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Baltic Cities

Environmental bulletin ● No 2, 2001

● Gdansk wins the Baltic Cities
Environmental Award

● Editorial by Anders Engström





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Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



Dear UBC Friends!

After ten years of intensive work in the Union of the Baltic Cities, I am now stepping aside from the position of UBC President. With gratitude I can tell you that these years have been exciting and eventful!

We have experienced so much positive development in the Baltic Sea Region. It has been extremely stimulating to be part of the co-operation and closely follow the region's way to better future. Many things have changed in our countries and in our cities.

Environment is a field where many changes are needed indeed.

From the very beginning, the Union has realised this and environmental co-operation has always been high on our agenda. During the 90's, many of our Eastern members were dealing with investments to modern environmental technology. The UBC contributed by organising exchange of experiences and transfer of know-how.

However, environmental work is not only about technical solutions. Since the United Nations Conference in Rio 1992, more and more emphasis has been laid on sustainable development. The Rio Conference adopted the global Agenda 21 and challenged cities to work on local Agenda 21.

Local Agenda 21 is a process full of nuances where a city can combine economic, social and environmental goals in the same strategy and action for sustainable development.

In my own country, Sweden, all cities have undergone the local Agenda 21 process in some way. In many cases results have been strikingly good.

Since the fifth General Conference, Stockholm 1999, the UBC has had its own official Agenda 21 Action Program. The UBC Executive Board has followed the implementation, so I have had a chance to closely follow the work. The Commission on Environment, with good support from the city of Turku, has been responsible for its co-ordination and implementation. This has been followed up in an extraordinary way. Many good projects have been implemented and the member cities have been strongly contributing. I have especially liked the de-centralised approach where leadership responsibilities have been taken by different cities in different projects.

Now in the sixth General Conference, Rostock 12-13 October 2001, the UBC Agenda 21 Program will be renewed. I am quite confident about the success of this work also during the next two-year period.

I hope that all our members would start their own local Agenda 21 within next period. Finally I want Cordially to Thank the city of Turku, Carl Nielsen, Mikko Jokinen and Risto Veivo for an excellent work and many years of good friendship.

Anders Engström

UBC President

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)...

... is a network consisting of 100 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 the following fields: business co-operation, culture, education, environment, social affairs, sport, tourism, transportation and urban planning.

Please contact us for further information!

City of Gdansk wins the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2001

By Tea Nömmann

This year's competition has been very active and exciting. It has also been very difficult as there were so many good and motivating practices from the cities around the Baltic Sea to evaluate.

The Baltic Cities Environmental Award 2001 was now organised for the second time. Special emphasis was put on innovative combination of environmental and social goals.

There were several criteria to evaluate the best practice, and different cities where among the top three of them - Gdansk, Lahti, Kolding, Butzow, Panevezys, Sundsvall, Keila, Helsinki, Pori and St. Petersburg. All these cities had some or more excellent attributes covered in their activity.

The winning city Gdansk and their Ecological Sobieszewska Island project was chosen as it was seen covering best and most broadly many aspects of sustainability - economic, environment and social as well as involving ordinary citizens which is very important showing positive effects in their attitude and behavior.

The applicants

From Denmark the city of Kolding presents their scheme to improve the neighbourhood known as Sydvest Kvarteret by different activities like community regeneration, networks, neighbourhood identity, social responsibility, housing and environment, etc.

From Estonia, city of Tallinn introduces a renovation of the Kadriorg Park founded by the order of Peter the Great in 1718. This unique Park serves as the lungs of Tallinn, stabiliser of the water supplies on the coastal rock and as the favorite recreation area in town. City of Keila

introduces the combined results from their local environmental protection project on water and waste water management.

Finland is represented by Lahti, Helsinki, Pori and Vaasa. Lahti presents the Sustainable Consumption Center, PATINA, which is the center for environmental and waste counselling and information, recycling, different workshops and cafeteria with organic goods. A special attention is paid to unemployed persons to adjust themselves to the tasks in different recycling activities.

Helsinki presents the Herttoniemi Waterfront project where industrial areas are successfully turned into residential ones with its own swimming beach.

Pori presents two projects - The Renovation Centre "Toivo" and "The Maintenance of the Built Heritage in Satakunta" - which both look after new practices to maintenance of the built heritage.

Vaasa's project on Environment and Competitive Sports is to improve the safety and environmental aspects of Vaasa Ice Stadium in favor of everyone - users, workers and neighbours. By involving youth it is possible to through sports give environmental education and popularise the sports itself.

From Germany, city of Bützow introduces their Agenda 21 process which has successfully involved all the citizens. City of Rostock presents the project on competition for saving energy and water in schools, departments and other organisational units of city administration.

Latvia is presented by the city of Cesis and its World Environmental Day, which is part of the LA 21 process. The aim is to involve local society (schoolchildren, pensioners, NGOs, and companies) in solving environmental problems in Cesis.

Lithuanian city of Panevezys presents their project on Environmental school in Panevezys and early prevention of crime.

Poland is represented by the city of Gdansk which introduces the project on Ecological Sobieszewska Island - to preserve and protect the nature and landscape values as well as improve the future of the island.



From Russia the St. Petersburg presents the complex research-training ecological expedition "ECO-XXI" to its pupils. This combines social (summer rest groups for pupils, training on environmental and social responsibility among young people) and environmental matters (scientific monitoring in national parks, social work with local population).

Sweden experiences in combining environmental and social concerns are introduced by the cities of Norrköping and Sundsvall. Norrköping introduces its LA 21 activities concerning parks, playground and traffic, in the part of city called Oxelberg area.

Sundsvall presented their ten year experience in the Nacksta housing estate how it can be the arena for social development and health and environmental work.

It is our pleasure that the interest has been high for the Award and UBC Environment Commission received altogether 17 interesting practices from 9 member countries. 15 of them were evaluated by the Evaluation Committee.

The winner of the Award 2001 was announced during the VI UBC General Conference "Social Justice in Baltic Cities in the New Millennium".

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Best City Practices - Approaching Conclusion

Sillamäe and Bützow: new partners, new ideas, new prospects.

By Aleksandr Bogens

Back in March representatives of Bützow, Germany, visited Sillamäe, Estonia. The visit was aimed at analyzing the feasibility of the Best City Practice of Bützow, "Participation and LA 21", in Sillamäe and to define some projects in order to establish a partnership between the cities.

A group from Bützow included the mayor Mr. Lothar Stroppe, representatives of municipality, youth council and women organizations. During the week in Sillamäe, they had several meetings with local authorities, youth workers and NGOs. They also visited some districts of Sillamäe and the largest enterprises, and did sightseeing as well.

During the visit cities wanted to exchange experiences on how to develop structures which involve and activate youth within different city development processes. Other topics under discussion were organising the work of City Youth Council, making good relations and organising exchange of students between the vocational schools, working on the issues of LA 21, organizing youth exchange on different purposes (including study of Russian and German languages), obtaining new experience and cultural exchange.

