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Baltic Cities

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- Viable Economies for Baltic Cities
- Editorial by Risto Veivo
- Good Practises Exchange Accelerating

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS - special theme edition -



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Baltic Cities

Environmental Bulletin



Viable Economies for Baltic Cities

A crucial factor for sustainable development in cities is the economy. At the same time, economic prosperity in longer term is only possible by strongly taking into account and cherishing the environmental and social basis.

This is one of the central ideas of local sustainable development work after Johannesburg. Following the Sustainable Development Summit, local governments all over the world are now putting emphasis on concrete actions for sustainable development. Local agendas are being turned into local actions, and one core theme for Local Action 21 is Viable local economies.

This is also very much the case in the Baltic Sea Region. As practically all UBC members already have their own Local Agenda 21 action program, it is now time to make the actions happen. Many of our cities already work extensively on economic aspects. Now the UBC is going to contribute more to this work. The UBC Agenda 21 Action Program 2004-2009 will be proposed to the General Conference in October in Klaipeda. Many projects of the new program have already been approved by our co-funders, and the total budget will be 6-8 million euros. The emphasis of many activities will be on the economic aspects.

The largest project of the new program is the New Hansa of Sustainable Ports and Cities. This project aims at developing sustainable harbour policies with shared environmental standards and practices for all Baltic ports. Remarkable economic and environmental interests meet in ports - so the project will provide an interesting "test-ground" for the Local Action 21.

Baltic Cities are now co-operating on sustainable development more than ever before. However, there is still a long way to go before sustainable development is reached in our cities. On behalf of our secretariat I warmly welcome everyone to join in this shared effort.

I also hope that you will enjoy reading this special theme edition on environmental management systems. In the future, every edition of Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin will put emphasis on one important theme of sustainable urban development.

Risto Veivo
Head of Secretariat
UBC Commission on Environment

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**The UBC Best Environmental Practise in
Baltic Cities Award 2003 is on!**



UBC Agenda / Action 21 for 2004-2009

By Risto Veivo

Baltic Cities have been very successful in sustainable development work. Following the success and preparing ground for new approaches and activities, the new UBC Agenda 21 Action Program 2004-2009 is currently under preparation. Many interesting projects are soon coming up and the budget is expanding...

All cities participate

The implementation of the UBC Agenda 21 Action Program 2000-2003 has been highly successful. Altogether 11 projects have been fully implemented, three new ones have been started in 2003, new partnerships created, and our contacts and policy co-operation with other European and Baltic Sea Regional co-operation bodies has taken remarkable steps forward. *95% of UBC member cities now work on their own local Agenda 21 and the UBC is the most important respective source of information and models to its members on sustainable development work.*

Almost all UBC member cities have taken part in the projects and other activities organized within the program. The total implemented budget to date exceeds 2 Meur. The goal also in the future will be to build on this high activity of member cities and provide them with good concrete services and projects.

Emphasis on concrete action

Following the past success and taking into account the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August 2002), the UBC Commission on Environment decided in its



New Hansa for Sustainable Ports and Cities is the largest UBC Agenda 21 project so far. It aims at creating sustainable port policies through co-operation of all main ports and port cities of the Baltic Sea.

annual meeting of 2002 in Kolding, 6 November 2002, to start preparations for a new program to cover years 2004-2009.

The approach of local sustainability work is currently shifting from local Agenda 21 programs into concrete actions (local

Action 21). Much emphasis is being put to economic aspects and production and consumption is becoming one key theme. The new UBC Agenda 21 projects and activities will deal for example with sustainable harbour policies, local economic livelihood, eco-efficiency, sustainable production and consumption as well as good governance and management of cities.

Longer-term approach

This shift of focus calls for a longer-term program, as making a considerable impact on the ground will now take more time, and monitoring such impacts will also require a longer time period. The EnvCom Secretariat has been carrying on the preparations with full speed, and the commission discussed the approaches for the new program again in its working meeting in Kaunas, 22 May 2003. The total funding already secured for the first three years (2004-2006) of the planned new program is 2.9 Meur.

The UBC Executive Board discussed the program proposal in its meeting in Rosstock 18 June 2003, and delegated the Commission on Environment to carry on the preparations for a proposal to be made at the General Conference in Klaipeda, 18-19 October 2003.

All UBC members and partners are warmly welcomed to contribute to the preparation with information on their ideas and needs!

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New Projects Coming Up!

Launch of several interesting new projects is expected within the UBC Agenda 21 Action Program during Autumn 2003.

The largest new project, New Hansa for Sustainable Ports and Cities (2003-2005), has been approved for co-funding by BSR

Interreg III B program and Finnish Ministry of the Environment. It will bring together some 15 ports and port cities for creation of sustainable port policies around the Baltic Sea. The project is lead by the City of Lübeck and the total budget is 1,5 Meur.

Two project proposals are currently under consideration in DG Environment: BRIDGE and RELATE. They both aim at advancing sustainable urban development and creating next steps for Local Agenda / Action 21 in Baltic Cities as well as in other European municipalities. BRIDGE is more concentrated on gov-

ernance and culture of co-operation in the administration, whereas RELATE builds on the outcomes of Johannesburg Local Government Session with a strong emphasis on linking local economy and sustainable development.

Final decision of DG Environment on these proposed projects is expected to be made in near future. The EnvCom Secretariat is looking forward to good co-operation with the project partners and participating cities (to be selected later on). RELATE is coordinated by ICLEI and BRIDGE by the UBC. The partners in BRIDGE are UNEP and REC.

Exchange of Good Practices Accelerating!

By Anna Granberg

Exchange of good practices is one of the most powerful activities that a network of cities can undertake. The UBC is aiming at fully mobilising its potential to provide learning opportunities for its members. Our 105 members provide for plenty of excellent implemented practices to learn about. Currently this is being put into practice in the TBestC and Baltic Urban Forum projects, as well as through the Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities award.

The Baltic Cities Environmental Award 2003

The UBC has the honour of inviting its member cities to take part in the Baltic Cities Environmental Award 2003, now for the third time.

The intention of the Award is to encourage cities in the Baltic Sea Region to develop their administration and services in an innovative way for the good of the whole municipality and its citizens. Don't

miss out on this chance to be rewarded for your good work and let others know about it!

The Environmental Award 2003 puts focus on five themes; Air-Quality, Bio-diversity, Energy, Environmental health and Information and Education. As the award ceremony will take place on the occasion of the VI UBC General Conference where the theme is "Business Development in the New Europe" we would very much like to get applications also embracing local businesses in some way.

See also the back page in this edition.

TBestC City Pairs Turn Words Into Action

The TBestC city pairs are going to put good practice transfers in action.

At the Launch seminar of TBestC (Transferring Best Environmental Solutions between Towns and Cities) project, held in 23-24 May in Kaunas, ca. 50 city representatives had gathered to listen to interesting speeches from cities and guest speakers from the Baltic Sea Region and the U.S.. The main objective of the seminar was for the cities to meet and couple so that they can join the two-year project.

The seminar was a vibrant start with many interesting good practices from cit-

ies and organisations. As an example, we could mention the Eco-lighthouse in Kristianssand, Norway, the company information project carried out by ECAT-Kaliningrad, Russia, and effective energy initiatives from City of Gotland and Pori. The seminar ended with a forum letting the cities start a dialogue and find a partner to exchange good solutions with.

UBC will make a selection of cities based on their applications sent earlier during June-July. The next step is that the chosen cities will start to plan for their study visits and benchmarking process that will take place during the autumn 2003 and 2004.

Theory and practice meet in Baltic Urban Forums

The Baltic Urban Forum (BUF) is a three-year project where 20 Baltic cities will exchange good practices through a series of 20 thematic workshops. These Best Practice workshops will cover altogether ten themes - for example water management, environmental information and education, traffic, greenery and culture of sustainable development will be discussed.

An important activity in the project is also to set up an advisory council, consisting of some 50 scholars from all over the Baltic Sea Region. Their task will be to support the cities in improving their local sustainability plan, and to put together Best Practice reports and practical guides for each of the ten theme areas. These reports and guidelines can then be used by the cities during the project, as well as by all interested cities afterwards for implementing similar good practices.

The first project event will be the kick-off seminar in Stockholm, Sweden on 4-6 September 2003. Right after that, on 7-8 September, the first Best Practice workshop on Water Management will take place in Enköping. UBC cities are warmly invited to participate in both events.

The BUF project is co-funded by the BSR Interreg III B Program. The Lead Partner is Baltic University Program, and other partners are the UBC and the Royal Technical University of Stockholm. Each participating city has been selected by the Baltic University Program on basis of their special experience and competence on the themes. UBC contributes to the organising and leading of the project as well as disseminates information and provides practical examples and experiences from its member cities. The project web-site can be found at <http://www.balticuniv.uu.se/>.

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EMAS - Peer Review for Cities Proceeds Well

By Tea Nõmmann

The EMAS - Peer Review for Cities project is proceeding well. The project cities met for the first time during the EMAS Implementation Training, May 12-13 in Tallinn, Estonia.

It was a great moment for all the participants to meet with colleagues from the other cities and learn from each others experiences. It was also the chance to share concerns over the challenge of implementing the environmental management system. A shared e-forum, guidance from the project experts, and a developed workbook are now supporting the cities in their EMAS implementation.

The cities in the training were: Athens, Barcelona, Bristol, Düsseldorf, Gdansk, Jelgava, Leeds, Liepaja, Newcastle, Panevezys, Porto, Siauliai, Sopot, Tallinn and Viljandi. Also representatives from the European Commission and environmental ministries of Baltic States.

The representative of European Commission DG Environment, Mr Jorge Castil-



Mr Mark Webster from UWE and Mr Massimiliano Rumignani from Eurocities gave guidance on the EMS implementation process.

lo, highlighted the EMAS activities of the European Union. He stressed the importance of EMAS in implementing cities development plans, like Local Agenda 21 programs. He also emphasised the synergy with parallel initiatives aiming at improving the quality of life of the local communities.

Many of the participants had the opportunity to visit Tallinn for the first time,

and the City of Tallinn was an excellent local host for the event.

In addition to the training and workbook development, the EMAS project team has recently been busy with communication activities. We have launched the project web-site: www.emascities.org, and published the first Newsletter, which can also be downloaded from the web-site.

All project partners will be busy also during the following summer months. The cities are implementing the EMAS, organising work meetings in their city, and filling in the various tables contained in the work-book. Project team is preparing for the next training session in October. In addition, University of West England will launch the research on linkages between 6EAP and EMAS. The next Newsletter is also due this coming autumn. Meanwhile, enjoy your summer!

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Baltic 21 in Turku

The Baltic 21 Senior Officials Group met in Turku 24-25 April 2003. The meeting was co-hosted by the UBC and the City of Turku. Many important issues were on the agenda.

Resulting from the final discussion at the meeting, the Baltic 21 Triennial Report has just recently been published. It evaluates and summarizes the implementation process during the last three-year period. Many sectors and joint actions have made progress, but the overall implementation still requires more efforts. To enable this, the Baltic 21 strategy is currently being revised.

