



CENTRAL BALTIC
INTERREG IV A
PROGRAMME
2007-2013

MARITIME SAFETY IN THE BALTIC SEA

Actions taken and actions to come

- Anne Christine Brusendorff
Executive Secretary
HELCOM



The issue of maritime safety and response to accidents at sea has high priority within the Baltic Sea region. More than 35 years ago, the Baltic Sea countries decided to jointly tackle these issues under the framework of HELCOM, the intergovernmental organization working for the protection of the Baltic marine environment and to ensure the safety of navigation.

During the last decade shipping has steadily increased round the Baltic Sea, reflecting intensifying international cooperation and economic growth. Both the numbers and sizes of ships have grown in recent years, and the trend is expected to continue. This may lead to increased pollution and other pressures on the marine environment. Also, the dramatic rise in oil transportation significantly raises the risk of a large oil spill in the Baltic marine area.

Recognizing these critical changes, the HELCOM countries and the EU devised a set of measures in 2007 to advance the safety of Baltic shipping including marine pollution prevention, reduce the environmental impact of shipping, and facilitate emergency response in the region. These measures became part of the overarching HELCOM Baltic Sea Action

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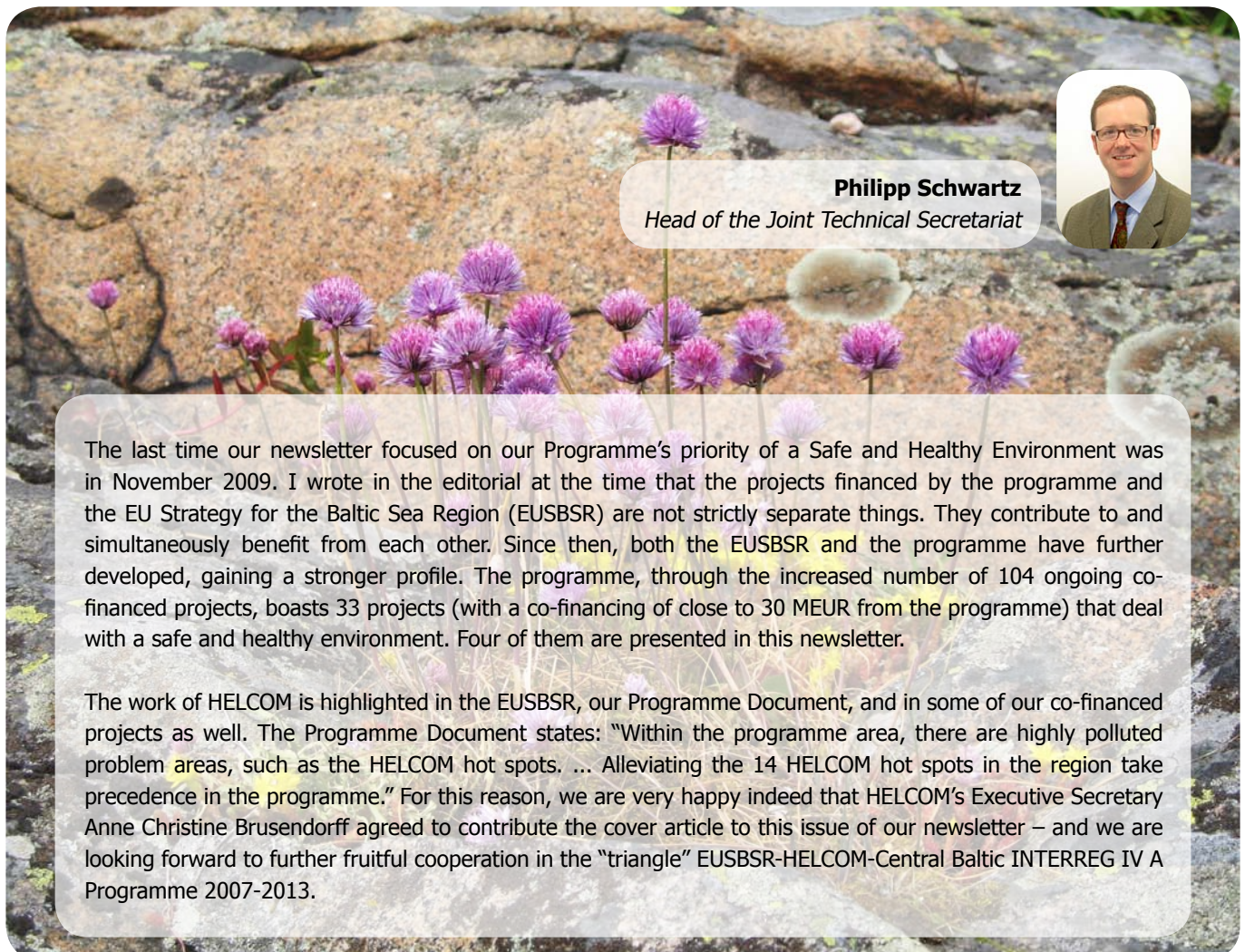
Plan to radically reduce pollution to the marine environment and restore its good ecological status by 2021.