The mayor of Sillamäe, Mr. Ain Kiviorg, hosted a reception where also future ways of co-operation were discussed. The heads of two municipalities considered a possibility to run a project of student exchange between the Institute of Economics and Management in Sillamäe and the faculty of Country Culture and Environmental care of the University of Rostock and vocational schools of Sillamäe and Bützow. In fact, this first sub-project was launched quite soon, as in June a group of students from the vocational school from Sillamäe visited Bützow.

General conclusions from both sides were that there are quite many issues to work on, but a further and deeper study for the compatibility of methods suggested are needed.

And hopefully this was just a preface to a longer co-operation, that may benefit both sides in different fields and result in a good friendship between our cities.

The third and the last workshop of the ongoing Best City Practices (BCP) project will be organised in Turku, Finland 8-11 November 2001. All five city couples will present there their feasibility studies, completed during the summer. However, a lot of work has been done, and here you can read some experiences of city couples.



Mayor, Mr. Lothar Stroppe with other participants listening to a presentation during the study visit to Sillamäe.



Turku - Panevezys city pair discussing the proper location of air quality measuring station.

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Turku & Panevezys: air quality monitoring

By Tiina Hartman

Turku as a guide city has a good practice in air quality monitoring because all the procedures related to air quality monitoring e.g. maintenance of the monitoring analysers and reporting from air quality are controlled by a quality handbook. City of Panevezys is interested in building an air quality monitoring system which fulfils the requirements set for the air quality monitoring by EU. The concept and usefulness of quality handbook was the main point the City of Turku was able to introduce to the City of Panevezys.

The ambient air quality monitoring system in Turku region consist eight air quality monitoring stations where nitrogen oxides, particles, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone concentrations are measured as continuous real time measurements by single component analysers. The air quality monitoring system in Panevezys is based on a multi-component analyser that measures many components simultaneously. At the present time and in the near future this multi-component analyser is not comparable to the EU reference measuring methods.

The co-operation between the two cities has been very good in terms of communication. During discussions we found out that the basic needs for air quality monitoring in both cities were the same i.e. to make the environment better for the inhabitants. This improvement of the environment includes as a large part the improvement of air quality.

The main difference was that the air quality monitoring in Finland is the responsibility of municipalities unlike in Lithuania where air quality monitoring is handled by governmental organisations. The main problem that relates to a building an air quality monitoring system is that large financial resources are needed. In Panevezys, different funding possibilities are already under consideration.

ECAT-LT, Gotland and Environmental Bus

By Daiva Siaurusaitiene

The BCP project of Gotland and ECAT Lithuania 'Environmental Bus' visited Lithuanian municipalities in April 2001. Everything that is necessary to see and learn about the practise came with the bus. The bus visited altogether 8 cities and town municipalities participating in ECAT's project "Local Agenda 21 for small and medium sized Lithuanian Municipalities", because the environmental education/information is one of the important parts of Local Agenda 21 process.

People responsible for environmental education, teachers, students and schoolchildren from the local government and schools were invited to come and see the bus. It was especially important for municipality administration to get acquainted with the Environmental Bus in order to make decisions about possible participation in future project and financial contribution. During the meetings it was easy to get a broad discussion going on about the possibilities to use such a usefull action towards sustainability also locally.

The participants got information about biological diversity and on how to indicate wheather the nature is polluted or not. They also had an opprtunity to use the simple equipment on the bus to catch small animals living in the water and on the grass as the meetings were held in parks or near lakes and ponds. In winter time, when it is not possible to investigate nature, the bus instructor-driver gives

lessons on topics like waste separation and hasardous waste collection, compost making and energy saving.

The total number of participants during the visits reached 421! Of course, the main part consisted of school children (total of 347), who had the possibility to try the equipment and to do simple investigations.



The project application for the continuation of the BCP project activity has already been prepared. It is a project for the first Lithuanian Environmental Bus creation - "Education on wheels" for public and different groups of specialists. It aims to stimulate public involvement and participation in the implementation of sustainable development principles in their communities and to strengthen collaboration between public and municipalities. For this reason an Environmental bus will be put into operation to deliver lectures, materials and exhibitions to different target groups. The project application was submitted to the Phare ACCESS Programme for Central and Eastern Europe.

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Sundsvall – Sopot's co-operation

By Lidia Suokko

When judging by the first impression, one could claim that Sundsvall and Sopot have nothing in common but the first letter of the name. Though the cities differ indeed a lot when it comes to the character, main problems, sources of revenue or even the size, the co-operation seems to have all good prospects for the future.

The base of our co-operation is not only the project Clean Workplace which was presented by Sundsvall to the wider public when applying to the Best City Practice Environmental Award. As the city of Sopot, although having the Local Agenda 21 Action Plan dated at 1996, is now entering the next stage of LA 21 work – e.g. starting up a LA21 Office and stimulation of the public participation, it quickly became clear that there are many issues within the whole LA 21 process in Sundsvall that Sopot can benefit from, and maybe also vice versa.

That is why, during our study visit in Sundsvall by the end of February 2001, there were many issues discussed and plenty of places visited. Even severe frost at -20 °C could not stand in the way of exchanging useful experiences and ideas. The most interesting and beneficial for the visitors from Poland was, first of all, the possibility to see the results of the Clear Workplace project and to talk with the persons that were involved in the first stage of implementation of the action. This will help in preparing the strategy towards creating of a similar project in Sopot. We visited also a waste management company Reco which deals not only with municipal waste but also with awareness raising. As one of the topics of the visit, we wanted to focus on education within the framework of Agenda 21 and so visited a school and a kindergarden dealing with these issues and also saw the latest project of LA 21 in Sundsvall – "Information caravan". Another interesting project was Sadaka – a project for integrating of immigrants into the society.

The study visit in Sundsvall proved that the idea of benchmarking is really an excellent one as there are a lot of things different cities can learn from each other, there are a lot of interesting ideas that can easily be implemented in different places. It also turned out that it is not only Sundsvall that can act as a teacher but there are also some ideas created in Sopot,



Children had a chance to experiment with some of the equipment on the bus.

which can be useful in Sweden. That is why we decided to organise an extra study visit in July, this time in Sopot. The meeting was an occasion to visit the municipality, the environmental department, the LA21 office and also the municipal company dealing with the sewage and water systems. One of the initiatives presented to the Swedish visitors was the idea of a youth city council and general work with youth within the LA21 in Sopot.

To sum it up, the Sundsvall - Sopot project has been evaluating very well and we are sure the time will show that the benchmarking project is the beginning of the further successful co-operation between our cities.

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Lessons on environmental education in Elblag and Siauliai

By *Orinta Kazeniene*

The aim of project "Environmental Education" was to establish contacts among educational institutions of two cities, to share experience on environmental education of Siauliai (Lithuania) and Elblag (Poland), to learn from experience of the partners and to learn how to co-operate in the field of environment protection and research.

