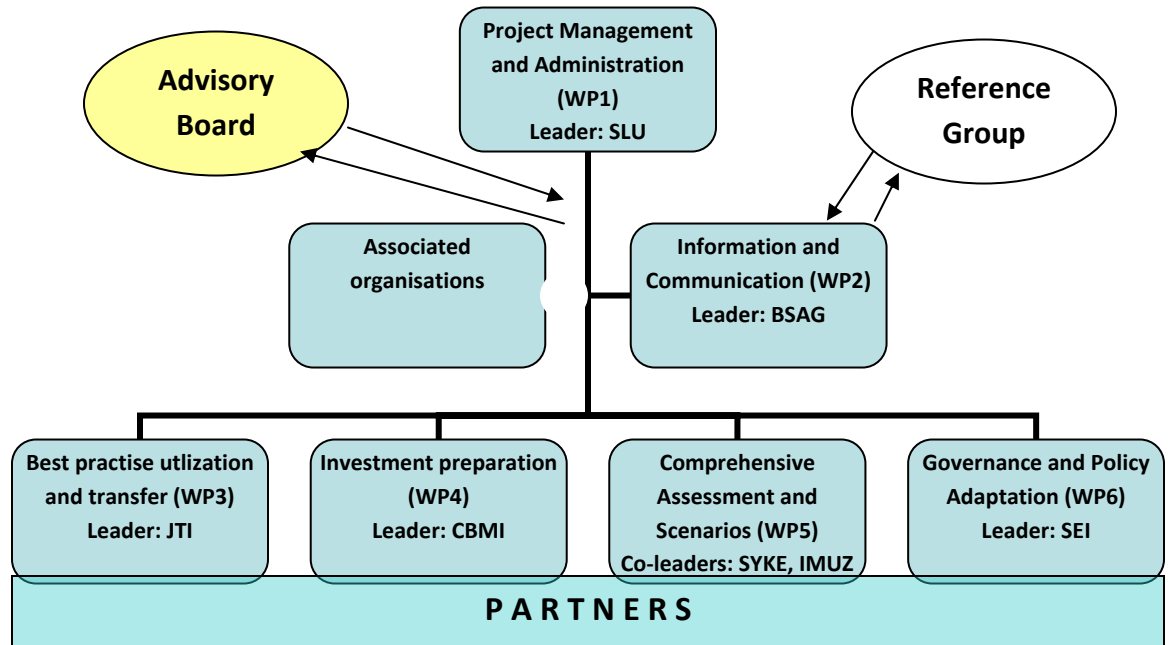


Baltic COMPASS

Bringing business, environmental and agricultural sectors together to protect the Baltic Sea and to develop agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region

Project concept, March 2009

Project organizational structure



Baltic COMPASS – Comprehensive Policy Actions and Investments in Sustainable Solutions in Agriculture in the Baltic Sea region

Summary

Baltic COMPASS project has grown out of a large number of international projects in the field of landuse, agriculture, water and environment related to the protection of the Baltic Sea. Specifically, Baltic COMPASS is a response to the need for a transnational approach to reduce eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and contribute in adaption and implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). The project will particularly aim to remedy the gaps in the stakeholders' capacity and resources to combat eutrophication and communicate on the different policy levels, and lack of trust between the environmental and agricultural sectors. The project aims to support win-win solutions for agriculture, environment and business sectors throughout the Baltic Sea Region. 23 partners from authorities, interest organizations and research institutes in Finland, Russia, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden constitutes the partnership.

The target groups for Baltic COMPASS are governments, authorities, interest organizations and entrepreneurs with influence on landuse in the Baltic Sea Region. Land-use for agricultural purposes in the BSR is expected to intensify due to climate change and increasing global demands for food and bioenergy. This is likely to exacerbate current pressures on the sensitive marine ecosystems. The competence, technologies, policies and science for developing more sustainable solutions is available in the BSR, but these are currently unevenly distributed and harmonized between regions, and moreover between the west and the east. This is the specific transnational problem and challenge addressed by Baltic COMPASS. The partnership will work to boost utilization of best practices, accelerate investments in environmental technologies, strengthen governance and policy adaption, and to promote the Baltic Sea Region as a pilot region for innovative solutions related to combating eutrophication.

