



# Union of the Baltic Cities - Sustainable Cities Commission

“Make it possible together”

Esther

**UBC**

UNION  
OF THE BALTIC  
CITIES

SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
COMMISSION

Esther Kreutz, Project Manager

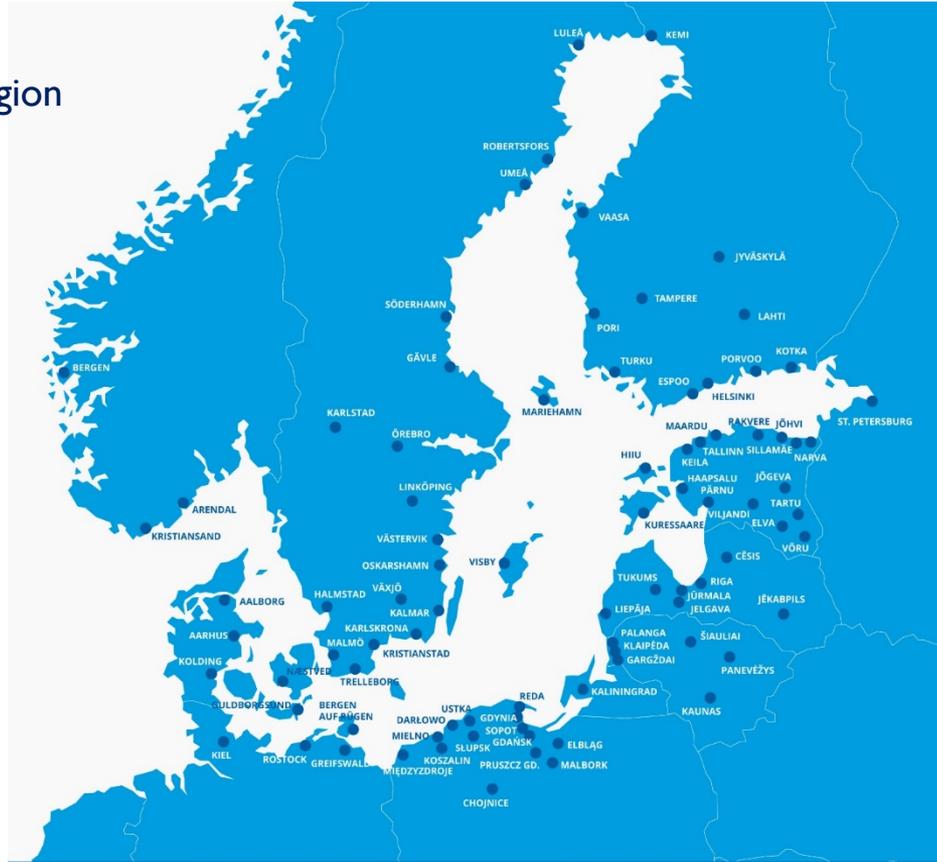
# Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) - City Network

- Established in 1991 by 32 cities
- Today appr. 90 member cities in
- 10 countries around the Baltic Sea Region
- Secretariat based in Gdansk, Poland

## 7 Commissions:

- Cultural Cities
- Inclusive and Healthy Cities
- Planning Cities
- Safe Cities
- Smart and Prospering Cities
- Sustainable Cities
- Youthful Cities

[www.ubc.net](http://www.ubc.net)



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# UBC Sustainable Cities Commission



- UBC SCC operates since **1997**
- hosted by the **City of Turku**
- International team of 15 professionals

## More information:

<http://www.ubc-sustainable.net>

## Focus areas:

- Sustainability management
- Local climate work
- Water management  
(waste water, storm water)
- Sustainable urban mobility  
and planning
- Maritime policies

# Current running projects



**Waste water management:**  
**Sustainable urban mobility:**  
**Smart Urban planning:**  
**Resource efficiency:**

IWAMA, iWater  
ECCENTRIC, SUMP<sub>s</sub>-UP  
Baltic Urban Lab, Skanssi, Carpe Essence  
Ecobudgeting



# UBC SCC roles and activities

## Communication / Exchange of information

Web page, updated email list  
Publications: Bulletin, newsletter, Social media etc.  
Commission meetings and Video conference facility

