Facing problems, finding solutions together

Kaunas City, Republic of Lithuania

Europe for citizens project
28-29 September 2006
Mr Adolfas Balutis
Basic information on Kaunas

- Second largest city in Lithuania
- Capital of the Republic of Lithuania in 1919 – 1939
- Population: 360,000
- Territory: 15,700 ha
- Unemployment: 2.2%
Official birthday of Kaunas – May 20, 1463

On May 20, 1463, the Lithuanian Duke Kazimieras Jogailaitis renewed and expanded the city rights.

Kaunas City Day is one of the most popular annual cultural events where the citizens of the twin cities of Kaunas meet.
Kaunas — an academic city

- 55,000 students
- 10 universities:
  - Kaunas University of Technology
  - Vytautas Magnus University
  - Vilnius University, Kaunas branch
  - Kaunas University of Medicine
  - University of Law, Kaunas branch
  - Lithuanian Veterinary Academy
  - Seminary of Priests
  - Lithuanian University of Agriculture
  - Lithuanian Academy of Sport
  - Vilnius Art Academy, Kaunas branch
Kaunas – a city of culture

- 33 museums
- 8 theatres
- 4 cinemas
- Philharmonic Society
- Festival of songs
- Festival “Kaunas Jazz”
- Pazaislis Festival of classical music
- Modern dance festival “Aura”
Kaunus – a city of sports

- The name of Kaunas is inseparable of the legendary basketball team “Zalgiris” and its star Sabonis.
- Other popular sports: football, handball, dances on ice, sportive dances, boxing, etc.
- Academy of Sports in Kaunas – the only Lithuanian school of higher education of sports.
- The only Museum of Lithuanian Sports in Kaunas – the history of Lithuanian sports.
- The venue of the European Athletics Championship in 2005.
22 twin cities of Kaunas

- Kreis Lippe (Germany) 1989
- Vaxjo (Sweden) 1990
- Vestfold kommune (Norway) 1991
- Linkoping (Sweden) 1992
- Linz (Austria) 1992
- Odense (Denmark) 1993
- Tartu (Estonia) 1993
- Brno (Czech Republic) 1994
- Bialystok (Poland) 1994
- Wroclaw (Poland) 1996
- Grenoble (France) 1997
- Tampere (Finland) 1997
- Hordaland kommune (Norway) 1998
- Ferrara (Italy) 1998
- Xian (China) 2000
- Kaliningrad (Russia) 2001
- Kharkov (Ukraine) 2001
- Brescia (Italy) 2002
- Rende (Italy) 2003
- Lavrio (Greece) 2003
- Lazio (Italy) 2005
- St. Petersburg (Russia) 2005
International cooperation

- Member of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) since 1994
- Member of the Latin Heart Cities since 1996
- Member of the European Cities Against Drugs Association (ECAD) since 2000
- Member of the North European City Conference (NECC) since 2004
- Member of the European Cities Against Drugs Association (ECAD) since 2000
- Member of the Club of Strasbourg since 2003
- Member of the Association of Winter Cities (WWCAM) since 2005
- Member of Healthy Cities Programme of the World Health Organization (WHO) since 1987
International projects:
“TOWN-TWINNING”, “YOUTH”, “CULTURE 2000”

- “Participation of the young and quality of work of the young”, 2006 (Kaunas, Tartu, Tampere, Uppsala, Lüneburg, Ferrara, Tirana, Hämeenlinna, Frederikshrog, Veszprém, Kaunas, Deventer, Zutphen, Riga)

- “International meetings of young musicians” 2005 (Grenoble) for Kaunas, Oxford, Essex, Corato, Constantine, Ouagadougou, Phoenix

- “Meetings of the young in Hasselt to discover Europe” 2005 (Hasselt, Kaunas, Denver, Prague)

- “Street music festival BUSKERS” 2005 (Ferrara, Kaunas, Salvador, other cities from France, Poland, USA, Sweden, Great Britain)

- Baltic unions for the future, 2005 (København, Kaunas and other cities from Sweden and Lithuania)

- “Social problems of children and youth: tendencies and possibilities in the enlarged Europe”, 2004 (Kaunas, Brno, Grenoble, Paris, Tartu, Wrocław)
International projects:

"TOWN-TWINNING", "YOUTH", "CULTURE 2000"

- International youth camp in Kaunas: "Sharing culture" – two keys to mutual understanding. 2006 (Kaunas (Lithuania), Bergen (Norway), Brno (Czech Republic), Hasselt (Belgium), Detmold (Germany)).

