



30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022

**Kick off meeting: BALTICITIES  
– Urban cooperation of the Baltic Sea  
countries for the protection of the marine  
environment**

*Kai Myrberg: BALTICITIES project makes a difference*

*Tove Holm and Milla Stenström: Experiences from networking – The Baltic Sea Challenge*

**Experiences from networking from various  
coastal cities in the project area:**

*Stella Shaumyan, City of Tallinn, Estonia*

*Diana Stendzeniece, City of Liepaja, Latvia*

*Jūratė Sokolova, City of Klaipeda and Ingrida Borisenko, City of Palanga, Lithuania*

Urban cooperation of the Baltic Sea countries for  
the protection of the marine environment

# **BALTICITIES project makes a difference**

Kai Myrberg, Mika Raateoja, Eija  
Rantajärvi, Ljudmila Vesikko  
Project kick-off meeting 30.11.2022



# BALTICITIES in a nutshell

- ✓ Environmental networking and communication project
- ✓ Timeline 8/2022 - 3/2024
- ✓ Funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- ✓ Countries included: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania
- ✓ Cities committed so far: Helsinki, Klaipeda, Kotka, Liepaja, Palanga, Riga, Tallinn, Turku
- ✓ Other cities welcome!

# The grand idea

An active **Baltic cities' Environment Network** to promote....

- ... dialog and information exchange between NGOs, municipalities, companies, scientists, and citizens.*
- ... environmental awareness-raising to influence local actors.*
- ... involving young people in marine environment protection.*
- ... spreading best practices on addressing topical sustainability issues.*
- ... cooperation synergies within / across Baltic and Finnish coastal cities for joint practical projects.*

# What makes the difference?

A new approach: a viewpoint of coastal resident

- The look on coastal area outside cities and municipalities.

The key factor: local people's increased understanding of the value of the sea and threats related

- When people have to opportunity to contribute to the health of their local waters, they may change the everyday consumption habits.

# First impressions – "Baltic Tour 2022"

- The project is certainly needed – science and marine governance do not properly communicate with local people
  - Environmental networks involving active citizens have the ability to do this.
- At the moment there are no such networks that deliver information by arranging events and creating dialog between stakeholders
  - There is true interest in building this kind of network.

# EVENTS 2023



- Research Vessel Aranda's open doors in Klaipeda, Liepaja, and Tallinn, June 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>
- The Baltic Sea Day, Aug 31<sup>st</sup>
- Baltic Sea camps for young people
- Clean beach – campaigns
- Numerous local events

**Thank you!**



**THE BALTIC SEA  
CHALLENGE**

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



**Helsinki**

[www.hel.fi](http://www.hel.fi)



**TURKU  
ÅBO**

[www.turku.fi](http://www.turku.fi)



# Experiences from networking

The Baltic Sea Challenge

*Tove Holm, City of Turku & Milla Stenström, City of Helsinki*



# *A clean, productive and shared Baltic Sea*

**Initiative started in 2007 by the Mayors of Helsinki and Turku**

- **Concern of the status of the Baltic Sea**
- **Healthy waters = competitiveness and welfare for the cities**
- **Vision: A clean, productive and shared Baltic Sea.**

**Joint Baltic Sea Action Plan of the cities (2008-2013, 2014-2018, 2019-2023)**

**Currently working on next action plan 2024-2028**

# The Baltic Sea Challenge network

**Action at the local level is key: A network of approx. 300 partners share knowledge and support to act at local level to protect the Baltic Sea.**

