

XIV UBC General Conference

LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

Cities as Leaders for Glocal Sustainable Development

VÄXJÖ, SWEDEN, 24-27 OCTOBER 2017



Photo: Mats Samuelsson



Photo: Piotr Manasterski



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www.vaxjo.se/ubc

Photo: Mats Samuelsson



UBC | UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES

Växjö kommun
The Greenest City in Europe

WELCOME TO THE XIV UBC GENERAL CONFERENCE

Leadership Needed – in Cities and in Europe!



We live in challenging times, which require that cities stand up and show leadership!

The UBC General Conference in Växjö, celebrating our 25th Anniversary and achievements, is the natural forum to seek effective solutions to common challenges, such as climate, jobs, growth, integration and security.

In our region and member cities we have a tremendous wealth of experience and good examples of how we can listen to and engage our citizens, develop solutions to everyday problems and challenges of tomorrow. There is so much we can learn from each other!

The Växjö Conference is about leadership: How cities are pioneering in various fields of life, such as promoting digital start-up ecosystems, preventing youth marginalization and fighting climate change.

Or how to solve the rising demand for investment in physical, digital and social infrastructure to support growth and sustainable development. And how to find and nurture the “Jedi knights”, leaders needed to drive the transformation?

But we, as cities and regions, have a wider responsibility: to engage in shaping and building Europe of tomorrow. Europe based on trust and democratic values, where the voice of ordinary citizens is heard and taken into account.

We need now international cooperation more than ever! And UBC, as the leading city network in Northern Europe, is the natural platform for cooperation and exchange. Our “hands-on” working style seeks practical solutions, not only beautiful words.

Therefore, we call upon our member cities, Mayors and other city leaders, all our friends and partners to join in the UBC General Conference and 25th Anniversary in Växjö, the “Greenest City in Europe”.

See you in Växjö!

Per Bødker Andersen
President, Union of the Baltic Cities

Welcome from Lord Mayor of Växjö



Växjö is honoured that the XIV UBC General Conference will be hosted by our city in October 2017, having the theme “Leadership for the Future – Cities as Leaders for Glocal Sustainable Development”. We believe that this theme is well chosen to lift the increased importance of cities as drivers for sustainable development and well-fitting this year when the UBC celebrates 25 years’ anniversary.

Under this theme we will be able to stage important discussions in all the thematic areas of the UBC and reflect on how the UBC can help to facilitate the roles of cities as leaders into the future. We shall look forward to a conference which will be inspirational, interactive and have strong youth involvement.

Mayors and local leaders are part of the solution for an open and sustainable Baltic Sea Region, and we as leaders must use our local power for a positive development of the entire region. Our mission goes beyond our city borders.

Växjö invites you to come and share a few days with us in the “Greenest City in Europe” and let you know why we are called just that. Our intention is to show Växjö from its best side. During the days here you will have a chance to experience some Swedish hospitality and have a chance to learn of some good practises from our fast growing city, where we have succeeded to combine high ambitions environmental agenda with a strong economic growth in a fast growing city.

I welcome you to Växjö and hope you will have a few really interesting days.

Bo Frank
Lord Mayor of Växjö

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24 October

Arrival of participants

13.00–15.00	Meetings of UBC Commissions and Task Forces
15.00–15.30	Coffee and mingle
15.30–18.00	Interactive parallel thematic meetings
17.00	Meeting of the UBC Executive Board
19.00	Welcome reception

Wednesday 25 October

Moderator: Alan AtKisson

08.30–09.30	Registration and parallel briefing for youth project
09.30–12.30	Interactive parallel thematic meetings
12.00–13.30	Mayors' lunch Keynote on importance of participation of Mayors and political representatives in regional Baltic Sea cooperation and UBC activities.
12.30–13.30	Lunch for participants
13.30–15.00	Plenary Session 1: UBC 25th Anniversary Session A festive session devoted to the achievements of the UBC in the service of its cities and the region, as well as to the central role of cities in promoting European values and cooperation. Adoption of a pledge/appeal
15.00–15.30	Coffee and mingle
15.30–17.30	Plenary Session 2: Leadership for the Future – Cities as Leaders for Glocal Sustainable Development Key note speeches on leadership by cities in various fields of life by invited experts and Mayors/city representatives. Interaction with the participants.
18.15	Departure by buses to Kosta for "Hyttsill"