Representatives of different educational institutions of Siauliai took part in the study visit to Elblag last spring to experience their practice in organising environmental education and raising awareness of citizens. The priority of our visit was to get acquainted with the experience of ecological education in Elblag. We visited many educational institutions which work in the field of environment and participate in ecological events.

In the III Lyceum we listened to school children who were going to present very well designed and discussed ecological projects to the heads of the city. Particularly we were interested in the project on "A Day without Cars". In future, we think, in cooperation with the polish



Environmental conference in Kamienica Elblaska.



Green school in Piaski.

students, such a project could be implemented in Siauliai. Participation at the conference of school student's ecological parliament was of great success. We got an impression that the students feel themselves as an important part of the society that is able to make proposals to the government of the city concerning solution of some environmental problems.

Green School in Piaski made an impression on our group. Children of the 6th grade have an excellent opportunity to study the surrounding environment, to practice their skills and deepen their knowledge in various fields of studies. Kurtuva Green School located nearby Siauliai implements very similar teaching methods, but there all school students interested in environmental research and protection can follow the environmental education, though the material facilities and financial support of Kurtuva are not as good as in the in Piaski.

After the study visit we found many similarities in our both cities. These are the size of the city, number of population and main problems of our two cities, as well ways and methods of educating and informing the citizens about environment, problems and ways to solve them. There are many enthusiastic teachers and students working in ecological field, arranging very similar events and drafting environmental projects in Siauliai too. We saw that children in Elblag have better conditions to express themselves and their efforts are noticed by the government of the city.

The large support of politicians in solving a great deal of environmental problems and organizing environmental education in Elblag impressed us. Already at the beginning of the meeting the President of Elblag it was pointed out that environment protection is one of the priorities in this city. The words of the Vice President of Elblag Mrs. Czesława Piotrowska in the award ceremony of school students continued the same line: "When we invest in children we invest in our future". Such a position of politicians illustrates their ecological awareness and culture that was proved during the sincere and warm reception of our group.

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Serving the Cities in Agenda 21

By Risto Veivo

The added value that the UBC can bring to its members is connected to our success in realising the potential of our network. This network is meant for every member city.

These are some of the ideas behind the new UBC Agenda 21 Action Program that will be proposed to the General Conference in Rostock 12-13 October 2001. The proposal of the new program follows the practical success of the "old" one that was approved in Stockholm two years ago.

Network is a "net" that "works". This means that the activity is not only about contacts but contains also strong and beneficial practical elements of "doing together". With our network our cities can offer each other added value by doing many useful things together.

Who could exchange experiences alone? Would learning good new solutions alone make any sense? Could any single city really make its voice heard? The conclusion in UBC Agenda 21 Working Group has been that we absolutely must work together.

In the new Agenda 21 Program, lots of chances have been planned for this. Several projects will be carried out during the period, workshops organised, training offered, publications made, etc.

UBC's voice will be heard

According to the program, UBC's voice will also be made heard both in the Baltic Sea Region and in Brussels. We will be part of the political processes like Baltic 21, HELCOM, and the European Union's Platform for Dialogue on Urban Sustainability. In all these forums the UBC will serve its members' interests.

Cities indeed have a good potential in turning our common future into a sustainable one. The Union of the Baltic Cities, as a major network of cities in the Baltic Sea Region, will continue to do its part in using this potential. The purpose of the action program will be to communicate our vision, create strategies, set guidelines and define actions for our

work on Agenda 21 both within the UBC and with other actors for the two-year period 2002 - 2003.

Due to the immediate success of the UBC Local Agenda 21 Action Program 2000-2002, the UBC Executive Board decided that a new Agenda 21 Action Program is needed already for the two-year period 2002-2003. So the old and new program are overlapping during 2002, and the new program will prevail over the old one.

As an attachment to the new program, also Sustainable Practice Guidelines have been developed for the UBC (please, read more in another article of this bulletin). The new Agenda 21 Program and the guidelines will be distributed to all UBC members.

UBC LA 21 Survey

By Risto Veivo

The UBC is doing the Local Agenda 21 Survey again during this Autumn. Please, get prepared to answer, your input is crucial!

The results of the 1998 survey have helped us very much in planning good activities for our members. However, three-year-old results are not that useful any more. Even the fact that the number of UBC members is now 100 instead of 80 makes a new survey necessary.

However, this is not the main reason for doing a new survey. We do believe that much has been done and achieved in the cities during the past three years, and we would really like to get information about this.

The Survey Questionnaire has been distributed to UBC members during October. Dear UBC Friends, Please do respond, so we will be able to serve you well also in the future.

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Sustainable Information Society

By Risto Veivo

27-28 September, some 300 people from dozens of countries gathered for the SIS conference in the city of Kouvola, Finland, to explore on the future.

The topic *Sustainable Information Society* reflects to the need to find a sustainable way of life in the new information age.

The SIS Conference discussed widely the different approaches to information society and sustainability. Several key note lectures and workshops were organised with interesting speakers, both from the "academic" and "practical" worlds.

The new information technologies provide cities with many new possibilities and tools. Inhabitants can be served via the internet, discussions can be organised, geographical information systems can be used for better management of various problems, etc. The chances seem to be almost unlimited. According to Professor Jerome Glenn from the United Nations University, we hardly could imagine what will come "on the scene" during the next 25 years, and how all the new developments will effect us as human beings. Will we for example have many artificial parts in our bodies?

These changes in today's world are global, and one of the issues discussed especially at the future forum of the SIS conference was making the trends of globalisation understandable. It is not just something that is happening, but some people are driving it – ask who are the winners and losers and aim at control of the process. From cities point of view, combining planning and decision-making with an accurate "picture" of the global trends

would be beneficial. By doing this, cities might still maintain much of their decision-making power.

Following the future forum, the creation of a cross-sectional co-operation network or working group involving policymakers, decision-makers, researchers and experts was suggested by the host city Kouvola. This could utilise the existing networks of the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) and UBC (Union of the Baltic Cities) in bringing together interested cities and towns in Europe for development of the sustainable information society.

European Common Indicators

By Sanna Salminen

Dissemination day for European common indicators (ECIs) was organised 26 September, on the occasion of the Sustainable Information Society - Values and Everyday Life conference. The day was organised for invited experts from Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in co-operation with the European Commission DG Environment, UBC, City of Kouvola, ECATs (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology) of St. Petersburg and Lithuania, and Latvian and Estonian country offices of REC (Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe).

The dissemination day included various aspects about indicators. During the day Mr. Luca Demicheli from European Commission told about European Context and Ms. Sanna Salminen from UBC gave brief overview about indicators generally. Mr. Aimo Ahti, Mayor of Kouvola, told the reasons why their city joined to the indicators' experiment and several Finnish cities, Kouvola, Lahti and Hämeenlinna, gave their experiences of using indicators. Dr. Maija Hakanen from Finnish Association of Local Authorities represented indicators as a tool for monitoring rather than for control and Mr. Jon Möller from Stockholm told Swedish experiences of reporting and public information work.