Activities in the project will all contribute to two instrument drivers of change in the BSR: an adaptive policy environment and an enabling environment for investment. As a strategic project Baltic COMPASS will focus on activities which add value to ongoing projects, actions and policies. Cooperation with other projects like WATERPRAXIS, BIOENERGY PROMOTION, BALTIC CLIMATE and NEW BRIDGES is essential. The project underlines cooperation with Russia although ENPI funding is not available. The partnership will secure sustainability of results through close cooperation with administrations and national authorities, and through pilot investments in renewable energy utilization, improved nutrient management and small-scale climate change mitigation on farm level. Baltic COMPASS incorporates the objectives of the EU Lisbon strategy, EU Marine Strategy Directive and the upcoming EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, especially in combining environmental and economic sustainability.

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	Nordic Council of Ministers	Tryggvi Felixson
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Background

Baltic COMPASS project ideas have emerged from a large number of international projects and cooperation undertaken in the BSR during the last 10 years in the field of agriculture, water, environment and investments. Those initiatives include cooperation under the HELCOM Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme (JCP), the GEF-Baltic Sea Regional Project and many other bilateral and multilateral cooperation projects. Most of the initiatives have been developed and implemented with an environmental perspective in the absence of agricultural productivity and business priorities. The projects have been very important in building the awareness and contributing in strengthening capacities in the region. **However, for the future with potential increase of land-based pollution loads to the Baltic Sea there is a need to intensify the transnational cooperation between agricultural, environmental and business interests to support comprehensive policy actions and investments in sustainable solutions.** This is the point of departure for Baltic COMPASS. Cross-sector approach and integrated policies are desired in the region not least to reach the environmental objectives of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan by 2021.

Objective

Baltic COMPASS incorporates the objectives of the EU Lisbon Strategy, EU Marine Strategy Directive and the upcoming EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, especially in combining environmental and economic sustainability.

The strategic objective of Baltic COMPASS is to contribute to reducing eutrophication (nutrient over-enrichment) of the Baltic Sea through **fostering win-win solutions for agriculture, municipal and environmental sectors, building on problem definitions relevant for the varied stakeholder group within the whole drainage area.**

Seven sub-objectives will enable moving towards the strategic objective:

1. Strengthen the transnational and cross-sectorial dialogues and regional BSR identity, especially across west-east divide
2. Enhance utilization of best practices and interactive ICT decision support tools
3. Accelerate investments in best available environmental technologies and solutions
4. Provide new perspectives for agriculture run-off assessments in a spatial planning context
5. Strengthen policy formulation and implementation through stakeholder involvement and adaptation
6. Contribute to shaping future cost- and eco-efficient agri-environment support schemes
7. Promote BSR as a pilot region in a global context for innovative solutions related to combating eutrophication

Specific problem to be addressed

Land use for agricultural purposes in the BSR is expected to be intensified following climate change and increasing global demands for food and bioenergy. This might cause significant additional pressures on the sensitive marine ecosystems of the Baltic Sea Region. In order to meet those challenges, the responses targeting nitrogen and phosphorous need to be coupled with more systemic solutions and technologies in the context of economic sustainability and livelihood of the society. The focus on nitrogen and phosphorous loads is essential, but at the same time insufficient as an instrument for change among the majority of BSR stakeholders. **Actions must more strongly be linked with the sustainability of local resources, rural development, landscapes, biosecurity, climate and energy solutions. Such solutions and concepts are poorly shared within the region.** The competence, technologies, solutions and science are available but they are unevenly distributed and harmonized between regions, and moreover, between the west and the east. This is the specific transnational problem and challenge addressed by Baltic COMPASS.

