the bus also abroad and no doubt spreads inspiration at the same time. Hopefully the idea of an environment bus will be popular also outside of Gotland, because the bus has an essential role when educating people from very young age on how to live by the aims of Agenda 21. The Environment bus is also an example how to use a concrete way to spread good practices - by wheels.

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Local Agenda 21 Kaunas, Lithuania

Kaunas municipality has made the first attempt in Lithuania to start the local sustainable development process. They took part in the Best City Practices Award with Local Agenda 21- Kaunas-program. It was implemented in co-operation with Tampere municipality, in Finland, and financed by PHARE.

The practical partnership between Kaunas and Tampere was established with help of ECAT-Lithuania and the project proposal was developed in 1997. Kaunas involved a large number of participants into the LA 21-program, for instance local and external experts, Environmental Protection Department, universities etc.

Raising public awareness and participation in decision-making was an essential part of all project activities. There were 5 essential issues involved with the program, and 5 following sub-groups were established with main trends of activities:

- City Development Management
- Environmental Quality
- Community Development
- Environmental Education and Public Awareness
- Municipal Training

All these subjects are most important when developing not only Kaunas but also other parts of the Baltic Sea Region and its co-operation. There have been various documents and action plans for implementation of LA 21, but rather little concrete actions have been done. Therefore especially efficient international co-operation was extremely important to get experiences, which may help to solve urgent problems in Lithuania. It was also important to get new knowledge concerning EU-legislation and international agreements.

Study on environmental management

In addition to searching for new ideas and future plans for Kaunas municipality an important study on existing Environmental Management of the city was made.

These results were made by the 1st sub-group. The second sub-group revised Kaunas Municipal Environmental Monitoring reports between 1993-1997. One main result of the revision was a prepared report of the monitoring system used in Kaunas. The 3rd sub-group made a very essential report on how to involve public and how to arise public awareness. In this framework Kaunas has surely a big effort in other projects in the future.

Municipal Environmental Education Program was presented by the 4th sub-group. The program was approved in the City Committee of Culture and Education and also in the Committee of City Development and Ecology. The 5th sub-group organised 15 workshops for municipal staff and politicians. Also several material packages were prepared.

Together all these acts were laying ground for positive environmental development in Kaunas. Hopefully spreading good practices in the future will also mean spreading of successful experiences in other parts of Lithuania and in the whole Baltic Sea Region.

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More of Kaunas LA21 programme on page 6



LA 21 work gathered plenty of public interest in Kaunas.

Restoring Streams and Spawn Banks

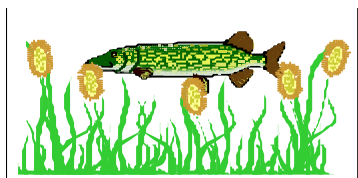
Kolding, Denmark



The City of Kolding has still an ongoing Local Agenda 21 project, where children of several schools, instead of employees of the municipality, restore streams and spawn banks. The original project idea was initiated 1994 by Kolding Nature School, and 1997 the project was extended together with Nature School, Municipality of Kolding and Environmental Department.

The conditions of Kolding streams have decreased during the past decades. The water quality in the streams has become worse and naturally it has influenced the streams' living environment - fauna and flora.

The basic idea was to improve the biological condition of the streams, to teach children about the environment and to help them to understand its value. To reinforce the effect and pupils' responsibility for the project, each school adopted a stretch



of a local stream near their school. By adopting a part of a stream pupils could take care of their part, which meant restoration work, control of water quality and continuous follow-up of the stream.

During the restoration work pupils were taught which animals and plants create the streams' living environment, what kind of conditions they need to survive, what is the present condition of the streams, and what can people do to improve the streams' condition. Afterwards the pupils made practical tasks based on theory and study on what effects their acts have had on the streams. These tasks included for example ventilating spawn banks, creating them by laying out gravel and stones, planting trees etc.

By restoring streams children have learned much and they have also become local protectors of their own environment. There are several other LA 21 environmental projects in Kolding. Restoring streams is one of them. The municipality's aim is to obtain good condition of the streams in 100% before the year 2008.

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Environmental Forum, Lahti, Finland

The City of Lahti was one of the first cities in the Baltic Sea Region which committed itself to Rio Local Agenda 21 process. This was launched in Lahti in the winter 1993/94 in a form of Environmental Forum.

Lahti Environmental Forum was built up after investigations on how the Rio process could improve local responsibility concerning environment, and activate inhabitants to participate in different acts in this field. Participation of citizens and stakeholders has been the cornerstone of Lahti Environmental Forum from the very beginning. An international seminar concerning sustainability was held in Lahti in 1993. This event, with different examples, was meant to en-



courage the local people to bring up their own vision of an action plan concerning their environment.

In 1994 there were several factors, such as NGO:s, the private and public sectors and different experts involved in Lahti Environmental Forum Activity. Working groups were created and they worked to reach dimensions of sustainable development from their point of view. The active working group stage lasted till the end of 1996. By this time the environmental state of Lahti had been well defined and future visions had been created to attain from 2005 to 2015. Lahti Agenda 21 had been drawn up.