National workshops, where each group discussed about topics in the point of view of their countries' situation, were also held. The main conclusions from the workshops were, that ECIs are interesting and a useful tool. Some suggestions about the order and importance of certain indicators were represented but mainly all groups were quite satisfied with the ECIs as they are now. All groups thought that their possibilities to implement ECIs are fairly good, but still co-operation between cities and with more experienced cities would be very welcome and needed.

Internal Sustainability Guidelines for UBC

By Sarah Smith

The Commission on Environment has produced guidelines to help all commissions and networks in their role in making UBC activities and practices more sustainable.

Separated into six sections, the guidelines provide useful information on how to achieve greater sustainability when running meetings / workshops / conferences, producing publications and in an office environment.



Guideline Presentation by Miss Sarah Smith at 31st UBC Board Meeting

All the UBC commissions, networks and the UBC secretariat were asked to complete a questionnaire to gather their thoughts and ideas on how to make the UBC more sustainable and also to see what sustainable practices we already undertake.

The networks and commissions are all different and each one is already making positive steps in their own way. Some for example are recycling paper, using energy efficient light bulbs and we all are making extensive use of e-mail and the Internet.

The main activity of the UBC that causes the greatest negative environmental impact is travelling to meetings, workshops and conferences. Unfortunately due to the topography of the Baltic Sea Region and time restrictions many participants travel by aeroplane.

Aeroplane travel has the greatest negative environmental impact in comparison to other modes of transport.

But, what can we do?

Meetings, workshops and conferences are important and there is no easy answer to this dilemma. We need to look at taking time to travel by train, bus and boat wherever and whenever we can.

The development of new technology such as video conferencing facilities is one way to reduce the number of meetings held. One of the ideas is for the UBC to actively encourage all commissions and networks to develop video conferencing facilities. Some already have access to such facilities with their region.

The guidelines are a good tool to make sure that we all pull together in the same direction to create a more sustainable UBC.

A draft of the guidelines was presented to the 31st UBC board meeting in Marlboro, Poland on the 16th June and was warmly welcomed by the board.

The next step is for the guidelines to be proposed to the General Conference in Rostock as part of the LA21 Action Program 2002 - 2003.

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Sillamäe Agenda 21

By Vladimir Mirotvortsev

Sillamäe Agenda 21 has been worked out and is currently being implemented. Remediation of Sillamäe radioactive tailing pond is one of the main steps of this sustainable development programme.

A special commission was created where all interested structures and inhabitants of the town could participate and which is actually forming a forum of sustainable development.

The radioactive tailing pond is located in the Ida-Viru county, in the western part of Sillamäe, directly on the coast of Gulf of Finland. In fact, the seaside dam is only 30-50 meters from the waterfront. The depository is located on a territory ca. 50 hectares and contains about 12 million tons of uranium process tailings and oil shale ashes, deposited there since the secrete uranium production factory of the Soviet Union was established in 1948. Research has proved that there exist both direct hazards – constantly spreading pollution, and indirect hazards – the seaside dam of the depository is instable and may break.

The pollution spreads from the depository in three different ways: - rain and water pouring from mainland slowly seep through the mass of tailings and carry nitrogen and dangerous substances (uranium, thorium, barium, strontium) to the sea; - in summer nearly whole surface of the depository is dry causing wind to carry dust from the depository to the surroundings and residential areas of Sillamäe (these are located ca. 1,5 to 2 km); - the depository emanates radioactive gas, radon, which partially spreads over the town as well. In case the seaside embankment breaks, incalculable quantity of dangerous substances may flow into the sea.

The remediation of the project really started when a financing memorandum between the Republic of Estonia and the European Commission was signed in 1999. The budget was established at 20 million EUR to be provided by the Estonian Government, EC, governments of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark as well as NEFCO, the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation.



The steps to take

Long term safety requires that such sites must provide protection for 1,000 years. Therefore, for remediation artificial materials such as PVC, geotextiles, etc. are not suitable. Reports submitted by Wismut GmbH foresaw the following means:

- Reinforcement of the dam of the depository by building breakwave on the shore and establishing a pile grillage on the area between embankment and the shore;
- Blocking the waters flowing from the mainland by a diaphragm wall;
- Contouring the surface of the depository and covering the depository with a multi-layer waterproof cover.
- After remediation the environmental hazards disappear, because:
- The covered depository looks like a hill, covered with vegetation, water can't get in there: it runs down the slopes without absorption; the surface water discharged from the mainland will be led to the other direction by a trench and diaphragm wall;
- Radioactive dust doesn't rise from the covered surface;
- Radon is still emanating from the tailings deposit, but it decays before getting on the surface (half-time of radon is approximately 4 days).
- The reinforced concrete pile grillage will guarantee the stability of the dam.

Start of the project

Preparations began in autumn 1999 with the liquidation of the oldest depository that consisted of 20,000 cubic metres of clayish radioactive mass. Tailings with high gamma activity were transported into the main depository. International tenders

were held to specialised contractors and the project entered the phase of high-volume earth-works.

Geotechnical investigation of the tailings mass and the dam was conducted 2000. A total of 800,000 cubic metres of oil shale ash and soil are removed from the area of the future diaphragm wall and from the ash depositories to the tailing pond. The work is planned to be finished by September 2001.

The works of stabilisation of the tailing pond began in May 2001 and will last for 18 months including construction of access roads, reinforcement of shore, pile grillage, trench and diaphragm wall. The covering of the tailing pond will begin in autumn 2001. The remediation project of the Sillamäe radioactive tailing pond is expected to be completed in the second half of 2006.

Many similar kind of ponds

The Sillamäe tailing pond is only one of the many in Eastern Europe and not by far the largest. In the opinion of European experts, however, the Sillamäe tailing pond is environmentally one of the most dangerous. By completing the project successfully, Sillamäe will become the first environmentally remediated depository of uranium tailings in the whole Eastern and Central Europe.

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Waste Management in Vilnius

By Dr. Violeta Ivinskiene

Today, household waste in Vilnius is collected in standard containers, put in fixed places. That allows habitants to bring waste there whenever they wish. Compared to other Lithuanian cities, Vilnius has a wide competence in waste management field. There are more than 24 private companies dealing with waste collection and recycling.

It has not always been like that, especially in the Old city and centre of the town, where narrow streets and houses were built with big density. Therefore its districts have very different conditions for spreading and replacing containers. Till 1998 waste was collected from citizens at fixed time, when a truck came to the yard two-three times a week. Some detached houses or block of flats had special

premises inside or outside the house to hold containers. These conditions required special and very different methods of waste collection and management, convenient to habitants and operating companies.

Initiated by Copenhagen municipality, Vilnius city organised an experiment on separation of secondary raw materials as paper, glass, plastic and metal in the places they are produced. This free-of-charge for citizens programme started in 1994, and by 1997, there were ca. 1200 special containers for recyclable materials. Also a special information leaflet about the possibility to use these containers was published. In practise, new companies and the European types of containers have appeared more convenient for service and production, and also fit better to standards. Now we have 1500 various types of containers for glass, paper and plastic put in the town.