- International meeting of youth organisations and city governments: "Student mobility: a strategic approach for twinned towns". 2006 (Odense (Denmark), Trondheim (Norway), Kaunas (Lithuania), Tartu (Estonia), Norkoping (Sweden)).

- Ferrara street music festival: "FUSKERS". Host country (Lithuania) project. 2006 in Italy, with 20 participating cities.
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III B
“BALTIC TANGENT”

- Objectives: improvement of the social-economic situation in the Baltic Sea Region, development of transport infrastructure and spatial planning, coordination of municipal planning processes, common network of infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region
- Partners: 33 partners from 8 countries (Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Russian Federation)
- Duration of the project: 2005 – 2007
- Budget: 2.1 million EUR (Kaunas input: 5000 EUR)
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III-B

"BALTIC TANGENT"
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III-B

“BALTIC FORT ROUTE”

- Objectives: development of a high-quality tourism product - informative, cultural and tourist route in the previous military forts in BSR; encouragement of transnational scientific cooperation for management of use of the forts; economic application of the forts as the cultural heritage.

- Partners: 18 partners from 4 countries (Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Russian Federation).


- Budget: 2.4 million EUR (Kaunas input: 150,000 EUR).
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III B
“BALTIC FORT ROUTE”
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III B

“BUSTRIP”

(Baltic Urban Sustainable TRansport Implementation and Planning)

- Objectives: elimination of the relation between economic growth and growth of the number of vehicles in the BSR cities; improvement of the environmental condition of the city; reducing the chaotic way of development of cities and pollution.
- Budget: 3,127 million EUR (Kaunas input 66,192 EUR).
- Partners: Kaunas and 14 other cities from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Sweden and Finland.
International projects:

BSR INTERREG III B
“BUSTRIP”
(Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation and Planning)
International projects:
INTERREG III C
“Challenge to an e.Citizen – Development of e.Government Actions in European Cities”

- Objectives: improvement of effectiveness of local government work through innovative forms of e.Government; implementation of pilot e.Management and e.Services projects in the partner cities; organising of training and seminars.

- Partners: 11 cities (Tartu (Estonia), Tampere, Turku, Värsa (Finland), Sheffield (Great Britain), Kaunas, Vilnius (Lithuania), Bologna, Trento (Italy), St. Petersburg (Russia), IS Fyn (Denmark)).

- Budget: 1,340,000 EUR (input of Kaunas city: 60,000 EUR).

International projects:
UNION OF THE BALTIC CITIES
“Management of European Cities + 25”

- Objectives:
  - Implementation of “Aalborg + 10” commitments in Kaunas city and preparation of sustainable development programme and action plan for its implementation
- Partners: 14 cities
- Duration: 2005 – 2008
International projects: AWARDS FOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Town-twinning project “Social problems of children and youth: tendencies and possibilities in the enlarged Europe” (2004) assessed by the European Commission as one of the best 6 projects on social inclusion in 2004.
- Project “Vivaldi” (EC “CIVITAS” programme): Kaunas was granted the CIVITAS award for implementation of sustainable transport policies in 2005.
- “Best environmental practice in Baltic Cities award 2005” granted for the activities of Kaunas implemented in the transport sector.
- Diploma of “Healthy Cities Programme” of WHO awarded to Kaunas in 2003 for successful completion of stage III and all previous stages.
International projects:
AWARDS FOR PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS
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Thank you for your attention!

Welcome to Kaunas!