Many of the basic activities and main objectives of Environmental Forum have been defined in brainstorming sessions. Regular co-operation seminars represented by all bodies of the structure have been held as a one important part of the Environmental Forum. The model of Lahti has been an interesting sample for neighbouring regions, also abroad. For instance St. Petersburg region has shown a great interest for experiences of Lahti.

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Youth in LA 21 Process, Norrköping, Sweden

The very first Agenda 21 office in Sweden was opened in Norrköping in 1994. From the beginning this Agenda 21 office has concentrated especially on youth. In 1995 the office started an environmental theatre project in co-operation with a local music theatre group. The idea was to make children aware of the environmental questions, and after that to reach also their parents and their teachers. This process has been successful.

There is a large number of children who have joined different networks, for example such as Spider Web and Mosquito Net. These are networks for children and youth in the age of 5-18, who want to learn about their environment, to act for better environment in practice and to become Environmental Scouts by fulfilling different environmental tasks. These network-projects are still ongoing.



The number of Environmental Scouts has increased recently from 3700 to 4200. No doubt this shows the interest of youth and also the long traditions of municipal environmental work in Sweden. The primary goal for this kind of network is to change attitudes. This is often the first indicator which shows that opinions and attitudes can be changed, and hopefully they will be positively changed at the time, when today's Environmental Scouts have grown up.

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Monitoring and Information, Panevezys, Lithuania

The City of Panevezys implemented an environmental protection work, which was based on research concerning environment contamination by heavy metals and other hazardous chemical elements. Panevezys' objectives were reached in co-operation between environmental specialists, geochemists, hydrogeologists and medical workers from Panevezys, Kaunas and Vilnius.

The knowledge of this project was used widely to improve welfare of the community, and the most important issues were programs of population health monitoring and rehabilitation. The project offered a possibility for inhabitants to get information about the quality of their living environment and risk factors, which increased the interest of inhabitants for environmental activity. Panevezys became also a special case among Lithuanian cities: the results of Panevezys' research-work are well known all over the country.

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Wind Power, Pori, Finland

The City of Pori made a large and very concrete project within the framework of Local Agenda 21. Pori built up a wide co-operation project to develop energy production by using wind. Pori had no financial resources to build a windfarm alone, so the energy company of Pori started negotiations with eight other Finnish towns around the country. They established the Hyötytuuli Ltd. to realise planned windfarm together.

Eight 1 MW wind turbines were built. The energy production of them will be about 20 000 MWh/a, which corresponds to the need of electricity of 10 000 block house flats, or 1000 houses warmed by electricity. The total costs of the windfarm was about 50 million FIM.



The windfarm in Pori, an alternative to traditional power resources.

The idea of building the windfarm was to increase the use of renewable power resources, change negative attitudes into positive concerning wind energy, and to encourage other cities to solve their energy questions the same way. In addition to this a research project of the windfarm was started, and as one result of these investigations, there is now some new knowledge avail-

able about freezing, and wind circumstances. This know-how can be used in the future, when developing and building more windfarms in a country like Finland, where the winter is usually very hard.

The windfarm is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in Pori, and it is also a very interesting place for environmental education for schools and colleges. There is also an information centre nearby the windfarm, which can be used, for instance, by a school class. Visitors of the information centre have a good possibility to get specific knowledge about wind power by computers, but of course also in practice.

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MEA in Rostock, Germany

An environmental follow-up on environmental impact has been in use in planning, projects and purchasing since 1993 in Rostock. The aim of the project was to carry out Municipal Auditing System in the city, and to modernise the city administration.

At the same time Rostock started its LA 21 activity, which was "good timing", because LA 21 office gave its contribution when starting Rostock's MEA in 1996. The City of Rostock had three basic project ideas for implementing sustainable development within the framework of MEA:

1. to save costs in economy and ecology
2. to give an example for the city inhabitants
3. to co-operate with companies and NGO:s.

All these aims were planned to reach by methodical preparation, carrying out MEA, and establishing MEA by checking. The Environmental Department of Rostock was the initiator and co-ordinator of the project. An audit-team was established, and members of this team were responsible colleagues from different city administration departments. Also the first concrete steps of the project were divided into three main points, which included:

1. general methodical conception: building up a comprehensive and systematic environmental management for the whole administration, distinguishing different influences in planning process, developing MEA in larger scale, etc.
2. green purchasing: defining guidelines for implementation, developing ecological criteria for products such as office equipment, installing an environmental controlling system for purchasing, etc.
3. implementation process in the administration of the city: developing guidelines for all MEA-areas, examination of existing structures of energy, water and waste management, developing information and education for management level, etc. - all these issues included also concrete future tasks in the same field

Concrete results

Some positive effects/results were seen quite soon after these steps were taken as a part of a concrete implementation procedure:

- Successful co-operation process was built up between the administration and commercial life.
- Energy and raw materials have been saved by using green products in the administration. Also Rostock's LA 21 activity has been supported.
- An initiation to discuss with industry about environmental standards.
- Enlarging co-operation network also on international level.
- Raised awareness concerning environmental issues within the city administration.