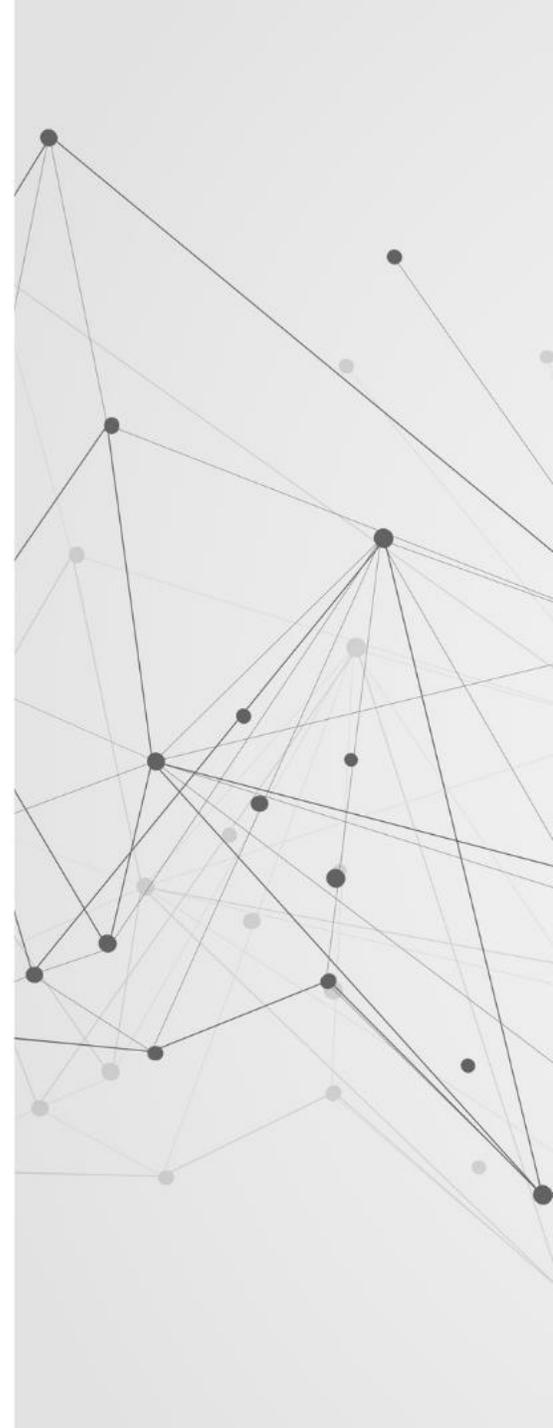
- etc. cities, companies, research institutions and NGOs
- Networking events, common bank of actions, communication materials

**Voluntary environmental protection actions, i.e. exceed legal requirements**

# The Baltic Sea Challenge network

## How to build a lasting network?

- **facilitating meetings between passionate actors**



# The Baltic Sea Challenge network

## City of Helsinki

The capital of Finland, vibrant seaside city on the coast of the Baltic Sea

Water areas cover 70% of the total area of the City; 300 islands

1.2 million inhabitants in the metropolitan area

- Working with educators (Baltic Sea Camp)



# The Baltic Sea Challenge network

## City of Turku

The former capital of Finland

Located in the region of Southwest Finland

One of Finland's biggest cities

Surrounded by beautiful archipelago

- Working with 28 stakeholders on the Baltic Sea Day



# Participating stakeholders for developing the next Action Plan

**SESSION 7** Monday, 11 July 2022  
Virtual 8:30 – 10:15 (EDT) [bit.ly/2022SDGsLearning](https://bit.ly/2022SDGsLearning) #HLPF

**Human rights education, global citizenship and transformative methods to accelerate sustainable development and resilient recovery**

- Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York
- The Millennials Movement
- The Baltic Sea Challenge
- The Nordic Network for Sustainable Development at the Nordic Network for Adult Learning (NVL)
- The Danish Institute for Human Rights



Photo by Sotose Images on Getty Images Signature

**SPECIAL EVENTS** **SDGs LEARNING** **United Nations** Department of Economic and Social Affairs **unitar** United Nations Institute for Training and Research



**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**EUSBSR Annual Forum 2022:  
PUTTING PLANS INTO PRACTICE**  
- a prosperous, connected and green Baltic Sea Region  
**28.-29.9.2022 in Lappeenranta, Finland**

**Interreg** Baltic Sea Region **EUROPEAN UNION** EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

**annualforum2022.eu**



# Adaptive networking

Minna Arve, Mayor of the City of Turku, opened the seminar.



Anni Sinnemäki, Deputy Mayor of the City of Helsinki, presented greetings from the City of Helsinki.



Online seminar on February 11th, 2021:  
A clean, productive and shared Baltic Sea – regional and local actions for a sustainable future



Kansalaisten aktivointi ja osallistaminen  
webinaari maanantaina 26.4  
klo 13.00- 14.30.