Today, the main environmental effects of shipping and other activities at sea include air pollution; illegal deliberate and unintended discharges of oil, hazardous substances and other wastes; and the inadvertent introduction of invasive alien organisms via ships' ballast water or hulls. Shipping adds to the problem of the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, given its nutrient inputs from nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions and sewage discharges.

HELCOM has been developing measures to address these sources of pollution of the marine environment, ensuring harmonized implementation in the Baltic of existing regulations and also contributing to the development by the International Maritime

Organization (IMO) of relevant global legislation, in order to ensure that the highest practicable standards to control and prevent pollution from ships in the Baltic Sea are applied. Recently, the Baltic Sea states have resolved to act jointly within the IMO to apply stricter controls over the sources of nutrient pollution. This includes the introduction of new standards for nutrients in sewage discharges from ships as well as the tightening of regulations on ships' NO_x emissions.

The risk of a shipping accident and resulting pollution will never be totally eliminated, but we can – and must – ensure that we have the strictest possible regulations to address pollution from shipping and have the most efficient emergency and response capabilities in the region.



Philipp Schwartz
Head of the Joint Technical Secretariat

The last time our newsletter focused on our Programme's priority of a Safe and Healthy Environment was in November 2009. I wrote in the editorial at the time that the projects financed by the programme and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) are not strictly separate things. They contribute to and simultaneously benefit from each other. Since then, both the EUSBSR and the programme have further developed, gaining a stronger profile. The programme, through the increased number of 104 ongoing co-financed projects, boasts 33 projects (with a co-financing of close to 30 MEUR from the programme) that deal with a safe and healthy environment. Four of them are presented in this newsletter.

The work of HELCOM is highlighted in the EUSBSR, our Programme Document, and in some of our co-financed projects as well. The Programme Document states: "Within the programme area, there are highly polluted problem areas, such as the HELCOM hot spots. ... Alleviating the 14 HELCOM hot spots in the region take precedence in the programme." For this reason, we are very happy indeed that HELCOM's Executive Secretary Anne Christine Brusendorff agreed to contribute the cover article to this issue of our newsletter – and we are looking forward to further fruitful cooperation in the "triangle" EUSBSR-HELCOM-Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013.

DO THE GREEN MOVES!

Make your office environmentally friendlier - 8 tips for how to do it



Avoid unnecessary business trips

Before booking a business trip ask yourself if the trip is really necessary. Can it be done online, via Skype or other virtual media? If not, book a business trip that is environmentally friendly, for example by train.

Cut down paper consumption

Be smart while printing memos, agendas or minutes. If possible, put them online so that they can be used both before and after meetings. If by any chance you need to print them, make sure that they are printed on both sides of the paper in order to minimize the number of used sheets. Also, recycle the papers after using them. Remind others as well – consider adding the following to your email signature: "Before printing this email, please consider the environmental impact".



Choose ecological products

Make sure when you buy coffee/tea, milk and cookies, etc., that they are organic. They are not only better for the environment but often healthier, too.

Save energy

Make sure that all electronic equipment is turned off or set on low-energy mode when you leave the office, even when you go out for lunch. One tip is to use one jack with an on/off-button for all cables in order to minimize the risk that something is left on.



Tender greenly

When you make a tender, for example for computers, phones and office supplies, use ecological values (e.g. environmentally friendly materials and production methods) as your criteria. When organising an event, ask the catering service to use real dishes instead of paper/plastic ones.

Recycle and avoid useless things

Try to use less of everything and either reuse or recycle. Avoid cheap items that break easily.