Expected Results

The project will be framed within a strong focus on results providing added value to ongoing actions and policies:

- More efficient and adapted policy actions and measures taken to reduce eutrophication in the Baltic Sea region both on international, national and local scales
- More cost efficient use of agri-environment support schemes, actions and innovations
- Expanded recognition of veterinary health issues as a risk factor in climate change and eutrophication scenarios
- Stronger ownership on the transnational levels for implementing the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and concerned national priorities
- Strengthened international cooperation and stronger stakeholder involvement for realization of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and concerned national priorities
- Exposure of the Baltic Sea Region internationally as a pilot region for innovative solutions for combating eutrophication driven by agricultural nutrient releases
- Contribute in bridging the east-west (and north-south) divide in addressing economic and environmental issues in a sustainability context
- Higher political recognition involving economic, environmental and agricultural sectors

Partnership

The partnership composition reflects a territorial and cross-sectorial approach needed to address the project problem. The partnership consists of 23 authorities, institutions, and interest organizations in 9 riparian countries: Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Russia is integrated in the associated partnership status in order to secure all-Baltic coverage. The partnership comprises also regional BSR partners like HELCOM and the Nordic Council of Ministers (associated organization). Among

project partners are national authorities, scientific institutions and interest organizations specialized in the EU policies and provision of advice to farmers.

The **target groups** for Baltic COMPASS are: governments, authorities, interest organizations and entrepreneurs with influence on landuse in the Baltic Sea Region.

End-users are decision-makers within the farming communities, municipalities, national and regional Baltic Sea level authorities and politicians. The partnership is composed to respond to the target groups' needs of improved decision support and networking in a Baltic Sea context, and to act as a resource community for end-users and multipliers.

The project partnership is not constituted with the aim to include end-users as formal partners but to ensure and provide for their strong involvement in the project activities and in feed-back mechanisms. The communication and outreach capacities in the project are substantial in order to establish communication with the target groups and end-users. Several partners have national responsibilities and obligations within the agri-environmental sector. For example, Estonian Agri-environmental Monitoring Bureau under the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for assessments related to the agri-environment support schemes. The Swedish Board of Agriculture is directly responsible for implementation and development of agri-environmental and animal health measures under the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture, and the State Agency of Schleswig Holstein has similar responsibilities in northern Germany. Universities and research institutions participate in their role as contributors with the most recent findings from research and science. Thus, the partnership reflects and is equipped for both horizontal and vertical integration of project activities and results. The strategic role of the partnership is to enable for both agricultural and environmental interests to be represented and incorporated in the implementation process.

Baltic COMPASS has a political recognition through the decision on partnership in the project by HELCOM and through support letters from national ministries also making national co-financing available for project activities. Ministries are in some countries by formal reasons hindered to act as partners or even as associated organizations. However, national ministries have during the preparation phase contributed with shaping of the project and show strong interest in its realization.

The project will co-ordinate activities and results with end-users through reference groups and existing networks. Important in that sense is the National Rural Development Networks under the European Network for Rural Development, which organizes local municipalities, planners, farmers and rural organizations. These very broad networks are coordinated through the Ministries of Agriculture. Through this arrangement Baltic COMPASS can secure broad participation of end-users and still maintain a strategic perspective. Russian partners cooperate with Baltic COMPASS as associated organizations, and they are interested in contributing to the project and sharing project results. The project has an extensive network of contacts in Russia, which is not fully reflected in the list of associated partners. On the regional level, the project is supported by HELCOM, the Nordic Council of Ministries (NCM) and by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO).

Workpackage 1 (WP1): Management and Administration

The objective of WP1 is to implement the project efficiently within given budget- and time frames.

