

EUSBSR ANNUAL FORUM 2024

Sustainability • Resilience • Security



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FOR THE BALTIC
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CITY OF GDYNIA
CITY PLANNING OFFICE

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PLANNING CITIES
COMMISSION

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

TOWARDS MORE LIVEABLE CITIES

PAULINA SZEWCZYK, CHAIR OF THE UBC PLANNING COMMISSION, GDYNIA, POLAND

Seminar

Designing Liveable Cities in the Baltic Sea Region



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
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RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Liveability

UBC Planning Cities Commission

- operating since 1998
- Led by the **city of Gdynia, Poland since 2018.**
- The **network of professional planners around the Baltic Sea Region**
- Supporting city servants in their work of building **high quality of life, economically strong, resilient, sustainable cities**
- Promoting intreaction and cooperation between Baltic Sea cities and towns **in the field of urban planning and construction in practice**



UBC Planning Cities Steering Group 2023-2025



PLANNING CITIES
COMMISSION



Gdynia, Poland

Paulina Szewczyk

Chairperson

Deputy Director of City Planning Office

p.szewczyk@bpp.gdynia.pl



Visby, Sweden

Frida Brunner

Vice chairperson

Head of the Strategic Planning Unit

frida.brunner@gotland.se



Riga, Latvia

Irbe Karule

Deputy Head of Local Planning and
Detailed Planning Division

Irbe.Karule@riga.lv



Turku, Finland

Björn Grönholm

Director strategic projects

bjorn.gronholm@turku.fi

ANNUAL MEETINGS - SEMINAR & WORKSHOP



Anna-Leena Jokitalo
Urban Planning Architect, City of Turku

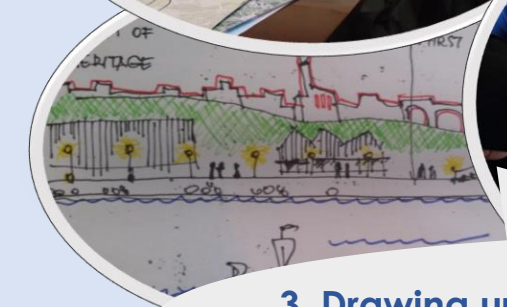
1. Introduction to the host city & inspiring lectures



2. Visit to the workshop area



"I think these events are excellent places to exchange experiences and knowledge, I hope that every city that is present in this event gets to bring something home. At least we in Turku are happy that there are so many people working for our areas" – Elina Rantanen, Deputy Mayor of Turku and the 1st Vice-President of UBC about Planning & Sustainable Cities Commission Joint Seminar held Turku 13-15 September 2023

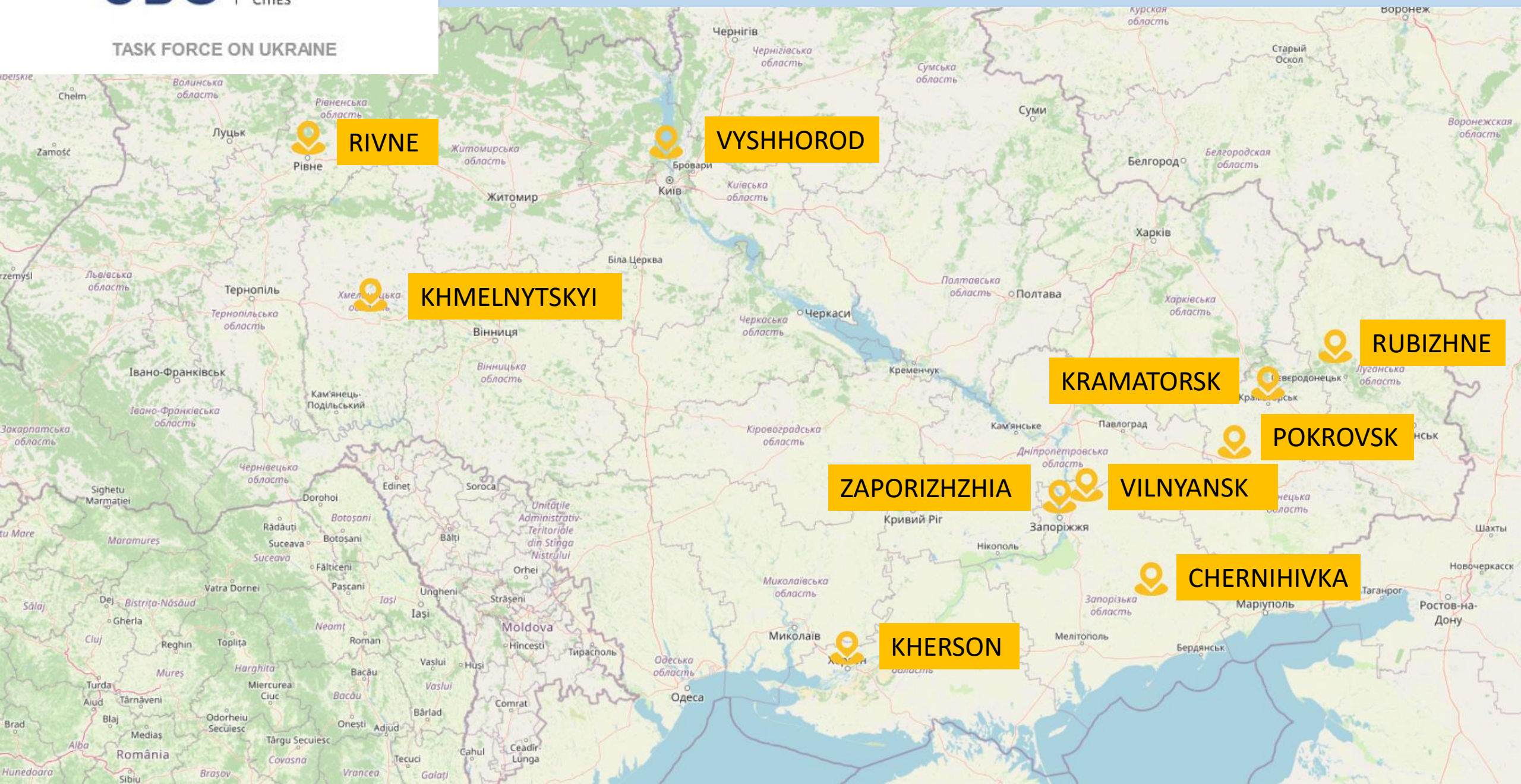


3. Drawing urban concepts, brainstorming, sketches, preparing final presentation



4. Presenting the results

**Aim: „to establish and sustain communication alliances
between UBC and Ukrainian Associated Cities”**



Other UBC PCC activities



PLANNING CITIES
COMMISSION

UBC PLANNING CITIES COMMISSION ENERGETIC ENERGY ON-LINE MEETING

15 DECEMBER 2022

10:00-11:30 CET
11:00-12:30 EET

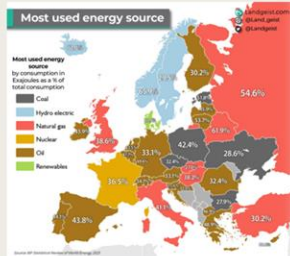
ENERGY



Differences in the energy mix – different goals

Example: electricity production 2022 - according to sources

- Sweden
 - Conventional power (coal, gas, other) - 8,9 %
 - Renewable (water, wind, other) - 60,9 %
 - Nuclear power - 30,2 %
- Poland
 - Conventional power (coal, gas, other) - 81,7 %
 - Renewable (water, wind, other) - 18,3 %
 - Nuclear power - 0 %



<https://www.ecn.europa.eu/energy-statistics/statistics-by-subject/energy/energy-mix-and-use/monthly-electricity-statistics-including-switches-of-electricity-supply-providers-and-grid-electricity-supply/>
<https://www.gdymia.pl/en/planowanie-i-rozwoj/energetyka/energetyka-i-energetyka-w-gdyni/>

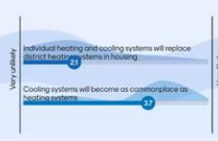


Comprehensive planning + internal guidelines

- Relation to:
- Urban areas
 - Villages
 - Cultural heritage
 - Landscape
 - Costal zone
 - Geological interest
 - Nature
 - Bio diversity corridors
 - Agriculture
- Design:
- Surrounding hedgerows
 - Internal passages
 - Public access
 - More biodiversity
- Local gates
- Public participation



Until 2040, in cities in the Baltic Sea Region...



PLANNING CITIES
COMMISSION



SUSTAINABLE CITIES
COMMISSION



UBC TALKS webinar Revitalising urban space

Tuesday 30 May 2023
09.30-11.00 CEST / 10.30-12.00 EEST

[Event page](#) | [Registration](#)

The webinar is organised in preparation to the UBC Sustainable & Planning Cities Commissions meeting in September 2023 in Turku and will present several city cases on revitalizing urban spaces in UBC cities.

