

Nine environmental projects cooperating through the Water Cluster Baltic Impulse

Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 initiated a formation of the Water Cluster by matching together nine environmental projects that were financed by the programme. The aim of the cluster was to ensure further use of outcomes of individual project, find synergies and intensify exchange of knowledge and experiences of project partners. The projects involved in the cluster were [Baltic Compass](#), [Baltic Deal](#), [Baltic Manure](#), [BERAS Implementation](#), [COHIBA](#), [PURE](#), [PRESTO](#), [SMOCS](#) and [Waterpraxis](#).

All Baltic Impulse projects were concerned with the quality of the Baltic Sea waters. The projects concentrated on agri-environmental issues, waste water management, river basin management plans, contaminated sediments and hazardous substances. The cluster was a small attempt to have a wider vision of the challenges of the Baltic Sea. The cluster outcomes include [two workshops](#); promotion and presentation of the results of the projects on further forums and the [website](#) hosted by HELCOM. Significantly, as the experience of the cluster made out a case, the process and discussions are as valuable as the final outcomes. The final conclusion arising from the work with the cluster partners is that saving the Baltic Sea cannot be done by treating the individual symptoms and their causes but looking at the bigger picture. The solution is sustainable resource management that involves all sectors.

Views on sustainable resource management in the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic Impulse cluster partnership produced a report [“Sustainable resource management for a Healthy Baltic Sea”](#). The “red thread” found by the very different projects was sustainable resource management, as all the projects had touched this problem. The synthesis report gives glimpse of sustainable resource practices and management. As half of the cluster partners represented agri-environmental projects, farm-based resource management were represented best, but also good governance for water planning and management and dealing with waste waters were included.

The project recommendations, summarising the central points of the work done in the cluster, constitute a vital part of the synthesis report. As the ultimate goal, they envision a bio-based society with conscious, well-informed and publicly involved farmers acting as responsible managers, taking into account the environmental risks and possibilities embedded in their agricultural practices.



The complete “Sustainable resource management for a healthy Baltic Sea” report can be downloaded from [here](#).



Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013 produced a brochure that gives scenes to detailed project work. The brochure “Baltic Impulse – Saving the Baltic Sea Waters” can be downloaded [here](#).

“A Greener Agriculture for a Bluer Baltic Sea” Conference



Photo: Ville Niinistö, Finnish Minister of Environment, at the opening of the conference.

Baltic Impulse was one of the organizers of the fifth annual A Greener Agriculture for a Bluer Baltic Sea conference held this time in Helsinki, Finland. This year’s theme was Visions for Nutrient Management. The event gathered 270 participants from all Baltic Sea Region countries.

Projects represented in the cluster

Baltic Compass promoted sustainable agriculture in the Baltic Sea region. The special emphasis was on reducing eutrophication. The project worked in five areas: best practices, investment facilitation, water assessment and scenarios, and policy adaptation.

www.balticcompass.org

Baltic Deal gathered farmers and farmers' advisory organisations around the Baltic Sea in a unique effort to raise the competence concerning agri-environmental practices and measures.

www.balticdeal.eu

Baltic Manure aimed to change the general perception of manure as a waste product to that of a resource. With the help of the best available manure handling technologies and a developed policy framework, the project identified the inherent business opportunities of manure.

www.balticmanure.eu

Beras Implementation promoted a good environmental status of the Baltic Sea as a genuine ecological alternative mitigating adverse climate effects from agriculture and secures a sustainable and prosperous development in the region.

www.beras.eu

COHIBA – Control of hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea region. The COHIBA project supported the implementation of the BSAP with regard to hazardous substances by developing joint actions to reach that goal. COHIBA identified the sources and inputs of eleven hazardous substances and developed measures to reduce them.

www.cohiba-project.net

PURE was a project on urban reduction of eutrophication. PURE promoted better treatment of urban wastewaters in the Baltic Sea region and combatted eutrophication by enhancing phosphorus removal at selected municipal wastewater treatment plants in the region.

www.purebalticsea.eu

PRESTO was a project on reduction of the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea today. Presto has improved the quality of local waters and the Baltic Sea by reducing nutrient load through transnational investments, education and by raising awareness.

www.prestobalticsea.eu

SMOCS - Sustainable management of contaminated sediments. The SMOCS project, in cooperation with ports, authorities and industry, produced a guideline on treatment of contaminated sediments.

www.smoocs.eu

Waterpraxis: "From theory and plans to eco-efficient and sustainable practices to improve the status of the Baltic Sea". Waterpraxis aimed to improve the status of the Baltic Sea by assisting the implementation of river basin management plans into practice in the region.

www.waterpraxis.net



BALTIC IMPULSE