



# Adriatic Action Plan 2020

Split 17-18 June 2005

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## Union of the Baltic Cities Survey of Sustainable Development - Tangible results from Local Agenda 21

Kyösti Lempa, Project Coordinator

Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission  
on Environment Secretariat



# Union of the Baltic Cities

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- Founded 1991 by 32 cities - now 98 members
- Network of local governments in the Baltic Sea Region
- Overall goal: balanced democratic, economic, social and environmental development
- Strategic focuses: implementation of Agenda 21
- Strong emphasis on practical programs and projects
- Activities organised in 10 thematic commissions





# Link between the cities

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- Meetings and events - UBC Commissions and Agenda 21 Working Group
- Partnerships and project building
- Baltic Cities Bulletins - information channels for members
- Website <http://www.ubc.net>
- E-mailing lists
- Best Environmental Practice in Baltic Cities Award (1999-)



*Situation today: ~95% of UBC member cities work on their own sustainable development programme.*





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**From Local Agenda 21 processes to tangible results in sustainable development**

- UBC Survey of Sustainable Development 2004

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## **UBC Agenda 21 Action Programme 2004-2009 - Roadmap for Sustainable Baltic Cities**

*Emphasis on tangible actions in five thematic focus areas*



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## Focus areas

- Sustainable management and good governance of cities
- Sustainable use of energy and resources
- Good living environment and nature protection
- Sustainable economy and transport
- Social integration and health



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- 29 indicators covering the thematic focus areas.
  - ◆ Easy-to-use
  - ◆ Based on data available in the municipalities
  
- Monitor success of the UBC Action Programme 2004-2009
  - ◆ three monitoring rounds during the program



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- Strong methodological basis
  - ◆ European Common Indicators
  - ◆ Trends and Indicators for Monitoring the EU Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Development of Urban Environment =TISSUE
  - ◆ Baltic 21, based on national statistics
- Strong political commitment
  - ◆ tentative indicator list established in the General Conference in Klaipeda, Latvia



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## From list of indicators to indicator survey

- ◆ Clearly defined questions
- ◆ Flexibility: exact figures or estimates
- ◆ Tracking trends and usefulness of indicators



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## **Sustainable management and good governance**

- Environmentally friendly products
- Environmental management systems
- Integration of Sustainable Development
- Environmental capacity-building



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## **Sustainable use of energy and resources**

- Renewable energy and electricity in the city
- Renewable energy and electricity in the city administration
- Waste recycling
- Water consumption



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## Good living environment and nature protection

- Air quality: SO<sub>2</sub>
- Air quality: NO<sub>2</sub>
- Air quality: PM<sub>10</sub>
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Wastewater treatment
- Brownfield
- Brownfield development
- Night time noise



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## Sustainable economy and transport

- Unemployment rates
- Floor area per person
- Access to public green areas
- Modal split
- Traffic moderation
- Access to public transport



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## Social integration and health

- Election turnout
- Gender distribution in decision-making
- Poor households
- Age structure
- Citizens' satisfaction
- HIV+, drugs and alcohol
- Drugs and alcohol
- Population growth and migration

# Major highlights



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**Overall return percentage was 72.**

- Best return percentages were in Poland (92) and Estonia (87).
- Indicator-specific return percentage ranged between 31 and 90.
- ◆ highest return percentage for the indicators with the statutory basis
  - ☞ drinking water and waste water
- ◆ lowest percentage for the social indicators
  - ☞ alcohol and drug abuse, HIV+



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- Low return percentage
  - ◆ abandon or modify the indicator
  - ◆ program a targeted project to enhance data management in the cities



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## Quality of the data

- Part of the answers are estimates, not exact figures
- Reliability?
- In most cases estimates are quite close to the exact values.
- If not: redefine the indicator or program targeted projects to enhance data management in the cities.