Get to work sustainably

Exercise on your way to work, take your bike or walk briskly. If this is not possible, use public transportation. Some employers provide office bicycles for their employees for sustainable transport to, e.g., meetings during the workday.

Don't forget green private life

Make it an all-round habit: do not forget to act in an environmentally friendly manner in your private life as well!

PROGRAMME NEWS

104 projects onboard after the 5th call

The 5th call at the end of 2010 brought a total of 51 project applications to the programme. Out of these applications, the programme gained 22 new cross-border cooperation projects. In total, the number of projects financed by the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 is now 104, out of which 5 are already and 26 will be finalized by the end of this year.

14 new applications to the SFE and AI Sub-programmes

The 6th call for applications was closed in June for the Southern Finland – Estonia (SFE) and Archipelago and Islands (AI) Sub-programmes. The received applications are divided as follows: SFE 8 and AI 6 applications. The 6th call is still open for the Central Baltic Programme until August 12.

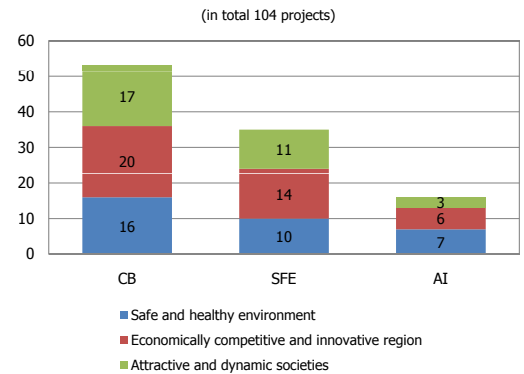
New seminars to support the running projects

The JTS has during 2011 taken up new forms of supporting the running projects in their implementation. In March the JTS organised the first "Tools for project implementation" seminar, this time for projects running under the priority Safe and Healthy Environment, in Tallinn. The projects under the second and third priorities will obtain their own seminars in November (see back cover for the dates and places). In May, all running projects were invited to Helsinki for a Financial seminar, where the financial management of the projects was covered in detail.

Showcase events in the Central Baltic capitals in October

Photo exhibitions will be organised in October at public places in the Central Baltic capitals of Helsinki, Mariehamn, Riga, Stockholm and Tallinn. The photos will be up for two weeks in each location and will show projects funded by the programme underlining the benefits the EU funds bring to our regions and people. See back cover for the dates and venues. You are most welcome to meet JTS personnel at each location on the first day of the exhibition!

All approved projects after the 5th call
by (Sub-)programme and priority



Who is who in the JTS

June 2011



Missing from the picture:
Bo Storränk Programme Manager (Turku)
Central Baltic Programme
(on a leave until January 2, 2012)

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE CENTRAL BALTIC REGION



The EU has set ambitious energy and climate change objectives for 2020. The work towards the EU target of a 20% share of renewable energies in the EU's energy mix by 2020 is showing definite progress in the Central Baltic region.

Renewable sources of energy are essential alternatives to fossil fuels. The renewable energy sources can be based on wind, solar, hydro-electric and tidal power, geothermal energy and biomass. Using these sources helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation and consumption. It also helps to reduce the EU's dependency on the import of fossil fuels – in particular, oil and gas. The EU's integrated energy and climate change policy includes the target to increase the use of renewables (wind, solar, biomass, etc.) to 20% of total energy production by 2020, including a 10% biofuel target for transport. It also includes the target to cut energy consumption by a full 20% in relation to projected 2020 levels – by improving energy efficiency.