One of the successful parts of Baltic 21 implementation has been the work in cities, co-ordinated by the UBC. Reflecting this, UBC Vice President and Mayor of Turku, Mr. Armas Lahoniitty emphasized in his opening address the role of local governments in implementing sustainable development. More than 80% of Baltic Sea Region population is concentrated in cities and towns, so emphasis must be put to actions addressing urban issues, stated Mr. Lahoniitty.

EnvCom in Kaunas

The UBC Commission on Environment met in Kaunas 22 May. The meeting gathered over 50 participants from all BSR countries and the U.S.

Many things were on the agenda in Kaunas. The new UBC Agenda 21 Program, projects and project proposals, activities in different member cities etc. The meeting was also attended by U.S. experts and the WHO Healthy Cities BSR Collaboration Centre. The visit of the U.S. experts Professor Timothy Beatley and Executive Director Mark Gibb from Northern Virginia was organized jointly with the United States Regional Environmental Centre for BSR.

The WHO representatives and the U.S. experts added an interesting aspect to our good practices work by sharing informa-



SOG meeting participants on an excursion in the archipelago on the Island of Seili.

tion on different initiatives and co-operation schemes both in Europe and over the Atlantic. Some new U.S.-Baltic partnerships might also result later on from the new contacts made in Kaunas.

The meeting put much emphasis on development of new project and activity ideas in workshops. Thanks to the active participants, there are now many new ideas to be put into practice during the coming years. The City of Kaunas and ECAT Lithuania were excellent local hosts. Thanks to them, the participants will certainly remember from Kaunas also the nice social program.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- special theme edition -

Dear Reader,

on the following 20 pages you will find information on environmental management systems in Baltic and European cities. All of them include good practical examples on how environmental management systems can be used to advance sustainable development in cities and local communities. If somebody else managed to implement those things, it probably should be possible in your city too. Like one candid camera star always used to say: “next time it could be you!”

One of the most important intentions of the UBC network is to show good examples from the cities for others to learn about. In our 105 cities there are many more or less hidden “World Champions” of different environmental and sustainable development issues. This theme edition will at least make some of the excellent work on environmental management systems less hidden. We hope that it will offer you an interesting learning opportunity.

We warmly thank all cities that contributed to this special theme edition of Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin. Due to the great interest and offer of stories, we will also continue the thematic approach in the next edition of the bulletin with the theme Sustainable Consumption and Production – be prepared for more good stories to come!

Editorial Team

Department of Environment Receives ISO 14001 Certification

The Environment Department of the City of Malmö received ISO 14001 certification and EMAS registration in April 2002. Malmö was also the first city in Sweden to employ a full-time environmental auditor.

By Lotta Hawkson, Hanna Ershytt, Christer Karlsson

In February 1998, the City Council of Malmö adopted environmental strategy for years 1998-2002. To ensure that the strategy would have the desired result, the council gave the Environmental Committee, together with other boards and committees, a task of implementing an environmental management system by 2002 in all of the 21 departments. The environmental policy adopted already in 1997 provided a base for the system.

A project team was created at the Department of Environment to co-ordinate the implementation work, such as development of guidance material, a standard, and education. Part of the education were three films called *Threat*, *Hope* and *Act*, which were made to help raise environmental awareness among staff at the departments.

Threat shows how environmental problems affect Malmö, *Hope* presents examples of good environmental practice in the city, and *Act* explains what an environmental management system is. The films were given a warm reception by the staff and have made an effective contribution to implementing an EMS in the city.

So far, all 21 departments have started the environmental management system and the environmental review. Six departments have implemented the whole system. Over half of the departments have adopted an environmental programme. Today, the Fire Brigade, the Environment Department, one city district and parts of the Department of Internal Services have EMAS or/and ISO 14001 certificate.

A full-time environmental auditor in Malmö

The City of Malmö was the first Swedish city to employ a full-time environmental auditor. Like the rest of the city auditors the environmental auditor works directly under the City Council.

The environmental auditing started in 2000

with a focus on environmental management systems. Main task for the environmental auditor has been to evaluate each department and city-owned company and their systems.

To follow up all environmental goals and activities, the City of Malmö produces an annual environmental report and a summary. These documents are also reviewed as a part of the environmental audit.

The management systems vary among the departments and companies. Some follow ISO 14001, while others work on the basis of Malmö's internal environmental model for management system, which is a minimum level of audit. The audits are mainly carried out in a form of interviews and document reviews.



Ms. Hanna Ershytt, working for the City of Malmö, is the first full-time environmental auditor in Sweden.

Management system with three major components

Malmö's Department of Environment got ISO 14001 certification and EMAS registration in April 2002. The management system is not only a conventional environmental management system but also an integrated system with three major components: occupational health and safety, quality, and economy.

In the City of Malmö, the budget process is totally steering. The budget process, or

economy, is of vital importance to the conditions and dates for different actions and is a natural part of a management system.

At first, the Department of Environment focused on the direct environmental aspects, such as the department's water and energy consumption, waste management and paper consumption as these were easier to understand than the indirect aspects. The reason behind this was to speed up the process and to do it the easiest way.

Key points to success

Understanding the nature of an EMS helped the department also to understand that indirect aspects were impossible to avoid. The important aspects of the Department of Environment are decisions that we make, inspections we undertake, environmental information we give to citizens and to conductors of other environmentally hazardous activities. After changing direction in the way of implementing EMS, the interest and the involvement from the staff and top-management rose, and this was a key-point for the success of the system.

The occupational safety and health aspects were fully integrated at the end of 2002, and now the Department works on the quality aspects.

Public procurement can set an example to others

Public procurement can guide towards an ecologically sustainable society. As production and consumption are major contributors to global environment damage, the local authority can, by setting a good ex-

Definition on direct and indirect aspects

An *environmental aspect* is organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment. A *direct aspect* is the activity *you* do which affects the environment in a positive or negative way. An *indirect aspect* is the activity *you* undertake to influence someone or something to change the way of doing something.

ample, show others the way to good purchasing. The producers, in turn, can have an incentive for focusing on more environmentally appropriate products and services.

All public procurements are regulated and have to follow certain rules and procedures that are not obligatory for private procurement. In Sweden, public procurement follows a public procurement law, which was forced in 1994. The laws' main purpose is to adjust the public procurement so that it fulfils the demands made by the European Commission. The main rule is that public procurement should be made with possibilities for competition and in a business-like manner.

The goal is to fill the demand of goods and services to the lowest possible total cost. Environmental criteria are treated as a quality aspect and are taken into account

with the other aspects such as price, quality, service, cost for maintenance, delivery time, technical support, environmental impact, references, aesthetics, functional and technical characteristics.

The environmental policy of Malmö states that procurement of goods and services should function as a strong demanding force in the work towards sustainable development. All procurement should be made with environmental requirements. The environmental criteria are to stimulate suppliers and entrepreneurs to develop more environmentally adopted goods and services.

Additionally, the City of Malmö is involved in a three-year research project RELIEF to identify the environmental relief potential of green purchasing in Europe. The RELIEF, co-ordinated by ICLEI, represents an approach to bring together envi-

ronmental and economic considerations. In doing so, it contributes to various fields of EU policies such as urban environmental policy, industry and product policy and internal market development.

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Clean Vehicles on the Roads

By Kristina Christensson

For the past decade, the City of Malmö has actively been working to increase the number of vehicles running with more environmentally friendly fuels. The goal is to reduce negative impacts from traffic on public health and on local and global environment, and to support the introduction of clean vehicles on the Swedish market.

In 1995 – 2000, a demonstration project for electric cars was run together with the local energy company Sydkraft AB and KFB, a governmental institute. As a result, 100 electric vehicles and two rubbish vans were introduced.

The infrastructure for electric cars was developed and information campaigns were made within different target groups. The awareness raising in the municipality on alternative car choices and specific knowledge of them was very important for the continuity of the project. The importance to place the cars where they function well due to their short range, and to place them with people valuing their functions, was realised.

The city council's target that the municipal car fleet should consist of 25 % clean vehicles in 2000, was easily reached. Thus, in 2001, a new target was set to 50 % in 2003.

The definition of clean vehicles includes electric and hybrid electric vehicles, biogas- and natural gas vehicles, ethanol vehicles, some bio-diesel vehicles and vehicles with very low consumption of petrol and diesel.

The vehicles are jointly owned by a municipal company called ViSAB and the city's departments. ViSAB leases their vehicles to different municipal offices. As the target is 50%, there is a rule that offices have to have specific reasons for not leasing a clean vehicle.

Fleet of natural gas buses

The City of Malmö has also actively worked with the regional public transport co-ordinator and a local gas company to increase the number of gas buses in the city. Today, all of the about 200 city buses run on natural gas. This is the largest fleet of natural gas buses in northern Europe. The building of new infrastructure for refuelling is an important part of the success.

The public can also use two electric street trains for transportation. The trains are small and have a maximum speed of 30 km and run both on cycle-lanes and in the streets. The electric street trains were part of a pilot project, and discussions to continue development with more trains are under way.

Dialogue with the government

For some years, Cities of Malmö, Gothenburg and Stockholm have worked together to support the introduction of clean vehicles on the Swedish market. One important part of the co-operation is to influence the Swedish government to facilitate the introduction of clean vehicles. Cities' politicians have for the last four years peti-



Natural gas buses refuelling overnight.

tioned the Swedish Ministers of Environment and Economy to highlight important questions about taxes, laws etc. This year, 13 other Swedish cities joined the petitioning and signed the document which was then handed over to the government.

The cities are also creating a national website about clean vehicles for those interested in clean vehicles on the Swedish market and on finding out where there is infrastructure to use alternative fuels.

Spreading information

Information to citizens and enterprises is an important part of the work. A centre for sustainable transports called Miløre Centre started in 2001. Miløre Centre is built like a network of competence from municipalities, companies, universities and other organisations in the Öresund region. The aim of the centre is to spread information, give guidance and initiate projects.

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Finnish - Lithuanian Co-operation to Implement EMS

By Ruta Bubniene

Finnish technical assistance to promote EMS to both state and private sectors has highly contributed to raising environmental awareness in Lithuania.

Establishment of an Environmental Management System (EMS) as a basic tool of business management is crucial for any ahead-thinking company or organization. To be able to meet the EU's environmental requirements and challenges, international market companies have started to adopt EMS. Lithuanian companies have also shown interest in the voluntary management systems as about 20 companies have ISO 14001 certificate nowadays.

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is directly applicable on accession, therefore the development of sound institutional structures, implementation mechanisms and verification procedures is a prerequisite for the accession countries.

Co-operation starts

The inspiration on the Finnish - Lithuanian co-operation was an Environmental Management Systems excursion, held in Finland, in November 2000. The co-operation continued in 2001 by the first phase of the *Environmental Management Systems Implementation in Lithuania* -project.

During the project, experiences of certain EU member states were presented and a seminar on development of the national EMS program and promotion of EMAS was organized. Moreover, a basis for the implementation of EMAS was prepared as a program *EMAS implementation in Lithuania* was approved as recommendation by Order of Minister, in March 2002. Also a draft of the Governmental Resolution on EMAS Implementation was prepared and the resolution was later adopted in January 2002.



In April 15-16 this year, Lithuanian delegation visited Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in Helsinki for EMAS training.

