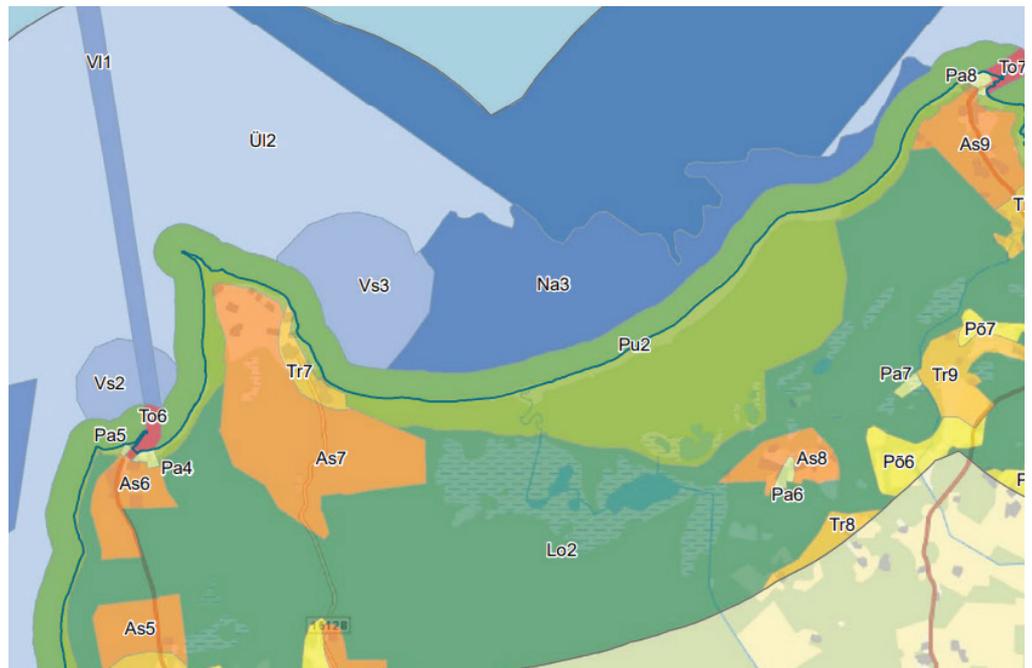


COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS

Central Baltic 2014-2020 project results that support sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas



The project SustainBaltic created four new Integrated Coastal Zone Management plans that include more than 6500 km² while involving stakeholders and producing e-guides for planners.

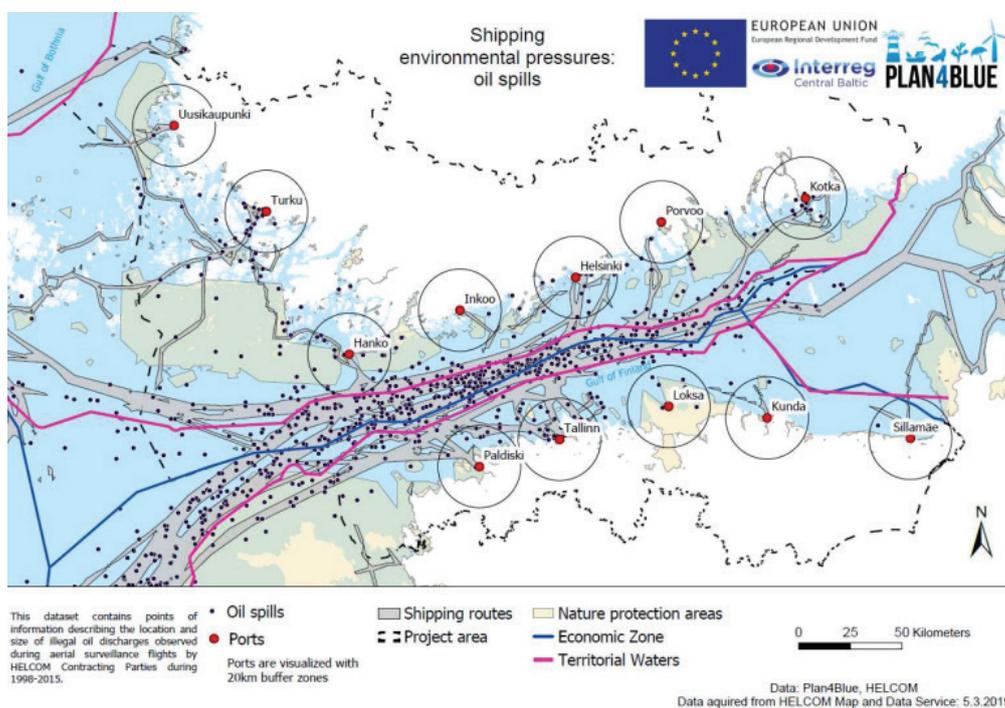
What are result packages?