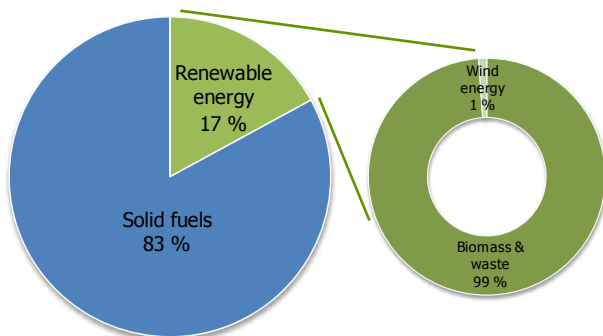


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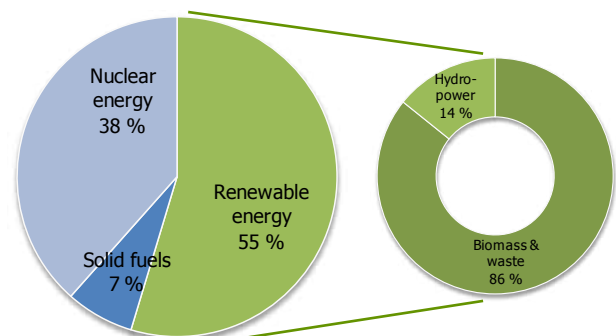
DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION IN THE CENTRAL BALTIC COUNTRIES

Division of energy production 2007

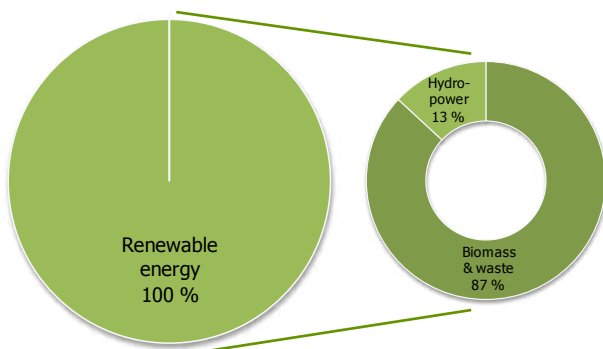
Estonia



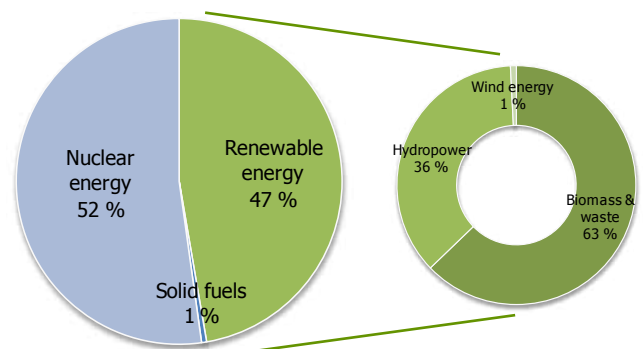
Finland (incl. Åland)



