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Baltic Cities

Environmental bulletin ● No 1, 2002



- UBC Collaborates with Lake Victoria Region as part of LA21
- New UBC LA21 Survey Ready



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Cover Picture:

'Road Market in Uganda'

by Mr Guldbrand Skjönberg, Nacka

Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



Dear Friends,

A few days ago we got a new report - now from HELCOM - showing us that every country has failed to reach the targets to reduce their pollution to the Baltic Sea. The best results have been made in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as these countries have been successful in combatting point sources and many polluting factories have been closed.

It is evident that combatting point sources is successful. We can read that in many reports. Due to

this, Central and Eastern European countries have recently been more successful in reducing many pollutions than the Western European ones. Furthermore, the per capita impact on the environment and diffuse pollution in the countries with so called Western lifestyle are higher than in the Eastern European countries.

Work for a better environment is successful when it comes to clean technology and to reducing pollution from point sources. In the Western European countries most of such work is already done, and now the successful work continues in the East. However, the impact from the lifestyle by diffuse pollution is higher in the West and more difficult to reduce. In the future we can expect the same development in Eastern Europe when the lifestyle reaches the Western level.

Therefore we must together develop improvements in our lifestyle and work for a reduction of diffuse pollution. The states and municipalities can support us as individuals, but everyone must take his or her own responsibility for the environment. This means that all of us must understand the importance of these changes and get information and skills to make them. Changing behaviour is not easy but can be done through education.

How could we educate all responsible citizens in our area? Demonstration approach could be one part of the solution. Many of us understand much better if we can see, hear, smell and feel how, for example, a compost container functions or how a heat pump works. Therefore I am convinced that one successful factor is to build up, what we call, environmental pedagogic centres.

My vision is that we can replace the hot spots with green spots, consisting of environment pedagogic centres. These are places where we can learn by demonstration and develop changes in our behaviour together by studies and discussions.

Guldbrand Skjönberg

Co-chairman, UBC Commission on Environment

Manager to the Boards, Nacka

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Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)...

... is a network consisting of 101 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!

Collaboration within Local Agenda

Story & photos by Guldbrand Skjönberg

Union of the Baltic Cities has a twin region called the Lake Victoria Region. The counterpart to the UBC is the Lake Victoria Region Local Authorities Co-operation (LVRLAC). Currently there are three different ongoing projects, one on women's network another on information and IT and third one on environmental education.

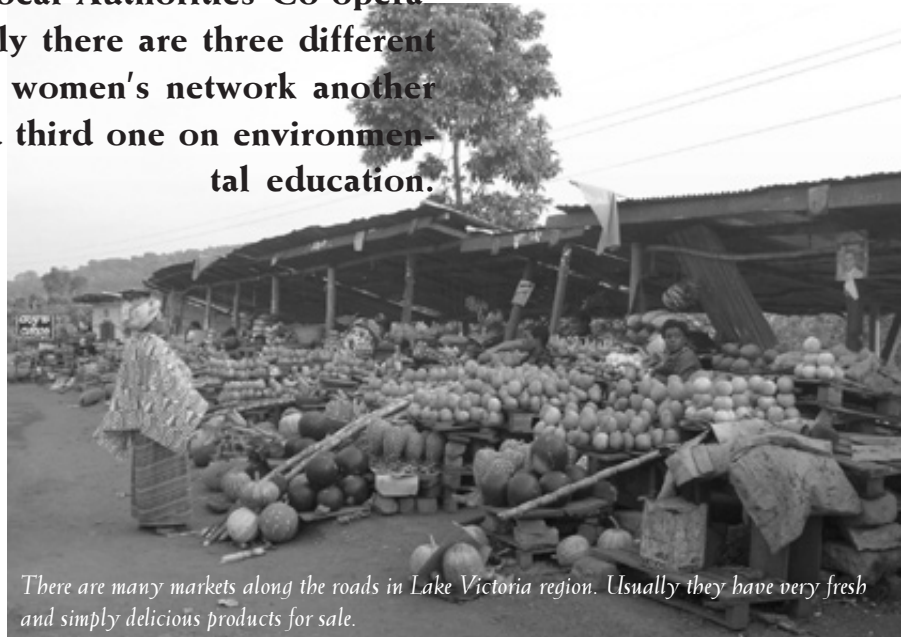
Last summer I visited the area to investigate the possibilities to collaborate in establishing environmental pedagogic centres. These centres support the local citizens to develop a more sustainable life-style.

Short introduction

Immigration in the Lake Victoria Area has caused rapid urbanisation and an increase in population. The cities are therefore growing unplanned and seem to be overcrowded. In many areas there is a shortage of infrastructure for water and sewerage and also for collecting and treating of solid waste. The need of energy, example for cooking, has led to deforestation.

Lake Victoria itself suffers from a change in its ecosystem due to human activities, such as a rapid growth of water hyacinth. Also a new fish, Nile perch, has more or less taken over and many important species of other fishes are rapidly disappearing.

As in the Baltic region, the local environment and the diffusion of pollution of the lake area are the main concerns. Another difficulties often mentioned are the local sanitation problems and the nutrition of the population.



There are many markets along the roads in Lake Victoria region. Usually they have very fresh and simply delicious products for sale.

How can we contribute?

From the UBC we contribute with our experiences in and knowledge about collaboration between cities. We can also assist to manage environmental issues. Additionally, we can contribute with our knowledge and experiences in how to support the citizens to introduce Agenda 21 in the area.

Environmental pedagogic centres

I was in the region for two weeks in July-August 2001 and met the chairman of LVRLAC several times in Entebbe, Uganda. I also made a journey around the Lake and met representatives from the following member cities of LVRLAC: Entebbe, Kisumu, Homa-Bay, Mwanza, Bukoba and Musoma.

One part of the strategy is to develop meeting places, where environmentally friendly techniques are demonstrated. In these places everyone will have a chance to get familiar with environmentally friendly solutions and thereafter be able to decide whether the techniques are applicable. The basic idea is not to be informed only through listening and reading but also to

learn by doing, in other words to learn through one's own experiences.

It will also be possible to have study circles on different topics, such as building a solar panel, running one's own sewage plant or cultivating ecologically. The aim of a meeting place is, first, to awaken and encourage the visitor's environmental thinking and second, to promote a change in behaviour and attitude by providing insight, knowledge, practical advice and good examples. The meeting places are intended to involve individuals, organisations and enterprises so that they will be able to carry their responsibilities in terms of sustainable development. Put in another way, they would also pay attention to ecological, cultural and social circumstances.

Some cities have already made progress in different fields. For example, stoves for cooking were introduced in Entebbe, and some solar energy devices in Homa-Bay. Agricultural techniques were demonstrated in Mwanza and Kisumu.

Many people I met expressed their opinion that an environmental pedagogic centre can certainly be of importance when demonstrating solutions that support sustainable development. It is especially im-



The Mayor of Kisumu gave a key as a symbol of a good collaboration.

portant to reach the slum areas and the squatters. Those who live there need support in taking care of the daily sanitation problems, both for themselves and for their neighbours. Another significant target group is the politicians. They play an important role as decision-makers and trend-setters.

The distinctive subject fields for environmental pedagogic centres are:

- Treatment of latrine and sanitation
- Solid waste management and composting
- Drinking water and small sewerage treatment plant
- Cultivation of vegetables and fruit
- Improvement of soil
- Energy (production and saving)
- Management of wetlands
- Information about the local environmental situation of the city
- Information about the environmental conditions in Lake Victoria Region

How can we go further?

Demonstration is one of the oldest and most well known means to disseminate experience and knowledge. Techniques developed and established in other areas have to be implemented in the Lake Victoria region.

We also have to teach the people how to make cheap products that can greatly help them in their daily duties, such as solar stoves. Besides, the people need information in order to develop new behaviour patterns, for example to change cultivation in the garden. No enterprises or entrepreneurs can make money by introducing cheap techniques like solar stoves, which can easily be made by any handy man. Therefore we cannot wait for the market to act.

