



# Baltic Sea Region

Programme 2007–2013

## Newsletter June 2011

### Highlights

- Eight new Baltic Sea region cooperation projects
- Joint ETC conference website online
- Energy cluster to start up

### Eight new Baltic Sea region cooperation projects – Improving accessibility, promoting and protecting marine resources

Eight new transnational cooperation projects will start up in summer 2011. The Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme decided to release 21.6 Million EUR from the European Union's Baltic Sea Region Programme. 132 organisations from the area will be involved in joint activities. Three of the selected projects are flagship projects of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (CHEMsea, PRESTO, AQUABEST).

All projects discussed by the Monitoring Committee at its meeting in Schwerin/Germany, on 7-8 June, are focusing either on "Internal and external accessibility" (priority 2) or "Baltic



Gunita Kakteniece, DEA BALTICA; Edwin van Os and Joanna Kiryllo, European Commission and Swedish MC member Christina Skantze

Sea as a common resource" (priority 3). Projects dealing with "Fostering innovations" (priority 1) and "Attractive & competitive cities and regions" (priority 4) will be decided at

the next Monitoring Committee meeting in September 2011. It is expected that all programme funds will be committed after the September meeting.

### New projects:

Priority	Project acronym	ERDF co-financing (EUR)	NOR co-financing	ENPI co-financing	Total budget	Lead Partner	No. Of partners
2	BGLC	3,176,000.00	300,000.00	-	4,804,000.00	SE	29
2	BALTIC BIRD	2,081,800.00	125,000.00	-	2,950,000.00	DE	21
2	ACL	1,906,720.00	-	306,450.00	2,770,300.00	DE	20
2	BALTRAD+	1,318,538.50	77,500.00	29,655.00	1,887,298.00	SE	13
3	CHEMsea	3,621,905.30	-	-	4,587,734.00	PL	11
3	PRESTO	1,113,035.00	-	2,798,458.00	4,553,946.00	FI	12
3	AQUABEST	2,727,865.25	-	108,000.00	3,744,989.00	FI	14
3	AQUAFIMA	1,768,503.85	137,676.09	-	2,499,083.00	DE	12
<b>TOTAL: 8 projects</b>		<b>17,714,367.90</b>	<b>640,176.09</b>	<b>3,242,563.00</b>	<b>27,797,350.00</b>		<b>132</b>

The projects illustrate the wide thematic range of the cooperation that is part-financed by the Programme.

58 project applications had been submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat at Rostock and Riga by the end of March 2011. Five of the applying projects are extensions of already

on-going 65 projects. The applicants had to demonstrate their potential to contribute to the development of the whole Baltic Sea region. The Programme's Monitoring Committee including national and regional

representatives from all eleven participating countries selects the best project proposals. In 2011 the Monitoring Committee is chaired by Germany (Mr Bernd Kloke, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology).



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**Bothnian Green Logistic Corridor (BGLC)** links the Northern Scandinavia and Barents region with the industry and end markets in the Baltic Sea Region and central Europe. The project will improve efficiency of transport flows and "green" the multi-modal logistics. Partners will prepare e.g. early warning system for break downs of transport infrastructure, innovative inter-modal technology for trailer transport and guidelines for geographic location of strategic logistic nodes.



*Bothnian Green Logistic Corridor – the North-South link*

**CHEMsea** (Chemical Munitions Search & Assessment) project will minimise risks resulting from underwater activities near chemical warfare agents that were dumped into the Baltic Sea after the World War II. Partners will unify procedures for detection of underwater munitions and produce a map of the Baltic Sea areas contaminated with chemical warfare agents. Project will also prepare guidelines for different groups of users that have to handle chemical warfare agents and scenarios how to react in a case of leakage.

**PRESTO** (Project on reduction of the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea today) will work with selected wastewater treatment plants and plans to significantly reduce nutrient load to the Baltic Sea. PRESTO will run courses on modern waste water treatment for operating staff of the waste water treatment plants, plant designers and trainers of future wastewater engineers.

**AQUABEST** (Innovative practises and technologies for developing sustainable aquaculture in the Baltic Sea region) will increase food production in the Baltic Sea catchment area. Project partners will introduce best available technologies and practises for the aquaculture. As fish will be farmed using sustainable practises (nutrient neutral), project will strive for political acceptance and raise consumer demand.

**BALTIC BIRD** (Improved accessibility of the Baltic Sea Region by air transport) will improve air transport connections to/from the peripheral areas in the North and East of the BSR. The project will introduce several new flight routes and come up with a toolbox of instruments to set up new passenger flight connections.

**Amber Coast Logistics (ACL)** is about multi-modal transport and logistics development in the South-Eastern Baltic Sea Region. Project will strengthen the logistic connections to the EU neighbouring countries Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

**AQUAFIMA** (Integrating Aquaculture and Fisheries Management towards a sustainable regional development in the Baltic Sea Region) will improve management of the fisheries in the region. Partners will e.g. review current national/EU fishery policies and discuss alternatives with stakeholders and policy-makers and prepare management concepts for the four case study areas.