The governmental resolution

The governmental resolution imposes that the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment is in charge of the overall supervision of EMAS and of the notification to the Commission according to the EMAS regulation, while the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy should take care of the information and promotion of the scheme.

National EMAS institutional structure was completed in 2002. The Competent Body is the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency. The Accreditation Body is the National Accreditation Bureau. An EMS Council will be created to give advice in the implementation and promotion of EMAS and ISO 14001. Members of this Council will include representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economy, Competent Body, Accreditation Body, research institutions and industrial enterprises.

Awareness and interest raising

The second phase of the project *Implementation of EMS in Lithuania: Raising Awareness and Interest in EMAS in Lithuania* started in the end of 2002. The aim is to increase interest in EMAS and to ensure a sufficient level of knowledge among relevant user groups by disseminating information about EMAS with key stakeholders. The project goal is to train the National Accreditation body, environmental authorities and the Competent body to perform EMAS-tasks and to implement

the National EMAS Program.

A workshop on EMAS for Lithuanian environmental authorities and interested parties was organized at the end of 2002. Furthermore, an Internet site on EMAS is under preparation.

The projects were implemented by Finnish Environmental Institute and the Center for Environmental Policy, Lithuania, with the bilateral support of the Finnish Ministry of Environment. The main beneficiary is the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment

EMS project also for companies

In addition, a project *Development of EMS in Lithuanian companies* takes place. The project aims to promote EMS in industrial enterprises and is implemented by Baltic Institute for Finland (BIF) and Institute of Environmental Engineering (APINI).

Finnish technical assistance for promotion of EMS in Lithuania to both state and private sectors contributes highly to raising the environmental awareness and will encourage better environmental performance.

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Companies Have Started to Work Towards EMS

By Zita Tverkute

Today's consumers are more concerned about the origin of a product. They pay special attention to price and content and quality and so have started to ask for more ecological, and healthy products. Some of the companies in Panevezys, Lithuania, have noticed this and have started to work on implementing an environmental management system. Following are some examples.

A Joint Stock Company EKRANAS implemented an environment management system already in 1998, aiming to achieve ISO 14001. This meant that a new environment protection policy was created, environmental improvement programs were developed, duties and responsibilities were distributed, and procedures and resources were foreseen. All the company's sections were involved in the process. Long-term programs encompassed noise reduction, energy saving, and pollution of soil and groundwater.

EMS was integrated into an already existing quality management system with the help of Joint Stock Company 'Telebatikos konsultacija' specialists. A Dutch firm KEMA made an experimental audit stating, that environment management systems in JST EKRANAS fully corresponds to international ISO 14001 standard. That important evaluation will help the company to join the group of the most progressive companies of EU member-states.

EMS helps integration into EU market

JST LIETKABELIS is the only cable-work company working in the Baltic countries. In effort to integrate into EU economy, the company's products are orientated towards EU and international standards like HD, EN, IEC, etc. All the cables & wires having HD got their certificate in 1998 in France, in the Central Certification Laboratory of electro-technical products AF-NOR.

In November, 2001 the company implemented and certified environment management system which corresponds to ISO 14001. The system was certified by



Joint Stock Company Lietkabelis working on cable-works implemented and certified environment management system corresponding to ISO 14001.

"KEMA Quality Polska", which also performs periodical audits of the system.

In December 1998, JSC SEMA was the first company in food industry in Lithuania to implement the requirements of LST EN ISO 9000 and to receive a TUV-CERT certificate. Special attention to the consumers, analysis of their needs, quality guarantee of products and services are the main requirements of acquiring ISO 9000.

The company's management understands that quality of service and products is of crucial importance and ensures quality policy. Principles of progressive management are implemented in the company as the first stage of work has come to an end. However, this is only the beginning of continuous long-term process, which aims at ecological and clean technologies and production, good health and safe environment.

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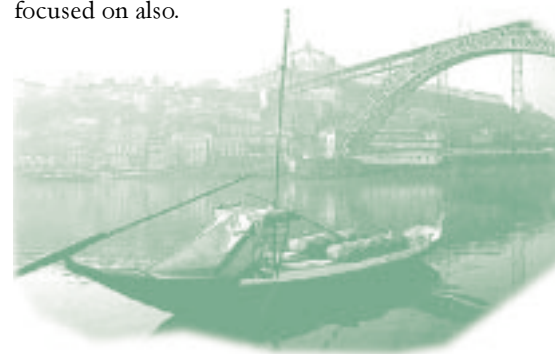
Environment Protection in Porto

By Claudia Cardoso

City of Porto is known for its high traffic, exalted waste production and great rates of fluctuant population associated with a strong urban expansion that affects air quality and soil use and planning.

The Environment Department of Porto Municipality plans to implement EMAS to the City of Porto to improve environmental performance in all environmental infrastructures and procedures. We will work towards sustainability hoping it will in turn be complemented by the public by changing their behaviour.

We will focus on parameters such as municipal domestic waste management system and municipal land plan together with Green Spaces. Another important point is also environmental information and awareness raising programs that will be designed and implemented. Air quality monitoring, noise mapping and water treatment will be focused on also.



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ecoBUDGET - a new Environmental Management System for Växjö

By Torun Israelsson and Terese Hermansson

The Municipality of Växjö has significant experience in the Local Agenda 21 process and is also deeply engaged in climate and water protection. To take the environmental work one step further, the municipality decided to implement an environmental management system *ecoBUDGET* which is specifically developed for political organisations.

Since *ecoBUDGET* is an environmental management system especially designated to political organisations such as municipalities, the system includes the environmental work both within the municipal organisation as well as the municipality as geographical area. The principal aim of *ecoBUDGET* is to manage natural resources with the same efficiency as financial resources. *ecoBUDGET* is a system which in conformity with other environmental management systems strives for continuous improvements.

With *ecoBUDGET*, the traditional financial accounting system is complemented with an environmental accounting system, in which physical quantities are measured instead of money. A year with *ecoBUDGET* has three phases; to prepare an environmental budget, to implement planned measures to achieve the budget and to balance the environmental annual accounts (see figure 1).

The four main elements

I The environmental budget

The environmental budget, shows the budget year's planned environmental expenditure and also contains mid-term targets for the desirable development of the resource. Within the *ecoBUDGET* model a term "expenditure" is used to describe the consumption of, or pressure on, a par-

ticular resource. The environmental budget is firstly established through a selection of prioritised environmental resources for the municipality. Thereafter, indicators are chosen to measure the changes in the resources. Finally, mid-term targets are set for the desirable development of the resource. Every year the mid-term targets are split into one-year (budget) targets.

Together with the establishment of an environmental budget, measures to achieve the targets have to be planned. After the approval of the environmental budget the implementation is achieved through a series of planned measures. Furthermore environmental data are collected to monitor the progress.

II The budget balance

At the end of the budget year a budget balance is drawn up. The budget balance shows the actual environmental pressure compared to the planned pressure in the budget.

III The statement of environmental assets

The budget balance is complemented by a set of indicators representing the status and development in the environmental resources selected. It is called the statement of environmental assets.

VI The environmental-benefit analysis

Finally, the environmental-benefit analysis is added to the budget balance, in which the use of environmental resources is connected to the human needs. The more the human needs are fulfilled per environmental use the better. These measures connect the environmental, financial and social aspects of sustainable development.

ecoBUDGET in Växjö

The Agenda 21 strategy is an important tool in the wide selection of environmental work in Växjö. The Agenda 21 process has gained attention both in Sweden and internationally, not the least because of the political decision to aim at a Fossil Fuel Free Växjö. Nevertheless, the municipality felt a need for an environmental management system to better structure the management and follow-up of environmental issues. The solution came in a form of an EU-project funded within the LIFE-programme.

In April 2002, the local work on *ecoBUDGET* started. For a year a project team, with participants from the different departments and municipal companies, has been working towards the environmental budget, i.e. the first step of the management system.

Several key issues and resources in the budget

Växjö City Council approved its first environmental budget in March 2003 and addressed the key environmental issues, or resources, within the municipality. For Växjö the resource *Climate Stability* was an obvious inclusion due to the high ambitions to be Fossil Fuel Free. *High Environ-*



- I see the environmental management system *ecoBUDGET* as an important tool to strengthen and develop the successful environmental work of the municipality, says Mr Carl-Olof Bengtsson, Mayor of the Municipality of Växjö.

mental Consciousness among inhabitants was seen as a prerequisite for successful work for sustainable development. Although most of the air pollution in Våxjö comes from outside Våxjö, local measures are important to improve the air quality, hence the resource *Fresh Air*. Lake restorations is another of Våxjö's specialties and resulted in the resource *Living Waters*. *Good Built Environment* is a resource that includes green structure, waste and traffic. It was selected to pinpoint the importance of municipal planning, but also the direct effects as such.

Finally, the municipality of Våxjö is a relatively large landowner. To express the wish to be a model for other landowners the resource *High Biological Diversity* was selected. An environmental budget also requires indicators to represent the resources and measure the changes. Some examples from the environmental budget of the municipality of Våxjö can be seen in the table.

What next

The next step for Våxjö is to carry out the planned measures to achieve the targets for 2003, i.e. the budget implementation and to improve our data collection to be able to account and control our environmental expenditure. Although we will not balance our environmental books until January 2004, we have begun already to see some gains and benefits from the environmental management system. One example is the structure the method has given us, which we can take advantage of while working with other documents, such as the Transportation Strategy for a Sustainable Våxjö and the Energy Plan. Furthermore, the establishment of the budget has increased cross-departmental communication and cohesion. In the future, we expect the involvement of the politicians to be the most important benefit.

Facts on Våxjö

Våxjö is a medium sized city located in the middle of Southern Sweden with a population of ca. 75,000. The area is characterised by vast forests and a multitude of lakes.

The municipality has approximately 6000 employees and is active in sectors such as planning, schools, elderly care, traffic, culture etc. Furthermore the municipality has a significant experience in the LA 21 process and is engaged in climate protection and renewable energies. Våxjö was selected as the winner of the Local Initiatives Award for Excellence in Atmospheric Protection in 2000 for setting aggressive targets for greenhouse gas reductions, including the elimination of the use of fossil fuels in municipal operations, and for its outstanding efforts to achieve these targets.

European ecoBUDGET

European ecoBUDGET is a project that spans over three years (2001-2004) and is funded by the LIFE-programme of the European Commission. The co-ordinator of the project is the municipality of Våxjö, Sweden. Apart from Våxjö, municipalities from Greece, Italy, Germany and Great Britain are taking part in the project.

The aim with the European ecoBUDGET-project is to demonstrate the suitability of environmental budgeting as an integrative, sustainability-related approach for environmental management at the local authority level. In the long run the aim of the ecoBUDGET-method is to contribute to the sustainable development of the municipalities.

The method is developed in Germany by the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and tested in a pilot project in four German local authorities.



During three years the European ecoBUDGET-participants will test the system in their national settings. They will run a full budget cycle with the set up, implementation, and balance of an environmental budget. Then the local results will be monitored, analysed and reported. Finally the whole project will be assessed according to the method's applicability on European level. The result of the project may be a valid contribution for a European incorporation of indicators into management cycles and it can also be a starting point for national programmes.