Most of the people I discussed with during my visit emphasised the importance to involve the pupils of the ordinary schools. The main argument was that they are the future and that they can inform their parents and other members of the local society. Also other groups were mentioned. First, older citizens who are not formally retired but no longer working are a valuable resource due to their experience, knowledge and because they have time. Second, women are an important group because of their significant role in the African culture. Third, local politicians and other decision-makers are of im-

portance because they possess the power to change the local conditions. Furthermore, they are considered to be forerunners and trend-setters. Finally, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and enterprises together with special groups such as cotton farmers and fishermen are also in the key position.

Of course we must be careful with what we demonstrate. The techniques and methods must meet some criteria as listed below:

- They must contribute to improvements of the local environment for Lake Victoria and for the health of the local population.
- They must support sustainable development in ecological, economical, social and cultural aspects.
- They must be easy to use by ordinary citizens.

The positive impacts must be easy to understand and communicate in order to attract both those who are already interested in environmental issues and also ordinary citizens.

The first step is to establish an advisory board with scientists and practitioners from both regions. The board has to support the development in each subject field and advice on:

- what to demonstrate (what is important for environment and what can be demonstrated)
- how to make cultural and social adaptation
- how to make the centre trustworthy for ordinary citizens
- how to evaluate the centres work and how to assess the impact



Not everybody is connected to the water system. Many have to bring water from a tap point like these children in Entebbe. A sign nearby tells that the water must be boiled before drinking.

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UBC LA21 Strategy

By Risto Veivo

Co-operation with Lake Victoria Cities is one good example of UBC's activities on Agenda 21.

Altogether 10 projects have so far been carried out (or started) within the UBC Agenda 21 Program since 2000.

This success would not have been possible without active member cities taking initiatives and assuming lead city roles in different projects.

The leading activity of the City of Nacka in the work with the African partners is an excellent example of this. Similarly, other member cities work on other projects.

The UBC as a whole renewed its strong commitment to advancing sustainable development at the VI General Conference in Rostock last October, by approving the Agenda 21 Action Program for 2002-2003. The new program continues to put emphasis on the strong involvement of member cities in the practical work on projects.

Furthermore, the new program also sets our vision and strategies for advancing sustainability as a network of cities and also in co-operation with other actors. Working with Lake Victoria Cities is one way to realize our global responsibility.

The UBC Agenda 21 Action Program consists of analysis, vision, strategies and concrete projects and activities. The projects' part of the program is being continuously developed and updated. This makes the program more flexible and efficient, and gives new cities the possibility to step in as leaders of new projects.

Such lead cities are always needed, and all interested are warmly welcomed to contact the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat for more information.

The European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign

By Anthony Payne

The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign was launched in Aalborg, Denmark in 1994 with the aim to contribute to the promotion of urban sustainability in Europe. During the course of its development, the number of participants to the Campaign (i.e. signatories to the Aalborg Charter) has increased to its present number of 1367 from 38 countries. As such, the Campaign has developed into the biggest European initiative for local sustainable development and Local Agenda 21.

The overall broad objective of the Campaign can be summarised as follows:

The promotion of development towards sustainability through Local Agenda 21 or similar integrated planning processes and the strengthening of partnerships among all actors in the local community as well as inter-authority co-operation.

This has been achieved through a variety of activities such as the development of sustainability guidance materials, exchange of experience, dissemination of good practice, hosting of international conferences (Aalborg, Lisbon, Hannover) and the organisation of awards. The Campaign has also played its part in influencing the development of sustainable development policy at European Union, Member State (i.e. national governments), regional and local levels.

These wide-ranging activities have been possible through the promotion and development of increased co-operation between networks of Local Authorities in Europe and elsewhere working on sustainable urban development issues. Equally important has been the political and financial support from a number of bodies, particularly the European Commission (DG Environment) and the cities of Aalborg and Hannover, without which the Campaign activities could not have been sustained.

The structure of the Campaign

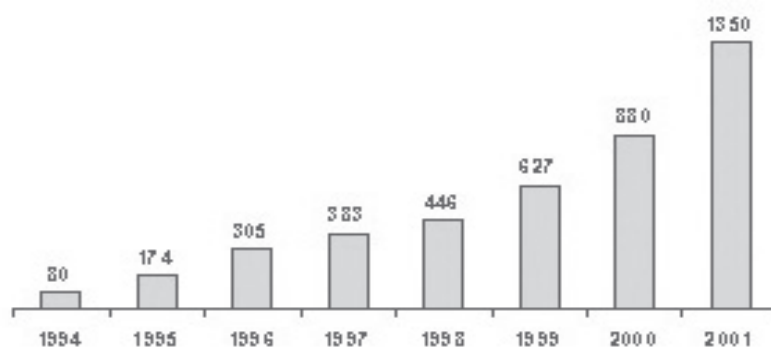
During the Campaign period 1994-2000, the basic Campaign structure revolved around a co-ordination committee (Co-Com) consisting of 5 local authority networks (ICLEI, CEMR, EUROCITIES, UTO, and WHO – Healthy cities), plus the cities of Aalborg and Hannover. DG Environment and the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment, both with observer status, also participated in the Co-Com.

During the past 18 months, the Campaign has undertaken a review of its structure. A mapping exercise of local authority networks was undertaken and a dialogue process initiated with a number of additional local authority networks and other organisations with an interest in sustainable development at the local level. As a consequence of this, a new Campaign structure has been developed.

The structure is based on a *Steering Committee* comprising of 10 networks of local authorities and a *Political Board* comprising of local political representatives nominated by the 10 networks. The Campaign's co-funders also sit on both the Steering Committee and the Political Board, as does the EU Expert Group on the Urban Environment (observer status). The 10 networks that sit on the *Steering Committee* are the original five CoCom members, plus the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling (ACRR), Climate Alliance, Energie-Cités, Medcités, and the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC). The Steering Committee is the principal body for the achievement of the Campaign's objectives, being responsible for the overall management and development of the Campaign.

The *Political Board* is presently being developed and details of the board and its remit will be made available in the near future.

The organisation of the Steering Committee and Political Board, as well as the overall co-ordination of the Campaign is facilitated through a Campaign Office based in Brussels.



Campaign participants have multiplied several times over the past 10 years.

Campaign Activities - 2002-2003



PARTICIPATE AND GET INVOLVED

Within the framework described above, a proposal for Campaign activities for the period 2001-2003 was developed last year. This proposal was submitted by EUROCITIES on behalf of all Campaign partners to the European Commission (DG Environment) within the framework of the Community Framework for Co-operation to promote Sustainable Urban Development. The proposal was supported with co-funding from Landeshauptstadt Hannover, Germany; Ajuntament y Diputació de Barcelona, Spain; Malmö Stad, Sweden and Coordinamento Italiano Agenda 21 Locali, Italy.

The project proposal was successful. The content of that proposal will now form the basis for the Campaign's forthcoming 2-year work programme, which can be split into 4 broad categories:

Co-operation and Co-ordination Activities

A series of meetings of the Campaign's Steering Committee and Political Board will be held during the course of the next 2 years as a means to promote co-operation and ensure co-ordination of activities. The Campaign office will be responsible for the organisation of these meetings.

Co-operation and co-ordination will also be achieved through a variety of information and dissemination mechanisms, such as the publication of the Campaign newsletter, the continual development of the Campaign webpage and the monthly emailing service. All such activities are undertaken through the Campaign Office.