WP1 Leader: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Lead Partner

Specific objectives:

1. Maintain good communication of project objectives both internally and externally
2. Manage and foster the overall vision for the project
3. Establish and supervise internal guidelines and routines for financial management and reporting
4. Establish and supervise routines for follow up, monitoring and feedback
5. Develop and execute sound crisis management
6. Keep administration at an appropriate and required level
7. Strengthen the links and synergies between WPs
8. Maintain an overall steering of the project with respect to external developments

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) is a national authority under the Ministry of Agriculture. SLU has a long-standing history of international co-operation in agricultural pollution control in the Baltic Sea Region. SLU has been successful in establishing a broad regional network of authorities and expertise, which will be of essential value for the implementation of Baltic COMPASS. SLU will contribute with expertise related to communication (WP2), water, agriculture, climate change impact assessment and mitigation, and issues concerned with biosecurity (WP5).

Workpackage 2 (WP2): Communication and Information

The objective of WP2 is to communicate and disseminate project results to political decision-makers and end-users, with the overarching purpose of achieving high political recognition as well as efficient utilization and implementation of project results. Target groups are (1) political decision-makers on local, national and international level (European Commission, European Parliament, CBSS, BSPC, HELCOM), (2) Implementing organizations (administrative and advisory organizations) through which the project will reach the end-users, and (3) press and media.

WP2 Leader: Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea (BSAG)

Specific objectives:

1. Develop a communication strategy for overall project communication (external and internal)
2. Develop and implement communication activities, which target political decision-makers on national and international level

3. Develop a platform for dialogue as well as specific tools for communicating project results to implementing organizations and end-users
4. Integrate project results in regional (BSR/European level) and national policy and political processes
5. Establish strategic and result-oriented cooperation with relevant Interreg- and other EU-funded projects active within the same field as Baltic COMPASS

The Foundation for a Living Baltic Sea, operating also by its brand name Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) will lead the project communication (WP2). The role of BSAG in Baltic COMPASS will be to provide for external and strategic communication, targeting especially the national and supranational political level and media. BSAG is a non-profit foundation, which aims towards concrete solutions and bases on extensive cooperation. The foundation acts as an initiator and a catalyst in parallel and concrete projects. BSAG seeks to efficiently combine the resources and opportunities from the public and private sectors and can accelerate implementation of research results into practical actions and solutions. BSAG is active in the fields of agriculture and bioenergy, clean and safe maritime activities, hazardous waste and innovative solutions.

Workpackage 3 (WP3): Best Practice Utilization and Transfer

The objective of WP3 is to identify and communicate the best practice utilization examples and innovations in BSR in management, business and technology. Target groups are agricultural advisory organizations, farmers' organizations, producers and distributors of agro-environmental technology, authorities.

WP3 Leader: Swedish Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Engineering (JTI)

Co-lead: Latvian Union Farmers Parliament (ZSA)

Specific objectives:

1. Identify, rank and select Best Available Techniques (BAT) and existing innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture and rural small scale organic waste and wastewater management
2. Develop methodology for introduction of best practices, management and innovative solutions in the framework of different policies
3. Transfer tools, experiences and networks to agro-environmental advisories and other project target groups in different countries, including Russia
4. Test and validate best practices through test cases combining practical measures and modeling exercises in selected Pilot Areas

JTI is an industrial institute and has a broad network and knowledge about new agricultural and environmental technology for common and future agricultural practices and policies, especially in the field of efficient nutrient management. JTI will work with dissemination of experience on best practices and management solutions across BSR cooperating closely with past and new EU- and other projects. JTI will also work with interactive decision support tools and communicate with agricultural extension services and municipalities.

Union Farmers Parliament is the strongest commercial farmers' non-governmental organization in Latvia, founded in 1999. ZSA will provide to the project a perspective of Latvian rural territories, as well as identification and transfer of best practices and innovative solutions, and facilitation of environmental investments in cooperation with responsible institutions in Latvia and partner countries. ZSA has a strong status as an interest organization and maintains regular discussions with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. Thus it will be able to convey results from the project and feedback from national authorities.

Workpackage 4 (WP4): Environment Investment Preparation

The objective of WP4 is to accelerate investments in Best Available Technologies and solutions. Target groups are agro-environmental technology producers, companies, chambers of Commerce, agencies, agricultural producers and interest organizations.