Environmental Budget Cycle



Figure 1. The ecoBUDGET-triangle describing one year with the Environmental Management System.

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Promoting EMAS Within Local Authorities in Europe

By Pirita Lindholm

Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) has organised, with the help of its national associations and support of the European Commission, a series of LA EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) seminars in three EU member states, Finland, Belgium and Ireland, in the beginning of 2003. Each seminar was designed to raise awareness and to promote the actual implementation of EMAS scheme within local and regional authorities.

To reflect good governance and co-operation between different spheres of government, the seminar programmes were built around presentations from the relevant central government EMAS representatives, Commission representative and good practice examples from local and regional authorities.

Environmental management in Finland, Belgium and Ireland

In Finland, approximately 50 local authorities are currently implementing environmental management system, and 14 municipal companies or utilities have ISO 14001 registration. Kiertokapula Oy, as a municipal company, has the only public sector EMAS registration. Around 95 % of the organisations are using ISO 14001 standard as a model for their EMS.

In Belgium, there are five public EMAS registrations: The Cabinet of Olivier Deleuze (Secretary of State), two groupings of municipalities, and two nuclear power plants. In addition, the following schemes are also used in promoting environmental management within different spheres of government.

- Plan for sustainable development at the *federal level*

- Within the *Brussels region*, an environmental management tool called "Label ecodynamique" including 27 environmental management principles. Currently 10 public organisations have the label.

- A co-operation agreement between the region and municipality regarding environmental protection within the *Flamish region*. Over 200 out of 308 local authorities have signed the environmental agreement with the region.

- The *Walloon region* states in its strategic plan that it wants to increase the EMAS registrations and the ISO certifications by 25 % every year.

In Ireland, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government Mr. Martin Cullen launched officially the "Environmental management systems training programme". The programme will include a road show with three different modules 1) introduction, 2) implementing EMS and 3) auditing EMS. The modules will be directed to three different target groups: county managers and directors, senior management and implementation staff.

Introduction will include preparation of environmental policy, understanding the EMS process and identifying the needs for support.

Implementing EMS will include practical guidance, methods, templates, examples, case studies etc.

Auditing EMS will include identifying auditing requirements, making virtual audits and group assessments and using pictures in identifying good and bad examples.

Training pilots will be organised during May and June 2003 in three regions within Ireland together with senior manager briefings.

Key messages and issues that need development

Monitoring, reporting and training were mentioned as topics, which require attention and further development.

Collecting and updating the necessary information was seen not only as one of the most important but also as one of the most

difficult tasks of the environmental management system. EMS needs to be linked to the day-to-day management of the organisation, and tools for this as well as the continuous assessment of the system should be developed. A clear link should be made also to the economic implications of environmental management.

Using experts outside of the local authority were seen useful in the beginning of the environmental management process. However, in the case of using external help, sufficient training systems need to be established. Local authorities need tools to keep the expertise inside the organisation. Therefore systematic training schemes need to be put in place. Also, a clear demand for the exchange of experience and having an access to good practice examples to get ideas of different management strategies and ways to avoid and overcome problems, was raised.

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Jelgava Starts on Environmental Auditing Process

By Solvita Lurina

Jelgava City Council started to work with environmental protection issues in 1994 when the target to investigate environmental situation in the city was set up. Today, they are starting an environmental auditing process.

Several researches have also been done since then: Risk analysis of dangerous objects, Air quality study, Municipal waste management, Potentially contaminated areas in the city territory.

In 1998, the master plan 1999-2010 for the City of Jelgava was adopted, and main directions and principles to improve environment of the city were set up. These include development of the city as a dynamic system, which through constant changes could meet the needs of its residents, respecting the balance among the utilisation and preserving of the environmental resources.

Also, the dimensions of the economic and social urban development should be integrated with the ecological dimension of the urban environment, and an improvement of the environmental quality in the territories with a risk to the health of the population or to the stability of local ecosystems should be achieved.

Participation in EMAS Peer Review for Cities -project

The Jelgava City Council has an opportunity to take part in the UBC project "EMAS – Peer Review for Cities" and start environmental auditing process. This project will help to carry out the development trend, stipulated in the Master plan for 1999-2010 "City, friendly to people and nature, respecting sustainable development principles" and to achieve the improvement of environment quality.



Know-how, experience and support by the other participating cities and assistance of project team might promote to solve our problems, to improve environmental awareness and performance in all activities of the local administration. The important contribution of local government to the principles of sustainable development would be to change their own environmental behaviour and to start with their own environmental performance.

Some facts about Jelgava

Jelgava is the fourth largest city in Latvia after Riga, Daugavpils and Liepāja with population around 66000. The city lies on the junction of six motor-roads and railroads leading to five directions, but, nevertheless, it is still considered one of the greenest cities of Latvia for 300 ha of its total territory of 6032 ha is occupied by an open water area and more than 160 ha is a park zone.

Jelgava, being the city of the young, is constantly growing and becoming a peculiar centre of education, culture and science in the very middle of Latvia with wide development potentials in economy, social and intellectual spheres.

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Liepaja Starts EMAS

By Mara Zeltina

The City of Liepaja has been working on the quality management system since 2000 and is now striving to comply with the ISO 9000 Standard requirements.

The *EMAS Peer Review for Cities* project is expected to become a significant contribution to promoting the total environmental quality management system in Liepaja.

Liepaja has an Environmental Action Program 2001-2010, which was created in concert with Agenda 21 principles. The city has been striving for integrating environmental issues into the sector development policies, and applying modern instruments and methodology, for example the European Indicators of Sustainable Development reflecting compliance between environmental, economic and social aspects. In whole, 13 integrated and cross-sectoral principles are used to evaluate the progress towards sustainable development.

Liepaja is the second biggest industrial city (metal and textile) and the third busiest port (general cargoes) in Latvia. The industrial areas and the Port are included in the Liepaja Special Economic Zone where significant financial incentives are established. One of Liepaja's biggest companies, a textiles firm, has already obtained the Integrated Pollution Licence and has got the certificate ISO 14001.

Liepaja is also a green city with over third of the city area covered by parks and water, and it has been awarded the BlueFlag in 2001 and 2002. Liepaja has also potential for eco-tourism because of its' rare bird and flower plant species.

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Eco-Reporting is Crucial in the Environmental Management in the City of Helsinki

By Markus Lukin

Following an environmental accounting project and an initiative of the Audit Committee, the City Council of Helsinki decided in 1999, that environmental management should be part of management of the whole city. They also decided that one way of implementing this challenge would be environmental accounting and reporting.

The idea behind was the view that environmental issues are not a separate question in the city administration but deeply integrated in operations and planning of all city departments. That's also why general guidance of environmental management and reporting in the budget guidelines by the City Board is yearly written.

Environmental accounting is a crucial factor in good environmental reporting. It is important to recognise the economic significance of different environmental sectors from the point of view of environmental policy-making. Likewise, eco-efficient strategic decisions are much easier to make, if there is a view on what environmental profits are achieved by using certain sums of money on certain environmental measures. Thus, presenting both economic and environmental impacts of all environmentally essential city operations in the same report is the key to effective environmental management.

Environmental reporting is part of an annual reporting of the whole city. This means that all departments report first to the Environment Centre, which then prepares a report of the whole city. City Mayor of Helsinki has set up an expert group to co-ordinate this work. There are members of all major city departments in the group.

The Environmental Report of Helsinki

The Environmental Report of Helsinki describes how departments carry out environmental management. Many departments have their own environmental policies, programmes and working groups. In 2002, 11 departments published their own environmental or sustainability report. Nevertheless, it has been seen in Helsinki that the core of environmental manage-

ment should be the departments' environmental objectives, which are yearly set in the city budget. Another important tool is the coming fourth environmental program of the city, which includes objectives that concern many departments for the next four years.

The Environmental Report of the City of Helsinki presents a comprehensive viewpoint to the environmental issues. In addition to the description of environmental economic indicators and environmental management process, the report tells the most important environmental impacts and loads of the city organisation and offers a compact view on the state of the environment in Helsinki.

The report includes an annex, which concisely presents the most essential environmental operations, objectives and impacts of all of the 36 departments. The environmental issues are divided in five themes: energy consumption, waste management, procurement and transports, environmental management and environmental issues of the departments' own line of activities.

Although the reporting process has become established and the most basic environmental information is available in the report, there are still some shortcomings in the data collection. Among the most important of these is the information about the amount of wastes, and of environmental criteria in procurement of some departments.

Since 2002, Helsinki has tried to improve the eco-efficiency of its reporting by publishing full environmental report only in the Internet. On paper there is only a concise abstract of the whole report covering 60 pages. In addition to the environmental report, the City of Helsinki publishes a larger review of the state of the environment and a follow-up report of sustainable development indicators every 4-5 years.

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Environmental Management System of the City of Tampere

By Antonia Sucksdorff

The primary goal of the City of Tampere is to establish itself as the leading municipality for environmental awareness in Finland. One step towards that was when Tampere received the European Sustainable Cities Award from the European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, in 1999.

An Environmental Policy for Tampere was approved by the City Council in 1994. It consisted of seven goals including, for example the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and waste, and the corporation of ecological criteria into the community planning.

As a tool for implementing the Environmental Policy, the City constructed an Environmental Management System (EMS), in 1995. The EMS was adapted from ISO 14001 and it consisted of three main parts: 1) the Environmental Policy, 2) implementation in city units and 3) follow-up and reporting. Each city unit had its own environmental programs in which they documented the methods required to achieve the goals set in the Environmental Policy. In 2001, these programs were updated into sustainable development programs.

City of Tampere was the first city in Finland to launch an Environmental Liability Report, in 1997. The city budget included operational targets concerning the environment from 1997 to 2001. In 2000, the EMS was audited by an external auditor, Pirkanmaa Regional Environment Centre.

New City Strategy and management System

The City Council of Tampere approved the strategy document "Tampere - Work-



© City of Tampere

ing towards excellence, the balanced city strategy of Tampere 2001-2012" in October 2001. The new city strategy is based on sustainable development. On the basis of this city strategy, the different municipal sectors made their own strategies. Furthermore, six more cross-sectoral strategies were prepared during 2002 in order to support the city strategy. These included personnel, business, housing policy, service procurement, information management and environmental strategies.

The strategies form part of the new management system that is being created by the municipality. All strategies have been prepared using the Balanced Scorecard strategy tool tailored for public administration.

New Environmental Strategy in 2002

The new Environmental Strategy, "Working together to the cutting edge in environmental protection" became ready in September 2002. The strategic objective "Tampere will be at the cutting edge in environmental protection", was selected to be the environmental strategy's vision for the year 2012. The environmental strategy focuses on the issues of ecological sustainability in Tampere.

The environmental strategy renews the Environmental Policy from the year 1994. The City of Tampere fulfilled the Environmental Policy by means of the EMS. The principles of this system are still applied by the municipality. The new management system will ensure the implementation of the goals in the municipal environmental strategy. This way it will also be ensured that ecological sustainability will be incorporated as part of all decision-making.

Only the public utilities adhere to the ISO 14001 standard in their operations. These are the Electricity Board, Tampere City Transport, The Water and Sewage Works, and Tampere Regional Solid Waste Management Ltd.

