

Economic and social analysis

GES-REG project also contributes to the development of coordinated, cost-effective and efficient programs of policy measures to achieve good environmental status in the Baltic Sea.

Activities of economic and social analysis (ESA) include exchange of information and experiences between partner countries and conducting studies on the ESA of countries' marine water use, the business-as-usual scenario development, the costs of degradation analysis, the cost-effectiveness and socio-economic impact analysis of measures.

The planned outputs will include improved national information and knowledge bases as well as institutional capacities for preparing the socio-economic analysis of programs of measures according to the MSFD and recommendations for harmonizing the national methodologies on the sub-regional scale.



GES-REG project website:
<http://gesreg.msi.ttu.ee/>

Lead Partner

Marine Systems Institute at Tallinn University of Technology
www.msi.ttu.ee

Project coordinator Urmas Lips, urmas.lips@msi.ttu.ee
Project manager Mairi Uiboaed, mairi.uiboaed@msi.ttu.ee

Partners

Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu
Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development/Stockholm
Environment Institute Tallinn Centre
Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
Finnish Environment Institute
Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute

The project is supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme.



CENTRAL BALTIC
INTERREG IV A
PROGRAMME
2007-2013



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

The content of the publication reflects the authors views and the Managing Authority cannot be held liable for the information published by the project partners.

GES  REG

Interest in environmental issues has increased over the last years. More and more attention is being paid to the environmental status of the sea. The EU established a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, MSFD) in 2008 with the aim to achieve and maintain good environmental status in European seas by the year 2020.

The primary aim of the GES-REG project is to support coherent and coordinated implementation of the MSFD in the central and north-eastern sub-regions of the Baltic Sea.

**Good environmental status
through regional coordination
and capacity building**

Photo: Kari Lepistö

Analysis of initial assessments

According to the MSFD Member States shall make an initial assessment of their marine waters that includes

- a. an analysis of the essential features and characteristics, and current environmental status of marine waters;
- b. an analysis of the predominant pressures and impacts, including human activity;
- c. an economic and social analysis of the use of marine waters and of the cost of degradation of the marine environment.

Within the GES-REG project detailed analyses will be performed of Estonian, Latvian, and Finnish national initial assessments for coherence of methodologies and gaps in data. Also recommendations for harmonization of assessment schemes and recommendations concerning the set of characteristics for determination of good environmental status are prepared.



Photo: Valdur Rosevald

Advance knowledge base to support assessment of good environmental status

One of the aims of GES-REG project is to increase the knowledge base and guidance for harmonized use of descriptors, criteria and indicators in defining good environmental status (GES).

The latest guidance on criteria, indicators and methodologies in defining and assessing good environmental status are provided by the European Commission and regional organizations such as HELCOM, OSPAR and ICES.

Analyses of methodologies will be conducted for the following 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.



Photo: Juho Siipilä



Photo: Inga Lips

Sound and cost effective joint monitoring and assessment scheme

According to the MSFD Member States sharing a marine (sub)region shall draw up joint monitoring programmes that are consistent across the region to maintain comparability of results. Moreover, relevant transboundary impacts and features have to be taken into account in the programmes.

GES-REG project aspires to elaborate a new joint monitoring and assessment scheme that would meet the standards set in the MSFD. One of the expected results of the project is a coordinated and cost-effective monitoring network that will combine traditional monitoring methods with novel approaches.

For that a study will be carried out on cost-effectiveness of monitoring methods using autonomous platforms (e.g. Ferryboxes, automatic buoys etc.) and a new Ferrybox system will be installed on a ferry travelling between Riga and Stockholm.



Photo: Irina Suhhova



Photo: Irina Suhhova

Photo: Jevgenijs Scolokovs