Result packages are part of the 2014-2020 programmes' capitalisation strategy. They promote programme achievements in logical entities by providing summaries of results and examples of good practices. They are all structured in the same way.

In total, there are 10 packages that summarise different thematics addressed by the Central Baltic programme. The themes of the different packages are:

- Export
- Labour market
- Sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas
- Vocational education
- Sustainable tourism
- Integrated urban planning
- New business development
- The development of transport corridors
- Small ports development package
- Water

The project Plan4Blue increased cross-border coherence of maritime spatial planning through joint planning and management activities. The project improved awareness of the sustainable use of resources and developed the capacity of planners, managers and stakeholders to assess what impact the project cross-border marine activities have had on environmental and socio-economic topics. The picture shows a map presentation of oil spills, main shipping routes, economic zone and territorial water and was published in the Output O.T3.2 Map visualisations of Plan4Blue MSP case studies.



Contents

WHAT ARE RESULT PACKAGES?	2
SCOPE OF THE PACKAGE	4
BACKGROUND	4
TIMELINE	5
ACHIEVED RESULTS AND EFFECT	5
EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED	5
DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE PROJECTS ENDED	6
PARTICIPATING PROJECTS	6
TOLD BY PROJECTS NEWLY BUILT WETLAND POPULAR DESTINATION	8

Scope of the package

The coastal and maritime planning part of the Central Baltic Programme (Specific Objective 2.2) aimed to address joint challenges and issues related to maritime spatial planning of exclusive economic zones (EEZ, an area of the sea in which a sovereign state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources) of territorial waters and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). It also aimed to foster cooperation and participation, mediate, and to find the balance between different sectors that have different interests using marine and coastal resources, e.g., agriculture and nature conservation, tourism and coastal protection, shipping, and fisheries. The objective should lead to sustainable use of the fragile resources of the Baltic Sea and its coastal areas.

Four projects have been financed under Specific Objective 2.2 Sustainably planned and managed marine and coastal areas. All projects have been fully implemented.

These three projects have jointly carried out 15 planning and management activities in numerous coastal and marine areas in the Central Baltic region.

Background

A European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe was adopted already in 2002. To implement the principles for integrated management of the coastal zones, the member states have developed national strategies or introduced additional actions in the framework of existing policies or legislation.

Based on a specific EU directive, Maritime Spatial Plans (MSP) have been developed in the member states. The development of Estonian national MSP is being finalised. Two pilot MSPs have been initiated by the government around Hiiu Island and Pärnu Bay. The pilots were adopted in 2016 and 2017. The Finnish MSP was approved in 2020. It was prepared in three parts covering both territorial waters and the EEZ. An MSP for Åland Island is developed according to its own MSP legislation. The MSP for Internal Waters, Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone of Latvia was adopted in 2019. The MSP for Sweden was adopted in 2022. It consists of three national plans covering the territorial sea and the EEZ.

Timeline

The projects were implemented between 2016 and 2022. They were selected for funding in the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th calls of the programme.