09.30-09.35 CEST	Welcome to the webinar
09.35-09.45	Introduction UBC Sustainable and Planning Cities Commission
09.45-10.00	Waterfront for people – revitalizing areas with potential in Turku Anna-Leena Jokinen, Urban planning architect, City of Turku
10.00-10.15	Gdynia Sea City. Revitalising the waterfront in Gdynia Paulina Szewczyk, Deputy Director of the City Planning Office, City of Gdynia & UBC Planning Cities Commission Chair-person
10.15-10.30	Riga Street Design Manual Evelina Ozola, Chief Designer, City of Riga
10.30-10.45	Social sustainability as structuring pillar for urban development in Umeå Harry Bertilsson, Head of Urban Planning Unit, City of Umeå
10.45-11.00	Invitation and take-up messages for the meeting in September

EXPERT'S CONFERENCE ON THE UPDATED VASAB VISION

1 June 2023

Rathaus Wismar, Am Markt 1, Germany



1 June 2023 • Wismar, Germany

Vibrant, Resilient,
Well-connected –
The Baltic Sea Region in 2040

Expert's Conference on the updated VASAB Vision

www.vasab.org

11:35 - 12:20

Reflections on the VASAB Vision 2040 from spatial planning research & practice

Prof. Jacek Zaucha, University of Gdańsk, Poland
Prof. Jörg Knieling, HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany
Paulina Szewczyk, City of Gdynia, UBC Planning Cities Commission
Mats Brandt, Ostrobothnia Region, Finland



Planning Cities Commission at the 9th VASAB Conference of Ministers 1-2 June 2023, Wismar

Joint UBC Planning Cities and Safe Cities Commission workshop was held during the XVII UBC General Conference in Palanga.

„Civil protection and urban planning. Building a resilient city.”



Sustainable urban planning

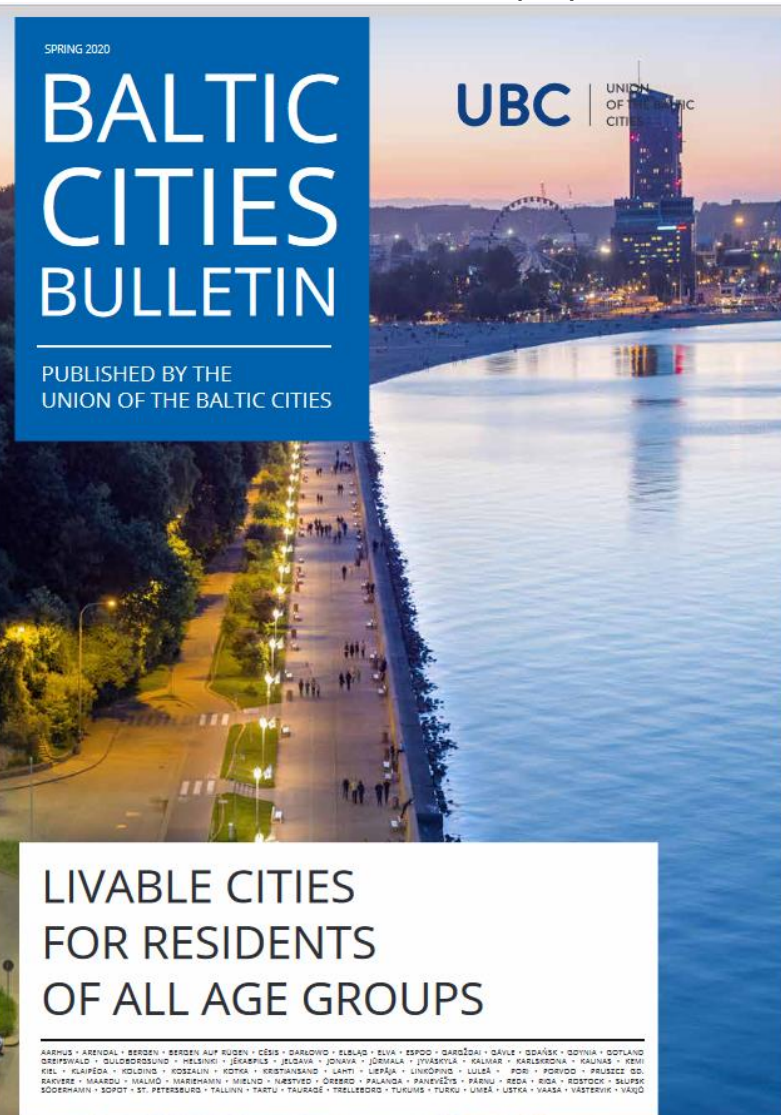
Challenges of the future are now to be included in the vision of a **city that offers a comfortable, functional and friendly space to live in.** (...)



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“The most inclusive and sustainable city network
for Your city or municipality”

UBC Strategy 2022-2030



LIVABLE CITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGE GROUPS

by Paulina Szewczyk, Deputy Director of City of Gdynia, City Planning Office
Chairwoman of the UBC Planning Cities Commission
p.szewczyk@gdynia.pl

Demographic challenges, technological innovations, lifestyle changes and climate change related risks force new strategies for our cities define new goals for the city planners and influence different activities in cities around the Baltic Sea. But still we want our cities to be „livable“. Livability defines the quality of place in the city, suburb or neighbourhood. The more users of different ares the place attracts, the better.

As the UBC Planning Cities Commission promotes interaction and cooperation between Baltic Sea cities and towns in the field of urban planning and construction, the cities were invited to send their stories on the planning issues – projects and solutions facing those planning challenges. Despite those problems that we are facing today and the fact that most of us work in different circumstances, we have got many interesting and, what we all need now, optimistic stories. **I would like to thank you so much for that!**

Learning from each other is the essence of the UBC Planning Cities Commission work. I would like to mention that we have huge experience in exchanging knowledge through organizing very interesting seminars and workshops. I cordially invite to participate, as well as to host the seminar when we are back to „normal life“.

The stories you can read in this issue show that public space is central to livability in cities. For sure they contribute to the reputation of cities for vibrancy, as well as to the well-being of urban residents.

Public space is considered a network or a sequence of streets, parks and other spaces regarded together as a kind of continuous circulation system in the city. In this issue you will learn about how existing public spaces can be enriched by different interventions to make it more attractive for pedestrians and cyclists.

The city of Elva proceeds EV100 architectural program called „Good Public Spaces“. As one of the results, the city has got a new central square and the main street - Kesk street - renewed. It boosts/promotes walking and cycling as the mean of transport and attracted businesses along those public spaces.

Also „Public Space Operation Program“ elaborated in the city of Gdańsk concerns public spaces. Within this project the city created a document called “Gdańsk Local Places System” - the guide line for city’s departments to coordinate investment and for local community, to prepare Civic Budget applications regarding public space. The second elaboration of Gdańsk concentrates on local „green” spaces in the Buffer Zone of Tricity Landscape Park. The intention is to create attractive places in this green area for all users.

The fact that public spaces need a holistic approach is reflected in the city of Gdynia's CLIMATIC Central Gdynia programme, that the city has just started to implement. It is a complex programme enhancing the quality of public space to make it more attractive for pedestrians and cyclists, applying more features for the public transport, boosting the greenery and improving the quality of air by reduction of the traffic in the city centre.

Reducing the traffic influences the quality of life and makes public space more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists. The city of **Jūrmala** is the one that has experienced that. Read how, using the IT technologies, Jūrmala managed to reduce the flow of transport on the main streets of the city during the active tourist season, which undoubtedly also improved the quality of air.

Accessibility and connectivity of public space network can be optimized by appropriate streetscape design. The story „Design for All in Espoo“ tells about applied procedure of re-

viewing the most important construction projects for accessibility in **Espoo** by a Group of people consisting of disabled persons, interest groups and selected city officials.

The public spaces network can determine the whole concept of the suburb or neighbourhood.

The city of Umeå is now preparing the project in the northern part of Island, Ön, planned for 7000 inhabitants. What does it mean that it is planned for physical literacy? Read how the planners and architects from Umeå want to encourage movement in a completely new suburb.

A new district for 400 new homes and about as many workplaces is emerging right next to the city centre in the city of **Karlskrona**. This is a very interesting story about how to create a place appreciated by everyone in different ways and how to combine a good place to live for all age groups with being the entire city's new living room.

The public space is also important for planning new development in Visborg - former military regiment area south of Visby. You can learn how the artistic perspective can inspire the design, content and experience in creating the right conditions for new housing, preschools, service and recycling, all characterized by innovation, sustainability and a holistic perspective.

Green and open urban areas arranged to serve users of all ages, offering different kinds of activities also make a positive impact on citizens' life quality.

The city of **Dartowo** tells us about modern parks that have been created – some of them were revitalized and another completely new park was created. They have a system of new paths, squares and offer different kinds of facilities so everybody can pick and choose different kinds of activities.