New ways to sort the waste

In 1999, a separate company for operation and maintenance of the landfill was established. Two interim storages are now made for household's bulky waste, where citizens can bring their waste without payment. Waste was not waged till 1988. Now the computer control system is registering every truck, the company, weight and the kind of waste they bring.

Treatment of sludge and water supply is managed by a water supply company, which has a mechanic and biological sludge treatment equipment.

Districts of Vilnius are divided to 21 local house management offices which are responsible for organising heating, water and sewage system, electricity, waste collection, stairs and yard cleaning. The city municipality has many departments and divisions and also specialized companies responsible on various habitants economy questions. The Environmental Protection Division was organised in 1991. Now we have two subunits: Waste and industrial enterprizes control and Greenery and protected territories. Every local office has specialists for the survey of a territory, land organization and exploitation, architects, etc.

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Recycled Paper in Gdynia

By Adam Kaldunski

The Environment Protection and Agriculture Department decided to be one of the first in Poland to introduce 100% recycled paper. The paper has been used as a basic office material since 5th June this year.

Using the recycled paper in office is part of the realisation of "Gdynia –

environmentally friendly city" defined in "Strategic Plan for Gdynia". The above mentioned action has an educational character and it aims at promoting the environmentally friendly attitude as well as demonstrating of real possibilities of using waste paper collected within the modern waste management programme run in Gdynia.

The replacement of the wood cellulose mass with recycling mass contributes to water saving as well as thermal and electric energy saving. Furthermore, collecting waste paper within the modern waste management

programme substantially decreases the area of municipal dumping grounds as well as costs of their construction and utilization. Last year within the waste management programme 80 tons of waste paper were collected in two districts of Gdynia, which means that waste paper being 1 metre thick and of the area equivalent to one tennis court was not dumped in a landfill.

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Waste Management in Gdansk

By Mrs Jadwiga Kopec & Mrs Monika Piotrowska – Szypryt

The project "Strategy Development for Effective Solid Waste Management in the City of Gdansk" is now under process. It consists preparation of "Waste Management Programme in the City of Gdansk up to 2015", preparation and realization of the Pilot Project (PP) of selective collection of waste in selected districts, and preparation of feasibility study including recycling of industrial waste – plastic, glass, and paper.

In May 2001, implementation of the Pilot Project started in selected city districts. It was preceded by information campaign through citizens (posters, leaflets, picnic). The main objective of the Pilot Project is selective collection of various types of household waste including hazardous waste and biowaste with maximum services ensured by the city. Extra containers for recycled materials (for paper, glass, plastics, cans of aluminium and biowaste) were supplied where needed. Every household was also supplied with small biowaste basket. Used batteries are collected in special "pockets" of glass containers and overdue medicines in containers placed in drugstores. Toxic household waste, such as chemicals, fluorescent lamps, mercury – in – glass thermometers and electronic equipment can be taken to a special car driving round the districts in appointed time. Periodically collection of constructional and bulky waste is also organized.

The preparation and realization of PP is coordinated by the Gdańsk City Hall and funded by Dutch Ministry from MATRA Fund. At the end of this year the approximated amount of collected waste

will be drawn to a conclusion on efficiency of the project in comparison with usual services in the districts. Results of Pilot Project will also be stated on the ground of questionnaires filled in by inhabitants participated in PP.

Similar project will be implemented in other city district and later on the system of waste collection in areas of high density of population will be changed.

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New Waste Treatment Plant

Mr Adam Kaldunski

The most modern Polish waste treatment and management plant will locate near Gdynia. It will be environmentally safe, and the comprehensive solutions adopted there will make it stand out among other similar projects throughout the country.

Preparations for the construction of the Lezyce plant are entering their final stage. The plant will be used for the waste of almost half a million people of Gdynia, Sopot, Rumia, Reda, Wejherowo, Kosakowo Commune, and communes of Luzino and Szemud.



Teching of behaviour patterns starts already at young age.

The plant will consist of a number of inter-connected sorting, dismantling, and composting lines. It will be an ecologically safe, modern and complete plant treating and managing refuse. It will also be easy to modify it later. Initially, relatively unsophisticated technical elements, easy to construct and start, and matching the present situation in the cities, will be used. Stage two envisages launching highly advanced technological RDF installations and organic refuse composting facilities.

A comparative study of six waste management systems was conducted in 1997 and as a result a MIX programme was selected. It assumes a comprehensive approach to the introduction of modern municipal waste management combining investment, legislative, and educational efforts. It was first used in 1999 with less than 30 000 people but it is thought that by next year it will be cover a population of about 350 000.

The parties implementing the MIX programme are aware that construction of the facilities and installations alone will not make the system work as expected. Therefore they put much emphasis on changing the inhabitants' behavioural patterns through an intensive information and educational campaign. Most environmental programmes, workshops and competitions are addressed at children and youth though the good offices of the teachers. In nearly four years 10 000 children and youth have been reached through the educational campaign.

The project had received funding from the European Union for environment protection of Euro 15,3 million from the pre-accession ISPA fund (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession).

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Environmentally friendly shopping is not just for the "wooly-hatted-bean-eaters"

By Signe Sparring

In Kolding, the retailers have recently decided that environmental issues are not just for the healing and organic shops, but can include also other retailers of consumer products. They feel they can make a contribution to the ecological problems that face us, in this 21st century.

The retailers are the middlemen between the producer and the consumer. An ecologically conscious retailer is a retailer dedicated to minimize the use of electricity, to use ecologically friendly cleaning products and to dispose the daily waste by recycling.

The three steps to a greener shop

Each retailer must choose 15 activities over a total of 3 years. During the first year, the main theme is the daily running of the shop. This includes energy check up from the local electricity company, environmentally friendly cleaning of the premises and rubbish disposal. In addition, the retailer must choose two additional form of activity like choosing to maintain water taps and toilets or use eco-labeled paper, for example the Nordic swan or the EU-flower.

In the second year the main theme being the inventory of the shop and minimizing the amount of packaging the customer brings home. The theme of the third year is product information and how it can be conveyed to the consumer.

Saving money and environment

The first 50 shops had a combined electricity consumption totaling 2.117.580 kWh/year. After consultation



We are making Kolding a littler greener is the message the little green man gives when he smiles to everybody who enters a green retail shop.

it was found that this could easily be reduced by 300.000 kWh/year. That's a reduction of 14%!!! The advice given was for example, to use energy efficient light bulbs, and only having full illumination when the shops are open. This was done without reducing the light exposure to the products at the time of sale.

The idea of saving money has appealed to many shops, and so far, 85 shops have agreed to take part in the project. This is the highest success rate in Denmark.

During their period in the project the shop receives:

1. Consultations from an environmental consultant
2. Consultation from a consultant from the electricity company
3. A diploma
4. A sticker for the window
5. A Mention in the press and on the homepage of Center for Urban Ecology
6. A folder containing environmental information, for the management and personnel
7. Updates on actual environmental issues

In the future the project could be exported to other European cities. This would create a stronger basis for the sale of environmentally friendly products.

