



**Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2023**  
**Think outside the box!**  
**Implementing HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan**

**9 March 2023, online**

*Hosted by Latvia*

[helcom.fi/bsc2023](https://helcom.fi/bsc2023)

**Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2023**

**Memo**

## BACKGROUND

Implementing the [HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) (BSAP) is a demanding – but feasible – task. The BSAP, adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - HELCOM in 2007 and updated in 2021, is HELCOM's strategic programme of measures and actions for achieving good environmental status of the sea, ultimately leading to a Baltic Sea in a healthy state. All sectors are needed on board to reach each one of the ambitious targets, which cover a very wide range of topics.

The Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2023 (BSC2023) was held online on 9 March 2023 hosted by Latvia, which currently holds the chairmanship of HELCOM. More than 200 participants registered for the conference from the Baltic region and beyond (see list of participants in **Annex 1** and [graphs from the pre-survey](#)). The conference was moderated by Sandra Kropa who is an environmental journalist in Latvia.

The BSC2023 covered examples from all the BSAP segments – biodiversity, eutrophication, hazardous substances and litter, and sea-based activities – but it was organized around four thematic blocks: awareness raising, municipal level implementation, private sector cooperation and financing. The programme of the conference is included as **Annex 2**.

The aim of the BSC2023 was to harvest ideas from stakeholders around the sea – and beyond – for accelerating the implementation of the BSAP and finding solutions for both long-standing and emerging challenges as well as to share examples to inspire others. All participants were encouraged to think outside the box!

All presentations given at the conference have been made available on the [BSC2023 website](#).

HELCOM is an intergovernmental organization (IGO) and a regional sea convention in the Baltic Sea area. A regional platform for environmental policy making, HELCOM was established in 1974 to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution. HELCOM has ten Contracting Parties, namely Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Stakeholder conferences are organized under the HELCOM umbrella almost annually. Stakeholder conferences are organized regularly under the HELCOM umbrella, gathering its partners from across the board to advance on the pressing issues affecting the Baltic Sea's marine environment. Further information on HELCOM is available on the [HELCOM website](#).

## OPENING

The opening remarks of the conference were given by the Latvian Chair of HELCOM, Evija Šmite. She pointed out that the topic of the conference, the implementation of the 2021 BSAP, is also one of the priorities of her country's chairmanship of HELCOM. She reflected on the ambition of the coastal countries of the Baltic Sea and the EU to implement 199 actions by 2030, ultimately aiming for a Baltic Sea in good environmental status (GES). She described this conference as a call for action. The crucial role to be played by stakeholders from various sectors and backgrounds in making this plan a reality

was emphasized, as well as the need to think creatively and seek novel and inspiring ideas to overcome the challenges to successfully implementing the BSAP.

## YOUTH Q&A

*What is really being done for improving the state of the Baltic Sea?*

Achieving a healthy Baltic Sea is an issue of concern for the region's youth and thus the Baltic Sea Youth Advocacy Working Group coordinated by the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) was given the opportunity to ask questions regarding what is being done to ensure that they inherit a Baltic Sea in good environmental condition.

**Paulius Kliučininkas** and **Josefine Gottschalk**, as representatives of the Baltic Sea Youth Advocacy Working Group coordinated by the Council of the Baltic Sea States, raised the questions detailed below.

Answers were provided by **Marie Louise Krawack**, Former Chair of the HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (WG State & Conservation WG) and **Lars Sonesten**, Former Chair of the HELCOM Working Group on the Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area (Pressure WG).

1. More than one third of the joint actions from the 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan were not fully accomplished. Where is the connection cut off? All partners have to cooperate to reach the 2021 action plan. Otherwise it might not be implemented properly either and we need urgent actions now!

*There is always room for improving cooperation among countries, HELCOM groups as well as with stakeholders. However, while not all joint actions were implemented, there were some very important ones that were accomplished. For example, in relation to biodiversity, HELCOM renewed its Recommendation on marine protected areas with the main aim of improving the management and ecological coherence of the network of MPAs in the Baltic Sea. In addition, HELCOM adopted Recommendations on conservation of Baltic Sea species as well as marine and coastal biotopes, habitats and biotope complexes categorized as threatened according to the HELCOM Red Lists.*

2. What can you state about the effectiveness of the BSAP? / Have you considered evaluating the effectiveness of the BSAP and if so, how would you do it? What would be possible indicators for an effectiveness assessment?