Everyone, at every age can also find something interesting to do in Liepāja's Horse Island. It will be interesting for you to read about a park where all people can combine pleasure of learning and discoveries in the NATURA 2000 area of nature with athletic activities and leisure.

In creating healthy communities, it is essential to optimise the use of the park spaces for recreation and physical activity by wide age range of users. Read the story about the City Centre Sports Block in the city of Riga - sports and recreation complex in the city centre that is popular among the parents with youngest family members as well as adolescents and seniors and gives opportunities for various activities.

It is obvious that water is essential for life. But it can also mean the livability of urban space. The city of **Koszalin** shares the experiences of implementing successful projects of public spaces where the river plays the most important role.

The greenery makes the public space more aesthetic and friendly, especially to the accompaniment of the floral compositions. The city of **Rostock** tells us about how the flowers can change the image of the city using as an example the promenade in Warnemünde, that has been enriched with colours and scents.

Public buildings are also the natural element of public space and more than often they become its natural continuity.

Offering their programmes to the city, they improve the variety of activities attractive to people of all ages. A completely new building is going to be the gravity centre for the public space in the city of Kaunas. It is a very interesting example of design process taking into account the existing and planned public space network. It can become the element of urban space and a kind of landmark as well. How is it possible? I recommend reading a story about The Science Island in Kaunas. Read also about the other project in Kaunas - the new athletics arena that will provide new possibilities to do sports indoors.

The city of **Vaxjö** shares the project of developing and constructing a new City Hall as an integrated railway station, travel hub and municipal office. The idea is built in accordance with high environmental standards, work space design and modern building techniques. The aim is to create a positive and friendly space where everyone can feel comfort in a welcoming environment.

A very interesting example from **Darłowo** - the Culture Waiting Room, a completely new and popular place on the cultural map of Darłowo, has been created in a part of the former railway station.

Have you heard about „Sparkling spaces“? In **Arendal** 20 empty shops and buildings in the historic city centre are used for new concepts, jobs and cultural activities, also including newcomers and refugees.

Public spaces enhance social life, promote social interactions that contribute to city's livability.

The city of **Arendal** is also sharing with us its other experiences: the „Get involved Arendal!“ programme intended to create „a care for each other culture“ and „People meet people“ - meetings arranged in public places and indoor spaces, between newcomers in the city and people who have lived there for a longer time.

You can learn how public space can give the beneficial opportunities for interactions between children, young people and older adults, reading about the intergenerational park – **Elbląg Open Activity Zone**. It is meant to promote social connections and participation through trust-creating actions so all residents can feel the sense of belonging.

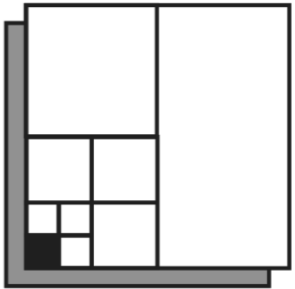
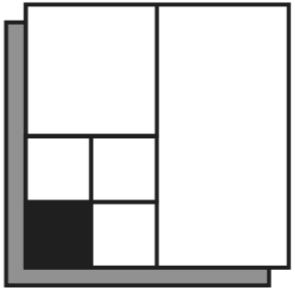
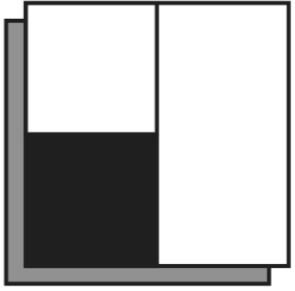
There is a meeting place called Kemikammari in **Kemi**. It is open, free of charge, for everyone regardless of age, social situation, race and religion. Please read about the place that for some people is the reason to wake up, showing another dimension of public spaces in the sense of livability.

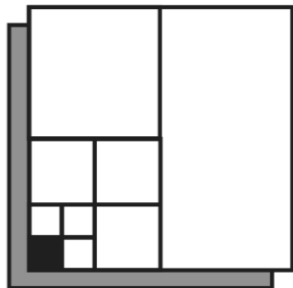
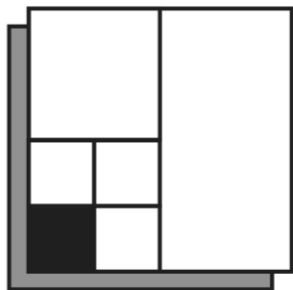
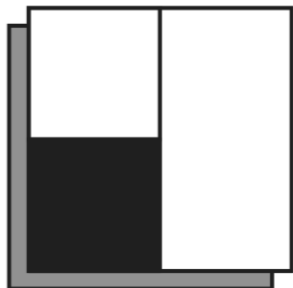
When planning, constructing or organizing the places to live in cities as well as places where the city life goes on, we always have to remember that we do that for the people - inhabitants and visitors - different ages, different lifestyles, different cultures. Making our cities livable is one of our most important goals. But thanks to all efforts of fantastic people working for the Baltic Cities we are on the right track. The stories you will find in this edition of the Bulletin prove that.

If you have any questions to the topic that is interesting to you, please contact the author. We really hope you will enjoy reading the *Baltic Cities Bulletin* and you will learn good examples of how to make your cities livable for all ages groups.