The Environmental Strategy of the City of Tampere is available in English on the Internet: www.tampere.fi/ytoteto/yva/eng/news/envstrat.pdf

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Implementing EMAS Has Potential in Tallinn City Administration

By Tiina Vilberg and Madis Kõrvits

Tallinn City Administration has good base to draw up an eco-management system because of practice and experiences from UBC Municipal Environmental Auditing Pilot Project (MEA) that was carried out in Tallinn, in 1996-97. This was practically the first study, that covered the environmental situation in a general and complete way, and was essential to drive further environmental activities.

In 1998, Tallinn City Council approved the "Environmental Strategy of Tallinn until 2010", that is main cornerstone of our environmental policy in the city. The Strategy contains basic propositions that environmental improvement in urban areas shall be a need and an obligation, since social and economical development of the society is dependent upon it.

There has been several changes in the structure of City Administration during the last years. Although the intention was to establish well-operational and functional organization, a result was confusion on co-ordination in environmental activities and interrupted environmental information.

Project "EMAS - Peer Review for Cities" is for us an opportunity to find solutions to the problems concerning management of environmental activities in our city. In Tallinn, we have chosen the Environmental Office for trial polygon. Our subproject would cover issues such as mapping the



View from the Raekoja Square in Tallinn, Estonia. Photo: David Ludlow, UWE.

problems concerning environmental activity and impact from Environmental Office function and action. We expect that the project will give us better chance to identify environmental aspects, especially indirect aspects that might be more significant. The aim is that our Office eco-management system would be as model and facilitate implementation of eco-management system all over the City Administration and so improve continually quality of city environment.

We hope that participating in this project will give us knowledge, experiences and opportunity to work with different European Cities.

Environmental overview

Rapid changes in the beginning of 90's caused changes also to environment but the impact has been positive. After the big fall of environmental pollution, the slight increase of the pressure to the environment can be observed.

The strongest way to affect the environment of the city is via planning and environmental impact assessments. All projects that include planning and construction

must get an environmental approval. This system has worked effectively in Tallinn for many years but recent changes in administrative structure have set higher challenges, especially as housing and office construction is very active.

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Estonian Local Authorities and Environmental Management Systems

By Irja Alakivi

Some of EMAS components are easy to understand and implement by local administrations, some are not. There are 280 municipalities in Estonia. None of them are yet implementing EMS or eco-management and audit scheme. Why is it so difficult to start EMS in local public administration in Estonia?

Comprehensiveness – according to EMS, all members of the organisation participate in the environmental protection. A traditional way of thinking and acting is that environmental protection unit is responsible for all environmental protection activities. **Proactiveness** – prevailing is a concern for the future, actions for the continuous improvement. According to a traditional way of thinking, command and control is still prevailing. **Systematic approach** – single environmental management system covers all functions of the administration.

According to Estonian legislation, all local authorities should have development plans for at least for three years, which is actually a very short period. The content and format of these plans varies broadly. Bigger local authorities have started to compile medium term strategies (10-15 years), both comprehensive strategies and/or sector strategies. Only some cities such as Kuressaare, Tartu, Viljandi, and Pärnu, have been successful in compiling Local Agenda 21, approved by city councils. However, commitment has been achieved in a large number of local authorities.

Ministerial questionnaire

71.6 per cent of local authorities, respondents to the questionnaire in 2001 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, stated, that the vision of the future is included in the development plan of the municipality. 69.2 per cent of respondents stated that there are goals and objectives in the plan. Main topics of the development plan are education, infrastructure, culture and sport. Environment and nature protection and continuous improvement of the quality of living environment have not yet been among the priority issues.

At present, the main mandatory development plans for Estonian municipalities include waste management, pre-school education, schools development, social care,

youth activities development, road maintenance, public transport, public water management and waste water treatment plans. Environmental issues are usually not well developed in these sector plans.

Most elements of EMS, like environmental policy supported by top management, training and awareness procedures, and procedures for management review to mention just few, are familiar to environmental specialists working in the local authorities and in use on project basis, but not accepted generally or in use as a regular part of the management.

MEA experiences in Tallinn and Pärnu

Municipal Environmental Auditing as a pilot project has been implemented in two cities, Tallinn and Pärnu. Environmental reviews describing mostly waste management and air quality monitoring data are compiled in most municipalities. There is still a long way to go to implement systematic approach of EMS in Estonia.



Association of Estonian Cities is making efforts to disseminate up-dated information and provide training for politicians and officials of local governments, enhance co-operation and twinning with local governments and their associations abroad as well as with international organisations like UBC, Baltic 21 etc.

Indicators of Sustainable Development

Very positive addition for better understanding the complexity and comprehensiveness of the sustainability issues in development context has been the initiative of Natural Environment Statistics section of the Statistical Office of Estonia. In 2002, for the first time a comprehensive

review *Indicators of Sustainable Development* was compiled and published. It covers social (equity, health, education, housing, security and population), environmental (atmosphere, land, sea and coast, fresh water and biodiversity), and economic dimensions (economic structure, consumption and production patterns), and some indicators concerning an institutional dimension based mainly to the second harvest of indicators from UNCSO indicator set.

All indicators are also allocated in a matrix, one dimension of, which is the type of indicator (driving force, state, response, abbreviation DSR), while another one is the sphere (social, environmental, economic, and institutional). The given set of indicators is also outlined on a regional level, which gives the possibility to some extent to compare the regions and counties, unfortunately not yet municipalities. However, the publication is a good example of a comprehensive approach by all interested in applying DSR indicators for sustainability monitoring. The indicators have also been made available on the web-site of the Statistical Office in the so-called dashboard model.

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EMS in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Heidelberg

By Raino Winkler

The project *Sustainable Management in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Heidelberg* created mutual trust between participating companies and the city administration.

The aim of the project was to assist small and medium-sized companies employing 10-200 people with an introduction of an environmental management system. It involved research of internal processes and potentials for optimization, in particular regarding waste disposal and power consumption. It also introduced new, sustainable and cost-saving work practices. In addition to improving the efficiency of resource utilization, issues of sustainable development were dealt with, such as new forms of human resource management, and opportunities to participate in co-operation projects between the North and the South.

An important result achieved through the project was the creation of a mutual trust between the companies and the city administration. This was repeatedly praised by the participants. Several participants were able to solve minor problems by just calling the Environmental Office. Even among the participating companies co-operation developed.



Workshops played a vital role as they gave the participants an opportunity to meet and discuss concrete issues with the City's administration staff.

Project background

The project started in June 2001. It was based on recommendations made by the Sustainable Management Round Table set up in 1998, in which the City Administration, associations and major companies from Heidelberg have a seat.

The work was co-ordinated by the Office of Environmental Protection, Energy, and Health Promotion and subsidized by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, DBU).

The theoretical side was provided in eight workshops which dealt with issues such as purchasing and handling of hazardous material, waste management and soil protection, to mention a few. Furthermore, external experts inspected each company to determine potentials for optimization, and to develop concrete measures.

The first stage involved 11 companies and was completed in summer 2002. Those, who had successfully installed an EMS received an award. The second stage with a group of nine companies will end in June 2003.

Based on the motto *Offering, Not Prohibiting*, the project offers opportunities to perform measures to help environment while saving costs. Once the project has successfully been completed, the companies may apply for certification or be validated according to EMAS or ISO 14001.

The workshops were a vital element of the project and took place in turn in the participating companies. During these workshops, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research helped to build up an EMS to the companies.

Second group of companies

The second group of companies has just prepared for the final inspections. Once all defined requirements have been satisfied, the companies will be awarded a sym-

bol specifically developed for the project. The companies will be able to join a work group where they will get help to complete the started initiatives. The work shop will also follow-up on process of the improvements within the companies. Furthermore, an information network, which is continuously updated on fundamental new legal and technical developments through the input of external experts, is planned to be started.

In all companies, responsibilities were assigned to create a structure that ensures continuous monitoring and improvement of the environmental protection measures. This guarantees the sustainability of the environmental program and its activities.

Conclusions

The experiences up to now confirm the need for the project. The companies are eager to co-operate and exhibit great commitment. The management is in most cases actively involved in performing environmental measures, thus ensuring rapid implementation. The good basis of trust also manifests itself in the exchange of important company data.

Having external partners in charge of the workshops and performance of the company inspections has also proven good as the professional quality of the project was ensured.

While the workshops initially took place before the inspections in order to create a theoretical foundation, the company inspections should rather take place in the first weeks of the project in order to provide the more field-orientated participants with practical solutions.

A survey revealed that practical parts of the project received higher appreciation than theoretical ones, therefore, this element will be extended in the second phase.

Due to the positive experience and broad approval of the project concept, the project is intended to continue.

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Münich Implemented EMAS in Health Sector

By Karl-Heinz Worthmann

The decision to have a close look at environment management systems in the municipality of Munich is based on several initiatives from the Munich City Council. In 1998, a time when EMAS was exclusively focused on its requirements for small-scale manufacturing enterprises, efforts to implement the scheme were developed in the municipal Hospital, Munich-Neuperlach.

As it was soon realised that the EMAS instrument was suitable for facilities in the health sector, activities were extended also to other municipal hospitals. The improvement potential and positive economic results have led to a situation where several private and state hospitals, which were partly entered into the national location register also according to EMAS, have followed the example of the City of Munich.

EMAS was even introduced at the two administration offices of the Department of Health and Environment within the city. A strong environmental awareness at the management and staff level, supported by in-depth information, led to a general acceptance. In December 2000, this process culminated in the validation and environmental declaration of both locations. Since then, the staff in charge and decision-makers are jointly keeping an eye on the continual improvement process trying to establish the idea of self-auditing on a city-wide level even beyond the limits of the departments concerned.

Good example to others

In the meantime, several additional municipal facilities have followed the example.

Central Vegetable, Meat and Food Distribution Centre, the central laundry, the municipal blood donor service, and even parts of public utilities companies like heating plants or the department of urban transport, were subjected to EMAS evaluation. In spite of current budget stringency, efforts are made to involve more municipal participants and to continue success with the management systems in validated locations. Through the co-operation of municipal and state agencies, Munich and Bavaria are and will be on the road to success concerning EMAS.

ÖKOPROFIT helps small and medium-sized enterprises

Apart from EMAS activities, the City of Munich has launched an environmental guidance programme entitled ÖKOPROFIT as a result of the various discussions within the framework of Local Agenda 21. This program was specially developed for small and medium-size enterprises following an example of the City of Graz, Austria.

Since 1998, over 70 enterprises have participated in this environmental guidance programme which is organisationally and financially supported by the City of Munich with ca. 80,000 Euro. In addition, this programme promotes introduction of EMAS or ISO 14001, by facilitating the start.

The successes of these actions can not be measured just by economic standards. For example decrease on energy consumption has lead to annual savings of over 17 million kW hours. Also, the CO₂ reduction could amount to ca. 3,000 tons/year.

As ÖKOPROFIT has all advantages of a convincing, proven and flexible environmental guidance programme, the City of Munich has supported the further expansion of ÖKOPROFIT in Germany. More than 50 municipalities have meanwhile introduced this programme with the support of the City of Munich, and more than 700 companies have participated in it in Germany.