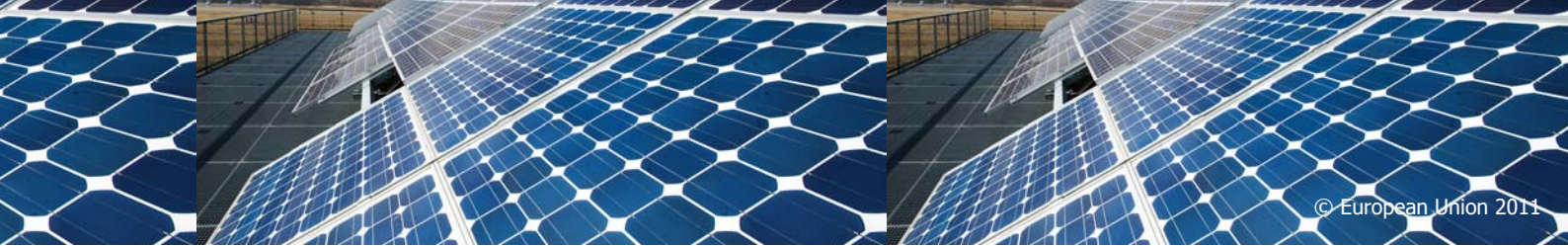
Latvia



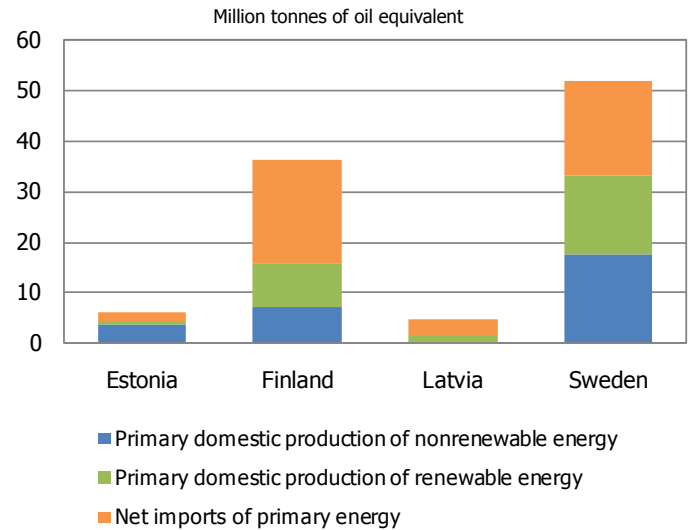
Sweden 2007



Source for the information presented in the article: Europe in figures, Eurostat yearbook 2010
(Table 11.11: Energy production, Table 11.12: Primary production of renewable energy, Table 11.13: Net imports of primary energy)



Division of energy production by source 2007



ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Targets set for a greener future

The energy consumption varies between the Central Baltic countries. In the graph above one can see the amounts of domestically produced energy - the nonrenewable as well as the renewable - together with the amount of total imported energy. Each country has a set target for the share of consumed renewable energy out of the total energy consumption in the year 2020.

Estonia 18% → 25%

In 2005, renewable energies made up 18% of the gross final consumption of energy. The Estonian target for the share of energy from renewable sources in the gross final consumption of energy in 2020 has been set at 25%.

Finland 29% → 38%

In 2005, renewable energies made up 29% of the gross final consumption of energy. The Finnish target for the share of energy from renewable sources in the gross final consumption of energy in 2020 has been set at 38%.

Latvia 33% → 40%

In 2005, renewable energies made up 33% of the gross final consumption of energy. The Latvian target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020 has been set at 40%.

Sweden 40% → 49%

In 2005, renewable energies made up 40% of the gross final consumption of energy. The Swedish target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020 has been set at 49%.

EU integrated energy and climate change policy

The EU formulated a policy response to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the shape of an integrated energy and climate change policy, which includes the following three key targets:

- 20% cut in EU's greenhouse gas emissions (or 30% as part of an international agreement)
- 20% energy share from renewable sources
- 20% increase in energy efficiency

These targets are to be achieved by the year 2020. The ultimate goal of the plan is to limit the average global temperature rise to 2°C.



WOODENERGY

Wood energy and cleantech

It is a well-known fact that using bioenergy is a key to reducing the effects energy production poses to the environment. This is well-recognized in several regional, national and EU overall objectives and plans, but energy production in the Baltic States is still based to a large extent on fossil fuels. One solution to boost the use of renewable energy sources is the better recognition of wood for this purpose. Additionally, increased know-how and the extended use of clean technologies in sustainable energy production are needed. The Central Baltic project Woodenergy – coordinated from Östergötland in Sweden – is up to the challenge!

The project's main aim is to encourage and support local and regional actors in moving towards greener and more sustainable energy production. This is done not only within a cross-border cooperation context but also in taking into account the several sectors involved in the various phases of these processes: planning and the wood business, as well as technology and production. The project collects and analyses

information, finally piloting the findings in pilot projects in selected municipalities within the participating countries.

The consortium, consisting of Swedish, Estonian and Latvian partners, enjoys the benefits of having previous cooperation experience between these countries in the field of forest management. Project Manager Johan Palm, from Linköping, Sweden, notes that all partners bring their own expertise to the partnership and the project. The Estonians act as the locomotives in the technological aspects of the project, whereas Latvia is responsible for the strategic planning issues. The County of Östergötland coordinates the project as its Lead partner and, as part of this work, the development of a competence network for more efficient exchange of experience and practices in the field of wood energy and cleantech.

The project is currently collecting information on wood markets in addition to planning and policies, technology and competencies. Towards the end of the year, the information analysis will be done and the project will initiate its pilot actions, bringing even individual students, forest owners and households into the scope. The end result of the project will be various tools for the regions to use towards more flexible and sustainable energy systems.

"I think the best thing so far is that the cross border management team works so well together and everybody tries hard to contribute with their competence to the project", says Johan Palm.