Teemasta: kansalaisten osallistaminen  
yleisötapahtumiin kertoo Tove Holm,  
Itämerihaasteen koordinaattori, Turun kaupungista



Mitä kaupungit ja kunnat tekevät  
lähivesiensä ja Itämeren hyväksi?  
Webinaari tiistaina 24.11. 2020. klo 13-14.  
Katso tallenne ja esitykset



Mukana: Hamina,  
Vantaa ja Tampere



# Thank you!

Tove Holm, City of Turku

tove.holm@turku.fi

Milla Stenström, City of Helsinki

milla.stenstrom@hel.fi



## Social media



<http://www.itamerihaaste.net/>



@TheBalticSeaChallenge  
@Itamerihaaste



@balticseachallenge



@BSC\_network



Itämerihaaste

An aerial photograph of Tallinn, Estonia, showing a mix of modern glass skyscrapers and older, multi-story buildings. The city is densely packed with buildings, and there are visible roads and parking areas. The sky is hazy, suggesting a misty or overcast day. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

# Experiences from networking – City of Tallinn

*Stella Shaumyan, City of Tallinn, Estonia*



**Tallinn**



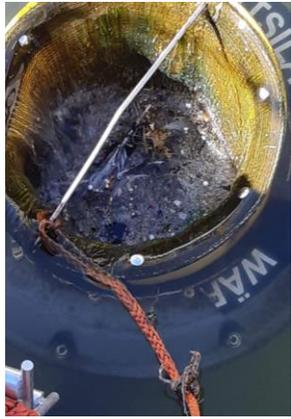
## Cooperation between Tallinn City and coastal cities of the Baltic Sea

- Baltic Sea Challenge - Cities for a Healthier Sea (2007-2012)
- THE BLASTIC PROJECT (2016-2018)
- PROJECT HEAWATER (2018-2021)
- Currently applying for funding for project CB MUSTBE

# Seabin Project

- Seabin is an international project that started in 2014 in Australia.
- Seabin project in Tallinn was sponsored by Wärtsilä Corporation.
- Seabin, in-water marine litter collector, was installed for the first time in Estonia by the Old Port of Tallinn in 2020.
- Kindergarten children participated in educational programs.
- Tallinn City Urban Environment and Public Works Department was analyzing the collected waste and made the report to Wärtsilä.
- Project ended in Tallinn in 2021.





We take part in the Baltic Sea Day 25 August 2022 – join us!

**25.8.2022**

[www.balticseaday.fi](http://www.balticseaday.fi)

**BALTIC SEA  
DAY**

- The Baltic Sea Day, launched by the John Nurminen Foundation in 2020, is an annual day of celebration in honour of the sea.
- The Baltic Sea Day is celebrated every year on the last Thursday of August.
- In Estonia, the organization of the Baltic Sea Day is coordinated by the Finnish Institute and the Embassy of Finland.

- Tallinn celebrated the 2022 Baltic Sea Day with a seminar and panel discussion.
- Oil spill response vessel M/S Saukko was open to the public.
- Baltic Sea Day information tents at Noblessner Marina
  - Finnish Embassy: Pop-Up Embassy /Circular Economy Exhibition “Greener Choices”.
  - Ministry of the Environment of Estonia: ABC of Green Fisherman
- Exhibition of the poetry competition „My sea, the Baltic Sea“.
- Beach clean up at Stroomi beach.

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**BALTIC SEA  
DAY**



 Tallinn

**LÄÄNEMERE  
PÄEV**



# Beach Clean-up Day



The first beach clean-up in cooperation with Helsinki took place in 2012.



Since then, City of Tallinn have organized international beach clean-ups with other coastal cities- Helsinki, Turku, St. Petersburg.



What next?

## **TALLINN - EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL 2023**

One of the Flagship projects - **WORLD CLEAN UP DAY – LET'S MAKE THE BALTIC SEA CLEANER TOGETHER**