Thematic Working Sessions on Urban Sustainable Development

Each of the Campaign partners has a wealth of experience and information at their disposal. To maximise this available knowledge, a series of six Thematic Working Sessions will be held during the period 2001-03. Each Session will focus on cross cutting issues reflecting many of the key policy developments at the European level and in particular some of the key topics of the 6th Environmental Programme. Each of the sessions will be led by one or two of the Campaign networks which will be small-scale in size and are based around the following topics:

- Evaluation: led by ICLEI – March 2002
- Environmental Governance: led by EUROCITIES/UBC – May/June 2002
- Climate Change: led by Energy Cités/Climate Alliance – September 2002
- Social Aspects of Sustainable Development: led by WHO – date to be confirmed (tbc)
- Waste/Resource Management: led by CEMR/ACCR – date (tbc)
- Environmental Management: led by UTO/MedCités – date (tbc)

The ultimate output from the Working Sessions will be the development of policy recommendations, which will be sent to the EU institutions and at the same time will be made available to Campaign participants via the Campaign webpage.

Open Platform for Urban Sustainability (OPUS)

The Campaign intends to provide a mechanism for the development of a dialogue platform on urban sustainability. OPUS will help facilitate dialogue and increased co-operation between all relevant actors at the local and regional level. The conclusion from this horizontal debate among local stakeholders will be brought to the attention of the EU institutions. The aim is to place the local and regional perspective at the heart of EU thinking on urban sustainability.

This part of the Campaign's work programme will be led by the EUROCITIES and CEMR networks, who will develop it in co-operation with all Campaign partners. The meeting of the Platform is proposed on an annual basis.

European Sustainable City Award

The Campaign has organised a European Sustainable City Award on three previous occasions. It is the intention to organise the next award during the course of 2002 with its presentation in 2003. The award will be designed to recognise the significant progress made by local authorities in their sustainable development work, to raise awareness and mobilise support for sustainability, to highlight good examples and encourage exchange of experiences and networking. The award will be open to all local authorities from across Europe.

The Campaign is there to help Local Authorities implement a Local Agenda 21 strategy. This is done by providing

- theoretical information on how to do this
- best practice on how other cities have done in the past
- access to unlimited contact details all over Europe
- the opportunity to be involved in the activities of the Campaign as a whole as well as all the Networks individually
- a forum for debate and development of ideas.

As such all participants are invited to actively participate in the Campaign. To take a leadership role through organising and participating in conferences and workshops, to contribute to the campaign newsletter, to submit their project proposals and other news to the Campaign Interactive website (www.sustainable-cities.org) and to participate in the European Sustainable City Award.

Any European local authority is welcome to participate in the Campaign by obtaining a political commitment to (i.e. signing up to and adopting) the Aalborg Charter, and adhering to the aims and objectives of the Lisbon Action Plan and the Hannover Call. Participation in the Campaign is free of charge.

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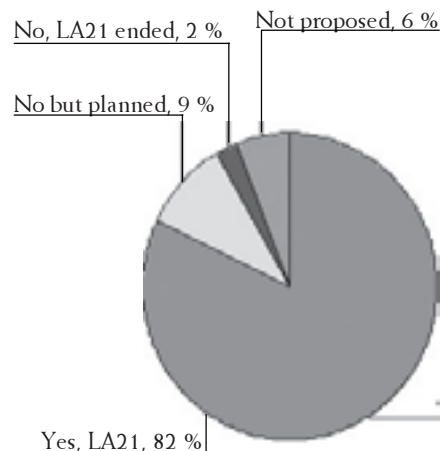
UBC's New LA21 Survey 2001

By Åsa Lindström

The Union of the Baltic Cities launched the second survey concerning the work with Local Agenda 21 and sustainable development in its member cities in October 2001. 85 out of 100 cities responded to the questionnaire.

The results show that LA21 and sustainable development are familiar concepts to the UBC cities, as 82 % currently have a LA21 or similar process. Only a few cities have not started the work for sustainable development yet.

Since the UBC LA21 survey 1998, the LA21 processes have become more extensive with a broader range of activities. Noticeable is that during the last three years LA21 has been particularly progressive in UBC cities in the eastern part of



Local Agenda 21 Processes: Active, Planned or Ended (n = 85/85), UBC LA21 Survey, 2002, Lindström

the region, which three years ago were lagging behind other UBC cities.

One important reason for this could be that the UBC, as a provider of help and support to its member cities for the work with LA21, has worked particularly hard in promoting LA21 to the eastern cities. A

result of this, on the other hand, can be seen in the higher degree of acknowledgment among the eastern cities in regard to the services of UBC in supporting LA21 activities in the member cities.

The Baltic Sea region is considered to be one of the most active regions in the world in regard to work with LA21. It is great to see that the UBC member cities have come far in their LA21 work, that there is continuing belief in and commitment to LA21 and that the UBC as a network can have an impact on the region and on the further development in regard to LA21.

We would like to thank all of you in the cities, who provided us with useful and relevant material. The report will be published within April this year. If you would like to obtain your own copy, please contact the Secretariat.

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Harbours' Agenda 21 Proceeding

By Risto Veivo

Ship traffic is nowadays an important and still increasing source of emissions in Europe. It causes emissions both at sea and in harbours. As part of UBC Agenda 21 Program, several harbours and harbour cities are working together on improving the environmental policies and practices of harbours.

On 15-16 March, these partners came together once again, when the Sustainable Harbour Policy meeting was organised in Lübeck. The Hanseatic City of Lübeck has the lead city role in the Sustainable Harbour Policy Project within UBC Agenda 21 Program. More than 20 people attended, representing the main harbour cities and harbours of the Baltic Sea. Experiences from several cities and projects were shared, and discussions for further co-operation on policy development continued.

For example the host city, Lübeck, is carrying out precise ship emission studies and developing technical solutions for the reduction of pollutant emissions, noise and vibrations caused by diesel powered ships' engines. Another important aspect is the clarification of legal questions regarding the boundaries between European envi-



ronmental legislation and international maritime law, in order to implement the array of proposed solutions and prevent possible areas of conflict between nearby residents, shipping and tourists.

The aim of the Harbours' 21 Project is to bring together the cities, harbours, and shipping companies to develop together good policies and technical solutions. The project is currently funded by the Federal Environmental Ministry of Germany. Further funding is to be sought from Interreg III B. As the Interreg application will most likely be submitted in October, new cities are still welcome to join the project. If you are interested, please, contact the UBC Commission on Environment Secretariat.

Revisiting the Sustainability Issue

By Tea Nömmann

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland Commission, 1987).

The question remains however how to meet these various needs of different interest groups and generations. To achieve sustainable development requires changes in the way policy is implemented and monitored and sustainability performance measured. As peoples needs are different and difficult to measure the more operational definition of sustainability is increasingly being used. This says that

- The development of the society is sustainable when the total national wealth and wellbeing are not declining over time.*

The wealth of the nation is directly linked to the total capital (resources and assets) of the nation. In principle, the same could be applicable to the cities. Total capital stock includes produced capital (houses, cars, streets, plants), natural capital (water, air, land, parks, biodiversity), human capital (educated and healthy people) as well as social capital (personal and institutional relationships). Nation's total wealth is made up of its own as well as of its citizens and enterprises assets.

Thus, it is vital that various assets are taken care and not deteriorated carelessly. A proper management of the available assets should ensure the range of opportunities for the current and future generations to satisfy their today's and future needs.

Sustainable development is the process of growing, maintaining and managing the wealth of the society.

In order to maintain or increase the total wealth the society needs to invest at least in the same range as different capitals depreciate.

It is important to distinguish the different nature of investments. According to internationally agreed methodology of the System of National Accounts investment is money spent to buy produced assets (infrastructures, plants, machinery), which will be used over the long period of time.

Sustainable investment is money used to increase value (quality, efficiency) of all - produced, natural and human - capitals.

Some examples. Environmental investments into end-of-pipe technologies (filters on top of the stacks) cannot be regarded as sustainable investments. They help to reduce the emissions but they do not increase the efficiency of the production process, thus reducing the materials and energy throughput of the process. Investments into the best available techniques (BAT) are the only sustainable investments in that sense. Regarding human capital investments are expenditures into education and health. Unfortunately all these expenditures are considered as cost and not as asset by SNA system and reflected accordingly in the state or local budgets. Money is spent sustainably when the investment contributes to preventing future problems. Increasing costs of fighting problems like narcotics, AIDS, criminality and unemployment give us clear signs that our investments to maintain and increase human capital are far from adequate.