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Düsseldorf Continues with EMAS

By Hans-Wilhelm Hentze

The Department of Environment in the City of Düsseldorf started EMAS for the first time in 1999. In the time since, we have done a lot of puzzle-work on several topics like on a supply of energy and water and consumption of electricity.

In addition to energy and water supply and electricity consumption, we have also done investigation work on quality of buildings and heat engineering. In addition, it was very interesting to learn on how the employees come to work (for example by car, tram, bicycle etc.), and how the office supplies were purchased.

The City of Düsseldorf intends to pick up these impulses and activities, and hopes that the participation in EMAS Peer Review for Cities -project would help the city. At the moment we reflect upon an expansion to other fields, for example city planning, traffic, and recreation areas.

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EMS Has Saved Money and Resources in Newcastle

By Lynne Walker

Since late 90's, the City of Newcastle has been implementing EMS in their municipal services. Over the years, the opposition has turned into enthusiasm and not least because of gained savings on money and resources.

A decision to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) was made by executive officers within the Directorate of Cityworks in 1996. By then, many divisions had already achieved certification to the ISO 9000 standard of Quality Assurance. As Cityworks provided front line services to the residents, businesses and visitors of Newcastle, a management system which would enable them to control, monitor and measure the negative environmental impacts of the services provided was required. ISO 14001 was chosen as that environmental management system. The EMS was developed and implemented across the entire directorate and Certification was achieved in November 1997.

Participation in Euro-EMAS

During 2000/01, the Highways section was involved in the European project LA Euro-EMAS. This provided to be extremely successful. The task was difficult and EMAS was found to stretch the environmental management system, which was being used as the management tool through Cityworks.

Even though EMAS had proved to stretch all those involved, it was seen as the way forward by Senior Officers, not only for Highways but for Cityworks in its entirety.

Two divisions were chosen to pilot EMAS, *City Build* and *Environmental Services*. These divisions, by way of their operations, have a great negative impact on the environment. The implementation of EMAS would demonstrate to stakeholders, residents and visitors alike that City Build and Environmental Services were managing their impacts in a responsible fashion, that they involved staff, and were being transparent and honest.

Later on, a public statement, which would be verified and validated by an external body would be published and made available to everyone.



The decision to chip all appropriate arboreal waste on site reduced fuel consumption and lost time, and also made financial savings of approx. £1000 per week in City Grounds which is a unit within Environmental Services.

Challenges to overcome

The challenge for the two operational divisions was to overcome issues on resource, both financial and human, and to improve environmental performance, whilst trying to achieve service delivery targets.

The lack of financial resources to develop and implement EMAS as the management system was a huge issue – only with the commitment and dedication of farsighted managers was the system implemented. It was not until the two divisions had completed the evaluation processes, that cost savings could be seen.

Another challenge was to have the sections take ownership of the EMAS. The 14001 management system, which was already in place, was often seen as a bureaucratic, time consuming process. Some officers had little knowledge of the principles behind the management system. The aim was to convince these officers that by implementing EMAS they would have a management tool, which was effective, efficient and practical. A further challenge was to improve the overall awareness of EMAS for all managers and staff.

Initiatives

EMAS assists in the managing of initiatives, carried out by the two divisions. Here are some examples:

Rhinopatch equipment used by HLTS a section of Environmental Services

As a result of EMAS investigation into further recycling schemes, the Rhinopatch system was adopted. In this existing bituminous surfaces are softened, a rejuvenator is added to the failed material and the resultant material is reprofiled and compacted to give a new surface. This method minimises virgin material used in the process.

Noise suppression of waste segregation bays at City Build

Waste segregation skips, whilst providing means of recycling the waste generated by City Build, were causing a noise disturbance during their collection and dropping off, causing several complaints from neighbouring residents. Solution to this was the use of rubber noise suppression mats in the bays where the skips are located. This reduced the operational noise levels and thus the disturbance to local residents.

Two pilot divisions

City Build includes Repairs & Maintenance, Mechanical & Electrical, and Capital & Minor works. It employs approx. 945 staff with a budget of £46.58 Million.

Environmental Services include Transport, HLTS, Cleansing, Grounds, and Environmental Stores. It employs approx. 995 staff with a budget of £51 Million.

Start of the process

To begin the EMAS process, documents were developed, which simplified the evaluation process, and guidance notes were written to support that process. The documents from the first Euro-EMAS project were used as the basis of this development. EMAS champions were appointed and once the evaluation process began so the ownership of the system began to develop.

EMAS was to provide the framework on which to begin the development of sustainability, to deliver corporate practices and principles and assist in the delivery of Best Value.

EMAS itself would be monitored by means of an audit, which would be carried out by a small team of trained auditors working from the Policy and Management Support section. This team is totally independent from any other section within the City-works. Auditing ensured that the system complied with all EMAS Regulations.

The team also conducted awareness sessions, which were delivered to the General Managers and all other personnel within the pilot divisions.

By looking at each element of activity, impacts were assessed in depth. This enabled service operations to be improved and from this, environmental improvements such as less use of finite resources, less use of transport, lost time reduced and increased efficiency could be seen. By way of EMAS, not only would environmental impacts be learned but also cost savings would be realised. After some nine months of in depth work City Build and Environmental Services underwent their external verification assessment. Everyone was apprehensive, but the assessment was successful with both divisions achieving EMAS registration.

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Contaroma in Rome

By Katja Firus

The City of Rome has just finalised implementing an environmental accounting system within a project 'Contaroma'.

The project, which lasted for 18 months, was part of the LA 21 activities and contributes to the work of the existing Forum Local Agenda 21.

At first, the already existing experiences of local governments in Italy and Europe were collected. In October 2002, an international workshop was organized in order to show the important role of an environmental accounting system in public entities to support and reflect environmental politics.

Based on this, a methodology for the application in the municipal budget was defined, coherent with the general accounting system of the municipal budget. It identified environmental costs, assessing conditions for its reclassification on a basis of existing experiences and research. It also created a specific matrix called CONTAROMA, and tested this by analysing the environmental costs during 2001 of several departments. The results support the current environmental politics and the LA 21 process of Rome.

The results were presented in a final workshop in June 2003. Benefits and opportunities were discussed and presented in relation to other national and international experiences and innovative policies. Based on this, the city administration has renewed its commitment to continue the process of integrating an environmental system in the general municipal budget.

Project partners were Environmental, Accounting and Local Sustainable and Participatory Development departments of Rome, Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of the Lazio Region, and Ecomed (the Agency for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean). The project was financed by the Italian Ministry for the Environment.

Project team welcomes experiences from other cities.

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EMS for Barcelona

By Txema Castiella I Viu

In 2002, the city Agenda 21 was approved, with a co-operation of over 200 organizations and institutions from the city.

The sustainability principles have influenced several of the municipal services such as natural gas busses or use of solar energy for the municipal buildings.

Environmental policy received great impulse after the Rio Summit. In 1994, the Plan of Environmental Programs was approved, followed a year later with signing of the Aalborg Charter.

Although the City Council is not fully covered by EMS, some parts of it, such as Parks and Gardens and Transports of Barcelona, have already ISO-14001 certification.

A program called "Green Office" has impelled information and sensitivity of municipal workers for the last three years. It has also promoted environmentally friendly purchasing in public procurements and an environmentally correct management of products and their recycling. The selective collection will be adopted in 2003 in all of the municipal dependencies.

Municipality's future plans

There are several future priorities, adoption of solar energy and programs of saving and power efficiency, in the municipality. Adoption of more sustainable water management systems, and better savings of raw materials are on top of the list. Aim is also to obtain 'buy-use-recycle' of products thus causing smaller environmental impact.

We believe that EMAS is an instrument to advance in this direction, and taking part of *EMAS Peer Review for Cities* gives us an advantage of the experiences of other European cities.

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Commitment to EMAS Gains Leeds City Council the EC's Coveted EMAS Award

By David Feeney

In May 2002, Leeds City Council won international recognition for its commitment to protecting the environment by gaining the European Commission's coveted EMAS award. To gain the award, the Council had to undergo rigorous external scrutiny of its various systems.

Because the accreditation has been awarded across the whole Council, covering 25,000 staff, this means it is the largest Public Sector organisation in Europe to achieve this status. In January 2003, Education Leeds (a private education company wholly owned by the Council) was also formally validated as part of the corporate system.

To gain the award, the Council had to undergo rigorous external scrutiny of its systems such as the way it deals with waste, energy efficiency and the protection of the local countryside. They also had to show it complies with all environmental laws and regulations and had to win approval for its Public Statement which outlines its achievements and improvement targets.

Examples of good practise

The Public Statement highlights examples of good practice. Here we have mentioned few of them.

The council recognises the value of waste generated when old road surfaces are dug out and replaced and introduced an innovative scheme, which has reclaimed and reused 40,000 tonnes of materials, reducing the need for new quarrying.

To identify land contamination, a plan for inspecting potentially contaminated sites has been published by the City Council.

The amount of peat used by the Parks and Countryside division has been reduced from 903m³ to 702m³ between 1999-2001. The Leisure Services Department aims to cut this by another 10 per cent every year.

The council ensures that any computers and other IT equipment, which is broken or outdated is recycled or refurbished by Roseville Enterprises, the Social Services department's sheltered workshop for disabled people.

Survey work by the Leisure Services department has identified important Green sites, including attractive areas of woodland, nature reserves and other natural areas to be targeted for conservation as part of a Biodiversity Plan.

EMAS successes in Leeds

Participation in the EMAS scheme has helped Leeds City Council to reduce CO₂ emissions on energy and water use by employing energy efficiency techniques, including use of remote energy management systems, super-efficient boiler technology and regular maintenance. Both CO₂ and water consumption have been reduced by tens of percents since starting the EMAS.

All office paper used is 100 percent recycled. The Council recycles office waste paper from over 100 of its buildings, helping to avoid disposal costs and gaining revenue from otherwise wasted resource.

Traveling to work has been made more sustainable by promoting the use of low cost travelcard scheme. Over 900 council staff use this opportunity. The scheme offers savings of 10 percent on the existing public transport fares and helps to reduce congestion. Also, some staff regularly work under new flexible working arrangements like 'e'-commuting and flexible working hours.

The Council has managed to protect and enhance green areas by removing 81 percent of all abandoned vehicles from the highway within 24 hours. All of these vehicles are de-polluted and recycled without polluting the environment.

Some £50,000 savings were identified through better waste management. Auditing the council's contractors' own compliance with the UK's legal Duty of Care for waste has led to improved financial control, ensuring that the Council meets only those costs that have been incurred.

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Leading the way as Leeds City Council received the EC's coveted EMAS award in April 2002. Holding the flag is also Cllr. Brian Walker (far right)

Editorial note: This article has also been published in the Newsletter 1/5 of EMAS - Peer Review for Cities - project, May 2003.



Environmental Management and Bristol City Council

By Steven Ransom

Many organisations in the Bristol area are increasingly under commercial and public pressure to show their commitment to environmental improvement. Since 1998, Bristol City Council has made a commitment to phase in, a council-wide Environmental Management System (EMS). Some of the many benefits include reduced risk of pollution and waste in addition to improved efficiency, and a better understanding of legislative requirements.

