



## **BSAP certainly can be mirrored sub-nationally: the success of the local BSAPs**

**Mari Savela and Milla Stenström**

**Baltic Sea Challenge**

**City of Helsinki**

## Connection to the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)

### Segments

Biodiversity, Eutrophication, Hazardous substances and litter, Sea-based activities, Horizontal topics





# A clean, productive and shared Baltic Sea

- Initiative started in 2007 by the Mayors of Helsinki and Turku
- Promotes voluntary actions and measures organisations can do at local level to protect the Baltic Sea
- **Cities of Helsinki and Turku: Joint Baltic Sea Action Plans** since 2007
- Today approx. 320 partners committed to action (e.g. cities, companies, national institutions, NGOs, universities)

# Baltic Sea Action Plan 2019-2023 achievements

## Helsinki:

- Speedy experiments to prevent marine littering
- Restoring experiment to improve marine biodiversity by planting submerged plant *Zostera marina* in a bay at Lauttasaari
- New guidances to treat urban stormwater and runoff from construction areas
- New ground power unit at the Port of Helsinki

## Turku:

- Restoration of Kuninkoja stream: building trout spawning habitats with WWF and Kesko Ltd
- Structural liming at the fields of Turku
- Upper secondary school challenged organizations to provide local Baltic Sea fish at the Baltic Sea Day and 100+ schools accepted the challenge
- New Archipelago Access –project to promote sustainable tourism

## Network:

- New members and updated Baltic Sea Action Plans (e.g., cities, companies, NGOs)
- Joint projects, events, communication campaigns, shared knowledge (e.g., best practices)

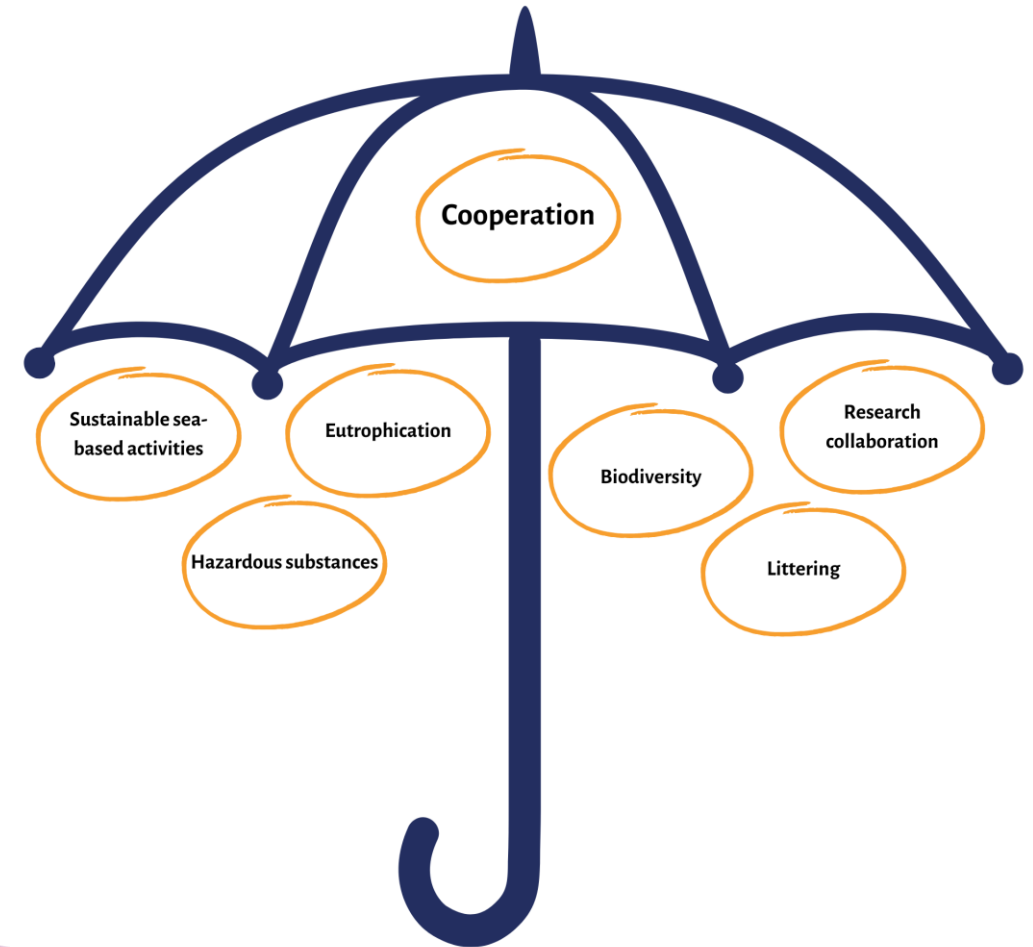
***The joint Baltic Sea Action Plan includes 117 measures & submeasures***

# New Baltic Sea Action Plan 2024-2028

- Objectives are based on a review of the strategic documents concerning the Baltic Sea protection
- Actions are created for cities needs
- New challenges, new solutions



**Evolving process**



# Example: City of Stockholm

- 21 waterbodies in Stockholm
  - Main challenges are eutrophication, environmental pollution and altered habitats
  - Major sources of pressure are contaminated stormwater, untreated wastewater, “old sins” and migration barriers and morphological alterations
- A growing city
  - 140 000 new housings and 300 000 new inhabitants by the year 2030
  - Development of subways, roads, tunnels and parks etc.

# Example: City of Stockholm

- Aim of the Action Plan is to improve the water quality and reach the environmental quality standards (EQS) by 2027
- Local programmes of measures for each lake, coastal water and watercourse
- Examples of actions:
  - Local treatment of water
  - End of pipe-solutions
  - Aluminium treatment to bound phosphorus
  - Supervision of boat clubs

## INSPIRING OTHERS

- Efficient environmental monitoring provides useful information about the efficiency of actions
- In Helsinki actions have led to
  - Reduced nutrient, hazardous substances and litter load
  - Reduced carbon footprint from the vessels
  - Increased awareness
  - Cooperation in new EU-projects (e.g., Baltiplast, BALTICITIES)



## **CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME**

- Lack of resources (time and funding)
- Finding practical solutions
- Commitment of local actors to water protection measures
- Identifying the most cost-effective measures

## ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Identify similar challenges at the municipal level
- Share knowledge to find solutions and support actions
- Develop joint projects to overcome the challenges



**Cooperation**



**Thank you!**