By this kind of steps the awareness of several environmental questions were raised in co-operation with others involved in the implementation process. All these experiences should help to make environmental auditing system and its application more popular in the Rostock region and spread good practices also in the future.

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Draugyste Avenue, Siauliai, Lithuania

The project in Siauliai started in 1996 by initiation of inhabitants of the city. The whole project began, when some inhabitants of Draugyste Avenue - the Alley of Chestnuts - asked the municipality to thin out and cut the trees, which were shadowing their flats and making their life uncomfortable. Siauliai authorities took this proposal seriously and started to think about a solution.

Environmental shadow of the past

The trees in Draugyste Avenue were planted about 30 years ago, when Lithuania was part of The Soviet Union. At that time even planting of trees was taken as a competition, and therefore lots of trees were planted too densely and too close to the dwellings, also in Siauliai. In 1996 the trees were already so big that people had to switch the lights on in the flats even at daytime. Also the growing conditions for the trees were bad: first of all they were planted absolutely too thickly and nobody



Draugyste Avenue before...

had taken care of them for 30 years. In addition to this the trees suffered of exhaustion and salt spread on the roads in wintertime. Because of this kind of circumstances some of the trees dried and almost stopped growing.

Siauliai City Municipality created a greenery project, which had objectives such as to improve the quality of living environment, to stimulate the initiative and active participation of local citizens and institutions in environmental issues, to establish harmony between people and nature, to adopt foreign experiences, and promote greenery management projects.



...and after the thinning of trees.

Thinning the trees and cutting some of them was the first step of implementation to meet the needs of inhabitants. These acts changed the living environment for the Draugyste Avenue inhabitants, but also for others as a view of the prospect. This project will go on, and greenery reconstruction of Draugyste Avenue should be finished in 2003.

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Further information:

If you are interested and would like to know more of the environmental award and/or the Best City Practices Project, please, contact:

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The Award cases were edited by Mr. Niko Remes who did part of his civil alternative service at the Commission on Environment Secretariat during the first half of year 2000.

Project on

Success Factors

*Possibility to learn more on LA 21, and on
how best to implement it in your city!*

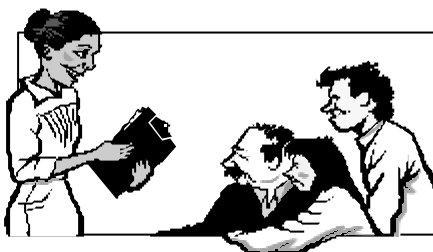
in Local Environmental Policy for Local Agenda 21 Activities and EU Enlargement in the Baltic Sea Region

Partners: Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and Åbo Akademi University (ÅA) Sponsors: European Commission, DG Environment, and Finnish Ministry of the Environment

Local Agenda 21 Training Course

First of the three workshops for LA21 co-ordinators and practitioners from cities and towns in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland will be held in November 2000.

For more information on the participation in the workshops, and application forms, please, contact Ms Barbara Anton, ICLEI, by e-mail: barbara.anton@iclei-europe.org



Other SUFA Project Components:

Baltic LA21 Roundtable

where participants from local, national, regional and European levels discussed how to best support local policies for sustainable development, in Turku, Finland, 18-19 May 2000



Research & Analysis

BSR LA 21 Survey and Good Practice Analysis have started, and research reports and final results will be ready in Autumn 2001.

Information

Best Practice and Human Resource Reviews will be popularised using Internet and Newsletters during 2000-2001.

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*You are Welcome to join our activities for
making the Baltic Sea Region more sustainable.*

Coming Events

Best City Practise Workshop coming up

Best City Practise and UBC Local Agenda 21 combined workshops will be held in Bützow, Germany, 12 - 15 October. All interested are welcome to participate.

More information can be obtained from Commission on Environment / Mr Risto Veivo, tel:+358-2-230 2030, e-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi

Success Factors and JO4 Workshop

The first Success Factor workshop, of series of three, together with Joint Action 4 workshop will be held in Kaunas in November. More information on both events can be obtained from Commission on Environment / Mr Risto Veivo (JO4), tel:+358-2-230 2030, e-mail:risto.veivo@netti.fi, and Ms Barbara Anton (SUFA), tel:+49-761-368920, e-mail: barbara.anton@iclei-europe.org

Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum

BLA21F organises several workshops during the coming autumn. Here are just some of them, while the rest will be confirmed later.

10 August	RT, preparation meeting, Gdansk, Poland
28-29 August	National LA21 Seminar & Workshop, Pärnu, Estonia (t.b.c.)

In September are also Seminar on LA21, Stralsund, German, and Workshop on Awareness Raising, St.Petersburg, Russia, (both t.b.c.).

More information on the events and on the project can be obtained from Ms Sirpa Laine, tel:+358-3-816 5108, e-mail: sirpa.laine@lahti.fi