*The BSAP is to be implemented as a joint effort. There is a huge interest by countries to contribute to the good environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Many of the different actions that are being taken are intended to benefit future generations, meaning that the results may not be seen immediately.*

*The conference noted that to monitor the change in the state of the marine environment and to measure progress towards the goals, objectives and targets under the BSAP, HELCOM conducts regular monitoring and assessments. Currently, HELCOM is undertaking the Third [Holistic Assessment](#) of the state of the Baltic Sea based on the data from 2016-2021 (HOLAS 3).*

3. Only one fourth of the national actions from the 2007 BSAP were accomplished by all countries - what can HELCOM or the NGOs do to push this? How can we all push our governments?

*HELCOM serves as a platform for sharing national experiences when it comes to which measures are effective and which are not. Also, the role of NGOs is to be emphasized, serving to promote the work of HELCOM countries, as well as raising awareness of the problems preventing us from achieving our goal of a healthy Baltic Sea.*

*It is worth mentioning that each action of the BSAP is assigned to at least one particular HELCOM body and the accomplishment of actions and meeting of the target years will be followed more closely than before. This tracking of progress will help us ensure that the commitments are met.*

*It has been 15 years since the first plan was agreed upon. The plan has been recently updated. In this update, actions have a deadline to fulfil. Some of the original actions were also not concrete enough for being able to determine the level of implementation.*

4. What can HELCOM do to support efforts in Ukraine to enhance the state of the Black Sea, especially when the war is over and the sea needs to be cleaned?

*In general, HELCOM cooperates with other Regional Seas Conventions around the world. This cooperation has increased during recent years and this is something we trust will continue. Recently, in the Pressure WG, there was discussion on the functioning of the Lviv wastewater treatment plant, which was affected by the war, as also reported back to HELCOM Heads of Delegation for further consideration. In the final analysis, however, it is up to the Contracting Parties to make decisions regarding what kind of support will be provided to Ukraine and in what way.*

## **BLOCK 1: RAISING AWARENESS**

*What if people just don't know – or care – enough? – Awareness raising and accelerating actions for the Baltic Sea*

In the introduction to Block 1, the conference recognized that sharing knowledge and raising awareness is a key element in implementing the BSAP and improving the state of the Baltic Sea environment.

**Olle Torpman** from the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm, Sweden provided a [video message](#) on the need to increase awareness in connection with ethics. It was noted inter alia that those stakeholders who are in a position to make a difference should also take greater responsibility in doing so and that values and priorities differ between countries and stakeholders. All values should be respected when agreeing on what actions to take, in order to find collective solutions to the collective problems.

**Hannah Griffiths Berggren** from the WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme provided a presentation on the “[Baltic Sea Farmer Award – how to build longer-term engagement?](#)”. The importance of building bridges between farmers, farmers’ associations and NGOs was emphasized, as well as the need to raise awareness and share knowledge in order to make an impact. One of the key messages was that clear actions should be offered and we should enable change rather than accuse others of inaction.

It was further noted that a similar award format could also be applied in other sectors than agriculture, such as aquaculture.

**Matti Lindholm** from the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) delivered a presentation on “[How to make citizen science blossom: algae sightings in Finland](#)”. An algal bloom monitoring campaign has been in place in Finland since 1998, which also makes use of thousands of citizens’ observations in

addition to the official monitoring. It was noted that the easiest way to involve a crowd is to use existing networks.

In the discussion following the presentations the conference noted that awareness of the environmental problems of the Baltic Sea is already quite high, but that challenges remain in identifying concrete actions to be taken and also in lowering the barriers to taking action and in motivating people. For instance, cigarette butts are still thrown into the environment although people know it is a problem, but making more garbage bins available combined with social discouragement of littering could be a solution.

The conference noted that raising awareness among various governmental actors is also important, not only in e.g. the agriculture, environmental and fisheries sectors. Consideration also needs to be given to the role of social media, and a balance struck between the amount of information to be provided and the type of message to be sent, which should not be too negative.

## **BLOCK 2: MUNICIPAL LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION**

*How is the local level taking up the challenge? – Municipal and sub-national action hitting the BSAP targets*

Actions in the BSAP are to be implemented not only regionally but also nationally. National implementation eventually leads to local implementation, which was the focus on this section of the event.

**Agnieszka Ilola**, representing the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) Smart Water Hub, provided a presentation on [“Multiplying Smart water management: how the cities have spearheaded action”](#). It included information on the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2030 with jointly identified signals, challenges and goals, as well as projects and the Baltic Smart Water Hub portal, all of which also address a number of BSAP actions.