## Running projects

Preparation of project applications  
Coordination of projects in the name of UBC  
Participation in projects in the name of UBC

## Events

Arrangement of Conference, workshops and meetings

## Benchmarking

Arrange benchmarking events  
Surveys and questionnaires

## Training

Arrangement of training, General training or tailor made

## Consultation

Arrangement of Consultation on request of UBC member cities

## Policy activities

Policy liaison and sector related statements, National, EUSBSR, EU and Global

7.4.2017

# UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016–2021

## Stairway towards Sustainable Baltic Cities

*The UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016-2021 is the guiding document for the whole network of the UBC, contributing to the development of a smart and sustainable Baltic Sea Region. The programme gives a strategic direction to which topics we work with towards our vision for the UBC cities in the future. Creating a smart and sustainable Baltic Sea Region is a common and cross-sector effort.*

*The UBC Sustainability Action programme 2016-2021 – Stairway towards Sustainable Baltic Cities will be adopted by the XIII UBC General Conference in October 2015 in Gdynia, Poland.*

## Our vision for Sustainable UBC cities until 2020 and beyond

*“UBC cities will be climate-smart, providing a good ground for green economy to grow, while being resource-efficient and sustainable in all their activities as well as protecting the environment and waterbodies in the Baltic Sea Region. They will increasingly be known as global forerunners when it comes to creating inclusive, diverse, democratic, gender equal, high quality living environment for their inhabitants.”*

# Baltic Cities – sustainable and smart

## Green Urban economies

- *Provide favourable, green and efficient infrastructure; suitable place for green and clean tech business*
- *Integrates sustainability aspects in all business activities, green procurement, energy-efficient buildings*
- *Effective leadership and governance models*
- *Circular economy concept*
- *Industrial symbiosis*
- *Sharing economy*

# Baltic Cities – sustainable and smart

## **Climate –smart cities**

*Take climate change aspects into consideration in their entire decision-making*

*→Urban planning, mobility planning, energy related actions, buildings etc.*

*→Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and using renewable energy resources*

*→UBC cities have ambitious goals in becoming carbon neutral cities between 2040-2050*

*Our goal:*

*To make the UBC cities climate change leaders in Europe and globally, to initiate and implement climate smart urban development (incl. climate smart-sustainable districts, mobility models, energy efficient transport – building-planning)*

# Baltic Cities – sustainable and smart

## ***Baltic Sea and its catchment area***

- *Baltic Sea as connecting element : transport route, source for fish and seafood, leisure and wellbeing, tourism and source for water*
- *Integrated water management*
- *Smart planning in water issues*
- *Concept: from waste to resource -> sludge handling*
- *Storm water management and coastal zone management*



# Baltic Cities – sustainable and smart

## ***Sustainable Urban Ecosystems and Natural Resources***

- *Clean and safe environment , resource-efficiency*
- *Better urban planning through integrated management approach*
- *Green urban areas*
- *Increasing biodiversity*
- *Integrated urban planning of urban brownfields*



# Policy cooperation in the region

## Strategic Partnerships and Co-operation

- CBSS/Baltic 21
- Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).
- Involvement in EUSBSR implementation

## New EU Funding period 2014–2020

international cross-border cooperation

- engaging more cities in the operative activities.
- implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy → transformation of the EU towards a sustainable economy and promote a transition to a low carbon society.

# Smart cities and communities

Sustainable development of urban areas is a **challenge of key importance**  
new, efficient, and user-friendly technologies and services, in particular in the areas of energy, transport  
and ICT are required  
solutions need **integrated approaches**, in research and development of advanced technological  
solutions AND in implementation

## What is a smart city?

A city which has set the goal to overcome the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century ( climate change, shortage  
of resources etc.)  
long-term, and holistic strategy  
strives for a high quality of life for citizens  
Save resources through innovations  
Not hesitant to new solutions and innovative actions  
Acting cross-sectoral  
Including a wide range of actors incl. businesses and reseach

# European Innovation Partnership Smart cities & Communities

- Initiative by the European Commission - “Supporting smarter European cities: better quality of life, growth, jobs and decarbonisation”
- integrates the ICT, energy and transport sector to achieve better mobility, cleaner urban environment, energy efficiency
- innovative solutions to tackle issues such as congestion, air pollution, high energy costs
- collaborative actions (new business models, financing arrangements), new strategies and tools to increase citizen engagement, new strategies and tools for integrated planning and decision-making