Timeline of projects

Achieved results and effect

The projects have managed to increase cross-border coherence of Maritime Spatial Planning through joint planning and management activities and increase awareness of sustainable use of resources. They have led to improved capacity of planners, managers, and stakeholders to assess what impact the cross-border marine activities have had on environmental and socio-economic topics.

The project partners have learned from each other's experiences on different methodologies and shared the novel ones such as land use zoning, ecosystem service approach in the spatial planning and map-based web surveys on the public evaluation of plans. The partners have become aware of different coastal land use traditions and different marine area and coastal planning rules between the countries.

New practices, such as informal local society involvement in the planning process, inspiring and motivating people to engage and act, as well as to strengthen collaboration between local communities and local governments have been developed and applied across borders. A framework for mapping of marine ecosystem services was developed, along with ecosystem accounting models and a sustainability compass for learning of sustainable practises in pursuit of prosperity and human well-being within ecosystem boundaries.

Experiences and lessons learned

Significant added value has been achieved by providing analyses and comparisons of cases in different countries in the programme area. Partners have been successfully included from public and private bodies, scientific institutions, local governments, and communities, which has given a greater opportunity to learn from diverse experiences and to apply new approaches. Understanding of the different ways of thinking, different coastal land use traditions, and different marine and coastal area planning rules has increased in different countries at different governance levels, even at the community

level. The cross-border cooperation and sharing of experiences in MSP spatial data management has facilitated the MSP process and the implementation of the MSP directive. Participatory processes have been applied, and they have provided new insight into the coastal and marine environment. Tools for decision makers have also been developed.

Development after the projects ended

The outputs of the projects have initiated new processes, arenas, and tools for spatial planning in all participating countries. The projects have provided inspiration for a wider range of support instruments for local initiatives, for example encouraging local municipalities to apply participatory budgeting to support the local initiatives and involving the society in development planning and decision-making processes. Methodological guidelines for community development plans will have an impact on development of stronger local communities, providing them with stronger motivation and ability to act.

Guidance documents, such as guidelines on environmental management for sustainable MSP and materials on transboundary spatial analysis and recommendations for economic and social analysis and for cross-border collaboration give practical ideas and recommendations will be used after the project has ended, also in other areas. During the projects some responsibilities regarding the maritime and coastal planning as well as utilising, monitoring, supporting and further developing the plans in certain regions have been clarified and elaborated. In some cases for example new spatial information and assessments on ecosystem services have been taken into use by the responsible authorities in the evaluation of MSPs.

Participating projects

- **Plan4Blue - Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Blue Economies.** The project worked with Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), under which it produced four future scenarios to support planning and management activities. These scenarios discuss Marine energy, The maritime cluster, Blue bioeconomy & subsea resources and Maritime tourism. Planning was improved in the Finnish Gulf area between Finland and Estonia. Also, Russia and Åland islands were included on an information exchange level.

The project also created a guidance document to manage environmental risks related to human activities. For the guidance document, three case studies on the topics of shipping, pelagic fishing and nature conservation were conducted. Based on this, recommendations were given on how each of these topics should be addressed in MSP and what are important cross-border considerations. In addition, the project developed recommendations for cross-border collaboration in the frame of MSP.

<http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/62>

- **SustainBaltic - ICZM Plans for Sustaining Coastal and Marine Human-ecological Networks in the Baltic Region.** The aim of the project was to ensure that sea-land interfaces would be preserved and further developed. The challenge was tackled by defining the most crucial planning criteria. The partner organisations gathered information about human activity, land use and nature areas in four case areas, two in Finland and two in Estonia.

The project integrated data from nature and human activities to present integrated human-ecological networks. Especially produced GIS information about environmental research projects and of participatory planning were utilised. Outcomes were visualised with thematic maps. Integrated Coastal Zone Management drafts were prepared for the case areas.

<http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/51>

- **Coast4us.** The aim of the project was to develop a holistic and inclusive approach to the spatial and community development planning process by involving stakeholders of different interests to create sustainable marine and coastal development plans at different levels, including at community grassroots level. The partners worked in three main, interlinked areas: mapping and collecting data, planning process and the development of plans, evaluation of the tools and methods used.