**Heidrun Fammler**, Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) Germany, held a presentation titled [“Cut back chemical pollution – municipalities taking action”](#). In this context, the NonHazCity initiative was noted, aiming to provide solutions for low-cost upstream source management of hazardous substances in urban wastewaters and in particular the actions needed from municipalities and citizens in this regard.

**Mari Savela** and **Milla Stenström** from the Baltic Sea Challenge, City of Helsinki, jointly provided a presentation [“BSAP certainly can be mirrored sub-nationally: the success of the local BSAPs”](#). The Baltic Sea Challenge initiative, entailing voluntary local level actions, has contributed and continues to contribute to the implementation of a number of BSAP actions. Stormwater, water from construction sites and litter were seen as some of the key challenges that municipalities currently are focusing their efforts on. It was noted that there are a lot of synergies between the BSAP and various municipal strategies and action plans, e.g. related to marine litter.

In the concluding discussion of Block 2, it was noted that there is an opportunity for municipalities to be inspired by each other and learn from frontrunners with more experience in addressing environmental challenges.

### **BLOCK 3: PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION**

*How about all the buzz outside the public sector? – Private sector cooperation and the BSAP*

There are various activities with impacts on the environment of the Baltic Sea for which action by the private sector is of key importance.

**Chresten Heide-Anderson**, member of the Board of Directors of the Association for European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (EUMEPS) and Director General of the Danish EPS Association, made a presentation with the title “[We all want less marine litter in the Baltic Sea: cooperation is key](#)”. It was noted that almost 100 tonnes of expanded and extruded polystyrene (EPS and XPS) end up in the Baltic Sea and its beaches annually. It was further noted that preventing leakage from construction sites as well as recycling are among the prioritized actions, and that recycling can also be made financially attractive for the private sector.

**Elisa Mikkolainen**, Baltic Sea Action Group, presented “[Discharge or recharge – ship-generated waste turned into energy](#)”. Several BSAP actions address waste waters from ships such as sewage, grey water and food waste. It was noted that the process of delivering waste-to-port reception facilities needs to be made as easy and convenient as possible in order to ensure that ships do not discharge wastes into the sea. Furthermore, municipal and port involvement is also necessary, which can be facilitated by building a value chain through which the wastes can be made into resources. This can, for example, be achieved by converting them into feedstock for biogas, soil amendments and an energy source for district heating. The private sector is not always fully aware of the legal requirements, possibilities for acting beyond regulations and of government responsibilities when it comes to ship generated waste. It was also noted that in many Baltic Sea countries ports do not fully apply the no special fee system.

The presentation by **Markku Viitasalo** of the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) asked “[How can the private sector contribute to reaching the conservation goals of the Baltic Sea?](#)”. It was noted that the biodiversity segment of the BSAP also contains actions to which the private sector can contribute. For example, many of the ecologically most valuable unprotected areas in Finnish waters are privately owned. The privately established 48 km<sup>2</sup> Gullkrona MPA case was presented as an encouraging example of private efforts to protect the marine environment. Compensation for environmental damage as well as restoration were identified as other options for private sector contributions to protecting the Baltic Sea environment.

In concluding Block 3, the importance of identifying the responsible private companies and stakeholders was noted, as they may not in all cases be aware of the need and opportunities for them to take action.

### **BLOCK 4: FINANCING**

*We need money to get many of these things done – Financing the actions: is it steered right? And should there be more?*

The newly adopted Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework acknowledges the need to increase financing to protect and restore nature. Similarly, to restore the Baltic Sea to a healthy condition, funds and resources need to be mobilized. Today funding for biodiversity largely comes from governments and public funds, but to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity both finance and business must help close the finance gap for biodiversity.

**Pekka Salminen** from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (Ely-keskus), Southwest Finland provided the presentation “[Nutrient input bonds: Impact-based financing – the Archipelago Sea example](#)”. It was explained that impact funding focuses on procuring outcomes and impacts, as opposed to procuring measures and activities. It was also noted that mobilizing resources for reaching GES in the Baltic Sea requires additional efforts by all key stakeholders and stronger collaboration between public and private organizations.

A panel discussion was organized on what role finance and businesses can play in helping to protect and restore the Baltic Sea. The panel discussion was moderated by **Johanna Fox** from the WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme. The panelists were **Christopher Flensburg**, SEB, **Mikko Halonen**, Gaia Consulting Ltd. and **Lasma Livzeniece**, Latvian Wind Energy Association.

