

BaltSeaPlan – INTEREG Project on Spatial Planning

The different maritime sectors, such as shipping, fishery, offshore wind energy or mineral extraction are more and more competing for the limited space of this fragile internal sea. A wise, pro-active Maritime Spatial Planning could not only help avoiding conflicts between the uses, but through creating synergies lay basis for a sustainable maritime economy.

The 3.7 m EUR project BaltSeaPlan part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund is one the major EU initiatives in the field of maritime spatial planning in the coming years. Within the projects duration from 2009 to 2012, 14 partners from seven Baltic countries, the project will provide key input into the realization of the EU Maritime Policy, HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the VASAB Gdańsk Declaration:

Germany:

Lead Partner: Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency / BSH

- World Wide Fund for Nature Germany, Baltic Sea Unit / WWF
- Ministry of Transport, Building and Regional Development of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Poland:

- Maritime Office in Szczecin
- Maritime Office in Gdynia
- Maritime Institute in Gdańsk

Denmark:

- National Environmental Research Institute / NERI

Sweden:

- Royal Institute of Technology / KTH
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency / SEPA

Estonia:

- Baltic Environmental Forum / BEF Estonia
- Estonian Marine Institute of University of Tartu

Lithuania:

- Coastal Research and Planning Institute / CORPI
- Baltic Environmental Forum / BEF Lithuania

Latvia:

- Baltic Environmental Forum / BEF Latvia

With a learning-by-doing approach BaltSeaPlan will overcome the lack of relevant legislation in most Baltic Sea Region countries. Seven important Baltic areas were chosen for pilot maritime spatial plans:

- Pomeranian Bight DE/PL/SE
- Western Gulf of Gdansk PL
- Middle Bank PL/SE
- Western Baltic T-Route DK
- Pärnu Bay EE
- Hiiuma & Saaremaa Islands EE
- Western Coast of Latvia LV

A broad scale stocktake of maritime uses will be carried out in each pilot area. Additional information will be collected with application of newest tools and methods, such as sea-bed modelling and climate change scenarios. All data will be harmonised according to requirements of the EC INSPIRE directive and compiled in a joint data base.

Additionally, BaltSeaPlan will provide key input into National Maritime Strategies as required by the EU Blue Book on Future Maritime Policy. In 2011 a common spatial development vision for the Baltic Sea will be produced as a synergy of the national visions and plans of all Baltic Sea Region countries.

More specific Information about the project goals and steps already taken is given under <http://www.baltseaplan.eu/>