WP4 Leader: Center for Bioenergy and Environmental Technology Innovation (CBMI)

Specific objectives:

1. Establish a regional network of agencies with agro-environmental competences with the purpose to identify and communicate business opportunities in innovative agriculture and related policy aspects
2. Prepare and conduct a Sector Study on legal, technological and economic framework and barriers for selected and prioritized agro-environmental technologies
3. Contribute information dissemination about relevant agro-environment technologies
4. Identify and select prioritized agro-environmental technology investment projects of a regional interest in relation to the agro-environmental policies of the region
5. Implement three regionally relevant agro-environmental pilot projects and prepare feasibility studies, business and financing plans for at least two other projects to be implemented in the potential extension phase

CBMI is a virtual centre within Agro Business Park, which is an IASP member science park. CBMI will lead the Investment and Innovation Work Package (WP4) and include EUR 430,000 of investment financing in its budget. CBMI is a consortium of commercial companies and Danish bio- and environmental technology development institutions. The role of CBMI in Baltic COMPASS will be to facilitate investments and to introduce new technologies and innovations in the field of bioenergy, agriculture and environment. This will be achieved by setting up competence and knowledge networks enhancing innovation and business development, by performing a sector study, making information about relevant environment technologies easily accessible, and by planning and assisting to realize concrete investment projects.

Workpackage 5 (WP5): Comprehensive Assessments and Scenarios

The objective of WP5 is to provide new perspectives for integrated science-based decision-support through optimized agricultural run-off assessments in a spatial planning context. Target groups are national water management authorities, national ministries, responsible institutes, HELCOM, and European Environment Agency.

WP5 Leader: Finnish Environment Agency (SYKE)

Co-lead: Polish Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming (IMUZ)

Specific objectives:

1. Benchmark the present agricultural runoff assessment methods across the BSR
2. Demonstrate and adapt the variances in identifying the agricultural "hot spot" areas in the BSR
3. Identify and evaluate the most cost-efficient and economically sustainable counter-measures for reducing nutrient load in agriculture on a local scale
4. Establish connection with water protection and biosecurity considerations to provide additional impetus for measures, investments and integration of policies
5. Create comprehensive decision-making support scenarios on the interlinkages of environmental, agricultural production, socio-economic, veterinary health and sanitary variables and measures

The Finnish Environment Agency (SYKE) is a national authority under the Finnish Ministry of Environment and provides services and expertise in relation to Finland's participation in international programmes and actions including the EU regulatory framework. The role of SYKE in Baltic COMPASS will be to co-ordinate environmental modeling, scenario preparations and assessment of decision support tools for policy adaptation. SYKE will through its experience as a state agency contribute with the ability to integrate relevant sectors and stakeholders in holistic assessments and scenarios. This is an essential contribution in order to couple scientific assessments with the acceptance in the BSR community.

Institute for Land Reclamation and Grassland Farming (IMUZ) is the only subordinated institute to the Polish Ministry of Agriculture. It operates throughout Poland in collaboration with agricultural advisors, municipalities and farmers. As a partner, IMUZ will engage in activities in WP3, WP5 and WP6. With its long-lasting multi-disciplinary research in the field of agronomy, environment, water and land use management, and scenario development issues, coupled with broad experience in applying practical and theoretical solutions to the problems of these sectors, IMUZ will be able to significantly contribute to all WP3, WP5 and WP6 activities, including modeling issues, monitoring activities, water quality survey, policy and dialogue.

Workpackage 6 (WP6): Governance and Policy Adaptation

The objective of WP6 is to increase legitimacy for adaptive governance processes in integrated agricultural-environmental policy development and enhance deepened integration in the region, especially in the context of the HELCOM and EU priorities. Target groups are national and sub-national governments and ministries.

