

20 years of regional cooperation!

Experiences from Union of Baltic Cities



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Union of the Baltic Cities UBC Founded 1991 in Gdansk
Poland by 32 cities. Today 106 member cities

Union of the Baltic Cities; A co-operation and policy actor, also implementing projects



General Secretariat in Gdansk, Poland

President and 3 vice-presidents

Executive board, 2 - 3 meeting / year

13 thematic commissions;

Commissions on Business, Culture, Education, Energy, Environment, Gender equality, Info society, Social & Health, Sport, Transport, Tourism, Urban Planning, Youth Issues

UBC member cities

14 Estonian cities, 8 Latvian cities, 8 Lithuanian cities, 12 Polish Cities, 7 German cities, 9 Danish cities, 2 Norwegian cities, 25 Swedish cities, 14 Finnish cities, 7 Russian cities



The Baltic Sea Region in 2010

Long tradition of cooperation, enormous changes during last 20 years

Now an integrated region, 8/10 EU members

But still an East – West arena

And a region in front of new challenges



Our task.

Build an efficient sustainable cities / region



Our challenges are;

Geographic and Economic concentration

Efficient energy production availability

Environmental concerns & Climate change

Sustainable Traffic and transport

Aging population and Migration

Improve the State of the Baltic Sea

Global economic crisis



... all important and demanding for our cities striving to be more efficient and attractive in the global competition

The challenges tie us together and gives us the agenda to work on.

Our working methods, approaches in practise



Main tools:

Projects addressing *Climate Change, Sustainable Ports, Urban Rural development, Phosphorous removal from urban wastewater plants and Sustainable Transport Systems*

Co-operation and **external networking** with authorities, **Internal networking** and exchange of expertise and info (meetings/workshops, bulletin, website)

Involvement in the **European policy making**

Continuing evaluation via Surveys:

1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009

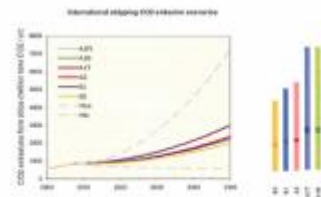
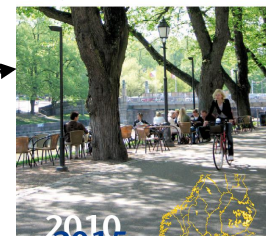


Figure 1-2 – Trajectories of the emissions from international shipping. Columns on the right-hand side indicate the range of results for the scenarios within individual families of scenarios.

UBC Commission on Environment



Multi-national 17 person team speaking “BALTIC ENGLISH”
Generously hosted by the City of Turku, Finland

www.ubc-environment.net www.ubcwheel.eu





The City of Turku

City of Turku



Located on the south-western coast of Finland.

The oldest city in Finland, 780th anniversary in 2009.

Population of Turku economic region 300 000.



The state of the Baltic Sea



Eutrophication is regarded as being the greatest and most serious threat to the Baltic Sea.

Eutrophication is mainly due to high nutrient loading coming from the drainage basin, which is approximately four times the size of the surface area of the Baltic Sea. (14 countries and approx. 100 million residents in the drainage basin)

The Gulf of Finland is the most eutrophicated area, and it will not be able to withstand its current nutrient loading, which is three times greater than that of other areas of the Baltic Sea.



Factors affecting the state of the Baltic Sea

Baltic Sea is being burdened most by the nutrient loadings and hazardous substances that have entered and are entering the sea, and also the greatly increased amount of shipping.

Eutrophication is caused by human activities, such as community wastewater, agriculture, scattered settlements, traffic, energy production and industry.

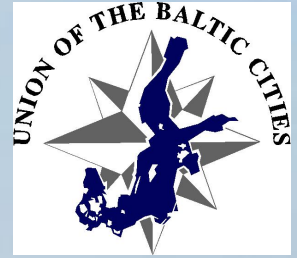
New treats



The latest major threats to the Baltic Sea are the increased oil and chemical transportation, gas pipelines, environmental toxins, invasive alien species, and global climate change.

In the Gulf of Finland, the overall amount of ship traffic is estimated to be 160 million tons by year 2010, and about half of it would be oil transportations.

Actions by the city of Turku -



Reducing point source load.

Improve the cities sewage networks

Prepare an urban storm water handling plan.

Modernize the sewage network and minimize wastewater overflows.

Encourage real estate owners to direct drainage and rainwater from their properties into the urban storm water sewers.

Reducing diffuse pollution



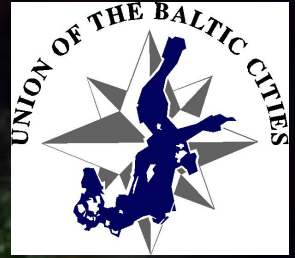
Reducing loading from agriculture.

Agricultural areas owned by the cities to be changed to model areas in water protection actions.

Using the direct sowing method, reduce fertilizer use, calculate nutrient levels for different sections of the fields, use of wide unfertilized and uncultivated protection zones.

Aim is to end the cultivation of erosion and flooding sensitive land.

Reducing diffuse pollution



Reduction of wastewater emissions from scattered settlement.

Extending the sewage network to areas that are most important in terms of water protection.

The city will encourage the establishment of wastewater consortiums in scattered settlement areas.

By 2010, the city will improve the wastewater treatment systems in real estates owned by the cities in the scattered settlement areas.

Dredging -contaminated sediment

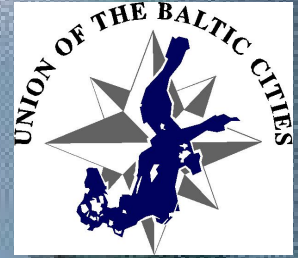


Dredging to remediate the areas of worst pollution by organic compounds or other hazardous substances.

Dredging activities focus on those areas that have the risk of spreading substances to clean or already cleaned Areas.

In Finland cities work in cooperation with other cities and actors to establish treatment and disposal areas for contaminated sediment and to develop new treatment methods.

Reducing wastewater discharges from shipping



Change the harbour due fees so that a wastewater charge is automatically included in the vessel waste fee.

Arrange discharge points at the docking berths.

Create better preconditions for vessels in regular operation to use shore to ship electricity in harbours.



International cooperation

**City of Turku support international
Environmental projects and actions focusing
on improving the state of the Baltic Sea.**

**One of the most important ways of concretizing
this has been via active involvement in Union
of the Baltic Cities.**

Our Challenge,



**Concerned about the state of the Baltic Sea and its future
Commit ourselves to actions improving the state of the
Baltic Sea**

**The city of Turku wish to show an example to others for saving
the Baltic Sea for future generations.**

Thank you for your attention