Among other things, the panel discussed how private funds can be mobilized for public conservation work, such as the implementation of the BSAP, and what would be required to make it work. Impact funding was seen as a crucial element for achieving results. This can be either results-based or subsidized by private investors and foundations or government bodies. In addition to financing, it was noted that ownership and responsibility needs to be taken by stakeholders and governments to create a systemic change.

The possibility of establishing clear conditions for granting permits for new industries in the Baltic Sea, e.g. compensatory restoration requirements associated with the construction of windfarms, was discussed as another option with potential.

It was noted that while there may be a lack of financing, there is also a need to direct the available funds to the appropriate actions. Joint Baltic Sea wide funds were also seen as useful enablers of this.

It was concluded that the environmental needs are well-known and financing options are available, but a systemic change is needed to involve all the necessary actors. Pilot projects, such as those presented by Pekka Salminen, were seen as a good first step. It was also recognized that the solutions implemented in the Baltic Sea have the potential to generate added value by creating employment and export opportunities to regions beyond the Baltic Sea.

The panel agreed that, as stated by Christopher Flensburg, we are not only solving legacy problems in the Baltic Sea, but creating solutions for a better future!

## **WRAP-UP AND CLOSING**

Moderator Sandra Kropa and HELCOM Executive Secretary Rüdiger Stempel noted that a number of challenges still remain in order to improve the state of the Baltic Sea. A [summary of ideas for solving the challenges](#), based on a survey which participants were requested to fill in prior to the conference, was presented and reflected upon.

Rüdiger Stempel provided the closing words of the conference. He noted that while a large proportion of the actions in the 2007 BSAP were implemented, the Baltic Sea is not yet in a good environmental state. There were a number of reasons for this, which had been scrutinized, including by undertaking a groundbreaking [sufficiency of measures analysis](#), which had provided crucial knowledge for developing the 2021 BSAP. He underscored that that we therefore had a great challenge ahead, but also a clear way forward in the form of the 2021 BSAP and its actions. The political will is there, and we have confidence that objectives in the 2021 BSAP are achievable by 2030.

Rüdiger Stempel stressed that stakeholder engagement and buy-in from all sectors of society were key to the success of the BSAP, as we cannot afford to work in silos if we are to expect good results. This was true for the elaboration of the Plan, which had taken place in an inclusive process, and at least equally important for the implementation phase. Involving the science sector is also key, and this is the basis of the work and decision making within HELCOM. One example of how close cooperation between HELCOM and the very vibrant science and research community in the Baltic Sea region was the [Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet](#), elaborated by HELCOM in cooperation with Baltic Earth. Against this background it was encouraging to see the active involvement by such a large number of stakeholders from various backgrounds in the BSC2023. In his view it was helpful that stakeholders followed the work of HELCOM with a critical eye, while at the same time offering support and constructive input, as well as very creative approaches to addressing the issues facing the Baltic Sea – true to the motto of the BSC2023: “Think outside the box!”

The deadline for implementing all the BSAP actions was 2030 but there were many actions that had earlier target years. There was no time to waste, and he thanked participants for their ideas for speeding up the implementation and enhancing cooperation with different sectors and actors.

Rüdiger Stempel concluded that he was confident that there is willingness and also the necessary expertise to take action in improving the state of the Baltic Sea environment as envisioned in the BSAP and that by joining efforts we would succeed. It was a huge task, but one that we should not be daunted by.

Finally, Rüdiger Stempel warmly thanked Latvia for hosting the conference, Sandra Kropa for her excellent moderation, all presenters and participants for their valuable input and the HELCOM BSC2023 team for their hard work in supporting Latvian Chairmanship in organizing the conference.

## **ANNEXES**

- Annex 1 List of registered participants
- Annex 2 Programme
- Annex 3 Resources



