



27 October 2020

Vacancy in the HELCOM Secretariat:
Project Researcher in economic and social analyses to support the third
HELCOM holistic assessment of ecosystem health (HOLAS III) in the
Methodology Development Project

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) is an intergovernmental organization (Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden) with its headquarters (Secretariat) in Helsinki, Finland, working to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. At present, we are around 30 staff members at the HELCOM Secretariat, and our working language is English. We offer an open, friendly, dynamic and energetic, often fast-paced, international working environment offering all staff members the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to achieving our common goals. For more information about HELCOM, please visit our home page: www.helcom.fi.

Methodology Development Project

The HELCOM Holistic Assessment Methodology Development (MetDev) Project aims at developing the assessments for the third HELCOM Holistic Assessment of Ecosystem Health (HOLAS III). One of the work packages focuses on further developing the economic and social analyses of the marine environment. The tasks in the work package include improved implementation of the ecosystem services approach, pilot assessment of the prospects of marine ecosystem accounting, developing indicators for drivers that drive changes in human activities, and integration of economic and social analyses and environmental assessments. The overall aim is to improve the assessments of the interlinkages between the marine ecosystem and social-economic system to evaluate how the marine environment affects human welfare.

The work will build on previous work on economic and social analyses at HELCOM for the second Holistic Assessment (HOLAS II) and State of the Baltic Sea report ([TAPAS](#) and [SPICE](#) projects, 2016-2018), maritime spatial planning ([Pan Baltic Scope project](#), 2018-2019) and analyses of existing and new measures to support the BSAP update ([ACTION](#) project and SOM Platform, 2019-2020). The project runs in 2021-2022.

Project Researcher

We are currently seeking to recruit an experienced professional and enthusiastic person to strengthen our team at the international HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland, as a Project Researcher on economic and social analyses of the marine environment.

The appointment is planned to be full time, starting preferably on 18 January 2021 until the end of the project in 31 March 2022. The monthly salary is 2.800 € per month. Please note, that the HELCOM salaries are exempt from Finnish income tax.

The tasks are expected to be carried out independently. However, the Project Researcher will cooperate with the HELCOM staff involved, who will provide comments and general guidance on the overall HELCOM framework. The HELCOM Expert Network on Economic and Social Analyses ([EN ESA](#)) will support the work. EN ESA is an international network of social scientists that works to enhance regional collaboration and serves as a platform for information exchange on the economic and social analyses of the marine environment.

The tasks require a background in environmental economics or a corresponding field. Previous expertise and knowledge of ecosystem services, ecosystem accounting, and interdisciplinary work are needed.

Tasks

The Project Researcher's task is to implement the activities in the work package on economic and social analysis. The activities include:

- developing approaches and collecting information for identifying and assessing marine and coastal ecosystem services to improve the implementation of the ecosystem approach;
- developing an approach for conducting a marine ecosystem accounting pilot study for the Baltic Sea to describe and quantify interactions between the economy and marine environment based on recent EU work and existing methods and approaches;
- exploring the possibilities to develop indicators for drivers in the Baltic Sea region, for factors that drive changes in human activities and sectors utilizing the marine environment;
- developing connections between economic and social analyses and environmental assessments of HOLAS III, and the elements within economic and social analyses.

The Project Researcher is responsible for reporting and communicating of project work and outcomes to relevant HELCOM groups. In addition, the person may be requested to work in other processes and projects related to the same topics/field.

Qualifications and experience

The person to be appointed shall have/be:

- university degree (minimum Master's degree or equivalent) in environmental economics or other related field;
- minimum of two years of relevant professional experience at the national or international level;
- familiarity and experience of the following:
 - o ecosystem services
 - o ecosystem accounting
 - o interdisciplinary work
- excellent organizational skills and proven ability to deliver to tight timelines;
- the ability to work independently, take responsibility and initiatives;
- a Team player with excellent social skills;
- meticulous and results-oriented.

Experience in the following work will be considered an asset:

- projects related to the marine environment/Baltic Sea;
- DPSIR framework;
- economic valuation of the environment and ecosystem services;

- cost-effectiveness analysis;
- cost-benefit analysis.

A thorough knowledge of the English language and the ability to draft quickly and concisely in English is essential.

How to apply?

Candidates with the required expertise and qualifications are invited to submit their application (consisting of a CV and a motivation letter) via e-mail to recruitment@helcom.fi no later than **23 November 2020**. Please write "Project Researcher ESA" in the subject field of the message. Inquiries regarding details of the task description may be directed via email to Project Manager Heini Ahtiainen (heini.ahtiainen@helcom.fi).