DESIGNING LIVEABLE CITIES

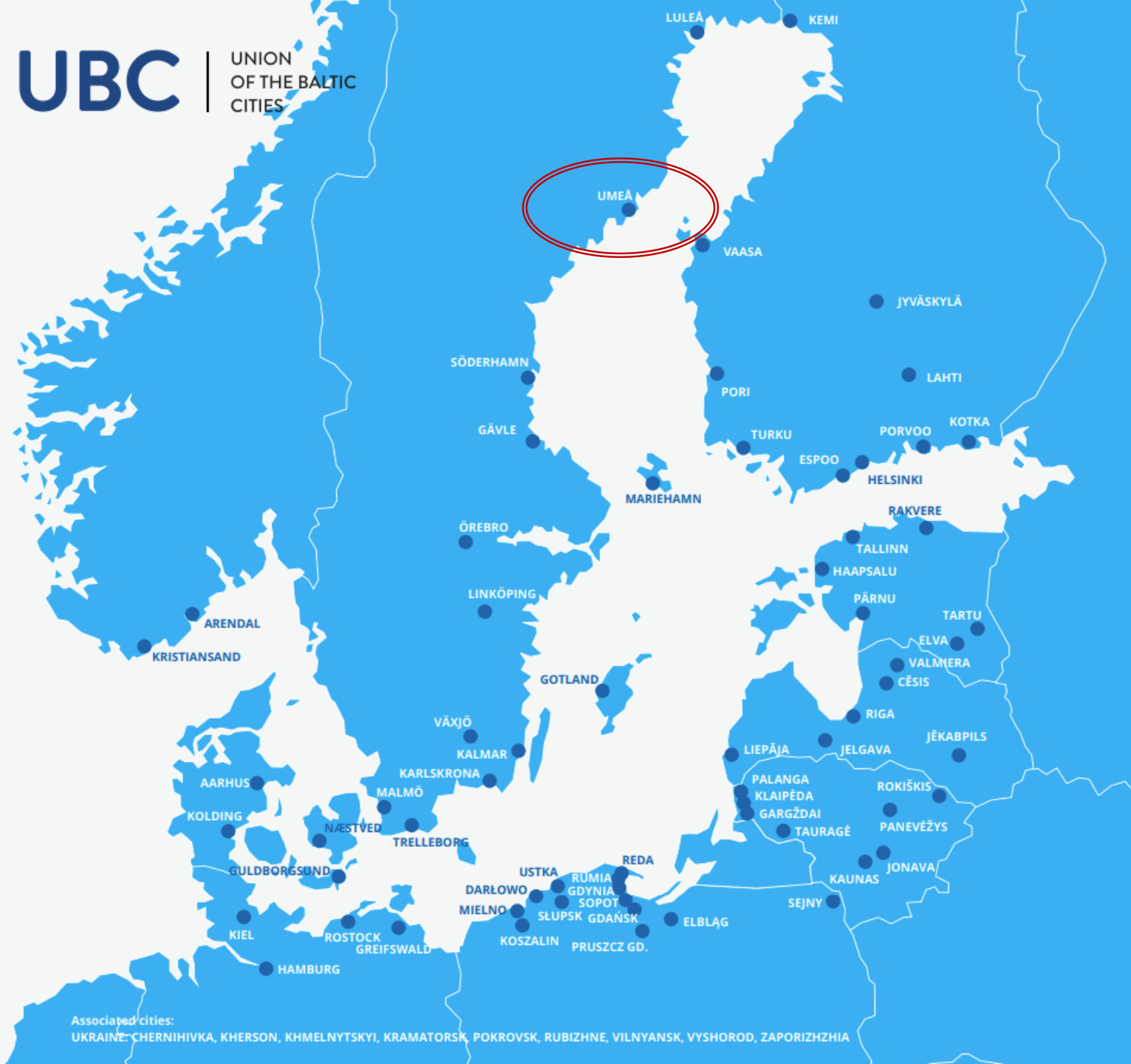
refers to all scales



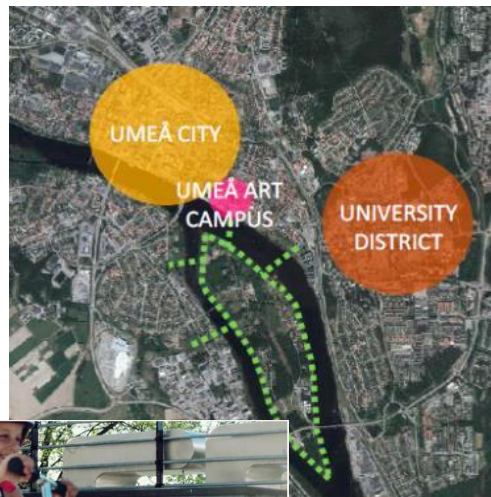


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Umeå, Ön

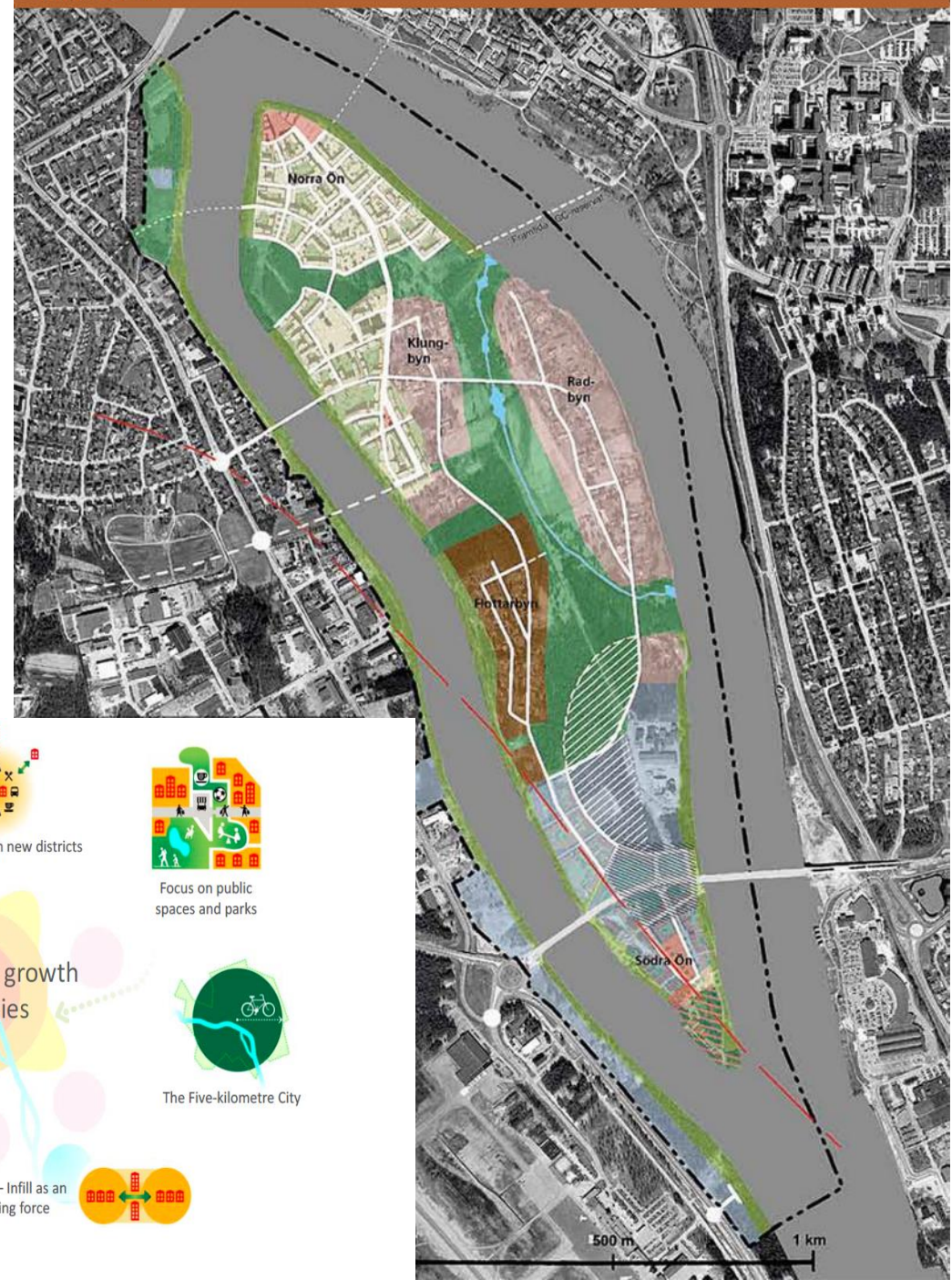


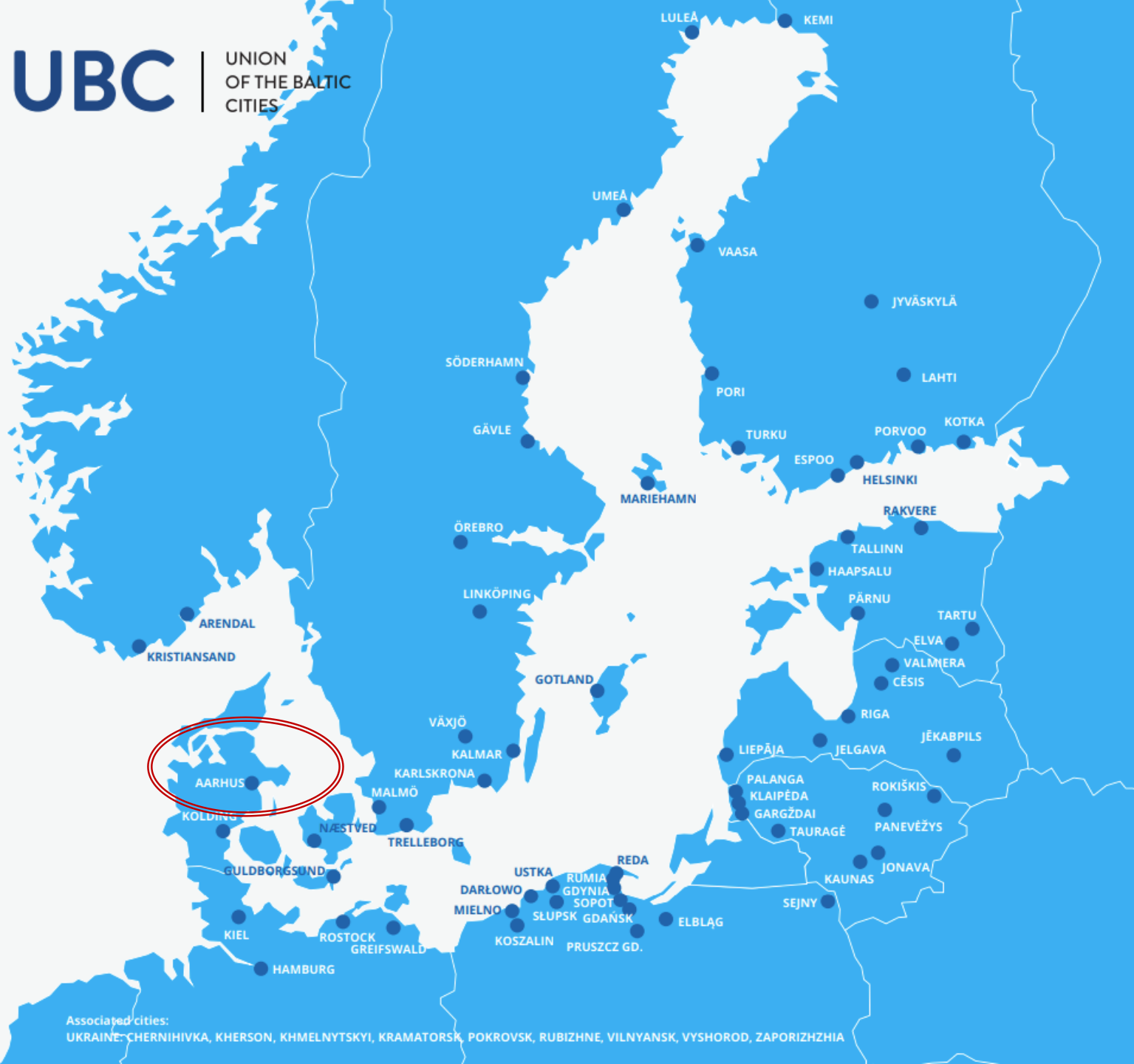
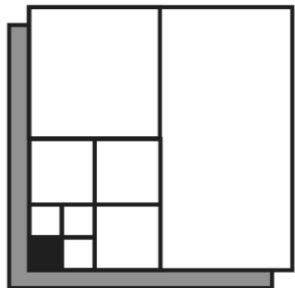
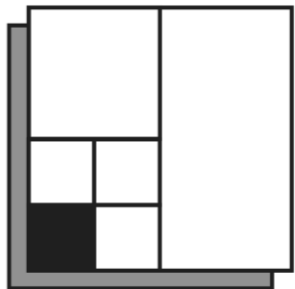
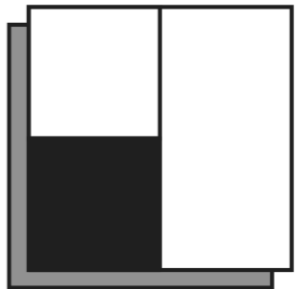
WE'RE BUILDING A
PHYSICAL LITERACY COMMUNITY!