The wealth of nations framework broadens internationally agreed wealth indicator, a gross domestic product, by means of adding new assets and long-term perspective. It provides a portfolio management approach to the development policy, also applicable at the level of municipalities to measure their sustainability performance

UBC member cities can learn more about the concept at www.worldbank.org/environmentaleconomics.

** WorldBank. 1997. Expanding the Measure of Wealth. Indicators of Environmentally Sustainable Development. ESSD Studies and Monograph Series No. 17, Washington, DC.*

CLIMATE STAR 2002

The Climate Alliance invites all European cities and municipalities to participate in the award "Climate Star 2002" with their climate protection activities. The goal is to document experience and success at the municipal level and to highlight the range of potential options for action.

The contest shall illustrate the various local benefits of active climate protection efforts and shall underscore the need for further concerted action at local level.

In the municipalities, where people live and work, the energy is consumed that is the prime factor in greenhouse gas emissions. It is here that awareness can be raised and people motivated to make their own contributions to protecting the world's climate. Cities and municipalities have numerous powers, options for intervention and opportunities to co-operate with the private sector. It is clearest at the local level that climate protection serves not only global goals but also yields local benefits as job creation, pollution and noise abatement as well as incentives for innovation.

The award ceremony will take place on 28 November in St. Pölten, Austria. Representatives of the winning municipalities will be launched at a major public event, where they will receive the Climate Star for the first time.

Detailed information and the application form are available through the website of the Climate Alliance:

www.klimabuendnis.org and can be sent back by post, fax or e-mail.

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The Nordic-Baltic Regional Environmental Office

By Paul Stephenson

The Nordic-Baltic Regional Environmental Office (REO) was established in Copenhagen in 1998 as one of the U.S. Department of State's regional "hubs" for environment, science, technology, and health (EST&H). The REO provides support for U.S. diplomatic missions around the Baltic Sea on regional EST&H matters.

The Regional Environmental Office supports the U.S. Government's broad policy objectives in the Baltic Sea region. Foremost among these is the 1997 Northern Europe Initiative (NEI), which broadly parallels the EU's Northern Dimension. NEI seeks to encourage government agencies, the private sector, and the NGO community to build a "culture of cooperation" among the Baltic states, northwest Russia, the Nordic countries, Poland, and Germany. There are six priority areas within the Initiative: business and trade promotion, law enforcement, civil society, energy, environment, and public health.

The REO focuses on the last three of priorities: energy, environment, and public health.

A co-operator rather than a leader

The governments, NGOs, and inter-governmental organizations in the Baltic region have considerable capacity and experience in addressing environmental issues. Thus the REO seeks to work cooperatively through regional partners to facilitate rather than lead programs it supports. It is important that the REO activities do not duplicate existing programs,

that they fit into existing mechanisms, and that they are part of a process rather than a single event. Depending on the availability of funding, the U.S. normally helps its cosponsors organize a program, pays travel and lodging expenses for Baltic, Polish, and Russian participants, and provides U.S.-based experts to participate in the events. The REO normally looks to its cosponsors to help identify participants and project goals and to develop an agenda.

The REO is involved in a wide range of environment, science, technology, science, and health programs. In 1999-2000 it sponsored a series of workshops with the Finnish Ministry of Health and UNAIDS to create and implement a regional strategy for HIV/AIDS. That strategy is now being implemented by the Infectious Disease Task Force of the Council of Baltic Sea States. The U.S. contributed



These students took soil samples at last year's Estonia GLOBE Learning Expedition.

\$450,000 to support this effort.

The Office is also promoting development of a regional alien invasive species strategy in cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Program and the Danish Forest and Nature Agency. That effort seeks to expand the Nordic inventory of alien invasive species to cover the entire Baltic Sea watershed, and to develop and implement a strategy to deal with these organisms which pose a threat to the biodiversity and economies of the region.

In cooperation with the Arctic Council the REO is establishing a network of schools in the Arctic that will monitor POPs (per-

sistent organic pollutant). The data will be used by the Council to create a POPs mitigation and reduction strategy.

GLOBE Learning Expedition

In 2000, the U.S. organized and funded the GLOBE Learning Expedition (see www.globe.gov) in Estonia. This event brought together over 200 students and science teachers from nine countries in the region. Their 3-day program involved taking, analyzing, and presenting various environmental measurements and exchanging best practices in the teaching of science. A similar event will be held in Norway this summer. The REO also gave eight grants of about \$2500 each to schools around the Baltic Sea to fund environmental research projects they had proposed.

Co-operation with UBC

The U.S. Regional Environmental Office is now working with the UBC on a number of sustainable development programs. The REO will fund the travel of three U.S. speakers to the Baltic region who will meet with sustainable development practitioners

here. The speakers will also attend several UBC events, including the April UBC Urban Planning and Transport meetings in Riga, and the May UBC Commission on Environment and Agenda 21 Working Group Meeting in Nacka.

The U.S. is also working with the UBC to organize a regional local sustainable development (SD) best practices workshop for the fall of 2002. At this event we hope to bring together sustainable development practitioners from the area and from the U.S. to exchange experiences and ideas. Objectives for this event are to strengthen and expand the SD network, to "pair" Baltic

cities with cities in the U.S. interested in SD, and to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development.

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EveryDay Environment - A Sundsvall Project

By Lidia Suokko

In Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin no. 2, 2001 you could read about EveryDay Environment and get answers to certain questions concerning an Agenda 21 project run by the city of Sundsvall during the autumn of 2001.

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 participated in a project to test different measures for an improved environment. One family conserved energy, several composted and sorted their waste at source. One family ate more environmentally sound food (more vegetarian, more game and lamb), another family purchased more locally-grown and ecological products. One family learned eco-driving, another cycled to work instead of taking the car etc.

The families had volunteered to participate in the project and they received information and support from a variety of experts. Every family kept a diary of how they felt about the changes that environmental adaptation involves as well as noting successes and setbacks. During the project the families were interviewed about how they feel about their environmental undertakings and their experiences have been evaluated.



Sorting the paper from other waste already at home was one of the themes the families had to test.

All of the families spared the environment and almost all saved money. The efforts that were more costly were the purchase of ecologically and locally grown food products. In Sweden, foodstuffs produced in an environmentally sound manner are approximately 20% more expensive than those produced conventionally. The local production of foodstuffs in Sweden is low and therefore a great deal is imported from other countries.

The families' thoughts

The families have acquired both knowledge and habits that benefit the environment, their health and their wallets. They will continue their efforts and inspire other residents of Sundsvall to alter their be-

haviour. Simple and everyday undertakings, preferably one at a time, mean that the work is not too heavy. On the contrary! The families felt that "it was good for both body and soul. Now it just happens".

All of the families recommend that others begin to work on altering their lifestyles. Knowledge and commitment are the cornerstones in learning to live in a more environmentally sound fashion.

What happens next?

The project continues in new forms. There is a host of different proposals for the development of EveryDay Environment undertakings. Project experience will be spread via a number of different channels including the mass media, information binders and publications as well as a web page www.sundsvall.se/s-kommun/miljo/livsmilj. All residents of Sundsvall will be invited to work in a manner similar to the families involved in the project. The residents of one neighbourhood will be encouraged to cycle to and from work together with the participating family. One of the other families will have an "open house" to show the environmental and financial benefits of applying the methods tested within the scope of EveryDay Environment.

Interesting times ahead!

What are the results?