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## Results

- Strong thematic focus area: Good living environment and nature protection



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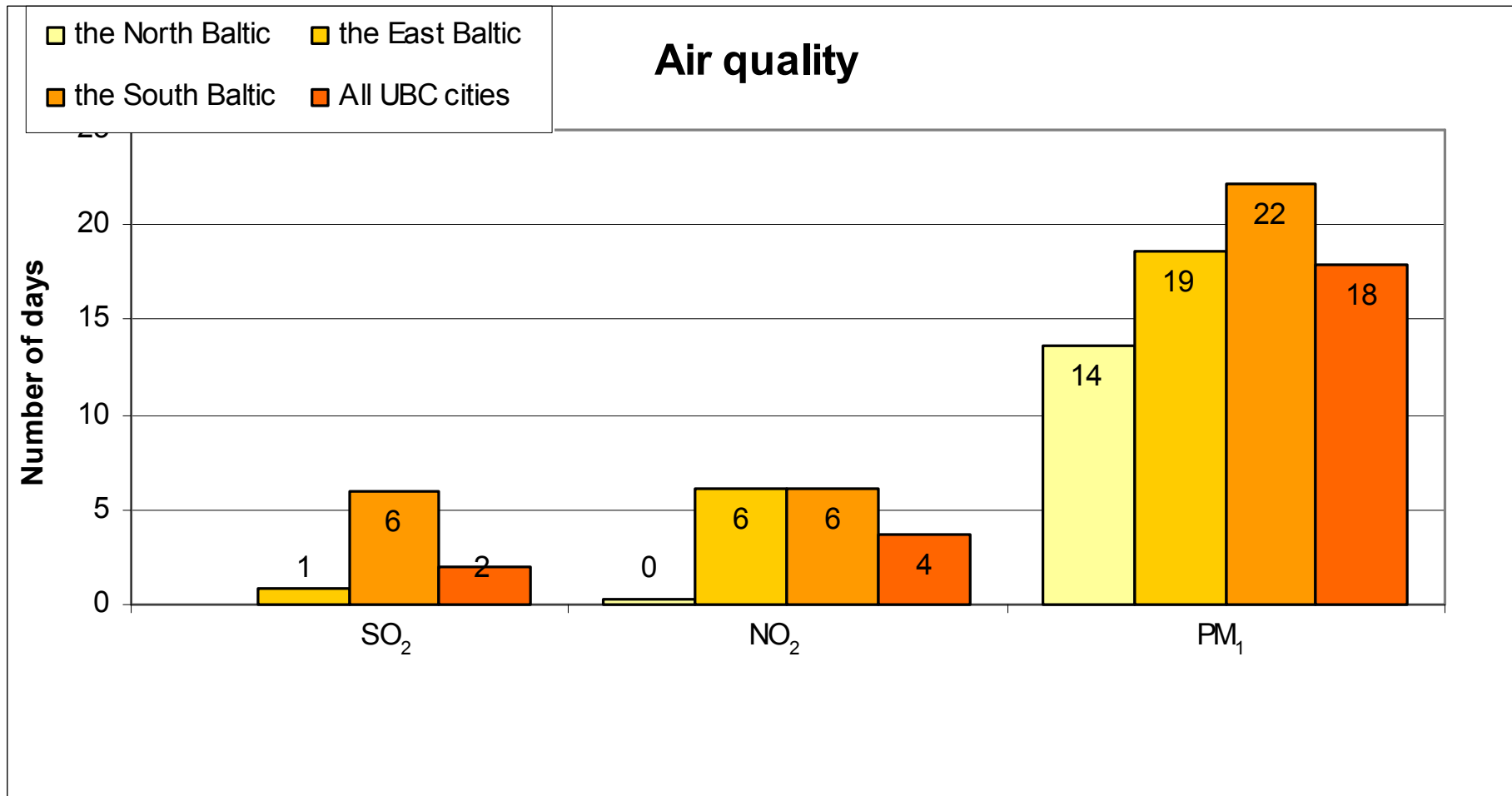
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## Results

- Air quality: Majority of the cities are well above European standards. Most answers based on exact values.



