

Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, Schwerin, 7 – 8 June 2011

8 new Baltic Sea cooperation projects – “green” safe transport & clean environment

8 new projects are to start in summer 2011. The representatives from eleven countries surrounding the Baltic Sea decided to financially support these transnational projects with 21.6 Mio EUR from the European Union’s Baltic Sea Region Programme. 132 organisations from the area will be involved in joint activities. 3 of the selected projects (CHEMsea, PRESTO, AQUABEST) are flagship projects of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The projects deal with the major challenges faced by the inhabitants of the Baltic Sea Region. Efficiency of infrastructure, safe and clean environment are on the top of the agenda. The ambitious aim of the Baltic Sea Region Programme is to bring the actors together and provide them with favourable working environment.

Projects approved on 8 June 2011:

Priority	Project acronym	ERDF co-financing	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
TOTAL: 8 projects		17,714,367.90	640,176.09	3,242,563.00	27,797,350.00		132

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

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

All the projects that were discussed on 7-8 June are focusing either on "Internal and external accessibility" (priority 2) or "Baltic 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 meeting in September 2011.

58 project applications had been submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat in Rostock and Riga by the end of March 2011. Five of the applying projects are extensions of the already running projects. All project ideas 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 participating countries selects the best project proposals. In 2011 the Monitoring Committee is chaired by Germany.

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