	During project (13 weeks)	On an annual basis
Reduction of waste volume(kg) -	138 kg	- 500 kg
Collected newsprint (kg)*	+ 144 kg	+ 619 kg
Recycled material (kg)	+ 46 kg	+ 182 kg
Hot water conservation (l)	- 3,700 l	- 15,000 l
Reduced petrol consumption (l) -	360 l	-1,440 l
Reduction in CO ₂ emissions (kg)-	230 kg	- 920 kg
Financial gain (euro)	+ 250 euro	+ 1000 euro

* The families saved two trees during the project and can save an additional six trees if they continue to recycle paper at the same rate during the balance of the year.

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Environment has become cleaner around Cesis

By Aina Krastina

The Municipality of Cesis has implemented Water and Waste Water project. The aim of the project was to upgrade water and waste water services in the city.

Main task in the waste water section was the finalisation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) which was commissioned in March 1997. Other tasks done to improve waste water discharge and treatment were the construction of the sewerage pumping station, construction of the inlet and outlet to the WWTP and removal of the old WWTP.

The bulk input has been made in the water supply area. An iron removal plant with design capacity of 10,200 m³/d was constructed in 2001. Before the project the quality of delivered water was unsatisfactory due to high concentration of iron and manganese. The separation of iron is done by chemical flocculation and the concentration of iron in the treated water now equals 0.01 to 0.2 mg/l (before 0.22 to 3.2.). The Plant serves the needs of today but affects also the future as the water quality must meet the EU and WHO requirements.

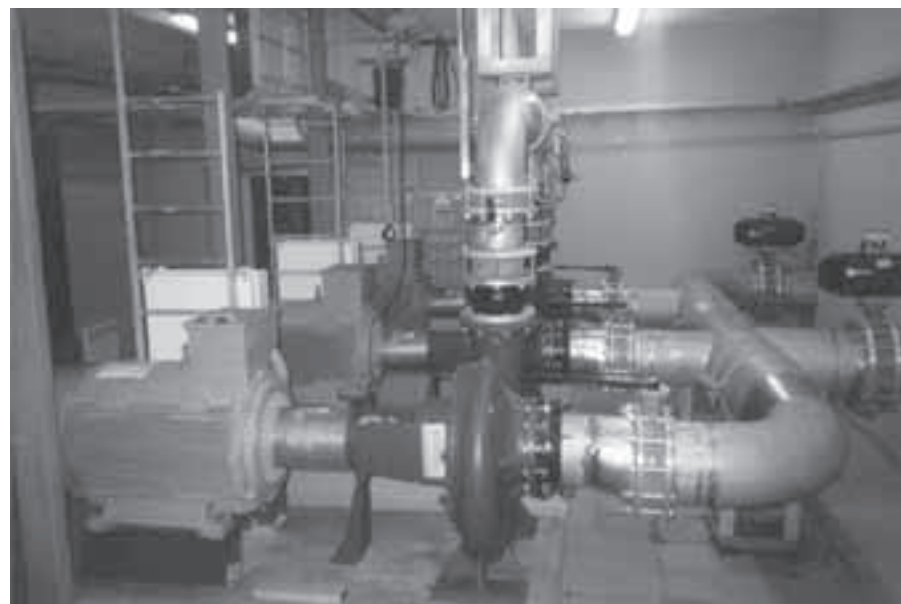
To secure that the treated water is not contaminated while it reaches consumers

Vinda, the local water and waste enterprise, has flushed the entire network several times. Four new wells have been drilled and associated mechanical and electrical equipment installed in the wellfield instead of the old ones which had low efficiency and were disposed to contamination from floods. Now the wells are operated by the remote control system having link with the iron removal plant and the reservoirs.

Within the project also the valves and hydrants have been replaced thus considerably reducing burst rate in water supply network. The level II pumping station has been refurbished including new pumps, suction and delivery pipework and simple MCC system to maintain pressure in the supply zone. Also the reconstruction of water reservoirs was implemented. Two water towers and a reservoir in pumping station were refurbished.

Total costs of the project equal 4,5 million EUR. The project was co-financed by NEFCO, Governments of Finland and Norway, EU Phare program funds, Latvian state investments, Cesis City council investment and Vinda's internally generated funds.

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In the Iron Removal Plant the treated water is pumped back into the network.

Environmental problems to solve

By Galina Belkina

Air pollution from coal-run-boilers and old sewerage system are environmental problems that the City of Cronstadt in Russia needs to solve.

Functioning of small coal-run boiler-houses is one of the main problems as the boilers are the biggest source of air pollution in the town. They also cause diseases in breathing organs. As a result of the equipment's wear and tear these boilers' condition is extremely unsatisfactory. Calculations show that the concentrations of nitrogen oxide, ashes and vanadium oxide exceed the maximum levels allowed at the moment.

Besides boilers running on ecologically clean fuel there are two dozen boilers belonging to the Ministry of Defence that run on coal and black oil (mazut). Introducing systems of local purification of emitted gases would allow a decrease in discharges into atmosphere of 2660 tons/year.

Existing sewerage leads to the Gulf of Finland

Existing direct sewerage emissions discharged to the Gulf of Finland per day are ca. 10 000 m³ of non-purified sewage of domestic and industrial waste including hazardous waste. As all the 52 sewerage emissions belong to the Ministry of Defence and are located in the central part of Cronstadt, their handing over to the town collectors would be extremely expensive and complicated. At the present the town sewage also hasn't got any extra capacities on sewerage pumping stations, on admission capacity of street collectors or productivity of sewerage purification structures.

But there is a way of solving this problem. The oil-contaminated waters currently thrown into the Gulf of Finland could be transported to a liquid fuel warehouse. This warehouse belongs to the Ministry of Defence and it is especially equipped for purifying oil containing sewerage waters. At present this equipment demands funds for its modernisation.

Non-toxic emissions

An ecologically clean garbage-processing plant of small capacity (about 80 000 m³ / a) is needed in Cronstadt. At the present domestic garbage is taken 26 km out of town thus causing more costs in its transportation. Also a dump situated on the island causes harm to the environment.

At present there are several possible projects of garbage processing to be discussed but there is no final variant of its construction yet. When the free economic zone develops in Cronstadt, the problem could become more difficult and thus present unfavourable situation for the inhabitants.

Planting trees protection line in the residential apartment blocks 19A and 19B is extremely needed as the ring-road construction makes environmental situation more complicated for people living nearby and aggravates the alarming background existing at the moment. Trees and gardens should be planted in the territory about 20 ha in total. As trees grow slowly this problem should be solved as soon as possible.

Emissions from and of the ships

A supporting point of oil floods liquidation was organised 1998 in Cronstadt. That allowed to solve problems of polluting water areas of the Gulf of Finland to some extent, but the problem of sewerage waters coming from the ships remains unsolved and demands for immediate attention.

The same problem concerns also the cities of St.Petersburg, Lomonosov and Sestroretsk. The development of material and technical base of Cronstadt supporting point would allow to decrease this problem intensity.

Problems are many as within the last years the island of Kotlin has turned to be 'the island of the ships submerged' with a panorama being unattractive both from environmental and aesthetic point of view. Dozens of rusty obsolete ships and vessels are located in the embankment and in the harbours. Their owners as a rule being representatives of the Ministry of Defence do not have the funds to cut no more than 3 ships / a causing that year after year the amount of such ships just increases.

Former town dump causes environmental problems

The former town dump of domestic garbage that was closed 1987 is also causing worries. Several sanitary and chemical analyses of the dump soil, occupying 12 ha and located in the direct closeness to the Gulf of Finland, have been arranged.

The analyses show that the maximum allowed concentrations of the substances like arsenic, cadmium, lead (1st type of danger), and cobalt, nickel, and copper (2nd type of danger) have exceeded. The decrease mentioned appears to be a typical one for practically all the indexes of harmfulness including translocation, migration and common sanitary and is considered to be soil with extremely dangerous pollution made by man.

We have arranged the programme of complex investigation of the town dump and

the project of its repeated cultivation, but because of lack of finances the programme was not realized. Depending on investigations' results we'll prepare a project on liquidation or repeated cultivation of this dump.