**BALTRAD+** (An advanced weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region) is the extension of the BALTRAD project. Project partners will purchase and install the hardware, prepare the maintenance as well as train the staff to start an operational international weather radar network.



*Ute Neumann and Eeva Rantama, Joint Technical Secretariat; Bernd Kloke, German Chair of the Monitoring Committee*

**Programme in figures** (after Schwerin MC meeting)

Number of calls launched:	<b>4</b>
Number of approved projects:	<b>73</b>
Number of project partners:	<b>1207</b>
Number of flagship projects in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region:	<b>30</b>
Total available programme budget (2007-2013):	<b>207,4 Million EUR</b>
Funds committed to projects to date:	<b>91,9 %</b>





**Organisational changes at the Managing Authority**

The function of the Managing Authority of the Baltic Sea Region Programme has been assigned to the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB). IB is also hosting the Joint Technical Secretariat. In April 2011, Susanne Scherrer, so far director of the Joint Technical Secretariat, took over also the function as Managing Authority. She will now act as director for both, the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat. As Managing Authority, Susanne Scherrer is supported by Gudrun Dittrich who started working full-time as Managing Authority programme manager in March 2011. Gudrun is located at the headquarters of Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, at Kiel. The new postal address of the Managing Authority has changed to: Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013; Managing Authority/Joint Technical Secretariat Rostock/Riga; Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein; Grubenstraße 20; 18055 Rostock, Germany. Since the end of 2010, Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB) has appointed two new Board members: Mr Erk Westermann-Lammers, now the director of IB Board, and Mr Michael Adamska. Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB) is the non-profit making public development bank of the German Land (state) Schleswig-Holstein. For more information, please check <http://www.ib-sh.de/english/>.



*Susanne Scherrer, Director of Joint Technical Secretariat and Managing Authority of the Baltic Sea Region Programme*

**Energy cluster to start up**

Eight Baltic Sea Region Programme projects focusing on energy issues (Baltic Biogas Bus, Urb.Energy, Bioenergy Promotion, COOL Bricks, Public Energy Alternatives, Longlife, REMOWE, SPIN) joined the "Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources" cluster. The Monitoring Committee granted 100.000 EUR to support the cluster activities that will last 12 months.

At the same time the Committee decided to initiate further clusters on tools supporting innovation sources, fighting pollution of the Baltic Sea waters and multimodal cross-border transport corridors so far.

**Annual Implementation Report 2010**

The Monitoring Committee approved the Annual Implementation Report 2010 for the Baltic Sea Region Programme in its meeting on 7 - 8 June 2011. The report reflects the activities, developments and spending situation in the Programme during the year 2010. It will be submitted to the European Commission for approval by the end of June 2011. An executive summary of the report is available on the Programme website. Once approved, the full report will be available for download on the Programme website.



**"10%-rule" on use of ERDF outside the European Union abolished at project level**

The "10% rule" limits the use of ERDF co-financing outside the European Union. In the Baltic Sea Region Programme the rule was applied so far on project level. This meant that not more than 10% of the total ERDF funds allocated to a project could be spent outside the European Union, i.e. in Norway, Belarus, Russia and other non-EU countries.

The statistical analysis of project spending revealed that the 10% threshold will not be reached at Programme level. Therefore, the 10% threshold on project level has been lifted. However, to comply with the

respective EC regulation this threshold will further exist on Programme level and needs to be monitored by the Joint Technical Secretariat. The expenditure for activities carried out outside the EU-territory has to be for the benefit of the regions of the EU Member States belonging to the Programme area. For details, see Programme Manual v5.0, chapter 5.2.10.

This also implies that all projects have to continue to indicate in each progress report, section FR\_5, the amount of ERDF spent outside the European Union.



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**Joint ETC conference website online**



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KATOWICE, POLAND

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to improve  
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by the Polish EU presidency. Discover the Programme areas, check out the six cooperation topics and discuss about the future of Transnational Cooperation. On the conference website you will also have the possibility to view the conference online.

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**13 PROGRAMMES** | **TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN REGIONAL EUROPE**

**1 GOAL**

**Programme mid-term evaluation report**

The Monitoring Committee also approved the Final Evaluation Report. The evaluation report is the result of an external evaluation that was carried out by DEA Baltika (Latvia) from October 2010 to May 2011. In this evaluation, a number of strategic questions were analysed and recommendations for the current and the future Programme period were formulated. The Monitoring Committee will follow up on the recommendations during the coming months. The evaluation report will be made available for download on the Programme website in July 2011.



**Event calendar**

	Date	Place
Joint ETC conference	15-16 September 2011	Katowice, Poland
Meeting of the Monitoring Committee	27-28 September 2011	Berlin, Germany

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**The Baltic Sea Programme 2007–2013 is investing in Europe's future by fostering sustainable growth of the region.**