Environmental management complements the existing Council plans as demonstrated by the Council Corporate Plan - Investing for a Sustainable Environment:

'To manage and protect our environmental resources of air, water, land and energy to ensure a healthy future for ourselves, our children and the diversity of wildlife within the city.'

In addition, since 1995, the Council has published *Indicators of Quality of Life in Bristol*, which includes the set of European Common Indicators, and measures trends in quality of life and progress towards a more sustainable city.

Contract Services the first one to implement EMAS

The first part of the council to implement a certificated EMS was Contract Services. They are the Council's in house service provider with operations such as catering, cleaning, construction, transport, printing and grounds maintenance. Contract Services employs over 2,000 people at 19 sites around the city. They achieved certification to ISO14001 in June 2002, and successfully underwent its first surveillance audit early in 2003.

Contract Services was motivated to implement an EMS after a pollution incident in 1999. Although the spill was small, it was clear that pollution prevention and control measures were inadequate. The EMS takes a structured approach to controlling this type of environmental risk and ensuring continual improvement.

Some of the benefits gained by Contract Services have been:

- Improved emergency response procedures and spill control equipment
- Better understanding of and compliance

with legal requirements

- Replacement of old oil tanks with new bunded tanks or mains gas
- Reduced waste disposal costs

Example: £70,000 saving through better management of green waste alone

- Increased use of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) accredited timber
- Improved recycling at Contract Services sites

EMAS effects from housing to environmental health

The implementation of EMAS in Department of Neighbourhood & Housing Services (N&HS) started in January 2003. EMAS will deliver all the benefits of ISO14001, plus public accountability through the Environmental Statement.

N&HS employs over 1,500 staff, and is responsible for the health, safety and quality of life for people in Bristol. Their services include maintenance and improvement of 31,400 council homes and domestic waste collection together with highway maintenance and environmental health.

N&HS were motivated to implement an EMS to help them achieve their specific objectives to improve energy efficiency of housing and also waste and recycling performance. It is anticipated that N&HS will achieve verification to the EMAS standard by June 2004.

New EMS Software

Experience in implementing EMS in Contract Services suggested that poor access to information could reduce staff enthusiasm. Envoy™ is a web-based application, provided by Entropy International and BT



Composting of green waste at Contract Services (Grounds Maintenance) has allowed a £70,000 per annum saving in landfill charges.

Consulting, providing the several advantages over paper-based systems. These include for example User-friendliness as all forms are pre-designed on the web site, and Easier document control and Secure access to EMS from any web enabled PC. Other benefits include Simplified auditing (auditors and regulators can be given remote access), Modular integration with quality and health & safety management systems, and Versatility of data monitoring.

UK Central Government have sponsored the use of Envoy™ in Local Authorities after successfully using it to implement ISO14001 themselves.

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Eco-Lighthouse Program Is Important Part of LA 21 Work in Kristiansand

By Øystein Holvik

The Eco-lighthouse programme, made for small and medium-sized businesses, has made an important contribution to the Local Agenda 21 work in the municipality of Kristiansand, Norway. In 2000, the program became also a national one, and many Norwegian municipalities and Norwegian businesses have benefited from it since. It has become an important contribution to how we create more sustainable business in Kristiansand, and has helped us to establish a dialogue between businesses and the municipality.

The "Eco-Lighthouse" concept was born in 1996, when Kristiansand was selected along with six other municipalities to participate in "Sustainable Communities", a Norwegian Local Agenda 21 pilot program. Kristiansand started out by offering a deal to nine firms representing branches as diverse as a hotel, a housepainter, an ice-cream factory, and a wood products company, to mention a few. The city would pay a consultant to do an eco-audit of the firms, and to draw up a three-year plan for reducing their resource consumption and environmental load in co-operation with workers and management. Focus would also be set on work environment. In return, the firms undertook not only to carry out the plan, but also to disseminate their experiences to other firms in the same business. Based on the audits, criteria for local environmental certification schemes - specific to the kinds of businesses involved - were also worked out. The original "lighthouse" firms became eligible for certification once the first measures in the consultant's plans had been carried out.

The scheme has since been expanded to encompass 55 branches, and some 124 firms have been certified in the Kristiansand region alone (April 2003). Nationally, 465 firms have been certified (March 2003). Kristiansand was early encouraged to sell its know-how as an "Eco-lighthouse" package to other municipalities, and

more than 175 have bought it. This success has made the Norwegian Ministry of Environment adapt the concept as a national program aimed at small and middle-sized firms. From January 2000, the Ministry granted money to run a National Eco-lighthouse Office in Kristiansand, and initiated a national board with representatives from industry and public organisations.

The Eco-lighthouse project has given us a way of getting a dialogue with small and medium-sized businesses in Kristiansand. We invite the businesses to different Local Agenda 21 arenas. The businesses are doing their own steps towards a more sustainable future, and they are participating in the municipal process of sustainability. In this way, we are building an alliance between different local stakeholders (businesses, voluntary organisations and the municipality). I'm always happy to see the joy the businesses experience in this project. They find clever ways of solving environmental problems, they take pride in being part of an eco-lighthouse program (e.g. in their marketing) and the experiences influence also their private life leading to a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

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What is the substance in the Eco-lighthouse programme - How are the businesses working with environmental issues?

When entering the Eco-Lighthouse Programme, the management at each company initiate a working group consisting of key persons and employees with a special interest in environmental issues. The group may comprise three to five persons in addition to the consultant who acts as a secretary. In every company, one person must be given responsibility for the environmental work.

The environmental group first agrees on which subjects are interesting for an environmental analysis. Common subjects for the analysis include work environment, waste reduction and waste treatment / sorting materials. Also use/consumption - demands on suppliers, energy consumption and water consumption are included in the analysis in addition to internal information, and transportation.



The companies participating in Eco-Lighthouse program received a certification after successfully carrying out the plans for reducing resource consumption and environmental load. The companies also disseminated their experiences to other firms in the same business.

Better Indoor Environment is Increasingly Important

By Catharina Öhman

The indoor environment is an important aspect of quality and environmental work at Studentbostäder i Sundsvall AB (StuBo), a company that provides accommodation for students. This is also in line with the political guidelines for public health work adopted by the City of Sundsvall. The guidelines clearly establish that the environments of children and young people are to be given priority.

With a clientele consisting exclusively of young people this focus on the indoor environment is precisely what is needed. It is among children and young people that the greatest problems with allergies exist.

-For our part, it is important to be able to offer good student housing for all of our students. This is why the quality of the indoor environment is an important aspect of StuBo's image. We want to demonstrate that all students are welcome to live with us. Clearly, this also contributes to reinforcing Sundsvall's reputation as a good place to study, says Åke Norberg, managing director of StuBo.

The integrated operating system, that StuBo works with, encompasses, in addition to allergy issues, matters related to the environment quality, public health satisfaction plus disability and work environment questions. Another important issue that StuBo works intensively with, and that to some extent is linked to allergy efforts, is the environmental certification of new and renovated premises. Over the past year, StuBo has developed a method for assessing the quality and environmental commitment of suppliers and business partners.

Commitment from the suppliers and business partners

The selected business partners are called to regular supplier meetings where quality and environmental questions are discussed. StuBo's goal is to promote the development of better materials and working methods by increasing the level of un-

derstanding among its business partners and continually raising the level of ambition.

-Our business partners are not only expected to perform the service in question. They are also expected to actively contribute knowledge about the best materials and methods and to monitor developments within their sphere of expertise, according to Åke Norberg.

Nearly third of adults are allergic

Studies show that about 30% of the adult population in Sweden today display some form of allergic complaint. Allergic complaints are still greatest among children and young people. Therefore, StuBo decided to make a serious effort to address the situation by starting a half-day training course for StuBo employees and an allergy survey of the company's buildings. StuBo now has 20 hypoallergenic student apartments.

Consideration and understanding from the surrounding world are key factors with respect to allergies. Consideration shown by neighbours and others can make daily life much easier for those suffering from allergic complaints.

With this in mind, StuBo conducted an information campaign during the autumn



of 2001. The aim was to increase understanding and, at the same time, provide practical tips on how to behave in a more appropriate manner.

-This was a way to inspire our tenants to bear their share of responsibility for the creation of sound living conditions, from an allergy and environmental perspective, for all of our tenants, explains Åke Norberg.

-We expect that our business partners understand and accept our point of view and that they actively participate in our efforts to achieve sustainable development, he concludes.

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- ... it is important to be able to offer good student housing for all of our students. This is why the quality of the indoor environment is an important aspect of StuBo's image. We want to demonstrate that all students are welcome to live with us, says Åke Norberg, Managing Director of StuBo .

We hope you have enjoyed reading this theme edition of BCP Environmental bulletin. The theme for the next bulletin is Sustainable consumption and production with a deadline 31 August 2003. All contributions are welcome.

Rostock Restoring its Forests

By Jörg Harmuth

Rostock is restoring the military used forests to their natural state.

Just outside Rostock lies one of the oldest public forests in the country. The tree and heath filled landscape is one of the last large forests near the German Baltic coast. It is an important part of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's cultural and natural identity as well as an important tourist attraction. As over 13 % of the people from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern live in the area, the communal forest is also a very big recreation factor.

In 1951, all communal forests were taken to the state forest department and later big parts of them into a military forest department. They were cleared and walking areas were blocked off, leaving only a small part accessible to civilians. In 1990, over 50 % of the communal forests were in military use.

Restoration to natural state

In 1993, Rostock regained ownership of the entire 6.000 hectares of communal forests. A year later, restoration of their natural state started. It was not an easy task in a region, which has suffered from high unemployment due to severe struc-

tural changes in the agricultural, maritime and military sectors. Hence, the project needed to address both ecological and economic concerns in order to bring about short and long-time benefits.

In the first phase of the project all traces of military usage were removed. Phase II consisted of reforestation of cleared areas. 30 long-time unemployed people were employed to carry out the work. Several regional firms were hired to finish more specialised tasks such as chemical removal.

So far, 435,000 trees have been planted. Also, drainage systems were developed and 5,000 meters of walking path have been restored. Financing came from the EU KONVER 1 - program, from Rostock Labour Office, the Ministry on Social Affairs of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the Hanseatic City of Rostock.

The results show how a city can manage its forests for the benefit of both present and future generations.

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Concern for Little Birds in Gdynia & Sopot

Concern for little birds leaving cities has activated two Polish cities to start campaigns to get them come back.

An educational campaign on LA 21 called *Let's help little birds come back to Sopot* started by the Society Friends of Sopot, Society Sopot for Environment, and Department of Engineering and Environment Protection, in December 2002. The goal was to create new places for birds to reproduce, and to feed them so that they survive during winter. Manmade birdhouses provide a good simulation for a tree cavity, and so far over 100 birdhouses have already been fitted on the trees.

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A competition *We invite birds to Gdynia* has been organised by the Gdynia City Hall Environment Protection Department for 5 years, and has become a traditional event for all those who are fond of birds. This year, interest in the competition surpassed the organisers' expectations as ca. 300 nesting boxes and bird tables were presented during the competition.

Dominating were boxes for the great tit, sparrow and starling but for the first time, there were boxes for birds like an owl and goldeneye.