WOODENERGY - Wood energy and cleantech

- (Sub-)programme:** Central Baltic Programme
- Priority:** Safe and healthy environment
- Direction of support:** Supporting sustainable spatial planning and environmental management
- Project duration:** May 2010 – December 2012 (2 years 8 months)
- Approved budget:** 1 438 155 euros
- Approved ERDF:** 1 150 996 euros

- Lead partner:** Östergötland County Administrative Board, Sweden (Linköping)
- Partners:**
 - Swedish Forest Agency, Region East, Sweden (Västervik)
 - Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia (Tartu)
 - Foundation Private Forest Center, Estonia (Tallinn)
 - Vidzeme Planning Region, Latvia (Cēsis)
 - Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre - Forest Advisory Service Centre, Latvia (Ozolnieki)

More information: www.woodenergyproject.eu



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
The project supports the priority area number:
10

EnSaCo OILSPILL



Environmental and safety management cooperation on shoreline oil spill response

Traffic by sea is increasing steadily, also in the Baltic Sea. Oil transportation and other traffic is raising the risk of oil spill and accidents. However, are we prepared to act if there is a big oil accident in the Baltic Sea? What would we do if the oil entered our shores? EnSaCo OilSpill is working on finding the ways to act on an adequate level.

The project EnSaCo OilSpill is intended to reduce the negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts of an oil spill accident through rapid and efficient shoreline oil response.

Kenneth Kumenius, the Project Manager, tells that the project arises from a practical need to create a new kind of operational cross-border shoreline response management cooperation plan which concerns efficient resource utilization, environmental and socioeconomic decision-making. Another important aspect is to develop oil spill response methods, including oiled wildlife rehabilitation.

The project and its activities are designed to respond to the requirements of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. As a response to this, an electronic tool pertaining to the mobilization of technical and human oil spill resources as well as one affecting ecological prioritizing in oil spill response are to be developed. The new tools will be integrated to form a part of the shoreline authorities' management systems in all coastal areas in Estonia, Finland and Sweden.

At the moment, the project is planning a big international exercise for September 2011, BOILEX in Nynäshamn, Sweden. The purpose of the exercise is for the involved partners to test the methods that have been discussed in the project so far and to see if there are parts that can be further developed and integrated. The idea is to test how materials will be transported in practice from one country to another.

The project has gained a lot of media and international attention after the big oil accident in the Mexican Gulf in 2010. Kenneth Kumenius was in his role as Project Manager for EnSaCo OilSpill invited to participate in an international observer programme to share experiences and knowledge around large oil accidents. Kumenius tells that lessons learnt were mainly the importance of having a strong administration and good communication tools in such crises. The large network that Kumenius has available has also had favourable impact on EnSaCo OilSpill.

For future applicants, Kenneth Kumenius points out that the number of project partners should be carefully considered in such projects. His experience is that the more partners involved in the project, the more bureaucracy is likely to result and the heavier the administrative burden to carry.

The photograph on the cover of the newsletter is taken at an EnSaCo coastal rehearsal in Haapsalu, Estonia.

EnSaCo OILSPILL - Environmental and safety management cooperation on shoreline oil spill response

- (Sub-)programme:** Central Baltic Programme
- Priority:** Safe and healthy environment
- Direction of support:** Supporting sustainable spatial planning and environmental management
- Project duration:** October 2009 – May 2012 (2 years 8 months)
- Approved budget:** 1 454 157 euros
- Approved ERDF:** 1 124 851 euros

Lead partner: HAAGA-HELIA University of Applied Sciences, Finland (Helsinki)

- Partners:**
- | | |
|--|--|
| Eastern Uusimaa Rescue Services, Finland (Porvoo) | Södertörn Rescue Services, Sweden (Haninge) |
| Varsinais-Suomi Rescue Services, Finland (Turku) | Gotland Rescue Services, Sweden (Visby) |
| WWF Finland, Finland (Helsinki) | Söderköping Rescue Services, Sweden (Söderköping) |
| Estonian Maritime Academy, Estonia (Tallinn) | Norduppland Rescue Services, Sweden (Östhammar) |
| Estonian Rescue Board, Estonia (Tallinn) | Norrträle Rescue Services, Sweden (Norrträle) |
| Public Service Academy, Estonia (Tallinn) | Gästrikte Rescue Services, Sweden (Gävle) |
| Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonia (Tartu) | Norrköping Rescue Services, Sweden (Norrköping) |
| Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden (Stockholm) | Greater Stockholm Fire Brigade, Sweden (Stockholm) |
| Swedish Coast Guard, Sweden (Nacka Strand) | |

More information: www.ensaco.fi



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
The project supports the priority area number:
13

OILRISK



Applications of ecological knowledge in managing oil spill risk

The OILRISK project was initiated on the basis of long cooperation between research institutions in Finland and Estonia dealing with maritime safety. In view of the growing traffic on the Gulf of Finland, they saw the urgent need to plan and develop oil-spill combating measures to safeguard nature values – especially the endangered species of the region.

