

GES-REG project – why it was initiated and what we have done

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Background

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) was adopted in 2008 with the aim to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020.

According to Article 6 of the MSFD Member States should cooperate to ensure the coordinated development of marine strategies in the same marine region.

For that close cooperation of institutions involved in the MSFD implementation in a sub-regional scale (in the central Baltic region) was planned to secure as much as possible coordination of marine strategies.

Background

Main issues, where joint actions and harmonization of MSFD implementation products are needed, were defined:

- harmonization of initial assessments between countries sharing same sub-regions, in particular, sharing of information regarding assessment of pressures;
- joint attempts to fill in gaps regarding GES descriptors not well enough addressed so far under different directives/assessment procedures (food webs, non-indigenous species, litter, noise);
- joint development of monitoring programs with possible sharing of responsibilities and infrastructures;
- joint economic and social analysis of the use of the sea and the cost of degradation of marine environment.

Project aim

The main aim of the project is **to support coherent and coordinated** implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) in the central and north-eastern sub-regions of the Baltic Sea – in the Gulf of Finland, northern part of the Baltic Proper and Gulf of Riga

Thus – GES-REG will support implementation of MSFD in all participating countries as well as gives input to the parallel work in HELCOM

Duration – 1 June 2011 – 31 December 2013

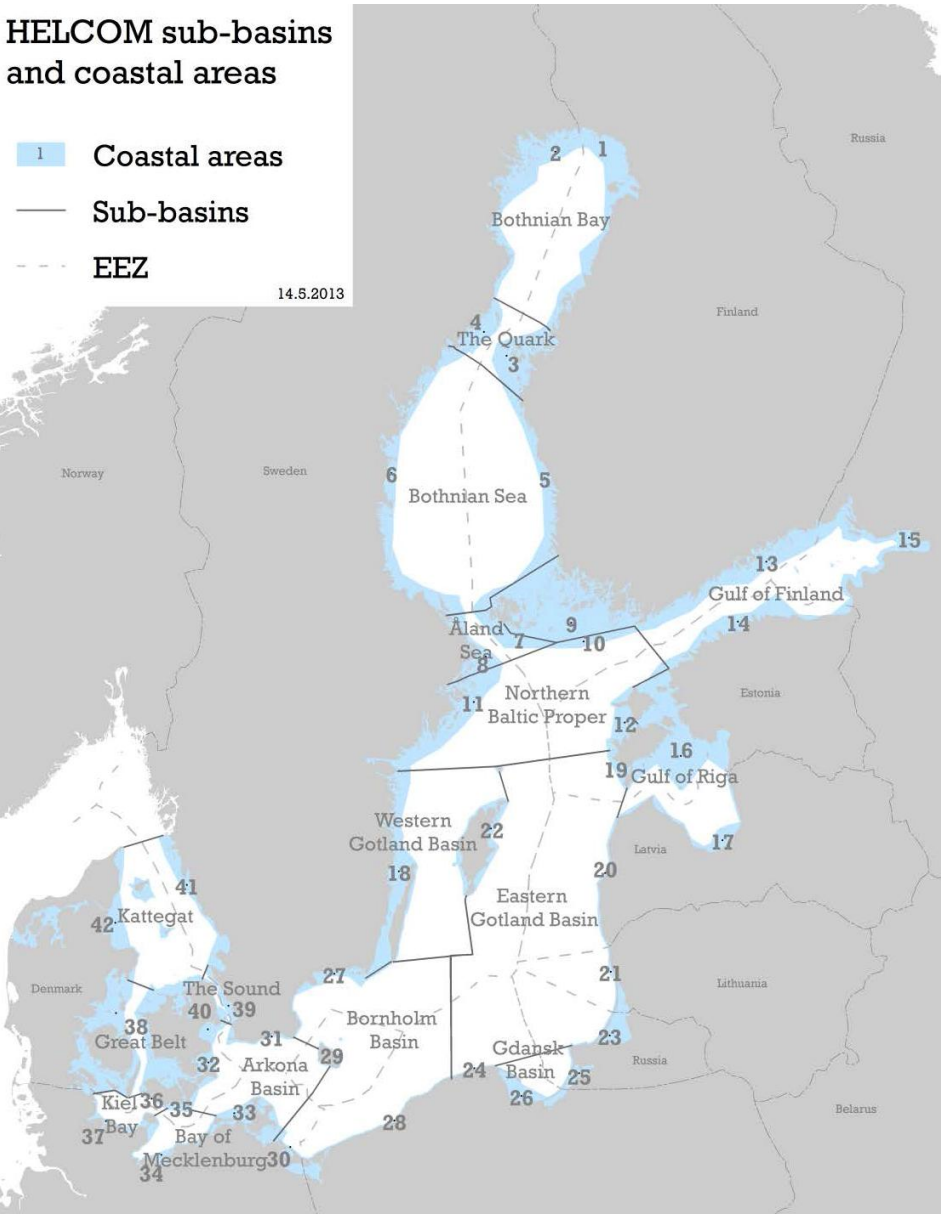
Budget – 1 472 648 €, including 1 137 446 € ERDF funding