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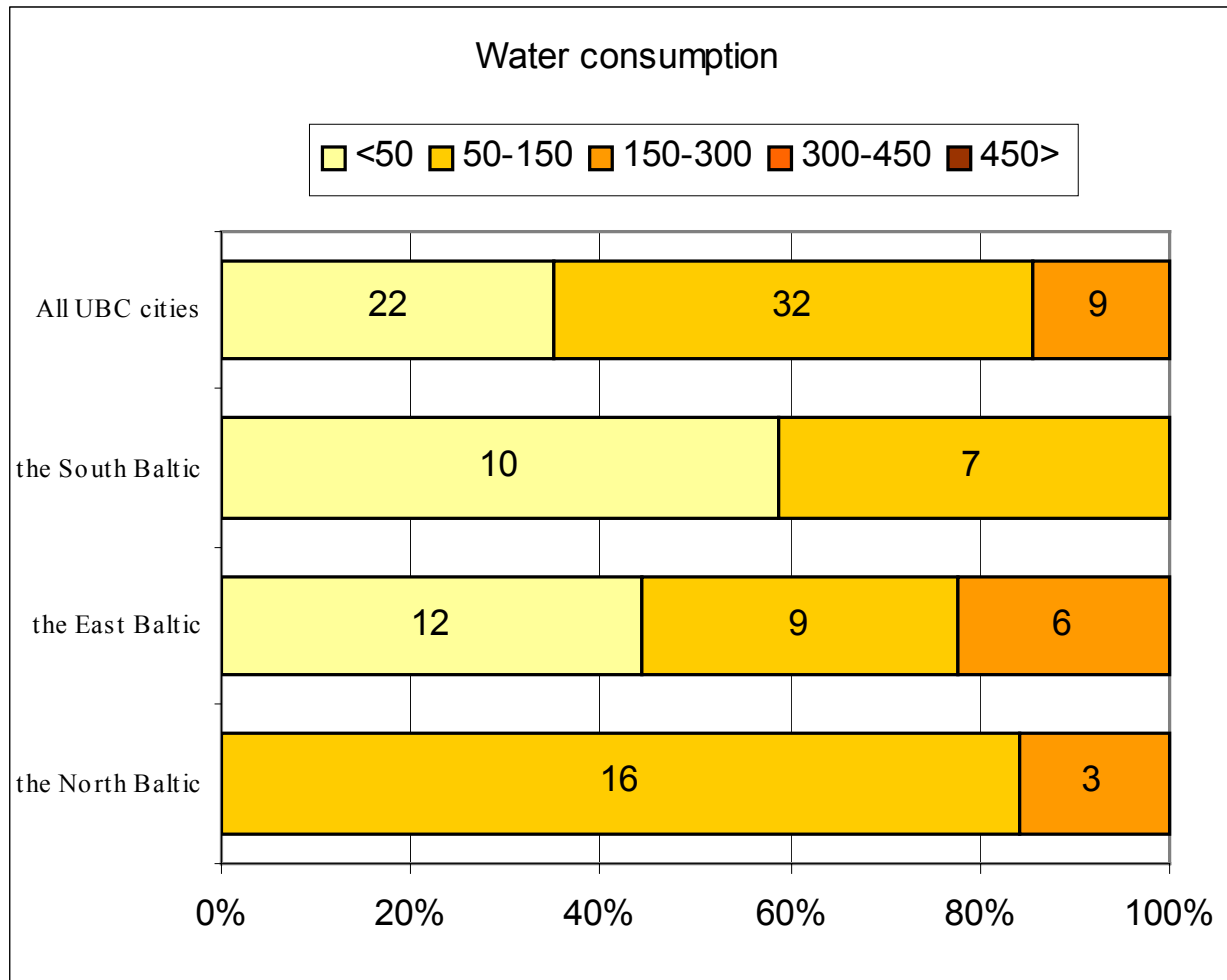
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## Results

- Consumption of drinking water in most cities at the sustainable level.

