

# Terms of Reference for HELCOM Expert Group on Reduction Scheme Core Follow-up (EG RedCore)

## Purpose

The HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme set out in the Baltic Sea Action Plan in 2007, revised in 2013 and 2021, is a regional approach to sharing the burden of nutrient reductions to achieve the goal of a Baltic Sea unaffected by eutrophication. The purpose of the Expert Group on Reduction Scheme Core Follow-up (EG RedCore) is to support the work of the Source to Sea management of nutrients and hazardous substances and sustainable agricultural practices Working Group (WG Source to sea) by liaising between the working group and the scientific work related to the follow-up of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme and activities in the Pollution Load Compilation (PLC) projects.

## Duties

The duties of the expert group are to:

- Provide a forum for technical discussions and elaboration of proposals regarding the nutrient reduction scheme set out in the Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- Ensure a robust scientific basis for the work of the Source to Sea Working Group related to nutrient inputs considering also impacts of climate change;
- Ensure timely delivery of policy relevant quality assured products from PLC related activities and conduct quality assurance of PLC related products including products from EMEP on emissions and deposition for the consideration of the Source to Sea Working Group
- Maintain procedures for making a complete, quality assured dataset ;
- Further develop the national nutrient input ceilings (NIC) follow-up assessment and propose how to operationalize regular updating;
- Oversee the development of/Support the preparation of regular assessments (MAI/NIC) based on inputs from data consultants;
- Coordinate and guide technical work and projects within PLC related activities and follow-up on their progress;
- Prepare a road map of future activities for improving PLC data and operationalizing the follow-up of MAI and NIC;
- Guide the timely elaboration of technical assessments;
- Guide and develop the work on assessing effectiveness of measures on nutrient loads;
- Make proposals, as needed, to Source to Sea Working Group based on the outcomes of projects, assessments, and workshops.

## Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes of the work conducted in the frame of the Expert Group on Reduction Scheme Core Follow-up are detailed in the 2-year workplan of the Expert Group, regularly updated by the Group and approved by the Source to Sea Working Group.

## Organization of work

EG RedCore consists of experts from Contracting Parties, PLC project manager, PLC data manager, BNI-Sweden, Chair of Source to Sea Working Group and is open to Observers according to HELCOM procedures.

EG RedCore will elect a Chair for a 2-year period.

The mode of work for the expert Group will be mainly via correspondence and online meetings, with physical meetings being organized as needed preferably back-to-back with other relevant meetings or events.

The current Terms of Reference are to be reviewed periodically, every four years, or as the need arises. The HELCOM Secretariat will provide administrative support to the group. EG RedCore reports to the Source to Sea Working Group.