Project region

HELCOM sub-basins and coastal areas

- Coastal areas
- Sub-basins
- - - EEZ

14.5.2013



Interreg Central Baltic Region - according to the HELCOM division:

Gulf of Finland

Gulf of Riga

Northern Baltic Proper

Partly also Eastern Gotland Basin

Project partners

Partners:

Tallinn University of Technology, Marine Systems Institute (**MSI**) - LP
University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute (**EMI**)
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia (**MoE-Est**)
Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development/Stockholm Environment
Institute Tallinn Centre (**SEIT**)
Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (**LHEI**)
Finnish Environment Institute (**SYKE**)
Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (**RKTL**)

Associated Partners:

MTT Agrifood Research Finland (**MTT**)
Stockholm University, Stockholm Resilience Centre, BalticSTERN Secretariat
(**SRC**)

Steering Group

Representatives from the Environmental Ministries / authorities

Ulla Kaarikivi-Laine – Finland

Harry Liiv – Estonia

Baiba Zasa – Latvia

Mats Ivarsson – Sweden

Representatives of Partner Organizations

Jüri Elken – MSI (Estonia)

Heikki Pitkänen – SYKE (Finland)

Santa Purvina – LHEI (Latvia)

Work packages

WP1 – Project management and coordination – to guarantee high quality administration, management and communication

WP2 – Analysis of initial assessments – to perform detailed analysis of initial assessments for coherence and gaps

WP3 – Advance knowledge base to support assessment of GES – guidance for harmonised use of descriptors, criteria and indicators

WP4 – Sound and cost effective joint monitoring and assessment scheme

WP5 – Economic and social analysis

WP2

WP2 – Analysis of initial assessments (MSFD Article 8); responsible partner – EMI, involved partners – SYKE, LHEI, MoE-Est, SEIT, MSI, RKTL

Content – Analysis of coherence of methodologies and concepts describing environmental status and evaluation of pressures and impacts, gaps analysis and analysis to suggest harmonization of assessment schemes for different directives

Planned results – **Report** on coherence of initial assessments and **recommendations** for harmonization. **Report** on gaps in knowledge. **Recommendations** for harmonization of assessment schemes for different directives

WP3

WP3 – Advance knowledge base to support assessment of GES (MSFD Article 9); responsible partner – SYKE, involved partners – MSI, EMI, LHEI, RKTL

Content – Analyses of methodologies will be conducted for descriptors: **non-indigenous species, food webs, marine litter and underwater noise. Seminars and small-scale pilot studies** in selected areas will be carried out to contribute to the capacity building

Planned results – Reports summarising and analysing the information on methodologies that can be used to develop further the science base for GES descriptors, criteria and indicators as well as defining need **for capacity building**

WP4

WP4 – Sound and cost effective joint monitoring and assessment scheme (MSFD Article 11); responsible partner – MSI, involved partners – EMI, SYKE, LHEI, MoE-Est, RKTU

Content – Analysis of existing monitoring and measurement programs, elaboration of a joint cost-effective monitoring network, development of new assessment methods and finally development of a joint monitoring and assessment scheme in the sub-region

Planned results – **Report** on gaps in the monitoring programs. **Report** on using autonomous measurements for monitoring and assessment. **Report** on assessment tools . **Joint assessment report** on Alg@line (Ferrybox) type of monitoring. **Proposal for a joint monitoring and assessment scheme in the sub-region.**

WP5

WP5 – Economic and social analysis; responsible partner – SEIT, involved partners – LHEI, MSI, MoE, MTT, SRC

Content – Analyzing countries ESA of water use, BAU, the costs of degradation, cost-efficiency, socio-economic impacts of measures. Workshops-seminars to harmonize methods for ESA. Training-study visits; acquiring software and literature to build capacity

Planned results – Recommendations for: coherent assessments; coordinated methods for socio-economic analysis (ESA); ESA of programs of measures (PoM). Complemented **valuation studies** (EE, LV); **information base for ESA** to support PoM, and suggestions for further work.