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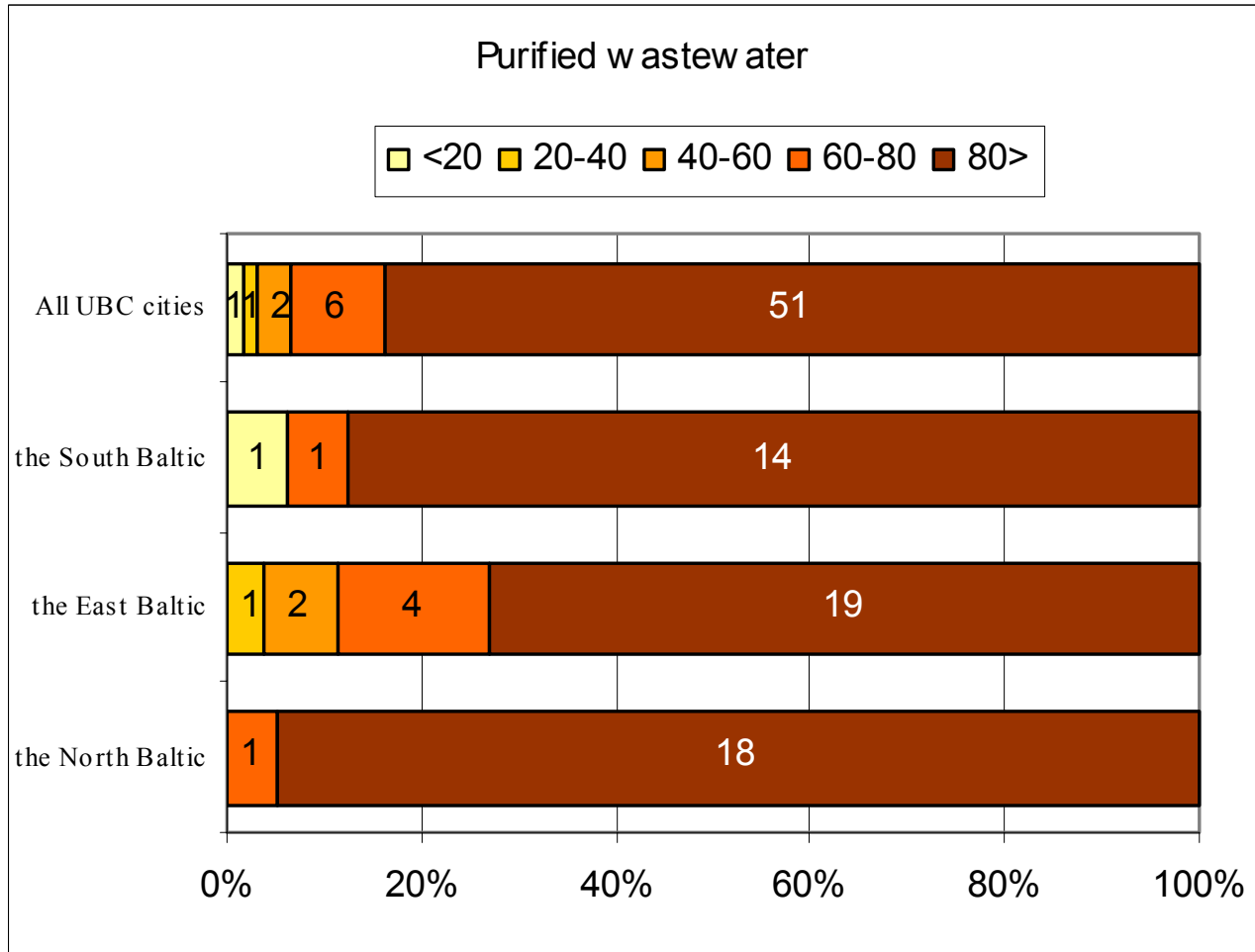
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## Results

- Wastewater treatment: large majority of the cities purify over 80 % of their waste waters in a centralised system.
  - ◆ Qualitative indicators needed: nutrients in effluent

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## Results

- Basic economical and social indicators (unemployment, population growth and migration ) are well-managed.
  - ◆ Data easily available