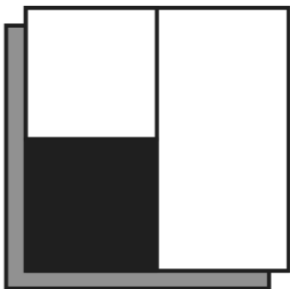
www.umea.se

<https://change-the-game.se/en/about-the-project/>

Plankarta







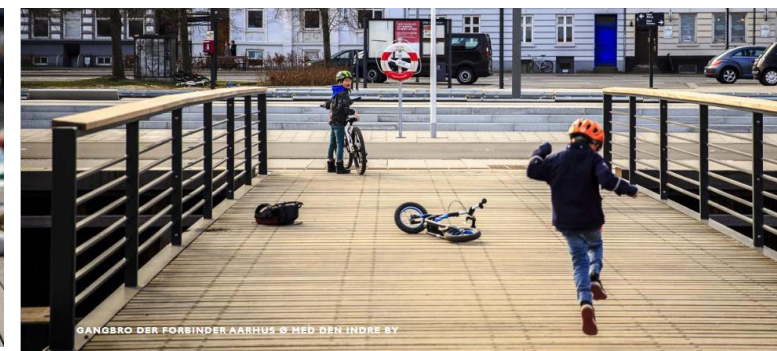
Aarhus Ø



Photo Paulina Szewczyk



Photo Paulina Szewczyk



<https://aarhusoe.dk>

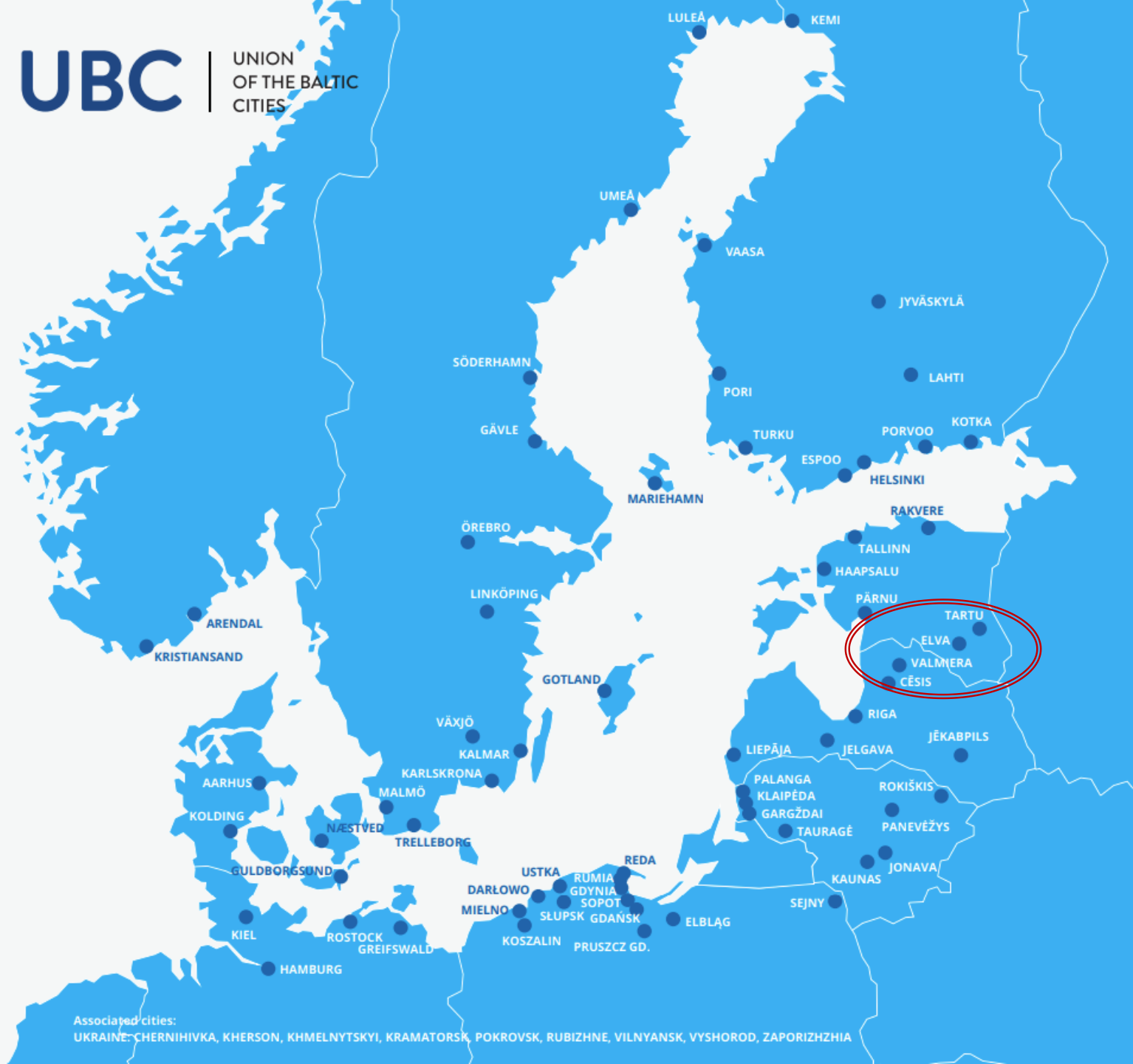
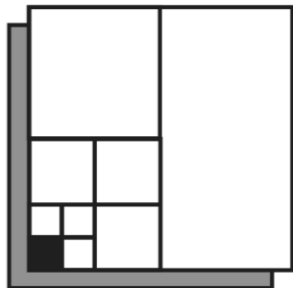