Thursday 26 October

08.15	Drafting committee/Executive Board meeting
09.00–10.00	Plenary Session 3: Listening to the Voices of Tomorrow Dialogue with the youth participants, based on their proposals and views. Especially participation of Mayors/political representatives of special importance.
10.00–10.30	Coffee and mingle
11.00–13.00	General Assembly Open to all but interventions/voting only by authorized Member City participants.
13.00–14.00	Lunch First constituent meeting of the new UBC Executive Board for the period of 2017–2019.
14.00–16.00	Interactive parallel thematic meetings
16.00–17.15	Concluding Plenary Session Including short reports from the thematic meetings, concluding words by the UBC President.
19.00–23.30	Dinner Party and Youth Party

Friday 27 October

09.00–12.00	Study visits arranged by Växjö Municipality.
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Departure of participants

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Per Bødker Andersen
President of UBC

Bo Frank
Lord Mayor, Växjö Municipality

Lena Ek
Senior Advisor,
Sustainable Seas Foundation
Former Minister of Environment,
Sweden

Paweł Adamowicz
Mayor, City of Gdańsk

Anne Stenros (tbc)
Design Director, City of Helsinki

Alessandro Cenderello
Managing Partner for EU Institutions,
Ernst & Young

Jørgen Kristiansen
Deputy Mayor, Kristiansand Municipality

Wolfgang Röttgers
Councillor, City of Kiel

Rasa Šnapštienė
Deputy Mayor, City of Kaunas

Pärtel-Peeter Pere
CEO, Tendensor

Jyrki Myllyvirta
Mayor, City of Lahti

Gunārs Anšihš
Deputy Mayor, City of Liepāja

Alan AtKisson
Author and
Senior Sustainability Consultant,
AtKisson Group

TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Växjö can be reached either by road, air and/or train or by ferry connection between the cities of Gdynia (through Karlskrona) and Klaipėda (through Karlshamn). Karlskrona and Växjö are connected by a train route. Karlshamn and Växjö are connected by a bus route (www.lanstrafikenkron.se/en).

Växjö airport (<http://smalandairport.se/?lang=en>) has connections to Stockholm and to a few other European airports (including Gdańsk). For visitors arriving through Stockholm, there is a train connection with frequent departures, with Swedish Railroads (SJ) (www.sj.se/en/home.html#/). Many visitors to Växjö choose to arrive through Copenhagen and take a direct train (on the Kalmar route) to Växjö, which departs regularly.

While in Växjö, most hotels are located within walking distance from the railway station. Visitors are kindly asked to find their own way to the hotels. Taxis are available at the railway station.

REGISTRATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Host city

Växjö Municipality
Västra Esplanaden 18
P.O. Box 1222
SE-351 12 VÄXJÖ

Website (UBC General Conference): www.vaxjo.se/ubc
Phone: +46 (0)470 411 37
Fax: +46 (0)470 415 80
E-mail: bo.hjalmeffjord@vaxjo.se (issues of general nature)
Website: www.vaxjo.se

Logistical arrangements and practical information

Växjö & Co
E-mail: josefine@vaxjo-co.se
Website: www.vaxjo-co.se

Conference venue

Växjö konserthus / Växjö concert hall
Västra Esplanaden 10-14
SE-352 31 VÄXJÖ

Phone: +46 (0)470 70 22 00
E-mail: vaxjokonserthus@elite.se
Website: <http://vaxjokonserthus.se>



YOUTH CONFERENCE

The UBC Youth Conference will be organized simultaneously with the UBC General Conference, which features a strong involvement of the Baltic Sea Region youth representatives.



WELCOME TO THE GREENEST CITY IN EUROPE

Welcome to Växjö – a green expansive city with a renowned environmental policy and a growth rate comparable to Sweden’s major cities.

Växjö is an exciting combination of idyllic small town, university town and centre of entertainment – a strong regional centre in the middle of the south of Sweden.

You could say that Växjö is in bloom at the moment. Businesses, the arenas, the university, our environmental work and above all the city's energy and ambitious spirit are all growing fast.

We hope you want to come and join us!

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