## Annex 1 List of registered participants

Name	Organization	Country (base of organization)
<b>Moderator and speakers</b>		
<b>Sandra Kropa</b>	Moderator	Latvia
<b>Chresten Heide-Anderson</b>	Association for European Manufacturers of Expanded Polystyrene (EUMEPS)	Denmark
<b>Lasma Livzeniece</b>	Latvian Wind Energy Association	Latvia
<b>Heidrun Fammler</b>	Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) Germany	Germany
<b>Christopher Flensburg</b>	SEB	Sweden
<b>Johanna Fox</b>	WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme	Sweden
<b>Josefine Gottschalk</b>	Leibniz Institute for Ecological Urban and Regional Development	Germany
<b>Hannah Griffiths Berggren</b>	WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme	Sweden
<b>Mikko Halonen</b>	Gaia Consulting Ltd.	Finland
<b>Agnieszka Ilola</b>	UBC Sustainable Cities Commission	Finland
<b>Paulius Kliučininkas</b>	Baltic Sea Youth Advocacy Working Group coordinated	
<b>Marie-Louise Krawack</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Matti Lindholm</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Elisa Mikkolainen</b>	Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG)	Finland
<b>Pekka Salminen</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Mari Savela</b>	Baltic Sea Challenge, City of Helsinki	Finland
<b>Evija Šmite</b>	State Environmental Service of Latvia	Latvia
<b>Lars Sonesten</b>	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Sweden
<b>Milla Stenström</b>	Baltic Sea Challenge, City of Helsinki	Finland
<b>Rüdiger Stempel</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Markku Viitasalo</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Participants</b>		
<b>Andris Andrusaitis</b>	Baltic Earth SAB Chair	Latvia
<b>Juliette Aminian Biquet</b>	CCMAR/EMB/CNRS	Portugal, France
<b>Magnus Andreasen</b>	DTU AQUA	Denmark
<b>Mariia Andreeva</b>	UBC Sustainable Cities Commission	Finland
<b>Signe Antonsen Damgaard</b>	The Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Denmark
<b>Robert Aps</b>	University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute	Estonia
<b>Annamari Arrakoski-Engardt</b>	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
<b>Amois Antonio Augusto</b>		
<b>David Austin</b>	Jacobs	United States

<b>Bodo Bahr</b>	Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference	
<b>Evgeniya Bakalova</b>	State Parliament of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Germany
<b>Ieva Barda</b>	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
<b>Fritjof Basan</b>	BSH	Germany
<b>Jacek Beldowski</b>	Instytut Oceanologii PAN	Poland
<b>Tina Tamm Bendixen</b>	Ørsted	Denmark
<b>Lovisa Blomqvist</b>	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
<b>Damian Bojanowski</b>	Department of Water Environment Management	Poland
<b>Emilie Breviere</b>	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI)	Sweden
<b>Elisabeth Bruggaier</b>	BioConsult GmbH & Co KG	Germany
<b>Natalja Buhhalko</b>	Tallinn University of Technology, Department of Marine Systems	Estonia
<b>Aina Carbonell Quetglas</b>	Spanish Oceanographic Institute	Spain
<b>Ida Carlén</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Ieva Čaraitė</b>	Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
<b>Maud Casier</b>	European Commission	European Union
<b>Andrea Cervantes</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Jolanta Cesiulienė</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	Lithuania
<b>Anne Munch Christensen</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Krzysztof Cieszkowski</b>	PGW WP	Poland
<b>Ivia Closset</b>	Finnish Meteorological Institute	Finland
<b>Divine M. Ann Crocheron</b>		United States
<b>Michał Czub</b>	University of Warsaw / IO PAN	Poland
<b>Natalia Dąbrowska</b>	Port of Gdynia Authority S.A.	Poland
<b>Annija Danenberga</b>	VARAM	Latvia
<b>Julio de la Cueva</b>	Spanish National Ports Agency - OPPE	Spain
<b>Egidija Dūdaitė</b>	Ministry of Environment	Lithuania
<b>Wojciech Durczak</b>	Maritime Office Szczecin	Poland
<b>Mikhail Durkin</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Philip Easthill</b>	European Boating Industry	Belgium
<b>Nina Effelsberg</b>	EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany	Germany
<b>Ville Engberg</b>	Voice of the Ocean Foundation	Sweden
<b>Karolina Falkiewicz</b>	State Water Holding Polish Waters	Poland
<b>Miia Farstad</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Agnieszka Fiszka Borzyszkowska</b>	Gdansk University of Technology	Poland
<b>Camille Fraizy</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Aiste Gasiuniene</b>	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Lithuania
<b>Julia Gerlach</b>	Race for The Baltic	Sweden