The traffic in the Gulf of Finland is growing, and the rapid expansion of maritime traffic and oil transportation pose a growing risk for the environment. A major oil spill is a scenario no-one wants to be realised. The time to react on an oil spill is very limited, as distances in the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Sea are short.



Furthermore, the Gulf of Finland being a shallow and brackish water body with a complex shoreline makes it extremely vulnerable to oil spills. "Nature values are not evenly spread out on the seashores of Finland and Estonia", says Miina Karjalainen the Project Manager of the OILRISK project, "and it is important to compile maps on the location of those values in the Gulf of Finland area so as to be able to quickly take decisions on the mitigation actions".

One of the most important tools developed in the OILRISK project is a map application which will show where the

important areas to protect are and how onshore combating should be arranged and prioritised, taking the values of nature also into consideration.

During the first phase of the project, the project partners have collected information about vulnerable nature areas and species. Most of the data are in the databases owned by the national authorities, but some information has previously been scattered. Miina Karjalainen explains that the project cooperates with these authorities but also with NGOs that have information about nature values. During the course of data gathering, it also became evident that the differences in the expertise and the availability of suitable data made it necessary to develop applications that best fit the existing systems of the two participating countries.

At the moment, the project partners are working on the development of the map application, particularly its functionality. They are discussing these matters with the authorities and rescue services, who are the end users, in order to understand what would be needed in such a map application. Miina Karjalainen says that they aim at getting the map ready by early 2012. Once it is ready, they will also train the oil combating authorities and organisations to use the map in the event of an oil spill.

Miina Karjalainen points out that it is important to understand that "no project is an island". They have benefitted from cooperating with other projects under the same theme, both current and already finalised projects. Furthermore, she says, it is good to make sure that the end users are already involved during the project.

OILRISK - Applications of ecological knowledge in managing oil-spill risk

(Sub-)programme: Southern Finland - Estonia Sub-programme

Priority: Safe and healthy environment

Direction of support: Maintaining and improving the condition of the natural environment

Project duration: December 2009 - November 2012 (3 years)

Approved budget: 1 126 048 euros

Approved ERDF: 869 170 euros

Lead partner: Kotka Maritime Research Association, Finland (Kotka)

Partners: University of Helsinki, Department of Environmental Sciences, Finland (Helsinki)

University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute, Estonia (Tartu)

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland, Finland (Kouvola)

Finnish Environment Institute, Finland (Helsinki)

Aalto University School of Science and Technology, Finland (Espoo and Lahti)

More information: www.merikotka.fi/oilrisk



GREEN ISLANDS



Green islands in the Baltic Sea

Very few of the islands in the Baltic Sea have adequate sewage treatment systems. The energy used in the area is most often produced elsewhere and the water as well as energy saving options are underdeveloped. During the summer season, the amount of waste increases and the islands need to transport the waste to the mainland for processing. Unsustainable use of resources, as described above, often causes habitat destruction of varying severity. Archipelago and island organisations from Sweden, Finland and Estonia are cooperating to find the solutions to making the islands greener.

“The Green Islands project aims to increase sustainability and self-efficiency in resource use – in other words, making islands green”, says Anna Ehn, Project Manager of the Green Islands project. The main focus is on finding new, local solutions to old problems such as nutrient run-off, waste management, energy consumption and production. They also address consequences to the list of ‘old’ problems such as an increased greenhouse gas emission and disappearing ecosystem services, which cause significant problems for human livelihoods and well-being.

Anna Ehn explains that the project is carefully examining the present situation with regard to waste, energy and water management processes as well as the ecosystem services provided and utilised. The main methods used for gathering new data are questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Islanders are given opportunities to share their knowledge and experience via training and web pages – but also at various meetings held on the islands, says Anna Ehn. For instance, in August 2011 a meeting will be held on the Swedish island of Utö regarding energy issues, and it is open

to all interested persons. Similar meetings will be held on other islands participating in the project.