Photo by Inna Inga Kalmus

ELVA

Central Square

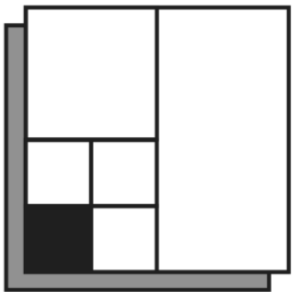


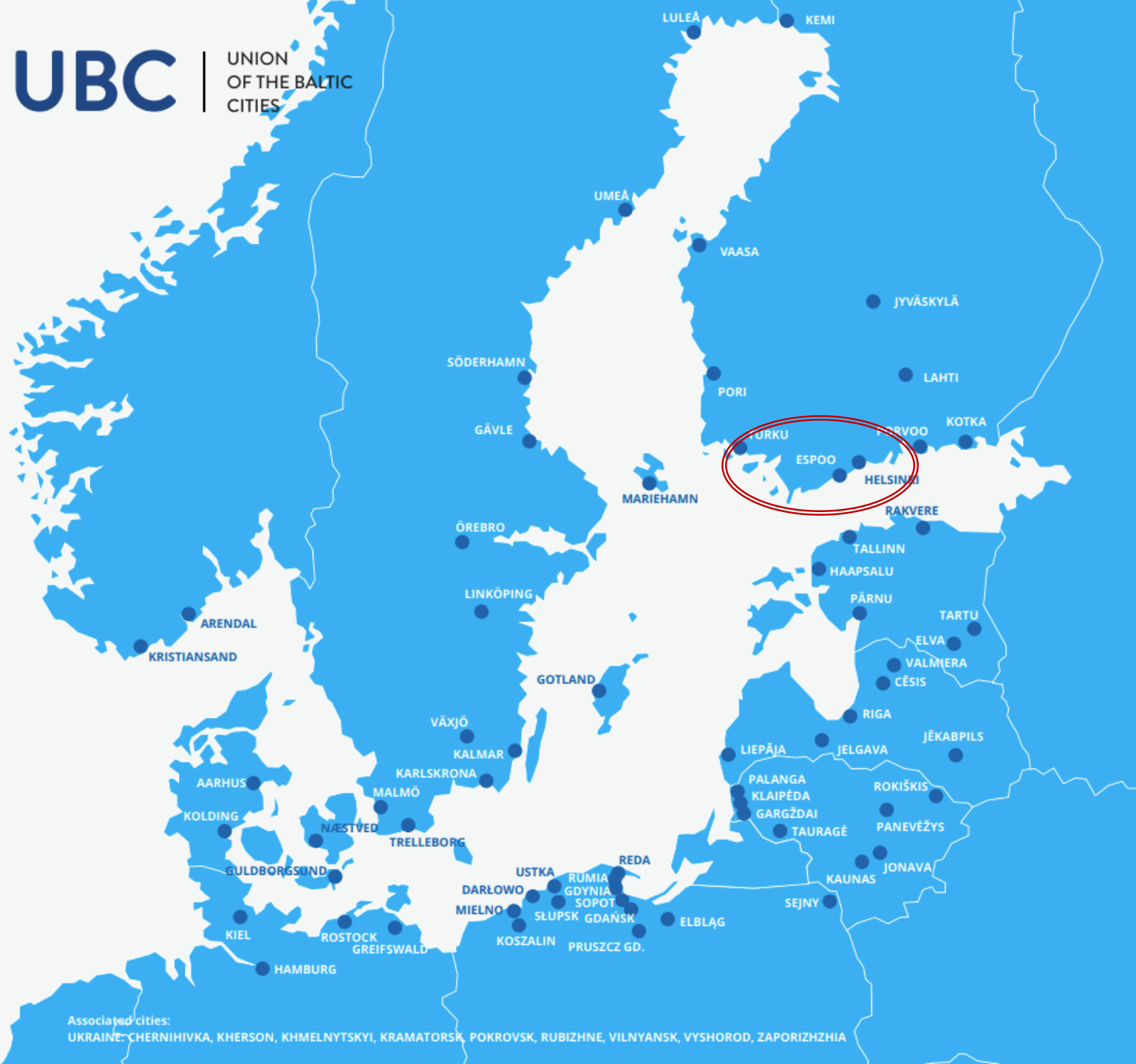
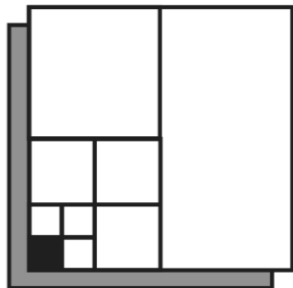
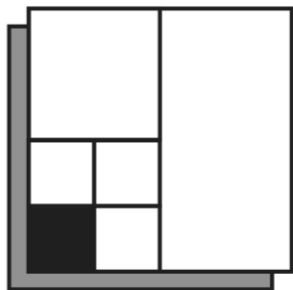
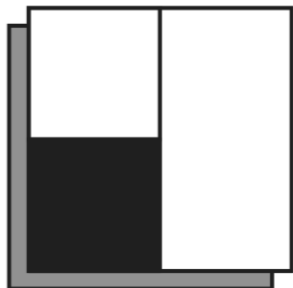
Photo by Inna Inga Kalmus

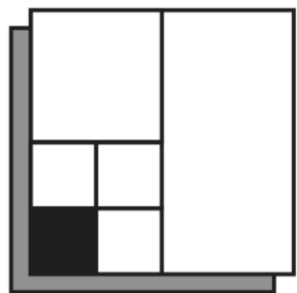
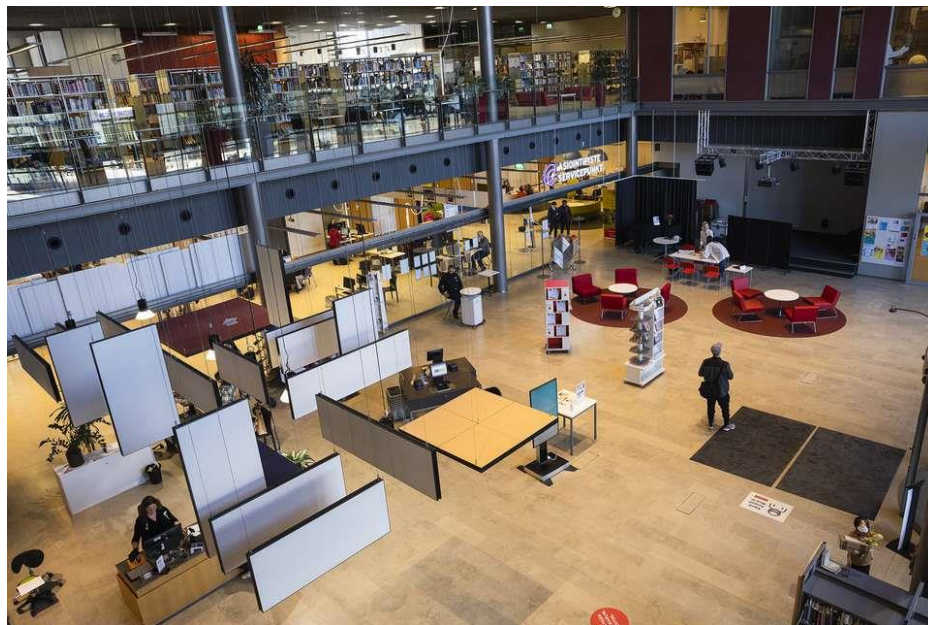


Photo by Ragnar Vutt



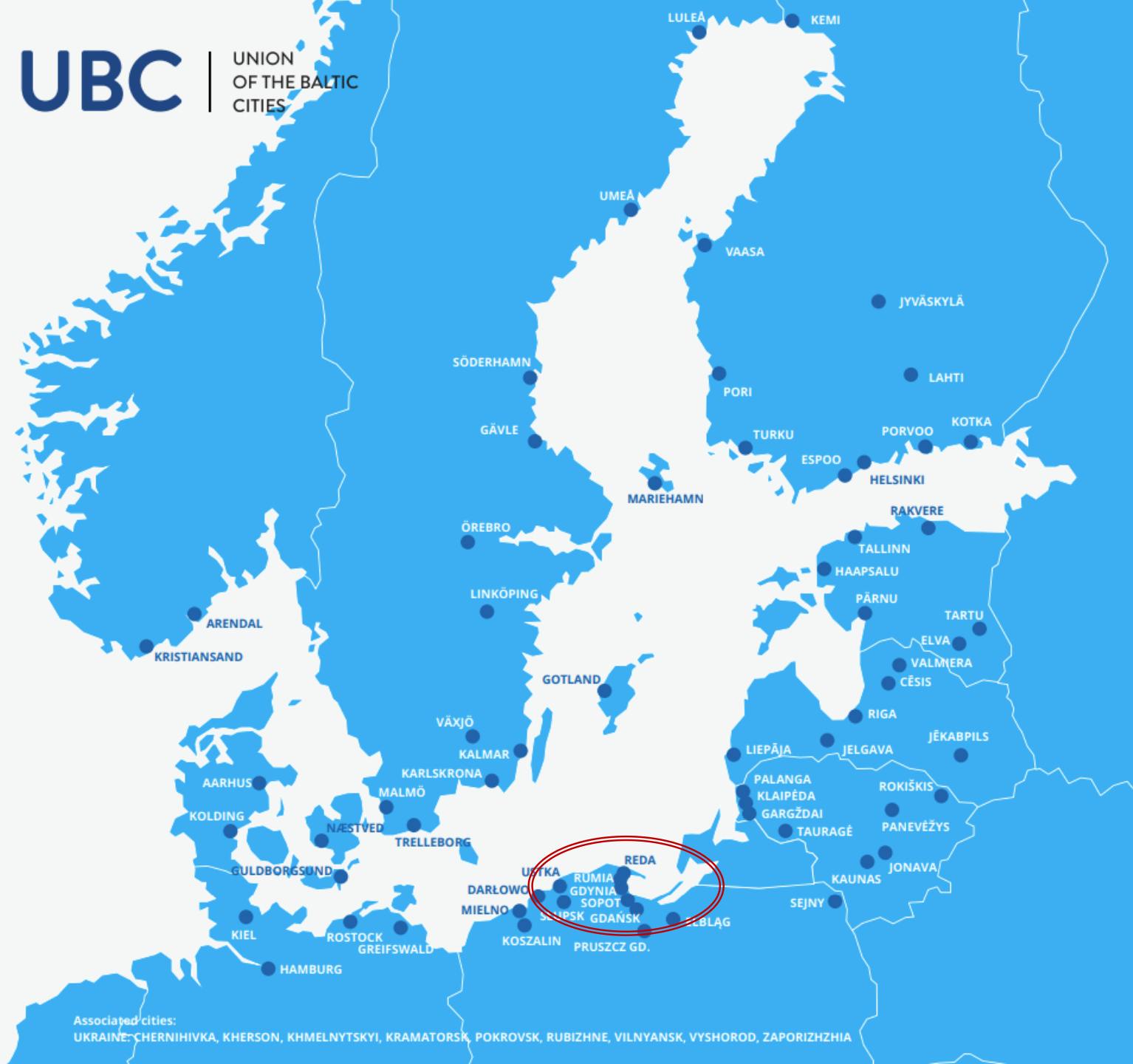
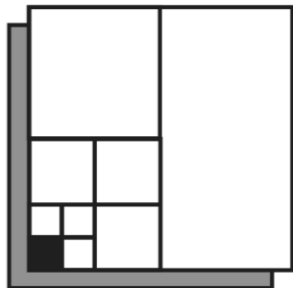
Photo by Ragnar Vutt