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Green Purchasing

By Geraldine Plas

BIG-NET
THE BUY IT GREEN NETWORK

Hundreds billion Euros – some 15 percent of total gross national product – are spent every year by European public purchasers on goods and services.

Therefore, the purchasing decisions and the allocation of contracts, based on environmental criteria as well as on other criteria have the potential to develop a market force on the demand-side for the "greening" of production.

Local authorities have an important role to play in this field! Concretely, purchasing environmentally friendly products and services for your office, cleaning, green areas, buildings, canteen and fleet vehicles has the potential to minimise the environmental burden whilst achieving better quality of products and services, saving money and enhancing safety.

In order to overcome these hurdles, and ensure continuous exchange of information and experiences, European pioneers gather in the "Buy it green"-Network of Municipal Purchasers in Europe (BIG-Net). Chaired by the city of Kolding, Denmark and administrated by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), BIG-Net provides a forum for all municipalities and local authorities in Europe to share their green purchasing know-how and broaden their expertise.

Via meetings as well as joint projects, BIG-Net supports purchasers' work with respect to their special tasks relating to the organisation and implementation of green purchasing and facilitates professional information exchange on green purchasing. At the same time, the Network advocates the interests of local authorities in front of national and international institutions.

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where you can order a copy of the Green Purchasing Good Practice Guide (mailing cover charge 5 Euros)

LA 21 for Small and Medium Size Municipalities

By Audrone Alijosiute

Till 1999 only a few Lithuanian municipalities had started a Local Agenda 21 process, and these have mainly been the bigger cities. It was obvious that more intense support for smaller municipalities is needed. Thus ECAT-Lithuania invited interested municipalities to start LA21 process of their own.

The additional goal of the project was to raise awareness on LA 21 at national level. We aimed at creating a network of people and organisations in Lithuania that can promote the ideas and spread information through their contacts and channels. Within the frame of this goal two national seminars were organised to exchange experience between municipalities, an "advisory board" of networks, NGOs and other actors active in this field was set up for the project. Four issues of a newsletter on the progress and activities of the project were published. Twelve municipalities: Alytus, Marijampole and Siauliai Cities and Ignalina, Kaisiadorys, Kaunas, Radviliskis, Raseiniai, Rokiskis, Siauliai, Trakai and Varena Districts, participated in the project, which started in 1999 and ended in 2001.

The idea of the project was to work out a set of steps for the process of LA 21 and to consult municipalities during this process. This decision was made because

participating municipalities were very different not only in size but also in their potential to start LA 21. The initial review and the plan of activities during the project were steps obligatory for municipalities. Basically, the project aimed at identification of the main sustainability issues and aims for the area, setting explicit objectives for both the state of the environment, including biodiversity, and for indicators of the quality of life in the area (Vision Statement). All municipalities have established their LA 21 working groups, which consisted of representatives from various departments, and prepared plans for their activities during the project.

A note: the municipalities were not very happy with the freedom they got within this project – they would rather liked the ready made prescription which they could as a template. Other reasonable obstacle was seen as lack of tangible results, unclear goals of the project. It took nearly half a year until the Working groups understood what LA21 process would mean for their municipality.



As a part of the project several training meetings were held for all participating municipalities and their representatives together.

Lessons learned from the Lithuanian experience as indicated by consultants and participants during the final workshop:

- The goals for participating municipalities has to be achievable
- The clarification and finding common understanding of the definitions "Sustainable Development". "LA21" by all participating parties and in the first stage of the process
- Involvement of top management from the very beginning is crucial.

- Publicity of the idea of LA21 is a guarantee for a successful involvement of other stakeholders.
- Enthusiasm and enthusiasts is sometimes the only one pillar for LA21 process.

The most important result of this project is the considerably increased awareness of municipalities on sustainable development and ways of its implementation. Municipalities during the second national round table discussion "Sustainable development: role of local authorities" declared their wish to continue work on LA21 process and approached recently established National Commission on Sustainable Development with the following proposals:

- To acknowledge that LA 21 process is going on and is implemented on the basis of the principle of subsidiary;
- To initiate the creation of National Sustainable Development Strategy;
- To establish regional sustainable development committees and to propose The Government to include representatives of these committees to the National Sustainable Development Commission;
- To address the Government, asking to establish a secretariat to the National Sustainable Development Commission to coordinate its activities using the existing experience and resources;
- To foster the integration of the principles of sustainable development to the study programs of universities and other high schools and public administration study curriculum

Project has ended but LA21 just started as one of the project participants said: "If not us, who else will continue this work...". The project management team and consultants has also benefited a lot during this process- we have been

learning together.

If you have any questions, or want to start similar kind activities in your municipality please feel free to contact ECAT – Lithuania.

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Public Perceptions on Environmental Health

By Liisa Repo

The aim of the environmental health survey in Kymenlaakso, in south-eastern Finland, was to find out the greatest environmental health related concerns of the public.

Based on the results, a possible accident at a nearby nuclear power plant is the environmental health factor that causes the most concerns in the area. Other major concerns were contamination of drinking water, surface water pollution (especially the Finnish Bay and the river Kymijoki), and pollution of ambient air. In terms of environmental healthcare officials one the most important findings of the study was unawareness about environmental healthcare and its purpose. Thus more efficient informing of the public about

environmental health and current environmental health issues ought to be made one of the priorities in the local Environmental Health Programme. With the exception of the concern for the possibility of a nuclear power plant accident, no new threats or concerns came out in the survey. All in all the people of Kymenlaakso are generally pleased with the level of environmental healthcare in their region.

Figure 1. "In order to ensure a more healthful environment I would prefer the authorities to..."



The purpose of Environmental Healthcare is to ensure the environment people live in is safe and healthful. In order to succeed in their task, environmental health officials have to monitor and control various environmental factors, which may pose a threat to human health. This, however, is not enough, as the way in which people perceive their living environment is also an essential part of environmental health. Thus, prior to compiling a local EHP for the Kymenlaakso region, a mail survey was carried out in order to determine, which environmental factors are perceived to be the greatest health threats and whether concern exists about issues, which are not among the priorities of environmental healthcare today.

The results of the survey, that was held last year, will be used to ensure the most significant aspects of environmental health, not only from the authorities, but also from the public's point of view, in the region are included in the local EHP. More information on the survey can be found at the Baltic Cities Environmental bulletin 2/00.

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EveryDay Environment

By Lidia Suokko

Just how difficult is it to live in an environmentally sound way, everyday? Can everyone, and do they have the energy to, work for a better environment?

To answer these questions 12 families from Sundsvall are participating in a project during the autumn to test different measures for an improved environment. One family is to conserve energy, several are to compost and sort their waste at source. One family is to eat more environmentally sound food (more vegetarian, more game and lamb), another family will purchase more locally-grown and ecological products. One family will learn eco-driving, another will cycle to work instead of taking the car etc.