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Environmental Education in English Classes in Rezekne

By Agita Nagle

The environment is increasingly becoming a key topic of different media.

This concern is also reflected in schools around the world, where teachers are using environmental theme as a means of linking the classroom to the world.

This is the case also in Rezekne, Latvia.

Ecological education in Secondary school is becoming necessary since environmental problems are the main by-products of today's economically based world. Using English lessons for making pupils aware of environmental issues gives them new knowledge as well as giving them international information.

Teachers find that the environment can serve as a useful and relevant theme for integrating content with language teaching objectives as the themes can be linked practically to every subject. Environmental topics can also serve as a focus for stimulating the development of higher language skills such as critical thinking, group decision-making, and selective reading.

Environmental topics in English classes in a Secondary school, Rezekne Commerce School, started in 2002, and continued this year. Activities and texts of six topics, playing recycling bingo, contract and report on environmentally friendly behaviour, writing of earth poems, reading about business and environment, and making summary on business and environment) were prepared and used.

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City Hall Friendly to Environment

By Adam Kaldunski

The Gdynia City Hall starts to carry out a programme *City Hall friendly to environment – system of waste management* which is addressed to City Hall officers and Gdynia citizens.

The main objective of the project is to create a model system of waste management that is appropriate to implement in other offices, limit waste production, and to popularise waste segregation. The project will be supplemented with introduction of a waste management system that is being created in the city. The system is based on selective waste collection at the source and on a new and ecologically safe waste treatment plant.

The project is carried out based on implementation, monitoring and promotion of a selective waste collection system. In addition, recycled paper usage on a larger scale is going to be introduced in the Gdynia City Hall. Project launch will be supported by information and promotion, of which the objective will be to motivate people to act friendly towards the environment at work as well as at home. This action will also show that city hall officers not only encourage others to separate waste and care for the environment but also participate in the action themselves.

Information and education campaign will be another important element of the programme. The aim is to motivate people to act friendly towards the environment at home and at work.

The programme will be carried out between years 2003-2004. The Program will be financed by Gdynia City Hall and Regional Fund for Water and the Environment in Gdansk.

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The Øresund Region Serves as an Environmental Knowledge Center

By Rune Staehr

During the last few years, the Øresund Region situated on both sides of the strait between Denmark and Sweden, has been through rapid development towards a new and exciting European metropolis where we celebrate values like a human dimension in urban living.

One of the most important aspects in this human dimension is our continuous work towards a cleaner environment and more sustainable development.

Being close to the citizens and being responsible for carrying out environmental policies, the cities have a predominant role in changing unsustainable behavior. Thus, the European cities are key players in developing a sustainable future. However, cities are not yet directly involved in the development of European environmental policies.

In the environmental field we believe that The Øresund Region serves as a knowledge center covering environmental know-how in every field. We owe this

status partly to the fact that the European Environment Agency is located in Copenhagen. Also, the environmental knowledge gathered in the World Health Organization, WHO, and in public and private institutions and enterprises is supporting this position. Copenhagen and the Øresund Region are prepared to take on the responsibility of gathering environmental know-how and to promote exchange of experience.

Through the Committee of the Regions, we have often asked for a more direct involvement of the cities in European policy-making. We believe that this is especially important when we look at the challenges ahead. In Copenhagen and the rest of the Øresund Region, we have chosen to put action behind policy development in fields like waste handling, organic city development and of course sustainable energy.

And if you go to the Øresund Region these days you can witness the huge windmill park just outside our harbor – evidence of our true commitment to sustainable development.

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Walking and Cycling in Salo Region

By Sanna Salminen

In February 2003, the City of Salo started a project which promotes walking and cycling in the region. The project lasts for 2003-2004, and it is co-financed by the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communication under a project 'By foot' (*Jaloin*).

The project is run by a 'walking and cycling agent' who's post is first of its kind in Finland and whose concrete tasks will be clarified while doing them.

The region consists of 11 municipalities with a varying-sized population. That's why, the needs of the municipalities vary a lot. So, in addition to developing the quality and quantity of walking and cycling, finding out the possibilities of regional co-operation is one of the most important tasks.

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EcoProcura 2003

By Kirsten Wolfrath

On 8-10th September 2003, Göteborg will be hosting the EcoProcura conference, organised by the ICLEI Eco-Procurement Programme (EPP).

EcoProcura conferences, held every two years, bring together purchasers, suppliers, decision-makers and regulators operating in the public sector throughout Europe, to present the latest developments in the field of eco-procurement or green purchasing. They furthermore provide a unique opportunity to share experiences with colleagues from around the continent and meet environment-focused suppliers.

Eco-procurement entails the inclusion of environmental considerations in public purchasing activities. It is increasingly being recognised as a key tool in the promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Public authorities spend a huge amount of money on the purchase of goods and services each year (approx. Eur 1,000,000,000 each year in the EU, equivalent to roughly 14% of EU GDP). If action can be co-ordinated across Europe this represents a significant opportunity for exercising leverage on the market, and developing the necessary demand for "greener" products and services.

"Mainstreaming Eco-Procurement in Europe", aims to encourage the widespread acceptance of eco-procurement as an important tool for promoting environmentally sustainable development. The recent EU clarification on a number of legal issues relating to public procurement have provided a welcome boost for efforts in this direction, and the remaining obstacles are marginal.

Topics covered include practical issues such as the organisation of procurement, product-specific experiences and the supply of eco-products, the latest innovative developments of products or services, as well as experiences in the less-active regions of Europe. Among others, the Vice-President of Ford Europe, Mr. Wolfgang Schneider, is already confirmed as a keynote speaker.

More information:
www.iclei.org/ecoprocura/events
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Agenda 21 at the International Gardening Exhibition in Rostock



The Hanseatic City of Rostock has the honour of hosting an ecological world fair, the International Gardening Exhibition, from April 25th to October 12th 2003. Also Rostock Agenda 21 Pavillion is represented in this international horticultural event held annually world-wide.

The International horticultural exhibition gives a good opportunity to show the global dimension of our actions and at the same time to draw to the local possibilities for acting in the direction of sustainable development. That is why, the Agenda 21 office of Rostock and other local protagonists present the local and regional agenda 21-network and different projects. The Union of the Baltic Cities gives a short overview in a form of a poster of their Agenda 21-network of the Baltic Region.

With different offers like green classroom, public agenda 21-forums, days with topics about water, housing, feeding or One world we want to achieve many visitors with their different interests. Pupils are going to paint the outside walls of the pavilion according to their own ideas.

The Gardens of the Nations are the highlight of every international horticultural fair. In Rostock, 22 nations will present their typical gardens, in traditional or modern style. Art in the IGA park underlines the architectural landscape design of the grounds, but also shows some natural areas. Every piece of art emphasises the very specific flair of its environment by means of its characteristic features.

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Anna and Sanna Join the EnvCom Team

Anna Granberg

My work as a Project Co-ordinator for the TBestC project started in February 2003. Apart from starting up and co-ordinating the TBestC project, I'm working with the UBC Best Environmental Practice Award 2003 and other Best Practice work like the strategy and the Baltic Urban University Forum project BUF.

Previously I've been working for five years with the City of Malmö in different sustainability projects. I have a master degree in Political Science from University of Umeå. In my free time I like to cook, grow organic vegetables and read.

In the EnvCom we work 100% in English, but I would still like to learn some more Finnish to enjoy daily life in Turku with my Finnish boy-friend.

Sanna Erkkö

My master's thesis was on eco-efficiency reporting, with a special emphasis on EMAS companies. Environmental management systems and sustainability indicators are topics that most interest me.

During the spring I have been part of the team preparing for several project proposals, and have also helped to organise UBC events both in Turku and abroad. Currently I work with the planning of new projects and financial management.

Apart from the work, I spend my time practising karate and photography. I also have a husband and a turtle to take care of.

We both look forward to good co-operation with you!



UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat

Network is a 'net' that 'works'. Partnerships are invaluable and best solutions can best be learnt from others. In the work of the UBC such practical co-operation has always been essential.

In the UBC, our Agenda 21 work is a joint initiative of 105 cities and other partners. The fora for joint work of these cities, their representatives and other partners, are the UBC Commission on Environment and the Agenda 21 Working Group. They are open to participation of all member cities, and also many partner organisations are regularly present at the meetings.

You are most welcome to join! Two meetings are organised every year. It is in these meetings that you are also most likely to find partners for your own initiatives, or use the opportunity to join projects in the pipeline!



Meetings in the seminar room are usually accompanied by on-site excursions. Here is a group of TBESTC project participants visiting the new open air museum just outside Kaunas, May 2003.



The secretariat staff currently consist of a team of five professionals working fulltime for the UBC. They are Head of Secretariat Mr. Risto Veivo (left), Publications Officer Mrs. Sari Bowie, Project Co-ordinator Ms. Anna Granberg (middle), Project Officer Mrs. Sanna Erko and Project Co-ordinator Mrs. Tea Nõmmann (right).

In addition to meeting, we organise several Environment and Agenda 21 workshops and seminars every year, as well as publish the Baltic Cities Environmental Bulletin and website. The bulletin offers you an excellent forum to publicise your activities and initiatives on environment and sustainable development. If you have an idea for a story, just contact us!

We are here for you. The UBC Environment and Agenda 21 Secretariat is the co-ordination and service unit for the environmental and Agenda 21 work of the UBC. It runs the services for the cities: organises meetings and policy work, prepares documents and publications, as well as initiates and runs projects.



Mikko



Guldbrand

The EnvCom Co-chairs are currently Mr. Mikko Jokinen from Turku, Finland and Mr. Guldbrand Skjönberg from Nacka, Sweden. In his every-day work, Mr. Jokinen is Environmental Director of City of Turku and Mr. Skjönberg is Manager to the Boards in the City of Nacka.

The UBC EnvCom and Agenda 21 webpages are continuously updated. There you can find acute and general information on the activities. You can also check the Documents & Publications page for publications and reports in pdf-format. These include for example the Local Agenda 21 Good Practice Review for city leadership. If you have any questions, ideas or comments regarding our services, please, never hesitate to contact us!





The Best Environmental Practise in Baltic Cities Award 2003

UBC has the honour to invite its member cities to participate in the Baltic Cities Environmental Award 2003.

The intention of the Award is to encourage the Baltic Sea Region cities to develop their administration and services in an innovative way for the good of the whole municipality and its citizens.

The themes

Since the theme of the General Conference is

The Baltic Sea Wave - Business Development in the New Europe

we would be delighted to get applications also embracing local businesses in some way.

Special emphasis of the Environmental Award will be put on the themes: • **Air Quality** • **Bio-diversity** • **Energy** • **Environmental health** • **Information & Education** •

The Award

The Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award 2003 will be given as an honorary award (diploma and grant of 5000 Euro) to one of the UBC member cities. The grant is kindly donated by the Danish company, Per Aarsleff A/S.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
IS 1 SEPTEMBER 2003.**



The Ceremony

The ceremony will take place on the occasion of the VII UBC General Conference "The Baltic Sea Wave - Business Development in the New Europe" in Klaipeda, Lithuania, on 17-19 October 2003.

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Air Quality



Bio-diversity



Energy



Environmental
health



Information &
Education

www.ubc.net/commissions/environment.html