## Areas of work:

- open data, urban mobility, business models, finance & procurement, integrated transport, energy and communication networks, energy efficiency and low carbon solutions

# Smart and sustainable city districts

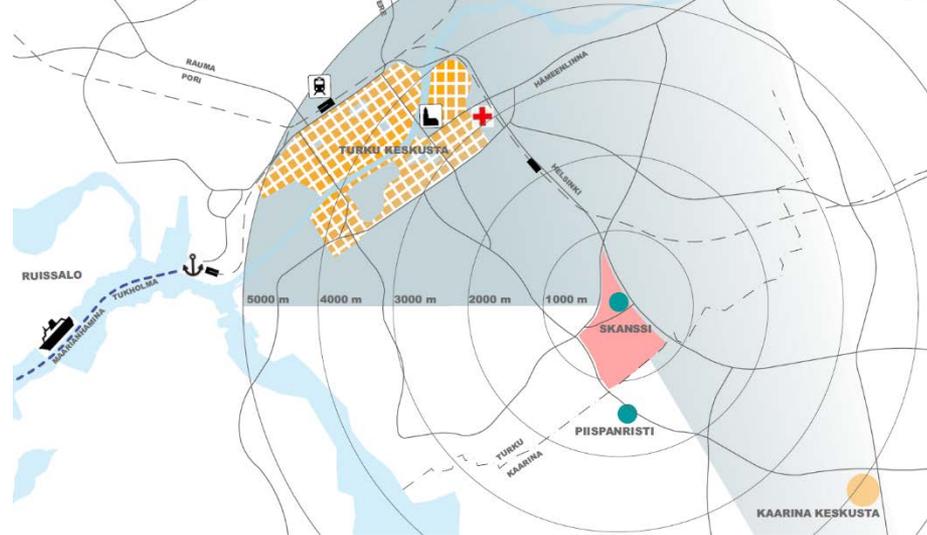


## Example: SKANSSI in Turku





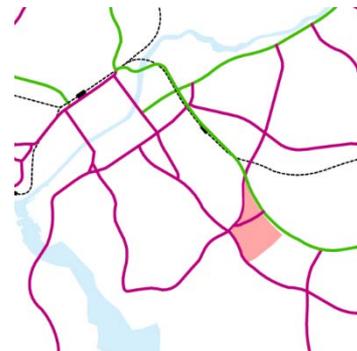
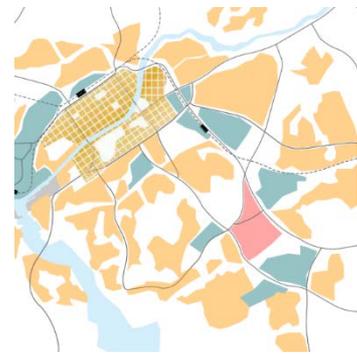
## SKANSSI AREA



- 85 hectares
- 4 kilometres to the city center
- Aiming for 5.000 – 8.000 inhabitants in year 2030
- Attractions
  - Skanssi shopping center
  - Landscape and scenery, trekking routes
  - Good traffic-connections to Turku and Helsinki
  - Walking and biking routes

# SKANSSI 10 THEMES

1. A smart built environment, developing electrical services
2. Environmentally friendly transport solutions ( public transport, electromobility, car& bike sharing)
3. Smart regional energy solutions
4. Construction planning: experimental planning, construction materials
5. Working and services in the area
6. Water management as part of the city structure (storm water and ground water)
7. Emphasizing recreation areas, per cent for art – principle for environmental building
8. A versatile city structure
9. Developing waste management / new waste management solutions
10. Active economic approach in city planning



# Outlook – Smart sustainable Baltic Sea Region Cities

- Smart sustainable urban development → district development, re-use of brownfields
- Increasing implementation of concepts of circular economy and resource-efficiency on the local level
- Continuing work for climate-smart cities → low carbon/carbon neutral cities
- Science-practice dialogue → putting scientific finds and facts to action
- UBC as a facilitator in regional and EU-wide cooperation

# THANK YOU!

[www.ubc-sustainable.net](http://www.ubc-sustainable.net)

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