The project partners are looking for the best systems and techniques that can help to increase sustainability in a way adjusted to archipelago conditions. On the basis of this analysis, they will make management plans on how to move forward. The management plans will present new solutions within these fields, comparing them in efficiency both economically and environmentally.

The most important result of the project will be the gathering, synthesising and comprehensive distribution of previously scattered or missing information. All gathered information will be publicly available via a web-based GIS portal. The portal provides analyses and suggestions for others interested in making their islands green.

Anna Ehn considers that a large and occasionally difficult part of a project like this is the communication and cooperation required between the partners, countries and interest groups. However, these are also the most important components in managing to get everyone onboard as well as to disseminate the results of the project.



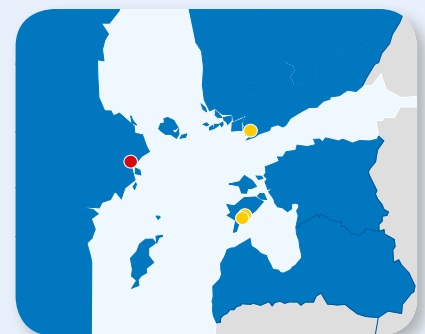
GREEN ISLANDS - Green islands in the Baltic Sea

(Sub-)programme: Archipelago and Islands Sub-programme
Priority: Safe and healthy environment
Direction of support: Raising environmental awareness (Finding new ways)
Project duration: November 2010 – December 2013 (3 years 2 months)

Approved budget: 1 408 784 euros
Approved ERDF: 1 066 918 euros

Lead partner: The Archipelago Foundation in the County of Stockholm, Sweden (Stockholm)
Partners: ARONIA coastal zone research team at Åbo Akademi University, Finland (Raseborg)
 Association of Estonian Islands, Estonia (Kuressaare)
 Sustainable Saaremaa, Estonia (Kuressaare)

More information: www.skargardstiftelsen.se



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
 The project supports the priority area number:
1,2,3,5,7,10



- ▶ Central Baltic Showcase Photo Exhibition "What is being done with the EU money?"
The JTS is represented during the opening day at each location - come and have a cup of coffee with us!

Helsinki - City Music Library, Library 10, Elielinaukio 2 G	October 10-23
Riga - University of Latvia, Raiņa bulv. 19	October 10-23
Tallinn - Tallinn University, Narva mnt 25	October 12-25
Mariehamn - City Library, Strandgatan 29	October 17-30
Stockholm - Stockholm University, Frescati, Universitetsvägen 14 D	October 17-30
- ▶ Joint meeting of the CB + SFE + AI Steering Committees in Tallinn, October 11-13 (tbc)
- ▶ Tools for project implementation seminar for Priority 2 projects (Economically Competitive and Innovative Region), Riga, November 2
- ▶ Lead Partner seminar for the 6th call approved projects, Stockholm, November 22
- ▶ Communication seminar for all running projects, Stockholm, November 23
- ▶ Tools for project implementation seminar for Priority 3 projects (Attractive and Dynamic Societies), Stockholm, November 24
- ▶ 6th Monitoring Committee meeting on Åland, November 10

VISIT THE PROGRAMME WEBSITE
www.centralbaltic.eu



On the programme website you'll find all the latest information, facts and summaries of the running projects, possibility to search partners for a project idea, various documents to support application and project implementation, an event calendar, contact details of the JTS and much more.

You can also subscribe to the programme's mailing list to always be among the first to receive the latest news from us!

CENTRAL BALTIC INTERREG IV A PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

The Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013 is an EU funding programme aiming at co-operation across the borders of Estonia, Finland (incl. Åland), Sweden and Latvia. The programme gives funding to projects dealing with environment, competitiveness and innovation as well as the attractiveness of the societies.

Aiming at cross-border co-operation in the Central Baltic Sea region, the funded projects are to have partners from at least two of the participating countries. The duration of the projects is normally 2-3 years and the approximate average budget around 1 million euros. The potential partners include local and regional authorities, state organisations and organisations established for general interest needs as well as NGOs and for Southern Finland – Estonia co-operation private enterprises with certain restrictions. For more detailed definitions see the Programme Manual available online.

More information about the programme and its projects can be found online as well as by contacting the Joint Technical Secretariat with its offices in Turku, Mariehamn, Tallinn, Riga and Stockholm. Contact information can be found at www.centralbaltic.eu.