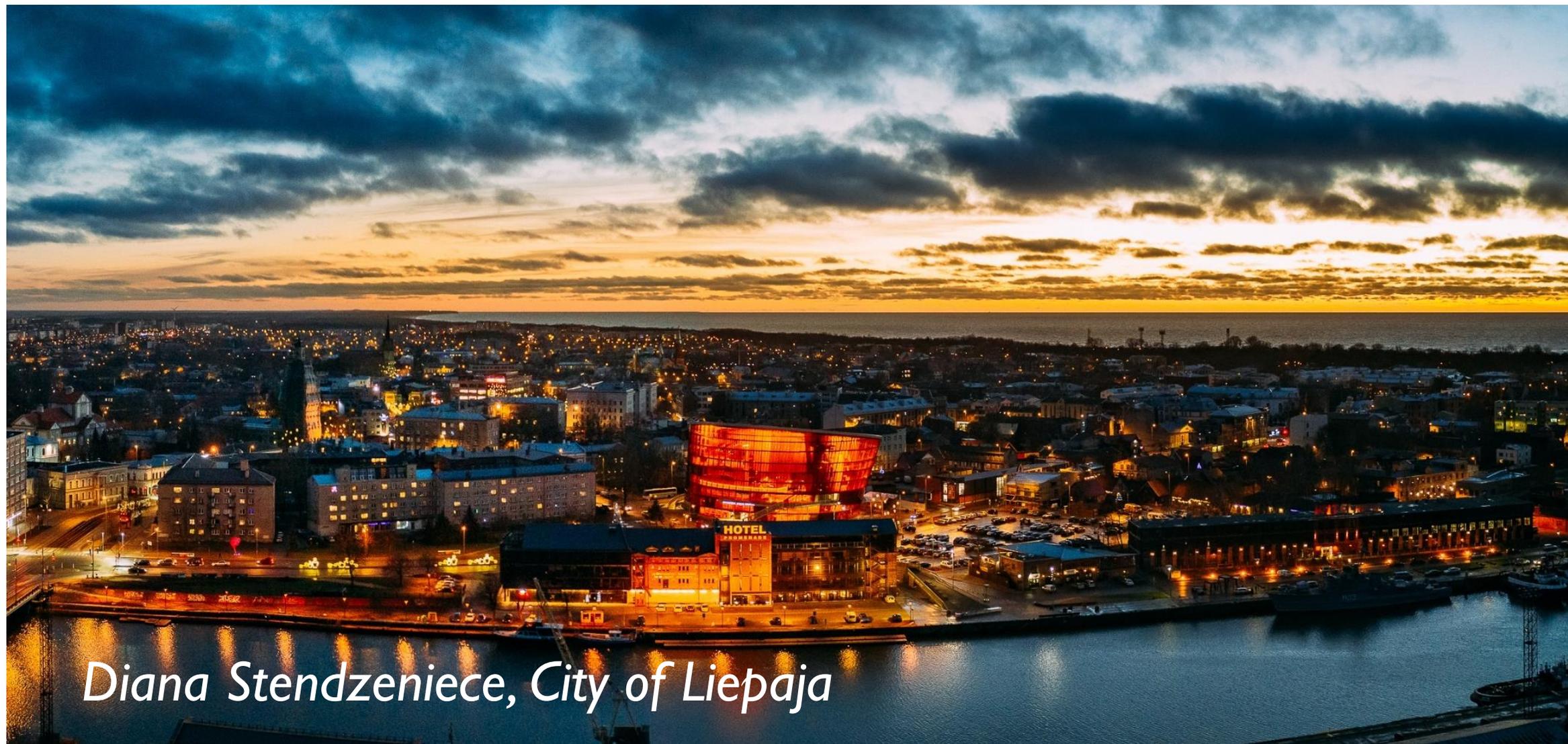
**31. august 2023 - 16. september 2023 - INTERNATIONAL BALTIC SEA SMALL-LITTER CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN**

[WWW.GREENTALLINN.EU](http://WWW.GREENTALLINN.EU)

Thank You!