The families have volunteered to participate in the project and they will



Bo Eriksson is listening to the good advice about cycling, condition and health.

receive information and support from a variety of experts. Every family will keep a diary of how they feel about the changes that environmental adaptation involves as well as noting successes and setbacks. During the project the families will be interviewed about how they feel about their environmental undertakings and their experiences will be evaluated.

The EveryDay Environment Project has attracted considerable interest and is being followed by the media and a host of other interested parties. At the beginning of next year we will write again to tell you about the results of the project.

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Vital Vaasa

By Riikka Pajuoja

Vital Vaasa project for revitalization of the urban watercycle goes on. Several studies have been made, and realisation of the water-revitalization plans will start this autumn.

An important factor in revitalization of the watercycle is the quantity and the quality of stormwater. If water contains a lot of pollutants, it can not be infiltrated because it would contaminate groundwater.

In the target area the stormwater load and hydrological conditions were studied. In the urban runoff the most essential pollutants are suspended solids, but also phosphorus, heavy metals and bacteria can be found. Four different kind of purification methods were used; wetland treatment, sedimentation, rockwool filtering and sand filtering. The best reduction of pollutants was gained with wetland treatment.

Plans for revitalization of the watercycle in target area are made. Natural rainwater resources can be utilised more efficiently allowing stormwater to infiltrate in the ground. More permeable pavements are used, trees and other plants are planted to consume and purify water. All these procedures improve the landscape structure, increase the local biodiversity and enhance the microclimate in the area. All together the urban environment becomes more attractive for plant communities, animals and people.

Participation and education of public is one of the tasks of the project. The inhabitants got a chance to participate in the planning process. Because the plans concerned their own daily surroundings, the participation was very good.

The planning process is now finalised. The construction works will start this autumn and will continue till spring 2002.

More information of the project also in Environmental bulletin 2/00.

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The Dump Herring Gulls

By Juulia Tahvanainen

Lake Kymijärvi has a long history of nutrient loading from the catchment area during the passed decades. Parts of the lake has suffered from eutrophication and mass-appearance of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).

Since the late '80 the condition of the lake has improved because the pollution control of the catchment area has become more efficient. Nowadays a new source of nutrients to the lake has been the gulls eating at refuse pits and resting on the lake in big flocks. The gull faeces contain a lot of nutrients.

The quantity of faecal streptococci (FS), which is an indicator organism of faecal pollution, was found to have risen in the water of local bathing site of Lake Kymijärvi, in 1999. Waste water treatment of the area was found to be in order so the source had to be from somewhere else. Simultaneously it was noticed that big flocks of gulls resting around the lake, especially the herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*), used to eat in nearby refuse pit and came to rest on the lake. Three herring gulls were captured in order to examine faecal organisms and also salmonella bacteria. Some salmonella was found in the gull faeces and in the water sample of Lake Kymijärvi.

A project to control herring gulls in Kujala refuse pit

The number of gulls in Kujala refuse pit and nearby resting places have been calculated since 1997. Then the number was 500-1500 gulls, and the highest amount has been 5000 gulls. In order to

reduce negative influences and to prevent gulls from eating at refuse pits the city of Lahti, the municipality of Nastola and Päijät-Häme Waste Management Company commenced a EU financed project, The Dump Herring Gull Project, in February 2000.

Big gull flocks have been dispersed in refuse pits and resting places by using loud voices etc. In order to prevent them from eating in refuse pits nets have been used. These methods have reduced the amounts of gulls so that in the summer 2001 only 30-300 gulls was counted.

Salmonella and gulls

The herring gulls may carry salmonellas without infecting themselves. There are many other significant sources of salmonella getting into natural waters, like sewage or wastewater as a result of human activity and animal waste discharges, especially during storm-water run-off, but gulls can infect beaches which would otherwise remain clean. Salmonellas can



Special traps were built to capture the seagulls and thus preventing them from eating at the refuse pit.

survive in waters several hours and in chilly waters even days. Bacteria bind themselves with particles in the water in order to get shelter, but keep sinking with particles to the sediment. Exception can be salmonellas binding themselves with cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), which can prevent their sinking with their gas vacuoles. Salmonellas can survive several months in the sediment.

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Environmental Monitoring Results

By Marija Stanikuniene

Once again, the public presentation of environmental monitoring was made in Kaunas. This year it was held on 5 June, on the World Environment Day.

A special publication of "State and Trends of Kaunas City Environment" was also presented at the event and distributed for all participants. This report, consisting of monitoring results, will also be disseminated free of charge for public e.g. for students, teachers and other interested persons who visit Environmental Protection Department.

This report on environmental state in Kaunas City is the first publication which shows the estimated results of monitoring during the past 8 years and presents the tendencies for future. The main subjects of the report are air quality, noise pollution, open water bodies, ground water quality, heavy metals in soil. The summarised data describes environmental state in different districts of Kaunas. It shows that environmental changes in Kaunas City as well as the whole Lithuania interrelate with economical changes – when economical situation is getting worse, environmental state improves. However as the economy improves, environmental quality is inevitably getting worse. Therefore environmental institutions and the whole society are responsible for the economical growth according to sustainable development principles.

Environmental monitoring was started in Kaunas City in 1993 according to the national laws and international conventions, which have been ratified by Lithuanian Republic. The presentation of the results of monitoring is made annually for public and politicians at the Municipality.

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Krekenava Regional Park

By Rytas Papsys

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania established 30 regional parks in 1992. The Krekenava Regional Park is one of them.

This park consists of 11 477 hectares and its functions are to protect the natural ecosystem, the values of cultural heritage and to create favourable conditions for recreation, tourism and scientific research. The activities in the Park only started 1997 after having established the Board of Directors.

Among the sights of the Krekenava Regional Park there is Pasiliai with enclosures of 48 hectares. The largest of European wild animals, Lithuanian aurochs, are kept there. They are included not only in the Red Book of Lithuania but in the International Red Book as well.

Lithuanian aurochs

The first aurochs settled in the Lithuanian territory 8 000 years ago. Up to the 17th century there were a lot of them here but due to cutting of trees and endless hunting their number rapidly decreased. In 1802 hunting was banned but that didn't really help the situation. The last free European aurochs were hunted in the Belovez woods in 1919. After that aurochs were found only in zoos.

In 1923, at the Congress of Environmental Protection in Paris an International Aurochs Protection Society was founded and the inventory of aurochs was made.

After the WW II only 27 aurochs were found in Belovez woods. In '50s several aurochs were set free and by 1963 their number had increased to 56. That meant, that the population had been saved. In 1972 aurochs were living in 24 countries around the world.

