



Seminar

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ADAPTION

EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES

Great Amber Concert Hall in Liepāja, Chamber Hall (Kamerzāle)

22 September 2016, 14.30-17.30.

The Climate Changes and Our Cities

Climate changes leave their marks all over the world and have an immense impact on our cities and living conditions. The Baltic Sea Region is especially sensitive to climate change as large parts of the population are situated in cities in the coastal areas. Climate change can cause direct impact on water bodies and drinking water supply. Sea level rise as well as changing frequency and magnitude of floods demand adaptations in cities and regions located along the Baltic coast.

Simultaneously, local governments have to accommodate the existing structures within transportation, energy, and water infrastructure. For many cities, climate changes have also translated into economic costs regarding public safety, energy supply, food security and emergency management. However the new conditions might as well provide unforeseen possibilities when city planners and local governments are finding ways to mitigate and adapt to sustainable responses and renewable energies.

This renewal of city structures in term of construction of the urban spaces as well as the role of the citizen and business require an ongoing engagement and information sharing among all partners involved. Hence, the climate challenge is also chance for finding holistic solutions that can improve urban liveability and local democracy. It is chance that should not be missed.

The Baltic Sea Region has an extensive network of organization and partnerships, including sister cities and Union of Baltic Cities, which provide useful links to exchange of best practice and knowledge on adaptation strategies and city planning.

In cooperation with the think tank 'Greenhouse of ideas' created by Liepāja municipality, the Danish Embassy in cooperation with the Danish Cultural Institute in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

invite local businesses and city planners to a seminar on urban sustainability and climate adaptation in Liepaja and in Danish cities and towns and has the pleasure to present the following speakers:

John Brædder, Mayor of Guldborgsund, gives an opening address. Guldborgsund is a twin city of Liepaja and also situated along the Baltic Sea, sharing many of the same considerations for the future development at the municipal level.

Niels-Peter Mohr, Head of Strategic Planning, will present the strategic choices, which the Danish Municipality of Aarhus has decided to take in the face of climate changes and climate adaptations. Niels-Peter Mohr is also Chairman of Planning Cities commission of the Union of Baltic Cities.

Søren Møller Christensen, founder and co-owner of the consultancy company CarlbergChristensen will talk about how to approach and design the strategies, which take into consideration the city structure, and architectural design as well as involvement of the citizens.

Mārtiņš Ābols, Head of the Development Department, Liepaja Municipality, will present the development plans of Liepaja Municipality and the impact of the climate changes on the urban sustainable planning in Liepaja.

Māra Zeltiņa, Dr. Biol., Vice-rector Liepaja University will also talk about the sustainable solutions of Liepaja's city planning.

Ilze Prūse, Director of Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, will introduce the problem of global climate change and climate change in Latvia as well as share information about latest developments in Latvia with regard to resilient and low carbon development.

Jonas Büchel, urbanist, urban curator and community worker, freelancing social worker and cultural manager. Jonas Büchel sees climate change as a chance for introducing new concepts in urban development triggering local economic and social development.

Vilis Brūveris, freelance moderator and project consultant, youth organisation "Next", Aizpute youth centre "Idea House" and Aizpute Business Incubator, will be moderator of the seminar and panel discussion.

Simultaneous interpretation provided into Latvian and English.

Agenda

Opening remarks by:

Gunārs Anšiš, First Vice Mayor of Liepāja

H.E. Hans Brask, Ambassador of Denmark in Latvia

John Brædder, Mayor of Guldborgsund, Denmark

SESSION 1 14.45 -15.45

Local and regional challenges of climate changes in Baltic Sea Region's cities and towns as well as suggested and implemented sustainable solutions.

Ilze Prūse, Director of Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development

Niels-Peter Mohr, Chairman of the UBC Planning Cities Commission, Aarhus Municipality

Mārtiņš Ābols, Head of the Development Department, Liepāja Municipality

Māra Zeltiņa, Dr. Biol., Study Pro-rector Liepāja University

COFFEE-BREAK 15.45 – 16.00

SESSION 2 16.00 – 16.45

The present developments in the field of urban sustainability in Denmark and Latvia. How architecture, local and global business as well as social life in BSR cities adapt to the climate changes we face today. How and when can we benefit?

Søren Møller Christensen, Architect and City Planner, Copenhagen

Jonas Büchel, Riga Urban Institute

PANEL DISCUSSION 16.45 – 17.30

Future sustainable urban development of Liepāja and other BSR cities. What should be the next first/steps?

Panel Discussion with all experts. Questions from the audience

Moderated by Vilis Brūveris.

18.00 Opening of the exhibition “Copenhagen Solutions”, Hall Civita Nova (6th floor)

Opening by the Ambassador of Denmark H.E. Hans Brask. The opening followed by a glass of wine.