Stella Shaumyan



*Diana Stendzeniece, City of Liepāja*

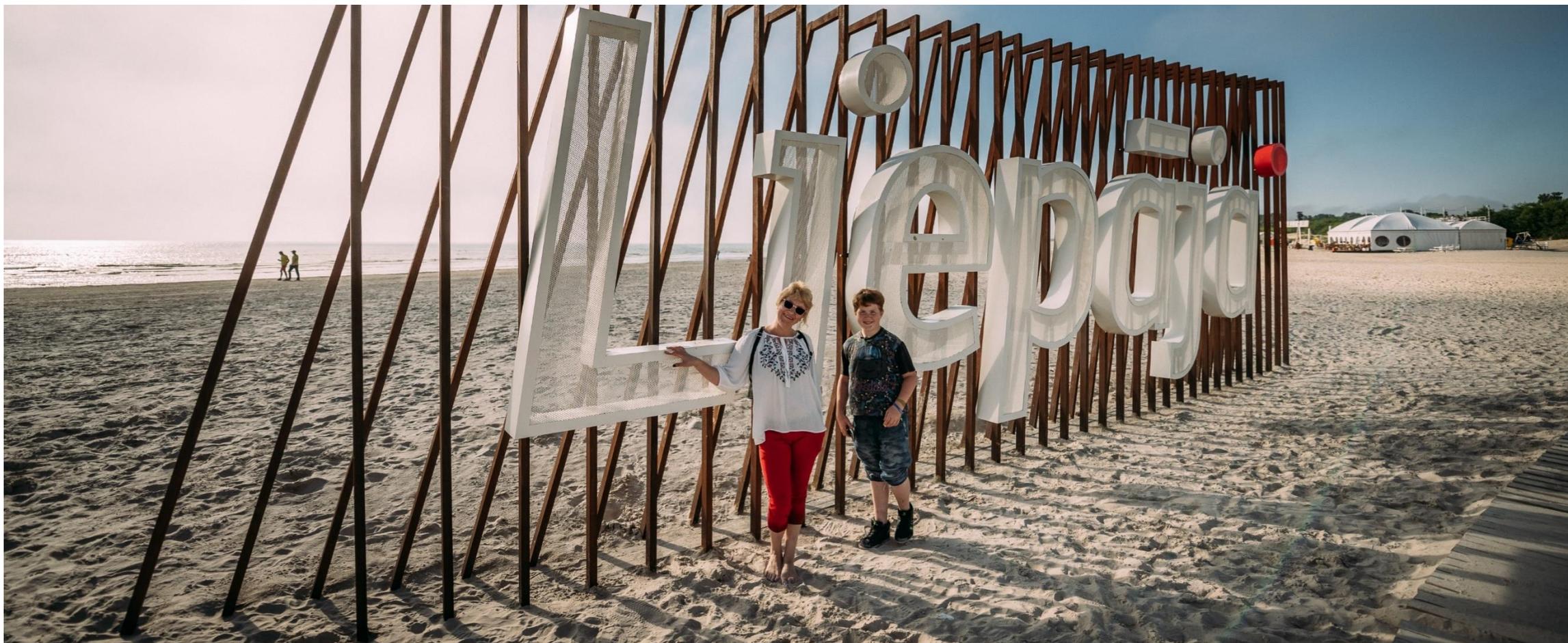
**Liepāja** 



Location on the map

**Liepāja** ·

- Liepaja is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Latvia and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the Baltic States
- ~ 68 thous. population in the city
- Liepāja Special Economic Zone - 65% of the city territory
- Wide educational opportunities: 8 higher education institutions and branches, 21 kindergartens, 12 comprehensive schools, 5 children's sports schools, etc.
- Diverse sports life: 5 outdoor stadiums, Olympic Centre, tennis hall, ice rink, athletics arena, 3 swimming pools, etc.
- **Liepaja - a modern city that combines a global outlook with a comfort of a small town.**