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New and safe sewage sludge storage places in Panevezys

By Zita Tverkute

The City of Panevezys started using the new dried sewage sludge storage places with the quantity 426 000 m³, in the Waste Treatment Plant of Water Supply Company in November 2001.

Simultaneously the loading of sludge and transportation was modernised. The new sludge storage places are results of the first phase of Panevezys Water Management Economy Investment project "Reconstruction of Panevezys Waste Water Treatment Plant".

The treatment of waste water started in Panevezys back in 1979. At that time the industry of the city had much pollutant technologies and not all the companies possessed the primary waste water treatment methods. As a result the sludge was polluted by heavy metals. This also caused that it was impossible to use it in agriculture.

By the end of 1990's the amount of sludge had filled all the storage places equipped at that time. The sludge continued to be

stored in overfilled reservoirs and these caused a security risk to the Nevezis river. But during the last decay the environmental rules have become very strict. That meant, that in order to protect water reservoirs, especially the Baltic Sea, from heavy metals, it was necessary to equip ecologically safe waste water sludge storage places.

The sludge storage project was supported by EC PHARE programme (10 mln. Litass), by the Panevezys Municipality and by bankloans.

We hope that having the existing amount of sludge the storage places could serve the city for the next 15 years.



Mayor of Panevezys, Mr.Valdemaras Jakstas (right), and Councillor Mr.Marc Vandbrabant (left), from EU Delegation of the European Commission to Lithuania, opening the new sewage sludge storage places.

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Guidelines for a Sustainable City Development in Rostock

By Dr. Hinrich Lembcke

The City Council of the Hanseatic City of Rostock decided on Guidelines for city development in December 2000. Now Rostock has a long-term activity framework which orientates to the aims of local agenda 21 and which is supported by the inhabitants.

The framework represents a consensus among different points of view of organizations, associations, companies, church, Unions, policy and administration. Common aim is to establish an economically successful municipality that takes responsibility for resources and the principles of social justice.

Under the leadership of the Local Agenda 21 Office a working group within the administration worked out the aims of a sustainable city development and put them up for public discussions. Many organizations, companies, institutions as well as inhabitants took part in the discussions and made proposals for the future. The Agenda 21-working groups and -council also gave valuable comments during the discussions. The local governmental committees and the representatives of 19 city district councils as well had an intense look at the Guidelines for City development. All recommendations were carefully balanced by The Agenda 21 Office and mainly included into the conception.

Guidelines make good base for Agenda 21

The Guidelines decided by the City Council represent a good basis for agenda-work and the Agenda 21 Local Action Programme. An important step towards this direction is the elaboration of programmes for the development of the city districts. Within this year we will start to work out objectives and measurements together with the inhabitants for the future development of the city districts.

At the moment we are working out sustainability indicators. They will be the most important part of an inter-departmental controlling for the realization of the Guidelines for the city development. Once a year our Lord Mayor will inform the City Council, the Agenda 21-participants and the administration about the reached level of sustainability by means of the indicators.

By the decision for Guidelines for our city development Rostock contributes to both sustainable development in the Baltic region and the implementation of BALTIC 21 as well.

Guidelines soon in English

The Guidelines are available as a brochure and in the internet website of Rostock. At the moment, unfortunately, there is only a flyer in English about the Guidelines. During this year we plan to publish a short English version of them.

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Environmental Education

By Elena Sivolob

Project "Environmental Education at School" was implemented in January – October 2001 in the city of Pushkin, St.Petersburg. It is part of a bigger project "Eco City Pushkin" which has been carried out since 1997.

The responsibility of the project has been carried out by Pushkin City Administration, consulting company Regional Economic Development Agency, Ltd. (REDA) and Green City Denmark A/S.

The main idea was to introduce new methods of environmental education at secondary schools on the basis of Danish environmental software. The schoolchildren were taught how to save energy and preserve the environment in their everyday life.

Project participants on the Russian side were from Pushkin local education authority and School No. 408 where environmental lessons had already been in the curriculum for a certain period. Participants on the Danish side were from Vestre School of Silkeborg where the environmental topic was widely incorporated in the learning process. Mr. Kim Broebeck, Headmaster of Vestre School, offered two environmental software programs which had been written by his school staff.

Computer programs as teachers

One of these programs teaches children how to save electricity, heat and water, and how to collect and separate waste, all in everyday life – at school and at home. The other program consisted of spreadsheets to be used for recording daily consumption of energy, water, paper for printed copies, as well as quantity of collected waste (broken down by waste types: for disposal, for recycling, hazardous waste for special treatment, etc.).

Monthly and annual figures are calculated automatically using the daily records. In this way, the school can obtain annual consumption data after the first year and



use them as reference figures, a basis for developing energy saving actions.

Unlike in Denmark, where the savings made by schools as a result of more efficient energy use can be spent on that school's own needs, Russian schools do not have their own energy budget and therefore lack the economic motivation to save energy. However, the situation may change in the near future. In the meanwhile, the schoolchildren will learn how to take the meter readings, fill out energy consumption spreadsheets, and separate waste.

Both of the programs have been translated into Russian by REDA experts and handed over to School No. 408. The students started to use them in their studies last summer, 2001.

The results were presented to town leaders last autumn

In October 2001, the project results were presented to the educational sector, local administrations and private entities of St. Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast and Moscow. By the end of 2001, several more copies of the software were installed in the cities of St. Petersburg, Ekaterinburg, Russia, and in Kiev, the Ukraine.

The schoolchildren were very enthusiastic about the project: they created an Environmental Council at their school, started investigations of water consumption, made interesting proposals on how to cut down water and electricity costs, and in general, were eager to contribute to the energy saving process.

The Project gave an impetus to exchange of experience in the field of environmental education between Russian and Danish educational institutions. It provided a modern tool for environmental teaching in Russian schools. The Project results show that it has a good potential for follow-up all over Russia.

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Environmental Protection of China in Lithuanians eyes

By Marija Stanikūniene

Group of Kaunas City representatives were invited to participate at the international exhibition "Environment and green planning" in China by our twin city Xiamen (Fuokijano province) officials on November 2001. Vicemayor Arvydas Garbaravičius, Administrator Robertas Stanionis and Head of Environmental Protection Department Ms. Marija Stanikūniene represented achievements of environmental protection in our city.

Representatives from twin cities from Japan, New Zealand and Netherland were invited as well to this city situated at the mouth of the Jiulong river.

An active information campaign in Xiamen demonstrates well-organized promotional-information activities, big investments and has foreseen large city inhabitant's interest to a clean and healthy environment.

Green thinking in Xiamen

Xiamen is a typical Asian city with modern city planning and densely built multi-story houses. Great attention is paid to green planning using various plants, under careful supervision. However, green areas are only 8 m² per citizen compared to 25 m² in Kaunas.

Collected waste is burned without any sorting, and there is a terrible drinking water quality problem because of a poor water supply system. However, favorable geographical situation ensures good air quality without significant investments.

The movement of "Green cities" is analog to our "Healthy cities" movement. A well-

organized environmental education network at schools gives opportunity to take care about the environment and the title "Green ambassador" is a great honour for citizens.

An interesting fair was a ceremony called "Fish release". Little sturgeons were floated to the sea after speeches and songs. The fair was first organized during the Environmental exhibition.

Geographical location helps the environment

A special part of Xiamen is its location on a small island. This means that one can only arrive here by boat. Any transport, including bicycles, is restricted in the island. Streets are no more than one meter of width. The waste management system implemented there is also special: waste collectors push forward carts with large wheels to a special boat.



Ms. Marija Stanikuniene at the Environment and Green Planning Exhibition in Xiamen.

New fair in next September

The National China Environmental Fair will be organized 5-7 September 2002. We recommend Europeans to look for possibilities to learn some environmental lessons there.

