

### **Priority 3: Management of the Baltic Sea as a common resource**

**The objective:** to improve the management of the Baltic Sea resources in order to achieve its better environmental state.

The priority is open for projects aiming at:

- focusing on concrete actions to ensure effective and efficient water management;
- learning which marine resources can **be utilised** for the economic development of the regions **without harming** the marine **ecosystems** (gathering the knowledge, integration);
- learning how to **mitigate the impacts of the regions economic development using a joint approach** (preparedness and response, onshore and off-shore planning, capacity building);
- **preparing** the regions **for** the consequences of **global climate change** (raising awareness, changing behaviours).

#### **Areas of support:**

1. Water management with special attention to challenges caused by increasing economic activities and climate changes
2. Economic management of open sea areas and sustainable use of marine resources
3. Enhanced maritime safety
4. Integrated development of off-shore and coastal areas

#### **Expected results of the Priority 3 are:**

<b>COMMON RESULTS</b>	<b>PRIORITY SPECIFIC RESULTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased political recognition for transnational solutions improving the management of Baltic Sea resources</li> <li>▪ Increased sustainability of co-operative networks aiming at improved management of the Baltic Sea</li> <li>▪ Unlocking public /private investments aimed at the improvement of Baltic Sea management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved institutional capacity and effectiveness in water management in the Baltic Sea</li> <li>▪ Improved institutional capacity in dealing with hazards and risks, including climate change</li> <li>▪ Increased sustainable economic potential of marine resources</li> <li>▪ Influenced policies, strategies, action plans and/or regulations in the field of management of Baltic Sea as a common resource</li> </ul>

## **Areas of support:**

### **1. Water management with special attention to challenges caused by increasing economic activities and climate changes**

- Actions and strategies to improve water management in the Baltic Sea and its catchment area (public awareness campaigns on the importance of reduced land-based pollution, water quality, water supply and flood protection)
- New technologies and solutions for water treatment based on the pooling of existing experience in the BSR
- Identification of weak links/bottlenecks in the water treatment systems currently in use in order to increase their efficiency (e.g. aiming to reduce phosphate concentration in the existing systems), followed by concrete investments
- Actions to prevent transboundary pollution, including nuclear radiation, and to promote environmental management and standards
- Actions, action plans, strategies and legislative frameworks for improved water management in order to minimise impacts of climate change
- Actions and solutions for improved protection of valuable marine resources (e.g. joint testing of newly developed protection measures)

### **2. Economic management of open sea areas and sustainable use of marine resources**

- Strategies, actions and investments for sustainable use of marine resources including introduction of best available technologies and practices, e.g. in the field of advanced technologies in marine culture (aquaculture), exploitation of gas hydrates, offshore wind energy, fish breeding, use of biomass, exploration of underwater tourism potentials etc.
- Actions oriented towards sensitivity mapping of the Baltic Sea space resulting in visualisation of investigated potential of marine resources as well as in detection of possible conflict areas

### **3. Enhanced maritime safety**

- Application of strategies, tools and methods to minimise environmental risks resulting from both natural hazards and human activities (marine transport, sea-bottom pipeline transport, tourism, fisheries etc)
- Actions and investments to enhance preparedness and response on the sea in case of accidents or spills (contingency planning, equipment on ships, harmonisation of legislative frames, principles, rules and regulations)
- Joint strategies and actions to increase reliability of maritime transport in the Baltic Sea (e.g. ice breaking, safer transport of dangerous goods)

### **4. Integrated development of off-shore and coastal areas**

- Harmonisation of national management plans on marine environment and joint transnational implementation of their relevant parts
- Streamlining of national efforts towards development of the off-shore planning standards
- Development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management aiming at competence building at regional and national level
- Preparation of scenarios, adaptation strategies and intervention plans towards mitigation of impacts of climate change on coastal areas