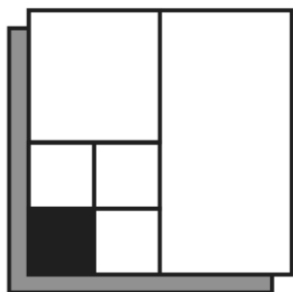
Espoo City Library



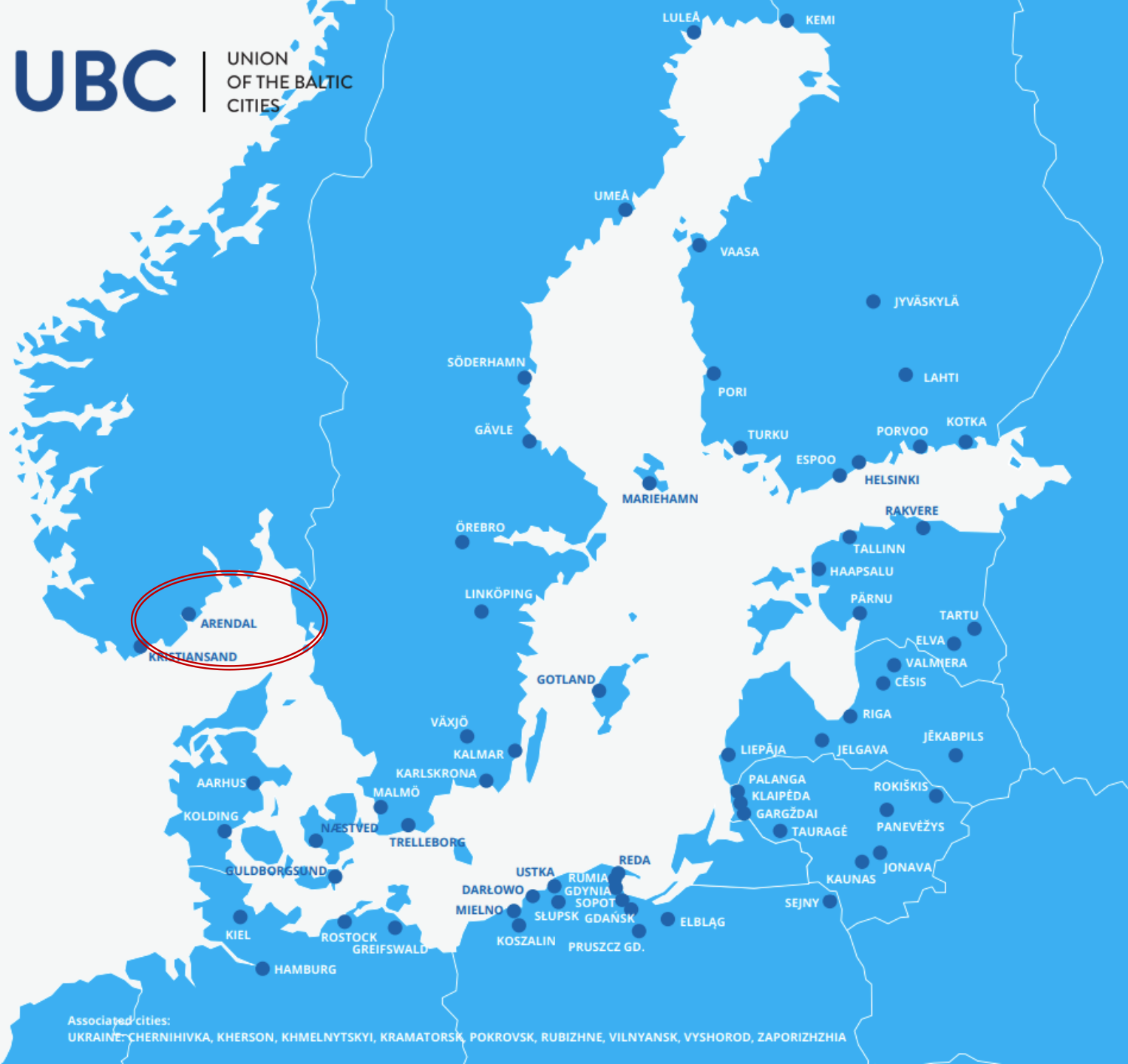
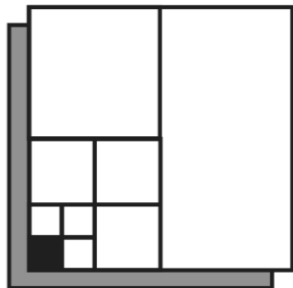
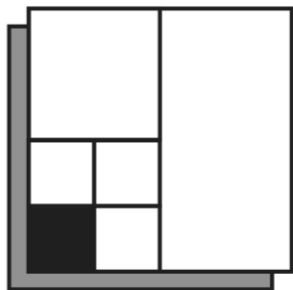
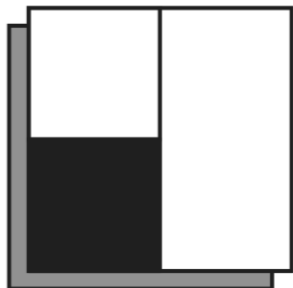




Gdynia Widna 2a
Neighbourhood House



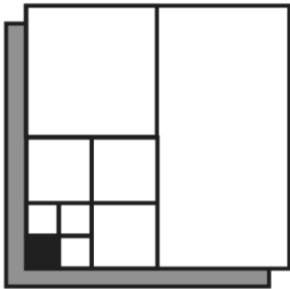
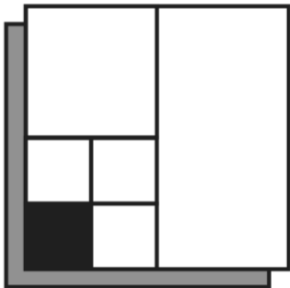
phot. Marta Sulkowska i Przemysław Kozłowski





Arendal

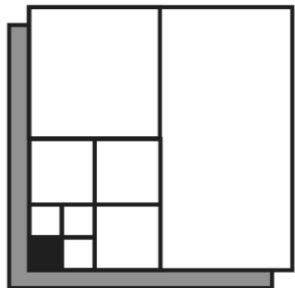
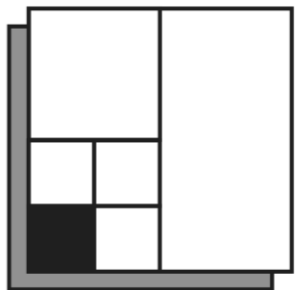
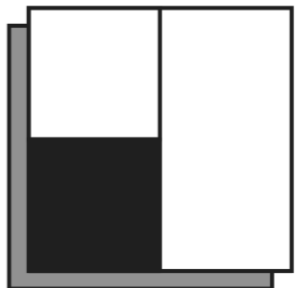
<https://www.snohetta.com/projects/kanalen>



People meet people-arrangement in Arenda city center. Photo Lisbeth Iversen



The citizens took actions! From empty buildings and places-to sparkling spaces. Photo Mona Hauglid