Blue Flag beach with the finest sand in the region



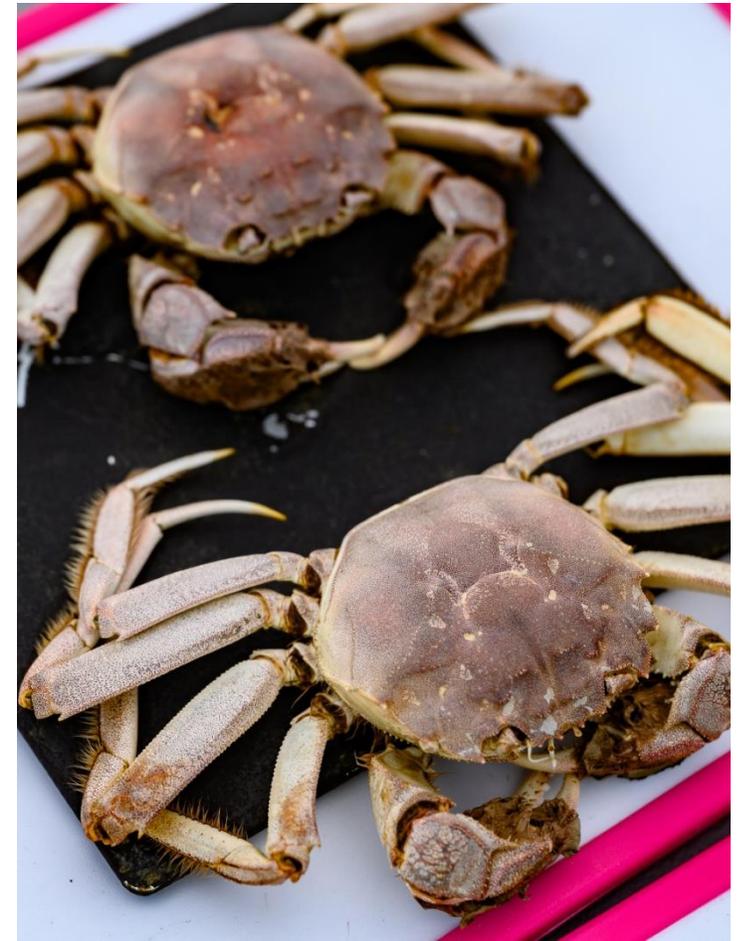
Nature trails and bird-watching towers



Nature House and Science and Education Innovation Centre



Environment education





Environment education



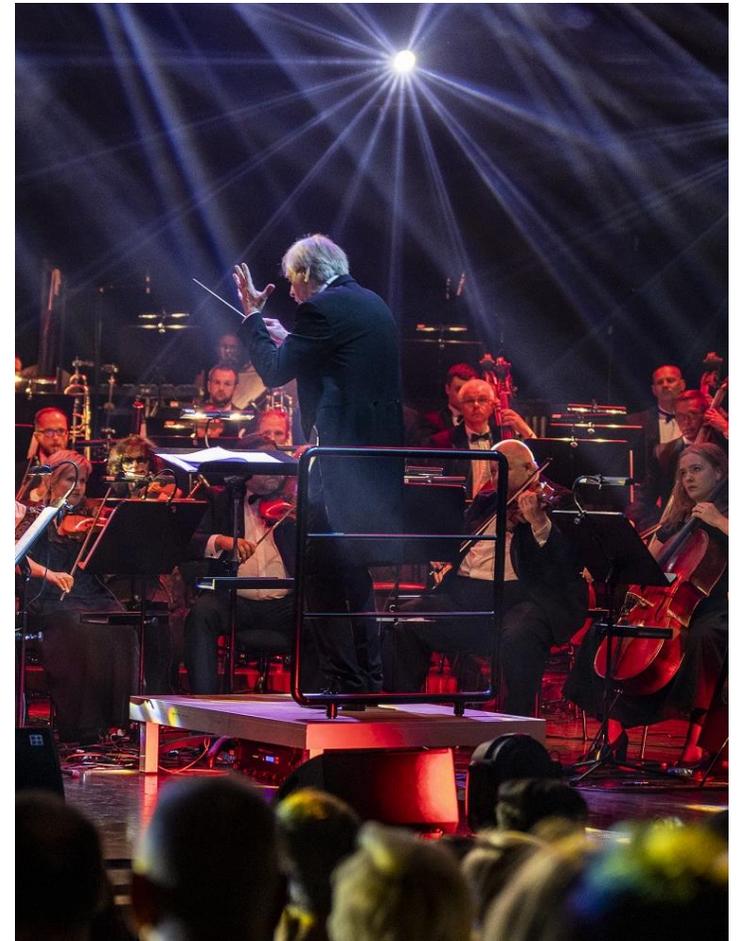


NetZero Cities. Climate - neutral and smart city 2030

**Liepāja**



Art and Culture





Liepāja will be the European Capital of Culture 2027

**Liepāja** <sup>•</sup>

**Thank you!**

**diana.stendzeniece@liepaja.lv**

Helsinki, 2022

# NETWORKING/COOPERATION EXPERIENCES IN KLAIPEDA CITY MUNICIPALITY

*Jūratė Sokolova, City of Klaipeda*

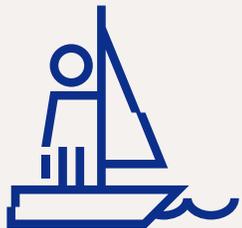
# How it works?..