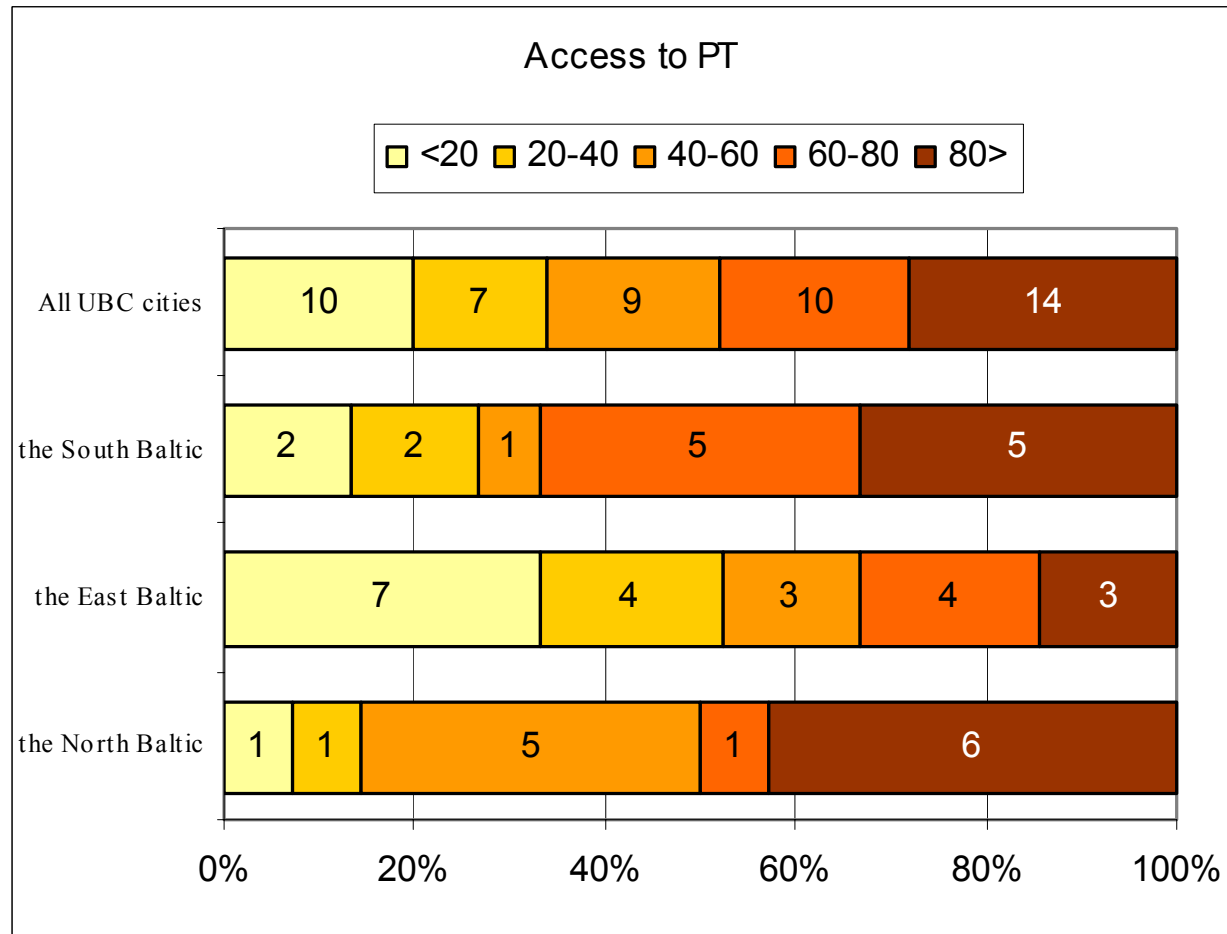
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