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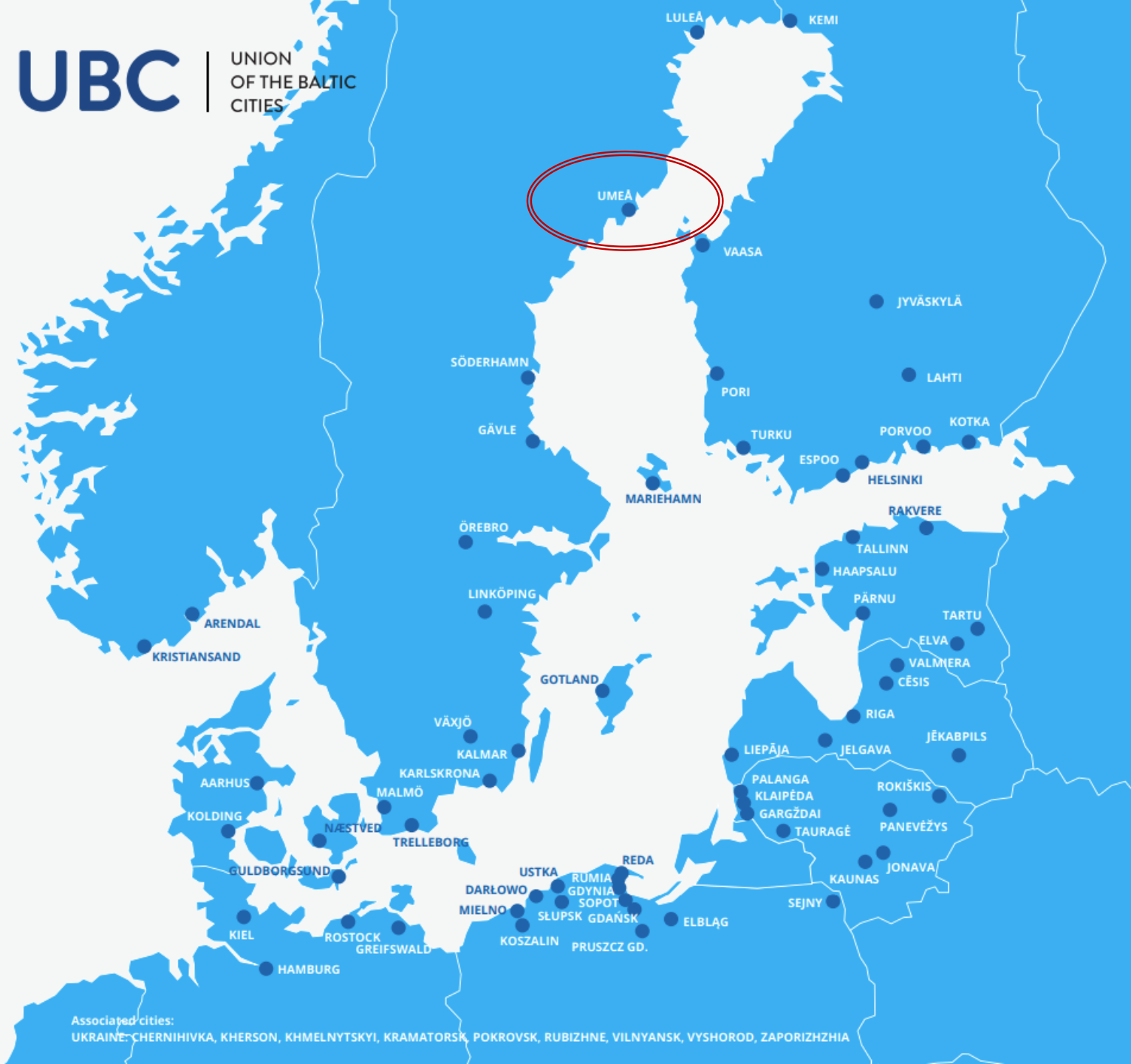
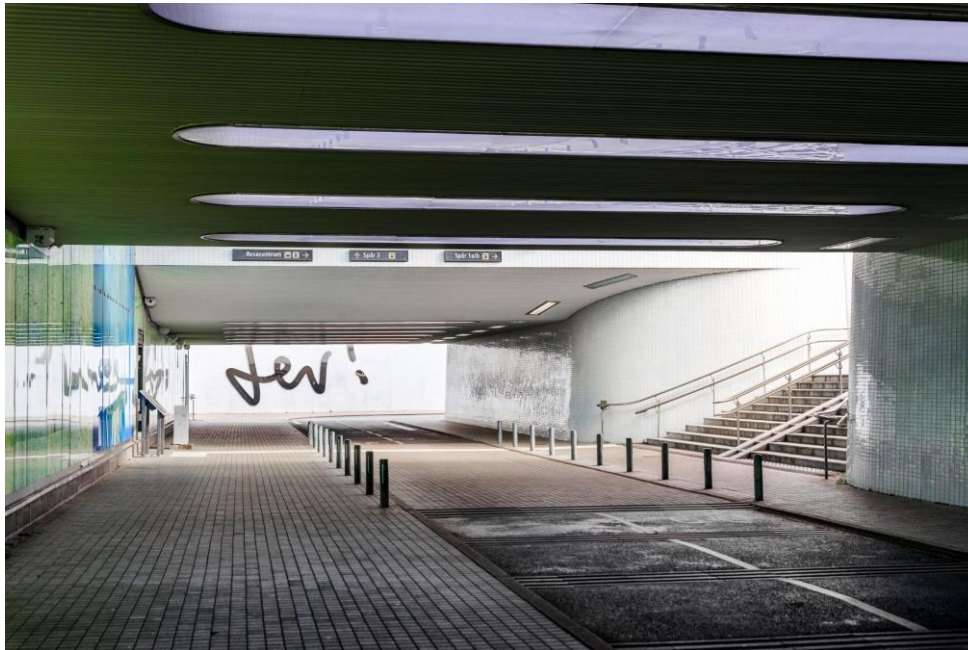




Photo Paulina Szewczyk

Umeå Lev!

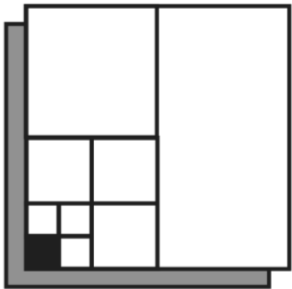


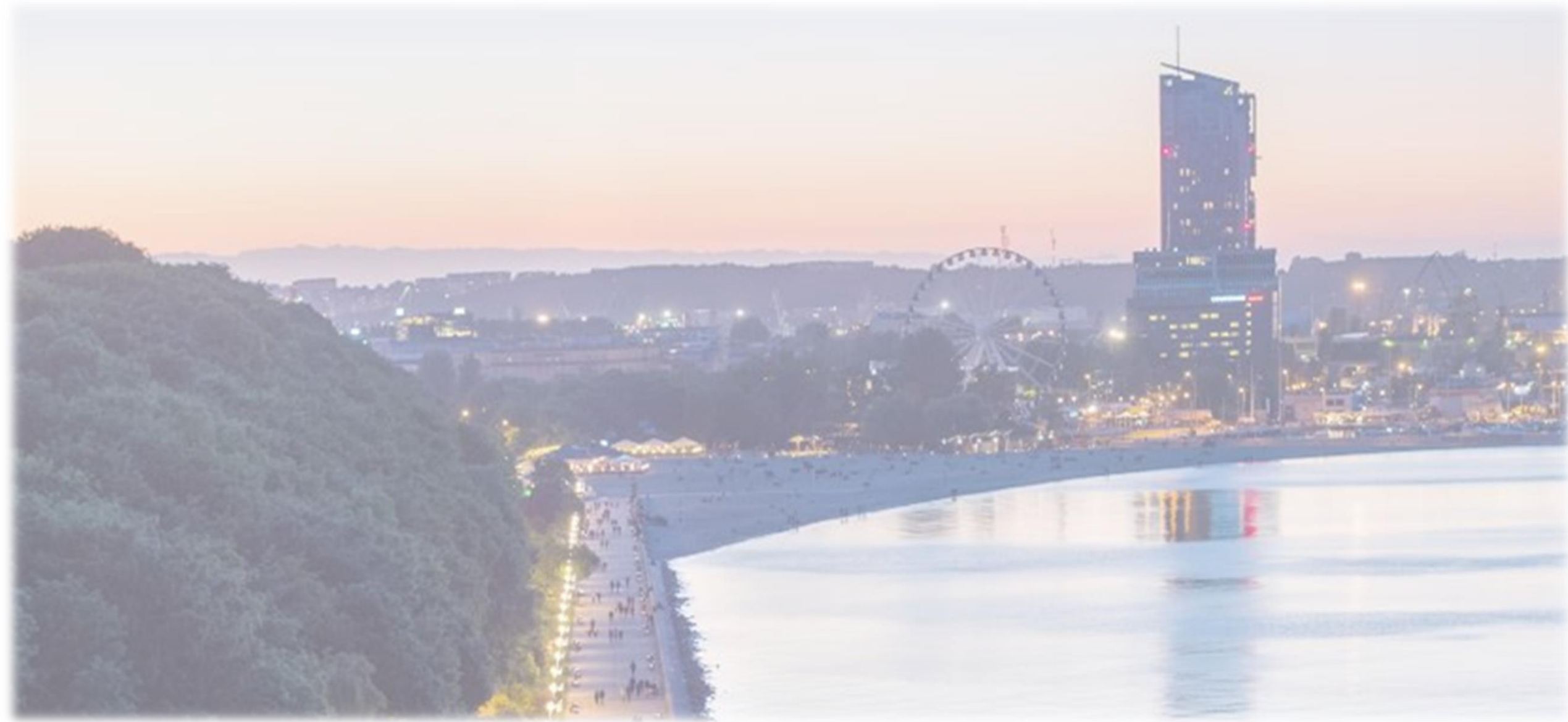
<https://visitumea.se/en/equality-umea>



tryck HÄR
FÖR ATT LYSSNA
PÅ SARA

Photo Paulina Szewczyk





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PLANNING CITIES
COMMISSION

Paulina Szewczyk

Chairperson of the UBC Planning Cities Commission

p.szewczyk@bpp.gdynia.pl



CITY OF GDYNIA.
CITY PLANNING OFFICE