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Bats have raised a lot of interest - here are experiences from Lithuania and Finland

Bats in Kaunas

By Giedre Birute Rondamanskiene

Bat population in Kaunas is endangering as it is doing worldwide. Many species have become uncommon everywhere. The largest bat population in Europe hibernates in Kaunas forts and blindages where there are about two thousand animals during wintertime.

Representatives of eight species out of these two thousand are included in the Lithuanian Red book, for example *Myotis dasycneme* Boie, *M. brandti* Eversman and *Barbastella* Scheber. Some of the species, e.g. *M. daubentonii* Kuhl and *M. natterii* Kuhl are more common in Kaunas area. The bats have been given a special status in Lithuania because of the bat diversity decrease in Europe.

Kaunas City Municipality established eleven local bat reserves in 1991 to protect national bat diversity. The reserves were named after surrounding villages and rivers. The statute of every reserve limits economic activities in the area to ensure bat protection, it prohibits to change environment and to visit the reserves from September to May.

Bats are mammalian order with many species, so they are very important indicators of environmental changes. Consequently, the bat observation plays important role in the Common Environmental Protection Strategy.

Study made in 1999 in Kaunas showed some imperfections which stimulated environmental protection specialists to start a detail biotope research to ensure proper conditions for animal hibernation and population protection.

We can be proud of stabilized population in the hibernation places, living conditions. However, we need sources to finance more detailed research, bat population protection and information campaign.

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Daubenton's bat hibernating happily in an old army cave near Turku centre. Left unused but still guarded this cave hosted more than forty bats. It seems essential to establishment of larger winter colonies that the hibernation places are left undisturbed for quite a long period.

Lonely Bats of Turku Area

By Petteri Vihervaara and Harri Vehviläinen

During winter 2002, a pilot study was conducted to locate the hibernation localities of bats in Turku and surrounding areas. From more than one hundred places searched bats were found in twenty cellars or caves. Only one deserted army cave hosted more than forty bats (*Myotis* spp.).

In all other hibernation places mean number of bats were 2.2, median being one. Most common finding was lonely Northern bat (*Eptesicus nilssonii*) from cellars of old houses.

The abundances of Finnish bats are still largely unknown due to lack of research efforts, but from information gathered from public and amateur bat watchers summer colonies exceed known hibernation populations both in species and individual numbers. It has been claimed that most Finnish bats would migrate south to hibernate, but there is no evidence or ob-

servation of such activity. After the pilot study we have received a lot of public observations and suggestions of possible hibernation places around Turku area.

Next winter we have planned to investigate possible bat hibernation places more systematically across southwest Finland and especially Finnish Archipelago. The environmental factors determining possibility of bats to hibernate in their northernmost distribution would be essential to find out in order to be able to protect their populations. We are planning to co-operate with The Finnish Defence Forces and national forest management organisation, Metsähallitus, which are managing large areas with potential hibernation places.

Abundance and distribution of Finnish bat species will be studied also during next summer. Bat activity will be monitored with ultrasound detectors in several islands in archipelago by line transect methods.

In order to establish proper protection and management practices of hibernating bat population of Finland we are delighted to receive any information of possible observations of bats during winter as well as financial support to our beginning project.

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Measures for Reducing Landfill of Biodegradable Waste

The European Environment Agency (EEA) has recently issued a study on the status of biodegradable waste in Europe. It highlights the differences between the national strategies drawn up, the methods currently used and the alternatives to landfill available.

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Investing in Heritage

The 'Investing in Heritage' International Conference in Newcastle upon Tyne in July this year will bring together the many different organisations that are involved in regenerating Europe's Historic Cities. Whether your interests lie in heritage, conservation or development, this International Conference will offer you a chance to network and exchange good practice with other practitioners working in this field.

The principal aim of the Conference is to establish an International network of Historic Cities in conjunction with the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions to promote the transfer of good practice, backed up by professional secondments.

More information:
<http://www.investinginheritage.com/> or contact the Conference Office at
Tel: +44 (0) 0191 241 4523
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E-mail: heritage@benchcom.co.uk

Clean After Your Dog

Educational project „Clean after your dog“ was organised within the realisation of Local Agenda 21 programme by Environment and Agriculture Department of Gdynia City Hall.

Its most important part was the drawing competition for the best poster reminding about cleaning after one's dog. A few hundred pupils from Gdynia primary schools participated in this competition.

One of the aims of this project was to draw citizens' attention to this apparently



petty problem and remind them that cleaning after one's dog belongs to everybody's duty and shows good manners. The competition was to make people more sensitive to the problem of city pollution by dog excrements, which when rinsed by rain flow to rivers and brooks. And these waters are one of the most important factors of water biological contamination. All this has an influence on the condition of Gdynia's water resorts.

This competition was the first stage of the project. Thirty most interesting works will be exhibited in the City Hall and in spring the best poster will be printed and distributed in the city. The action of paper bag distribution for dog excrements is still being run.

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Stockholm 750th Anniversary

Stockholm is one of the world's most attractive capitals. The city rests on a primeval rock created by violent forces a couple of billion years ago. During the millennia that followed, the sun, wind and water blasted and shaped the rift valleys and fault scarps that make up the network of lakes and the archipelago. Much later, Northern Europe was covered by a sheet of ice several hundred metres thick, which forced the land down beneath it. When the ice melted and the land emerged, the landscape that is Stockholm was created.

When Stockholm celebrates its 750th anniversary this year, it looks back to its inception in 1252. This was when the founder of Stockholm, Birger Jarl, drew up two documents dated and signed in Stockholm. The documents do not actually relate to Stockholm, but do confirm that Jarl was in Stadsholmen (the Old Town) that year. This is the oldest instance of the use of the name Stockholm.

From 1 to 8 June, Stockholm will be holding its anniversary festival. During the week, the city will seethe with life, movement and the party spirit. We shall be exploring present-day Stockholm and future plans for the city. Through exhibitions, performances and concerts, we shall show the latest developments in design, architecture, IT and music.

More information: www.stockholm.se

Conference on Local Sustainability Indicators

Post-Johannesburg and in the lead up to the European Strategy on the Urban Environment, PASTILLE (*Promoting Action for Sustainability Through Indicators at the Local Level in Europe*) and European Common Indicators (ECI) will be holding a joint conference on Local Sustainability Indicators. The conference will take place in London on 12-13 September 2002 and will provide a timely opportunity to share cutting-edge action research from across Europe on the effective use of sustainability indicators in bringing about real change at the local level.

The conference will be particularly useful for practitioners and decision-makers from all policy areas, seeking to develop and use indicators to measure change. Those directly involved in sustainable development, Local Agenda 21, public participation and urban development, as well as researchers in these areas, will benefit particularly from the innovative research and the feedback from practitioners.

More information on the conference:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/Depts/geography/Pastille/conference.htm>
Other matters, please contact:
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More information on European Common Indicators:
<http://www.sustainable-cities.org/sub10.html>

Green Vision Festival 2002

This year St. Petersburg will organise the Seventh International Environmental Film Festival "Green Vision". We kindly invite you and your colleagues to take part in the event or to help us to find new films for the competition. We are particularly interested in films about Baltic Sea region.

The guidelines and entry forms can be requested at ECAT-St. Petersburg.

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Global Local Agenda 21 Survey

From November 2000 to December 2001, ICLEI undertook a global survey of Local Agenda 21 processes with the UN Secretariat for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in collaboration with the UN Development Programme Capacity 21.

The Survey Report documents the extent to which local authorities have responded to Agenda 21, the global action plan stemming from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Local Agenda 21 Survey, Final Survey Report is now completed and is available for viewing. (*pdf format*)

Please email la21_survey@iclei.org for further information.

Web: www.iclei.org

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann is the New Secretary General

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann has been appointed ICLEI's Secretary General. He succeeds Sean Southey who resigned from this position to return to the UN Development Programme. Mr. Otto-Zimmermann has previously served as ICLEI's Deputy Secretary General and is well known among ICLEI's worldwide membership and associates.