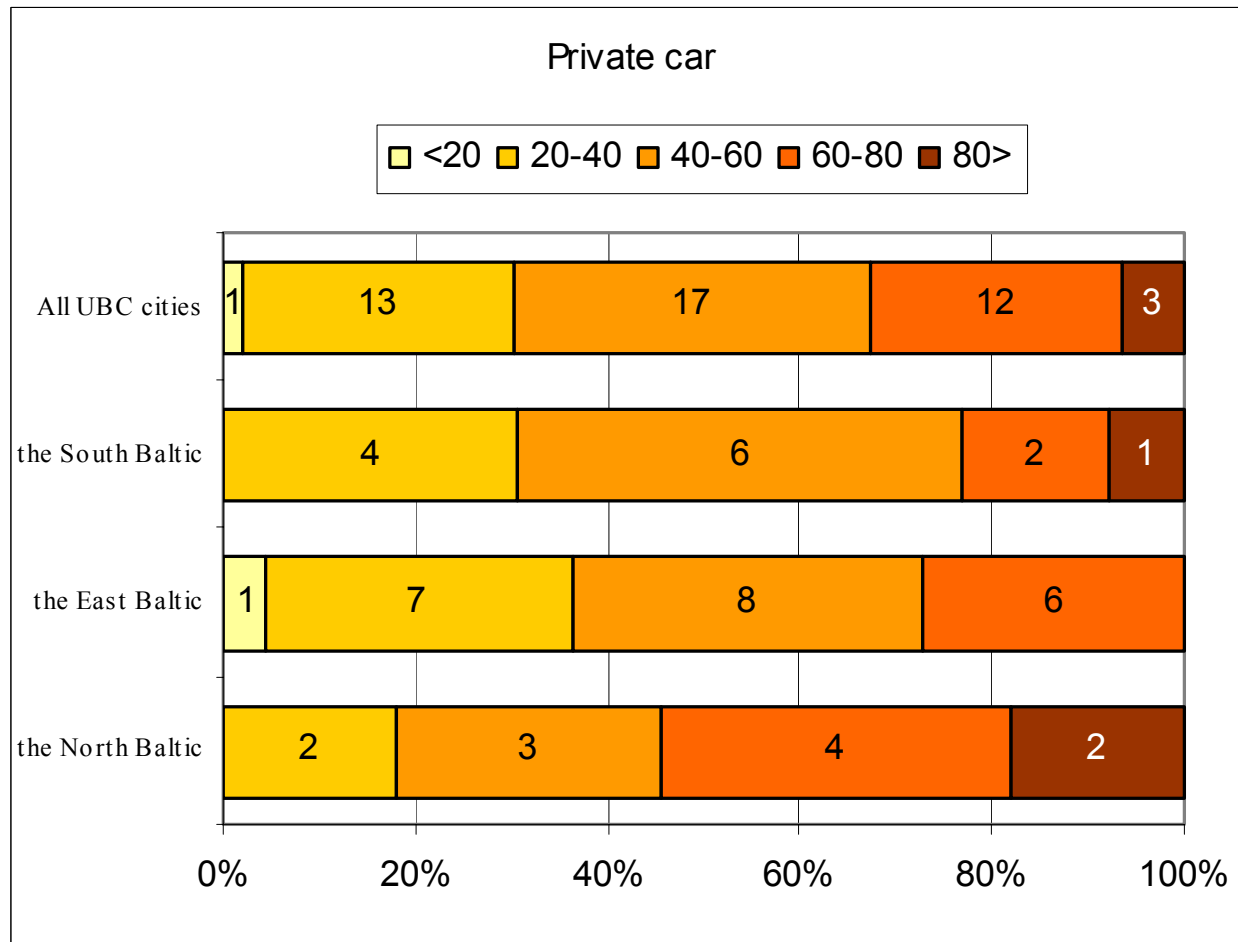
## More results