<b>Daniel Ghebrezghi</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	Sweden
<b>Dimitra Giannopoulou</b>	European Commission	European Union
<b>Meike Gierk</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection	Germany
<b>Sascha Gill</b>	CLIA	Belgium
<b>Angelo Gilles</b>	REM Consult	Germany
<b>Andrzej Górski</b>	Bet-Min	Poland
<b>Przemyslaw Gruszecki</b>	State Water Holding Polish Waters	Poland
<b>Johan Gustafsson</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	Sweden
<b>Samuel Gutestrand Mandaric</b>	Institute for Globally Distributed Open Research and Education (IGDORE)	Sweden
<b>Julie Krogh Hallin</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Henni Sofia Hansen</b>	SEB	Sweden
<b>Magnus Hansten</b>	Nemo Seafarms	Finland
<b>Veera Hauhia</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Nicole Heibeck</b>	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency	Germany
<b>Johanna Helkimo</b>	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
<b>Ulla Helminen</b>		Finland
<b>Sophie Herbert</b>	Interreg BSR - MA/JS	Germany
<b>Daniela Herrmann</b>	NABU	Germany
<b>Jane Hofmann</b>	EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany	Germany
<b>Nils Höglund</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Malin Holm Roos</b>	Swedish Coastguard	Sweden
<b>Phil Horton</b>	European Boating Association	United Kingdom
<b>Anda Ikauniece</b>	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
<b>Konstantin Ivanov</b>	Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe	Slovakia
<b>Arturs Ivanovs</b>	Riga Technical University	Latvia
<b>Kamil Jagodzinski</b>	Race for the Baltic	Sweden
<b>Julia Jännäri</b>	Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association	Finland
<b>Frank Jensen</b>	Danish Nature Agency	Denmark
<b>Lisbeth Jess Plesner</b>	Dansk Akvakultur	Denmark
<b>Kjell Johansson</b>	Swedish Maritime Administration	Sweden
<b>Iveta Jurgensone</b>	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
<b>Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen</b>	Parks & Wildlife Finland	Finland
<b>Ellen Kaasik</b>	Port of Tallinn	Estonia
<b>Saa Henry Kabuta</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	The Netherlands

<b>Meri Kallasvu</b>	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)	Finland
<b>Kate Kaminska</b>	The Fisheries department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Poland
<b>Elsi Kauppinen</b>	ELY Centre / PA Nutri	Finland
<b>Hannele Kauranne</b>	BASRAN Baltic Sea Regional Action Network of Rotarians	Other, please specify
<b>Anna Kiiski</b>	Kotka Maritime Research Centre	Finland
<b>Liis Kikas</b>	Ministry of the Environment	Estonia
<b>Zilvinas Kleiva</b>	Lithuanian Sea Museum	Lithuania
<b>Linda Köhler</b>	Institut für Angewandte Ökosystemforschung	Germany
<b>Antoine Kopp</b>	European Commission, DG MARE	European Union
<b>Julia Kosiek</b>	Motus Foundation	Poland
<b>Anastasiia Kovtun-Kante</b>	Estonian Environment Agency	Estonia
<b>Manuela Krakau</b>	German Environment Agency	Germany
<b>Marie-Louise Krawack</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Tomasz Król</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure	Poland
<b>Tomasz Kuczynski</b>	Gdynia Maritime University	Poland
<b>Karol Kulinski</b>	IO PAN	Poland
<b>Airi Kulmala</b>	MTK	Finland
<b>Anita Künitzer</b>	German Environment Agency	Germany
<b>Tuuli Kunnas</b>	Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT	Finland
<b>Lasse Kurvinen</b>	Parks & Wildlife Finland	Finland
<b>Maarit Laatikainen</b>	National Audit Office of Finland, NAOF	Finland
<b>Titta Lahtinen</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Anu Lastumäki</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Mirka Laurila-Pant</b>	Finnish Transport and Communications Agency	Finland
<b>Alejandra Leal</b>	Van Oord	The Netherlands
<b>Ronald Lieske</b>	Interreg Baltic Sea Region MA/JS	Germany
<b>Paula Lindell</b>	Suomen Vesilaitosyhdistys ry	Finland
<b>Joel Lindholm</b>	Under Ytan Ab	Finland
<b>Maria Lindqvist</b>	Uppsala University/finlandiabiosciences	Sweden
<b>Terrance Long</b>	International Dialogues on Underwater Munitions (IDUM)	Canada, The Netherlands and USA
<b>Aleksei Lotman</b>	ELF	Estonia
<b>Christopher Lucht</b>	Baltic Sea Subregional State Cooperation	Germany
<b>Jan Młotkowski</b>	Maritime Office in Gdynia	Poland