Mr. Otto-Zimmermann began his role as Secretary-General and head of ICLEI's World Secretariat on January 3, 2002. At present, he will divide his time between ICLEI's offices in Freiburg and Toronto.

More information: www.iclei.org

Agreement reached on 6th EAP

On 13 March 2002, the Council and the European Parliament made a final deal on the proposed 6th Environmental Action Programme. It is a compromise between the two actors, and it takes into consideration some of the Parliament's key issues.

On 19 March, the joint text were formally adopted by the Conciliation committee. Thereafter, it will be submitted for approval by the European Parliament and the Council at a third reading (normally without debate). The Parliament's third reading is planned for May 2002.

Hotel Helka is a Green Hotel

The hotels around the City of Helsinki have been able to apply for a Green Hotel Badge since 1999. The Badge is awarded for hotels which have used environmentally friendly actions in all their everyday work regarding running of the hotel. The Badge is awarded for three years at the time.

Today there are four Green Hotels around City of Helsinki, the latest one being Hotel Helka. Previously the Badge has been awarded to Best Western Seaside Hotel, Scandic Hotel Gateway and HYY Hostel Academica.



Cycling and Health in Cities

In the European Union, 80% of all personal journeys are made by car, and 50% of these trips are shorter than 5km in length. Cycling offers a practical, quick, healthy, and low cost alternative to make many of the trips currently made by car. In recent years the bike has again become a realistic mode of transport in a number of cities in Europe, thanks to the development of integrated policies and infrastructure to promote cycling. However the potential of cycling still remains largely untapped, and even cities that have been successful in promoting cycling continually have to confront deterrents.



Photo from Malmö, Sweden

The WHO Centre for Urban Health has recently completed a 2 year pilot with 8 European cities project to promote cycling as part of a sustainable, energy efficient transport policy. *In Tandem* (promotion of energy efficient personal transport in a network of European Cities) used health arguments to help bring cycling and walking into the mainstream of city transport policy and practice in Europe. The aim was to support local governments to overcome barriers, and to increase levels of cycling through the use of twinning and exchange of experience. The results and key lessons learned are summarised in a brochure 'cycling and health in cities'.

The project was partially funded by the Commission of the European Union DGTREN, Energy and Transport, under its SAVE II programme to promote energy efficiency. The following were associate partners in the project: Kosice Healthy City (Slovakia); Örebro Kommun (Sweden); Dublin Healthy City (Ireland); Sandnes Kommune (Norway); Miejski Zarząd Drog w Toruniu (Torun MZ) (Poland); Commune di Ferrara (Italy); Ville de Nancy (France); Ville de Rennes (France).

More details about the project can be found on the WHO healthy cities website: www.euro.who.int/healthy-cities

UBC EnvCom in New Premises



The current UBC Commission on Environment staff: Tea, Sanna, Risto and Sari.



Looks old outside but is modern inside.



We share the premises with the South West Finland LA21 Office. Here are Mrs Helena Nikkanen (left) and Mrs Jaana Itälä-Laine.

The UBC Environmental and Agenda 21 Secretariat moved into old but modern facilities in January. The house is from the 18th century and it is called “The ropemakers house” according to its first inhabitants. It has been renovated in co-operation with museum officials, so the feeling of history remains. In addition to being the working office for the secretariat, it is also at least to some extent an “open house” for all interested in Baltic co-operation.

The purpose of the secretariat is to serve UBC member cities in environmental and Agenda 21 co-operation. The secretariat team, of currently five persons, serves the member cities by organising joint activities and projects. The team members are prepared to help you in getting involved in the activities. You can reach us for example by e-mail at ubcenv@netti.fi. And once you come to Turku, please, do visit the place!

One of the current activities in developing the “new” secretariat is creation of a small-scale Baltic Cities’ Library. This means that we will collect environmental and other information materials and publications from all member cities.

Sanna Erkkö and Michael Spittlehouse are responsible for this work at the secretariat. They will be contacting all member cities during May-June. Please, be prepared to help them a little, so we can include information from your city into the Library. Later on, this may help someone to find your city as a partner.



Photos: Minna Nummelin, South West Finland LA21

Contact information:

UBC Commission on Environment, Linnankatu 41, 20100 Turku, Finland

Tel: +358-2-262 3171, Fax: +358-2-253 8613, E-mail: ubcenv@netti.fi or ubc@turku.fi

Coming Events

Stockholm Partnerships for Sustainable Cities

5 - 8 June 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The aim of the event is to support networking for the purpose of a better understanding of sustainable initiatives across borders, cultures and economies. It focuses on the positive effects of modern technology, creative urban management responses as well as community-based proactive initiatives and wishes to highlight existing solutions for urban sustainability by providing a platform for demonstration and inspiration.

Contact: Ms Lena Kling, Project co-ordinator, Stockholm Partnerships for Sustainable Cities, The City of Stockholm Economic Development Agency

Tel: +46 8 508 28 015

Mobile: +46 70 47 28 015

Fax: +46 8 508 28 030

www.partnerships.stockholm.se

UBC Executive Board Meeting

The 34th UBC Executive Board Meeting will be held in Viljandi, Estonia, on 7-8 June 2002.

Part of the meeting (Saturday, June 8) comprising reports from the UBC working Commissions will be opened to all member cities.

Contact: Ms Sirje Lossi, UBC Contact Person
City Hall, Linnu 2, EE-71020 Viljandi, Estonia

Tel. + 372 43 547 30

Fax + 372 43 547 12

Mobile: +372 53 407 943

E-mail: sirjel@lv.viljandimaa.ee

Role of the Municipalities in a Liberalised Energy Market

13-14 June 2002 at Odense, Denmark Energie-Cités organise a seminar concerning the role of the municipalities in a liberalised energy market.

Energie-Cités is an association of European municipalities which promotes sustainable local energy policies.

Contact: Energie-Cités

Fax: +33 3 81 50 73 51

Email: sem2002@energie-cites.org

<http://www.energie-cites.org/en/news.htm>

Renewable Energy Expo 2002

1-3 July 2002, in Köln Messe, Cologne, Germany.

Contact: Ms. Diana Schmeißer, Reed Exhibitions Deutschland GmbH, Völklinger Str. 4, D-40219 Düsseldorf

Tel. +49(0)211-90/ 191-218

Fax. +49(0)211-90 191-121

Email: dschmeisser@reedexpo.de

Corporate Social Responsibility And Environmental Management Conference

1-2 July 2002, at Devonshire Hall, University of Leeds, UK.

ERP Environment's conferences are designed to be accessible and informal and aim to build productive partnerships between people working in fields related to environmental policy, environmental management and sustainable development.

Contact: Ms Elaine White, ERP Environment,
P.O. Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 6EZ,
United Kingdom

Tel.: +44 (0)1274 530408

Fax: +44 (0)1274 530409

World Summit for Sustainable Development

On August 26 - September 4, 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The UN will hold the World Summit on Sustainable Development to evaluate global progress on Agenda 21 in order to determine strategies for sustainable development over the next decade.

Contact: DSD-UN DESA, 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-2220, New York, New York 10017 USA

Phone: (+ 1 212) 963 3170

Fax: (+ 1 212) 963 4260

Email: dsd@un.org

www.johannesburgsummit.org

BLA21F National Workshop

In St. Petersburg, Russia, in August 2002.

Please, keep a look-out on more details at:

www.bla21f.net

Regional Economy Towards Sustainability

Conference in the Framework of the EUREGIA Exhibition 31 October - 2 November 2002 in Leipzig, Germany.

The Conference aims to present international experts with the Status Quo of the research in the field of regional approaches to sustainability with a focus on economic activities. Decision-makers, regional and national authorities as well as international experts, researchers, business representatives, consultants and other interested persons are invited to attend.

More information: <http://www.euregia-leipzig.de>