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Baltic Sea Region
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rom theory and plans
to eco-efficient and
sustainable practices
to improve the status
of the Baltic Sea

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Introduction

Eutrophication caused by nutrient loads is one of the biggest environmental problems of the Baltic Sea. Practical measures to restrict it are included in River Basin Management Plans (RBMP), which are some of the outputs of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. However, putting general-level RBMPs into practice, i.e. applying water pollution control methods and changing land-use practices, is hindered by many barriers.

For example, RBMPs cover large geographical areas. Thus, it is difficult to apply public participation principles to planning processes and gain common acceptance at local level for measures that should be realised.

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Aims

The project's overall objective is to improve the status of the Baltic Sea by contributing to the practical implementation of measures chosen in RBMPs in the region.

The specific objectives are to:

- identify and suggest improvements to present water management practices by analysing the contents and planning processes of RBMPs;
- establish action plans based on RBMPs for pilot areas representing best practices and measures for water protection and public participation;
- prepare investment plans (incl. technical and financing plans) for water protection measures for selected sites in Poland, Lithuania, Denmark and Finland;
- disseminate information on best practices and measures of water management via publications, seminars and websites;
- offer training and education programmes for planners in the water management sector.

The action and investment plans as well as planning methods will be prepared in a transnational cooperation with authorities and scientific partners. The plans aim at real investments following this project.

We plan to set up a basis for future finance investments partly by the extension stage of the project. The dissemination of results to regions outside the EU territory is secured by carrying out joint planning actions at the transboundary River Sesupe flowing from Kaliningrad to Lithuania.

Expected outputs

1. examples and guidelines of best water management practices for river basin planning at several levels (official river basin districts, single river basins, local investments) based on previous experiences from different countries and lessons learned from pilot studies of the project (printed as reports and on the web);
2. practical examples of good investment projects (printed as reports and on the web);
3. training courses for planners on general river basin management focusing on environmental economics;
4. water protection action plans for pilot areas in some partner regions;
5. investment plans (including technical and financing plans) for water protection measures in pilot areas in Finland, Denmark, Poland and Lithuania. The investments will be realised during the extension stage to be proposed at the end of the project.



Project partners

- Finnish Environment Institute SYKE (FIN)
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (GER)
- North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre (FIN)
- National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus (DK)
- Municipality of Naestved (DK)
- Environment Centre Nykøbing F (DK)
- Lodz Technical University (PL)
- Kaunas University of Technology (LT)
- Charity and Support Fund Sesupe Euroregion, Sakiai Office (LT)
- Luleå University of Technology (SE)
- Rezekne Higher Education Institution (LV)

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