<b>Jose Macedo</b>	Regional Directorate for Maritime Policies, Regional Government of the Azores	Portugal
<b>Bev Mackenzie</b>	BIMCO	Denmark
<b>Miina Mäki</b>	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
<b>Michael Mannaart</b>	KIMO International	UK/The Netherlands
<b>Paulius Matvejevas</b>	Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration	Lithuania
<b>Laura Mazmaca</b>	State Environmental Service	Latvia
<b>Sylwia Migdał -Leszczyńska</b>	WWF Poland	Poland
<b>Maya Miltell</b>	BaltCF	Germany
<b>Jakub Mirkowicz</b>	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin	Poland
<b>Glòria Monterrubio Coll</b>	Nefco	Finland
<b>Jason Mühlstein</b>	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies	Germany
<b>Dominika Musiałowicz</b>	Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection	Poland
<b>Kai Myrberg</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Lasse Nielsen</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Liv Olsson</b>	BEWI RAW B.V.	
<b>Chinomso Onwubiko</b>	Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR)	Ghana
<b>Iolanda Osvath</b>	IAEA	Monaco
<b>Pekka Paavilainen</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Jonas Pålsson</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	Sweden
<b>Federica Pastore</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)	Sweden
<b>Paweł Pełka</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure	Poland
<b>Jesper Duer Pedersen</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Jolita Petkuviene</b>	Klaipeda University	Lithuania
<b>Piotr Piórkowski</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure	Poland
<b>Līga Platace</b>	Ministry of Climate and Energy	Latvia
<b>Lisbeth Jess Plesner</b>	Dansk Akvakultur	Denmark
<b>Merje Polma</b>	Ministry of Rural Affairs	Estonia
<b>Ieva Putna-Nimane</b>	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology	Latvia
<b>Jixin Qiao</b>	Technical University of Denmark	Denmark
<b>Katrin Quiring</b>	Rewilding Oder Delta	Germany
<b>Eeva Rantama</b>	Interreg Baltic Sea Region MA/JS	Germany
<b>Marcus Reckermann</b>	International Baltic Earth Secretariat at Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon	Germany

<b>Anni Rein</b>	Nefco	Finland
<b>Henna Rinne</b>	Ministry of the Environment	Finland
<b>Ulla Rosenström</b>	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
<b>Kajsa Rosqvist</b>	City of Helsinki	Finland
<b>Andrius Ruzinskas</b>	Ministry of Transport and Communications	Lithuania
<b>Vanessa Ryan</b>	WWF Finland	Finland
<b>Kamil Rybka</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure	Poland
<b>Linda Rydell</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	Sweden
<b>Juha-Pekka Saaraelainen</b>	Watec-consulting	Finland
<b>Maija Salmiovirta</b>	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
<b>Olga Sarna</b>	MARE Foundation	Poland
<b>Kai Schlegelmilch</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)	Germany
<b>Rebecca Schmatz</b>	Marint centrum in Simrishamn	Sweden
<b>Daiva Semėnienė</b>	Center for Environmental Policy	Lithuania
<b>Lone Soederberg</b>	Ministry of Environment	Denmark
<b>Anna Soirinsuo</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Franziska Stoll</b>	EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany	Germany
<b>Evita Strode</b>	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (LIAE)	Latvia
<b>Nardine Stybel</b>	EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany	Germany
<b>Eva-Lotta Sundblad</b>	Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment	Sweden
<b>Janne Suomela</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Ramūnas Šurkus</b>	PLLC Klaipeda state seaport authority	Lithuania
<b>Beata Szymanowska</b>	Port of Gdynia Authority S.A.	Poland
<b>Laura Tack</b>	Universität Greifswald	Germany
<b>Eeva Tähtikarhu</b>	John Nurminen Foundation	Finland
<b>Kirsti Tarnanen-Sariola</b>	Finnish Ports Association	Finland
<b>Bettina Taylor</b>	Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)/BUND	Germany
<b>Sanna Tikander</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Finland
<b>Maria Timonen</b>	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland	Finland
<b>Didzis Ustups</b>	BIOR	Latvia
<b>Emmi Vähä</b>	Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)	Finland
<b>Riikka Vainio</b>	Turku University of Applied Sciences	Finland
<b>Minna Valtavaara</b>	Finnish Border Guard HQ	Finland