WP6 Leader: Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Co-lead: Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development

Specific objectives:

1. Review past practice on mitigating Baltic Sea eutrophication and associated recommendations
2. Facilitate multi-stakeholder participation in review and analysis of implementability of the BSAP to support in adapting and harmonizing the measures and objectives embodied in regional policies and directives with the BSAP
3. Support in adapting and harmonizing the measures and objectives embodied within the BSAP with complementary agro-environmental policies and measures
4. Disseminate best governance practices for investment and sustainable management of the Baltic Sea to support the BSR countries and the European Commission in developing innovative institutional approaches and policy instruments to enable the effective implementation of the BSAP

SEI works on a global scale as a non-profit organization enhancing increased and scientifically verified understanding of the interaction between nature and society. SEI fosters and facilitates reconciliation of complex environmental issues and critical analysis in support of improved public policies. SEI's specific role in Baltic COMPASS will be to support regional and national policy adaptation in response to the measures and guidelines developed in the project and embodied in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan. SEI will also contribute with an expanded scope of action through mirroring the developments in the Baltic Sea Region with that of other regions of the world.

Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development is a non-governmental and non-profit association specializing in bridging gaps between science and policy formulation. The partner applies innovative methods in communicating its work to governments, the private sector, other research institutes, and the society as a whole. An important part of the work focuses on analyzing impact of EU policies and thus contributing to design of policy and legislation. The partner will assist in leading the WP6. It will, in part, ensure that the project will maintain a regional approach and reach also countries in which the project does not have relevant national financial partners in WP6.

Territorial approach

Baltic COMPASS has a territorial approach and addresses a territorial common issue for the Baltic Sea Region. The proposal includes both western and eastern country partners. Central parts of the project like the Policy Adaptation and Governance Package (WP6) are explicitly designed to capture differences in policy adaptation and governance throughout the whole drainage area. Other elements of the project will be selected and performed to cope with east-west divide. Baltic COMPASS will connect to the EU Rural Development Networks in each of the EU countries and similar in North West Russia in order to underpin the territorial integration. **The project team has excellent cross-sector networks within Russia and pre-selected contract to co-ordinate with Russia and parallel initiatives.** The partnership and aligned networks will also search for complementary financing outside InterReg to allow for increased co-operation with Russia. The investment part of the Baltic COMPASS is co-ordinated with HELCOM/EU BALTHAZAR project (2009-2010) which will focus on investments in Russia. The participating regional institutions like HELCOM, NEFCO and Nordic Council of Ministers underscore the territorial BSR approach.

Durability of results

Much emphasis will be put on the integration of project results into policy and political processes on the national administrative level as well as via transnational organizations such as HELCOM. A future network on agri-environmental issues is envisaged to be directly connected to HELCOM and further to the wider Baltic Sea Region by an agro-business network to be sustained by the Danish Center for Bioenergy and Environmental Technology Innovation. **The project will connect to the extensive national EU Rural Development Networks within each country, which comprises local authorities and interest organizations as a mechanism to increase relevance and sustainability of project results.** Through this arrangement Baltic COMPASS can secure broad participation of end-users and still maintain a strategic perspective. Baltic COMPASS maintains integration with the agricultural agenda of Baltic 21 and connects its practical implementation partly with the Baltic Farmers' Forum for Environment (BFFE). The relevance and durability of the BSAP as such is also dependent on the involvement of end-users and different stakeholders, so here Baltic COMPASS will contribute to its implementation.

Extension stage

Baltic COMPASS is a strategic project and the extension phase is considered especially for continuing investment implementation, monitoring and evaluation. **The project will prepare a number of small-to-medium-scale investments in the form of prefeasibility studies for implementation in the extension phase.** Drivers for agri-environmental measures in the EU countries continue to be the fulfillment of the EU Directives, whereas in Russia and Belarus, beside the national legislation, direct economic savings for an individual farmer continue to be the main driver along with environmental considerations in the rural development programs - as well as stipulations of the Helsinki Convention Annex III. The national platforms tested during the project will be used more intensively and spread across the BSR. Dissemination of project results and replication of the tested measures, investment concepts and governance platforms on the broader European and global levels will intensify in the extension phase.

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