- Private cars dominate transport
- Public transport systems are not efficiently used

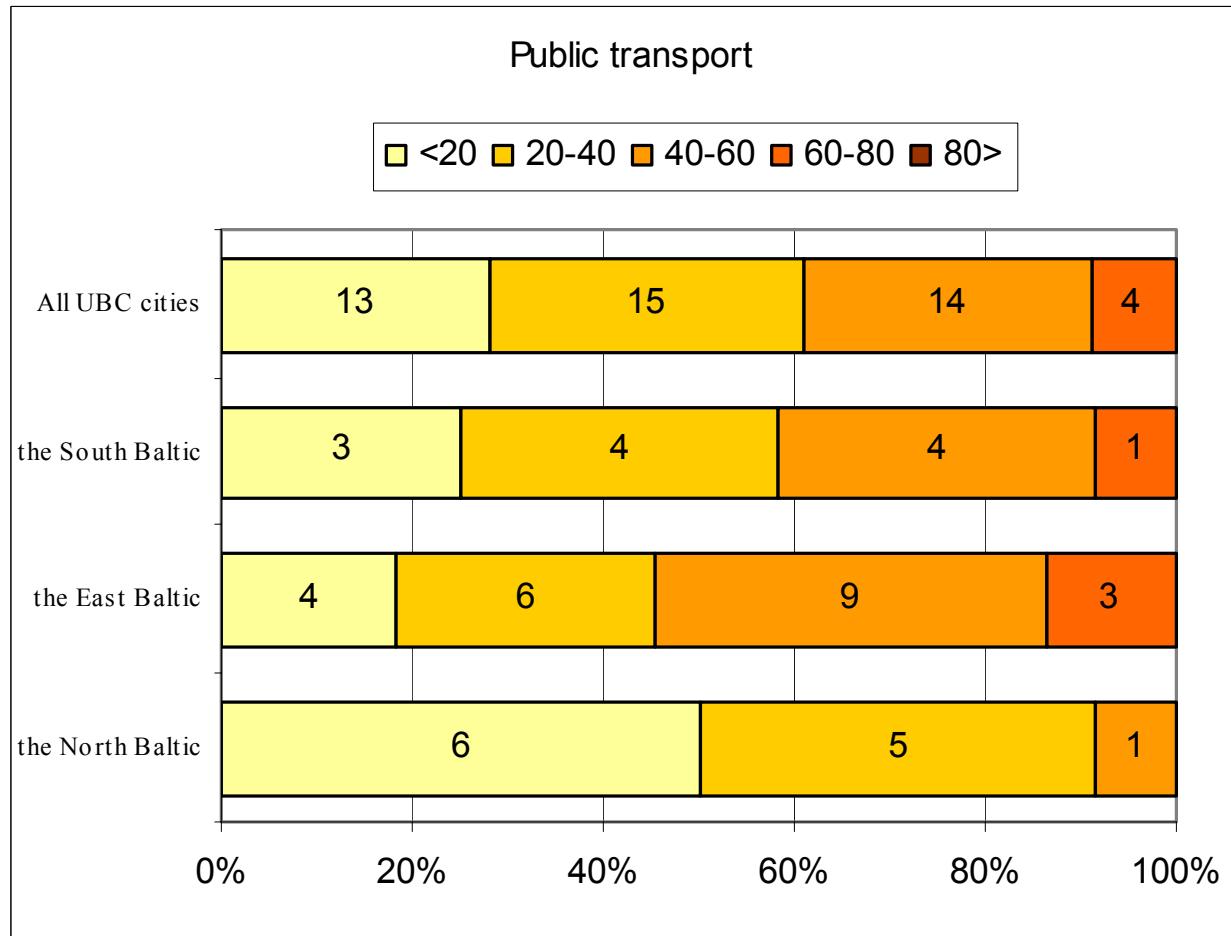
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## More results

- There is little data available about brownfields (derelict industrial sites) and their development
- Better access to public transport in southern and eastern cities
- More work to do to develop social indicators for local level.



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## Next..

- The first round of indicator defines a baseline level of sustainability
- Next:
- Set tangible targets
  - ◆ realistic indicator values to be reached within a realistic timeframe
- Identification of the most critical issues in the focus areas
  - ◆ program targeted projects for the cities
    - ☞ exchange of best practises, training seminars, dissemination

# UBC EnvCom Secretariat



***Serving the cities*** - facilitating UBC's environmental and sustainable development work



Located in Turku, Finland

Currently team of seven professionals working 110% for sustainable development in the Baltic Cities

***[www.ubc.net/commissions/environment.html](http://www.ubc.net/commissions/environment.html)***

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**Thank you for your attention!**