<b>Kristina Veidemane</b>	Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia	Latvia
<b>Finn Viehberg</b>	WWF Germany	Germany
<b>Anton Vlasov</b>	Carnival Maritime GmbH	Germany
<b>Jutta Vuolamo</b>	Keep the Archipelago Tidy Association	Finland
<b>Anna Waxegård</b>	Sjöfartsverket	Sweden
<b>Nea Westerlund</b>	Nefco	Finland
<b>Krystyna Wróblewska</b>	BSCC	Poland
<b>Natalia Zajac</b>	Ministry of Infrastructure	Poland
<b>Justyna Zajchowska</b>	WWF Poland	Poland
<b>Baiba Zasa</b>	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Latvia
<b>Aleksandra Zgrundo</b>	Univerisity of Gdansk	Poland
<b>Nadja Ziebarth</b>	BUND	Germany
<b>Gastón Alurralde</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Markus Helavuori</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Petra Kääriä</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Susanna Kaasinen</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Vasileios Kouloumpos</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Laura Meski</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Eeva Nyysönen</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Marta Ruiz</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland
<b>Agnes Unnuk</b>	HELCOM Secretariat	Finland

## Annex 2 Programme

Time	Topic / Presenter
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Opening</b> Welcome - Sandra Kropa, Moderator Opening remarks - Evija Šmite, Chair of HELCOM
10.10 – 10.30	<b>YOUTH Q&amp;A: What is really being done for improving the state of the Baltic Sea?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paulius Kliucininkas and Josefine Gottschalk , Baltic Sea Youth Advocacy Working Group coordinated by the Council of the Baltic Sea States</li> <li>• Marie Louise Krawack, Former Chair of HELCOM Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Lars Sonesten, Former Chair of HELCOM Working Group on the Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area</li> </ul>
10.30 – 11.30	<b>BLOCK 1: RAISING AWARENESS</b> What if people just don't know – or care – enough? – Awareness raising and accelerating actions for the Baltic Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increasing awareness – the ethical side</b> by Olle Torpman, Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm, Sweden (video recording)</li> <li>• <b>Baltic Sea Farmer Award – how to build longer-term engagement?</b> by Hannah Griffiths Berggren, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme</li> <li>• <b>How to make citizen science blossom: algae sightings in Finland</b> by Matti Lindholm, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)</li> </ul>
	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 12.30	<b>BLOCK 2: MUNICIPAL LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION</b> How is the local level taking up the challenge? – Municipal and sub-national action hitting the BSAP targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multiplying Smart water management: how the cities have spearheaded action</b> by Agnieszka Ilola, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Smart Water Hub</li> <li>• <b>Cut back chemical pollution – municipalities taking action</b> by Heidrun Fammler, Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF) Germany</li> <li>• <b>BSAP certainly can be mirrored sub-nationally: the success of the local BSAPs</b> by Mari Savela and Milla Stenström, Baltic Sea Challenge, City of Helsinki</li> </ul>
12.30 – 13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.30 – 14.30	<b>BLOCK 3: PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION</b> How about all the buzz outside the public sector? – Private sector cooperation and the BSAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>We all want less marine litter in the Baltic Sea: cooperation is key</b> by Chresten Heide-Anderson, member of the EUMEPS Board of Directors; Director General of the Danish EPS Association</li> <li>• <b>Discharge or recharge – ship-generated waste turned into energy</b> by Elisa Mikkolainen, Baltic Sea Action Group</li> <li>• <b>How can the private sector contribute to reaching the conservation goals of the Baltic Sea?</b> by Markku Viitasalo, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)</li> </ul>
	<i>Coffee break</i>



14.30 – 15.30	<p><b>BLOCK 4: FINANCING</b></p> <p>We need money to get many of these things done – Financing the actions: is it steered right? And should there be more?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nutrient input bonds: Impact-based financing – the Archipelago Sea example</b> by Pekka Salminen, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (Ely-keskus), Southwest Finland</li> <li>• <b>Panel discussion</b>            Johanna Fox, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme            Christopher Flensburg, SEB            Mikko Halonen, Gaia Consulting Ltd.            Lasma Livzeniece, Latvian Wind Energy Association</li> </ul>
15.30 – 16.00	<p><b>WRAP-UP AND CLOSING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Kropa, Moderator</li> <li>• Rüdiger Stempel, Executive Secretary of HELCOM</li> </ul>

### **Annex 3 Resources**

- [BSC2023 website](#)
- [HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan](#)
- [Additional information on the actions in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan](#)
- [Follow-up of HELCOM agreements](#)
- [HELCOM Explorer](#)
- [Implementation of the 2007 Baltic Sea Action Plan](#)