**The international friendship between cities**  
based on friendliness and aspects of cultural exchange



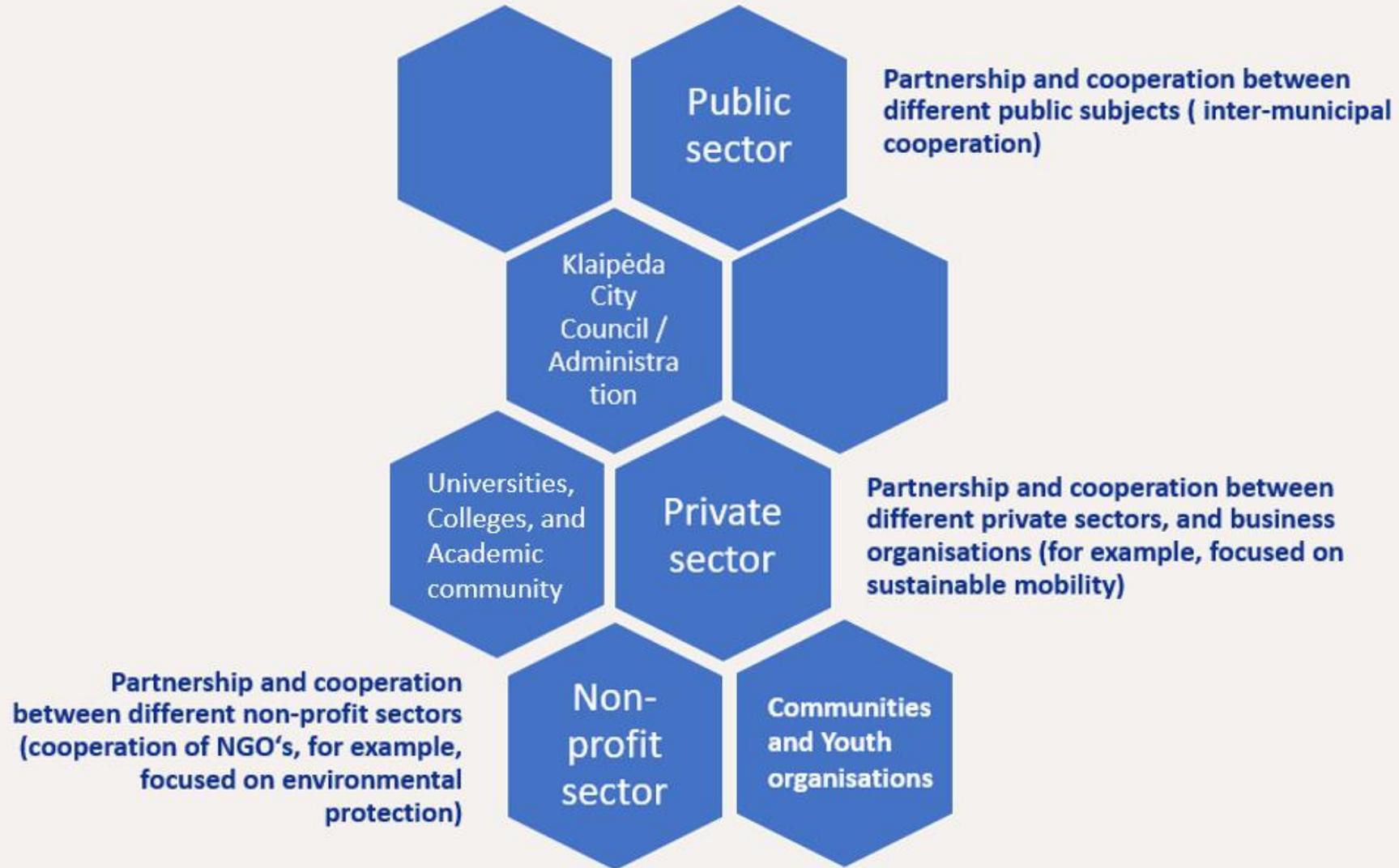
**Exchange of human resources**  
cooperation is based on the exchange of learning and human resources and providing information



**Economic cooperation**  
based on city development and trade cooperation



# Who is involved in the process?



# Factors of effective networking



Building strong partnerships based on trust, collaboration, commitment, flexibility, and a shared approach to risk



Clear arrangement of tasks, goals, plans in the strategic plan



Favorable state and city policies



The municipality's commitment to cooperation and the Council's support



Active community involvement, business sector support in decision-making process



Reliable and constantly evolving communication



Careful selection of partners and project team to achieve set goals



Knowledge and skills influencing successful cooperation



Continuous evaluation and improvement of the contract and partnership process





Development of communities, environment and infrastructure involved in the process



Introducing citizens to ongoing processes and their active participation



Encouraging partners to share information about current problems and their solutions

# Contribution of cooperation



Thank you!