Aurochs impress by their size. A male aurochs is 3 m long and its weight can reach up to 1 ton. The horns compared to the size of the whole body are small. The aurochs is a herbivorous animal adding the bark of trees and twigs to their feed. In autumn they like to try mushrooms, fruits, acorns. Since the old times Lithuanians have known the curative power of aurochs herb. They thought that aurochs liked that herb best too. The Lithuanian landowners even made strong and fragrant drinks poured on the aurochs herbs that "gave them the power of the aurochs". Aurochs living in freedom do not let a man come closer than 100-200 m. Aurochs live to become 30 years old and they reproduce until they are 20 years old. Aurochs love taking sand baths. They have no enemies in nature.

The aurochs is the largest animal living in Lithuanian forests. Grown-up males weigh about 1 ton. A high crest, a long beard and widely located horns are typical features of aurochs.

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Aurochs are trully magnificent looking creatures. They can weight up to 1 ton and be nearly 3 m long. A leap of a running auroch is ca. 3 m. The aurochs living in freedom do not let a man to come closer than 100-200 m.

New chairman for Baltic Sea Center

Chairman of the Nordic Council, Member of the Danish Parliament, Svend Erik Hovmand, was August 9th appointed as the chairman for the Baltic Sea Center, which presently is being established in Vordingborg, Denmark.

The main purpose of the Baltic Sea Center will be to forward sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. It will do so by forwarding Cupertino between institute's organisations, private companies and others who deal with the environment and culture of the Baltic Sea Region. The center is also going to run a wide range of information activities and a museum displaying the rich marine-archaeological finds in the area together with the geological and environmental development since the last ice age.

More information about the Baltic Sea Center can be found at:
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 Project Manager

Ozon - magazine

During the summer 2001, 19 students from upper secondary high school in Malmö made an environmental newspaper called 'Ozon' for the young people in Malmö. The students wrote reports about environmental issues according to their own interests and under guidance of two experienced journalists. It is filled with interviews with, for example, a dustman, a music artists and some young vegetarians. There are also articles about buying at second-hand stores, about organic farming, about skinny-dipping and about how to clean your room.

Ozon has 25 000 editions and it is delivered to the students in the schools of Malmö. The whole project was financed by the City of Malmö.



More information:
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EMASSER Handbook

Promoting environmental management system and green procurement for a sustainable development in Europe.

One of the most important aims of publishing EMASSER handbook has originated from the experiences and results gained during the EMASSER project. This handbook is to disseminate the experiences arising in the four European regions participating; Scania (Sweden), Basque country and Galicia (Spain) and Abrantes (Portugal). Within the project the regions were represented by local authorities and small/medium sized enterprises (SME) of the service sector.

The environmental management system is followed from the planning of the system to the adoption and verification of it. Experiences from procurement are exemplified with different study cases and published in this guide. Environmental aspects have been added to the procurement and they are described including the evaluation. If you want to read this handbook you can visit our homepage. The address is: www.emasser.nu

The project was funded by the structural funds of the European Commission (DG Regional policy) in the Recite II program.



EMAS/MEA - peer review for cities

In August, the UBC Environment Commission together with EURO CITIES submitted to DG Environment the project proposal on developing and extending the use of EMAS in local authorities by encouraging cities to work together by using the "EMAS peer review" as an important method. The MEA experiences in Baltic Cities will have valuable input to the project and MEA itself will be further developed during that project.

New Grant for Fossil Fuel Free Växjö

The Swedish Government has decided to allocate SEK 32,7 million (~ 3,5 million Euro) to the municipality of Växjö as a grant for investments to achieve environmental improvements. 19 different projects were given financial support with 15-50 % of the total costs (which for all the projects are estimated to SEK 109 million). The projects are grouped into four categories: transports, energy, water and public awareness. The environmental investment programme will run for three years from 2001 to 2004, overlapping the existing programme that started in 1998. Since 1996 Växjö has received both national and international recognition especially for its work to reduce the use of fossil fuels. These climate protection efforts are carried out under the motto "Fossil Fuel Free Växjö".

More information:
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Our Contact Information:

UBC Commission on Environment...
...is where environmental directors and experts from member cities co-operate. It is one of the most active commissions of the UBC.

UBC Agenda 21 Working Group...
...is a forum for different UBC bodies, member cities and even external partners to work together for sustainable future in the Baltic Cities.

The Chairperson
...of both the environmental commission and the Agenda 21 working group is currently Mikko Jokinen, Director of Environmental Department in the City of Turku.
E-mail: mikko.jokinen@turku.fi





The Review is a one-time special edition produced by the Environmental Commission Secretariat of UBC as part of the project called Success Factors in Local Environmental Policy for Local Agenda 21 and EU Enlargement in the Baltic Sea Region (SUFA). It will be distributed to the executives and political leaders of the Union of Baltic Cities member cities.

The Review aims to highlight the importance of sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 as an essential part of strategic planning and management of cities. Investments in this field invigorate positive development across traditional sectors and interests. The Review is a magazine –type of publication including interviews of business and municipal leaders and case examples from municipalities.

Success Factors in Local Environmental Policy - SUFA -project

The SUFA project supports Local Agenda 21 work, local environmental policy and EU approximation in the Baltic States, Poland, and the whole Baltic Sea Region. The SUFA activities consist of policy dialogue between national and local level, scientific research, training courses and information campaign. The project is implemented by UBC, ICLEI and Åbo Akademi University and it is co-funded by the European Commission DG Environment, Finnish Ministry on Environment, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the City of Turku.

Coming Events

Best City Practices Workshop

The 3rd and last BCP workshop will be on 8-10 November in Turku. All city couples are warmly welcome to participate.

More information: Mr. Risto Veivo, Tel: +358-2-230 2030, E-mail: risto.veivo@netti.fi or Ms. Sanna Salminen, Tel: +358-2-230 2202, E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi.

Climate Change & the Role of Large Cities

14 - 16 November 2001, Norra Latin, Stockholm. The conference aims to present successful strategies and instruments for combating green gas emissions and climate change.

More information: 'Climate Change', Stockholm Convention Bureau, P.O. Box 6911, S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden

Tel: +46-8-5465 1500, Fax: +46-8-5465 1599 E-mail: stcon@stocon.se

Questions about the program, please, contact: E-mail: charlotta.hedvik@miljo.stockholm.se

Material Flow Oriented Cost Accounting

6 - 7 December 2001, Augsburg, Germany This international conference is aimed at practitioners and scholars working in the fields of controlling, materials management, information technology, and accounting. Experts from the USA, Japan, Germany as well as numerous representatives of companies will present new approaches to material flow oriented cost accounting.

More information please contact: Ms Carolin Drube, Institut fuer Management und Umwelt Tel: +49(821) 34366-16 E-mail: drube@imu-augsburg.de www.eco-effizienz.de

Baltic Sea Science Congress 2001 Past, Present and Future-A Joint Venture

November 25-29, 2001, Stockholm, Sweden. The Congress will focus on biology, oceanography and geology of the Baltic Sea area. One of the goals is to enhance the understanding and co-operation between different research disciplines. The Congress will include both topic-specific sessions and joint plenary sessions.

More information: Stockholm Marine Research Centre, Stockholm University, SE-10691, Stockholm, Sweden.

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