Mapping and assessment of values (e.g., ecological, cultural, and social) as well as mapping of the present use of resources and local demands for economic development was done. Planning tools (e.g., GIS, planning IT tool, LEA, and Smart City Planning) were developed to facilitate the planning process. Meeting points, both physical and web-based, were established. The main results of the Coast4us project were 8 sustainable development plans for pilot regions around the Baltic coast.

<http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/95>

- **MAREA** - From marine ecosystem accounting to integrated governance for sustainable planning of marine and coastal areas

The MAREA project developed and tested novel concepts of ecosystem services mapping, environmental accounting and sustainability assessment as well as embedded these elements into the synthetic decision-support geoportal capable of developing sustainable planning solutions in two transnational pilot areas: Finland-Estonia in the Gulf of Finland and Estonia-Latvia in the Gulf of Riga. Some of the ecosystem services were also assessed in a wider Baltic Sea area.

The main result of the MAREA project was the realisation of a system of accounting of marine environment and the benefits they deliver, also in terms of regulating services for climate and ecosystems' sustainability, and a connected model of integrated sustainable governance in the use of natural resources and marine space. An important aspect of the project is the involvement of key stakeholders in the Central Baltic region. The ecosystem accounting models as well as a Sustainability Compass are generated and updated through participatory learning including key stakeholders: authorities responsible for MSP and marine management planning, environmental experts, and the general public.

<http://database.centralbaltic.eu/project/134>

NEWLY BUILT WETLAND POPULAR DESTINATION

We walk on a newly built footbridge surrounded by reeds, water and warm winds. A cat accompanies us, one crow crows. We meet a couple on a walk and exchange a few words, they visit this place almost daily to follow what is happening.

The wetland at Nabben in northern Mariehamn is built to handle stormwater, reduce emissions of nutrients in the Baltic Sea and strengthen the biodiversity, which is the basis for our survival. It is World Environment Day, one of the UN's theme days, which is celebrated on 5 June every year around the world. So what fits better than taking a walk right here, together with Susanne Vävare who is a hydro biologist at Government of Åland, and Johanna Hagström, an architect who represents the city of Mariehamn in the joint project **Coast4us**.

Susanne says: *“The Baltic Sea is a sensitive sea with brackish water, both eutrophied and species-poor. Because everything is connected, we need to strengthen the natural organisms. The wetland catches larger particles and microplastics. It is also a pike factory, as predatory fish provide better water quality. We also make it easier for birds, frogs, insects, fish and humans. For example we have dug several frog ponds, so if you go here at night you can hear the frog cries. Meadow flowers have also been planted around the wetland, and the pupils in nearby Strandnas primary school have built bird and bat nests and insect hotels. The more*

Susanne Vävare and Johanna Hagström presenting the project. Photo by Ester Laurell.



species that interact here, the better chance they have to survive.”

The Coast4us project is about coastal planning, and Mariehamn is a pilot area for sustainable coastal zone planning. Within the project, the City of Mariehamn has also made a survey of the inhabitants' favorite green places. Top places were given to the well-known Lilla Holmen and Tullarns äng - and to the newly built Nabben's wetland!

There are walkways and benches that encourage visitors.

“The benches are Nordic Eco-labelled, and the wooden deck is built of materials that do not harm aquatic life organisms”, Johanna says with elation. “Coast4us was a planning project, but the City of Mariehamn chose to implement the proposals. And it has been so rewarding to work together! We learn from each other.”

Coast4Us

Programme Priority: P2 Sustainable use of common resources

Duration: 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2020

ERDF: €2 274 430

Main results:

The main results of the Coast4us project were 8 sustainable development plans for pilot regions around the Baltic coast. During this project, partners worked in three main, interlinked areas: mapping and collecting data; the planning process and the development of plans and the evaluation of the tools and methods used.