

Towards the Gulf of Finland Year 2014



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Background of the GoF trilateral work



- Trilateral co-operation among Russia, Estonia and Finland was initiated in 1992 to protect the marine environment of the GoF
- The first Gulf of Finland Year was organized in 1996 at ministerial level
- Afterwards the joint Forums have taken place to discuss actual problems and to implement actions



The Vision of the GoF Year



**Gulf of Finland
Year 2014**

- The threats to the marine environment, as well as the needed adaptation and saving strategies, require close interaction between scientists, decision-makers and the other parts of the society
- To protect the marine environment of the GoF latest scientific knowledge is needed to be available for decision-makers
- The implementation of these objectives requires the realisation of the joint GoF Year between Russia, Finland and Estonia



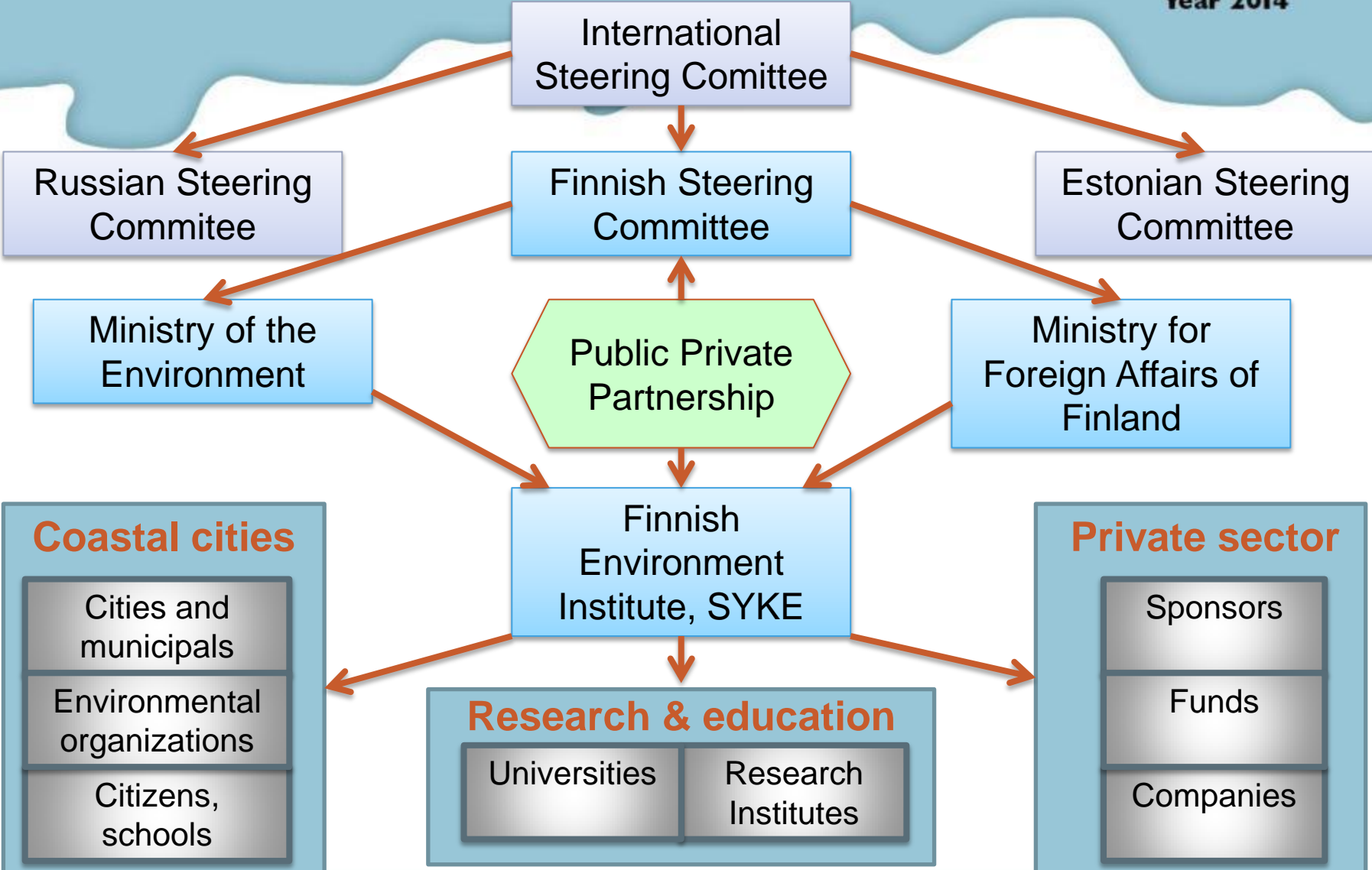
Starting points



- Finland, Russia and Estonia are already committed on a high political level
- Preparations are lead by the Finnish Environment Ministry
- SYKE is responsible for the practical coordination
- A wide range of national and international partners :
 - Regional government, cities
 - Sector research
 - Universities
 - Schools
 - Non-government organisations



Organisation of the Project Gulf of Finland Year 2014



Aiming High



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The activities of the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 are in line with implementing the targets of:

- The implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
- The goals set forth by the Convention on Biological Diversity
- The collaboration between the European Union and the Russian Federation in the protection of the Baltic Sea
- The implementation of bilateral agreements and programmes between the Participants in the field of environmental protection



Research topics

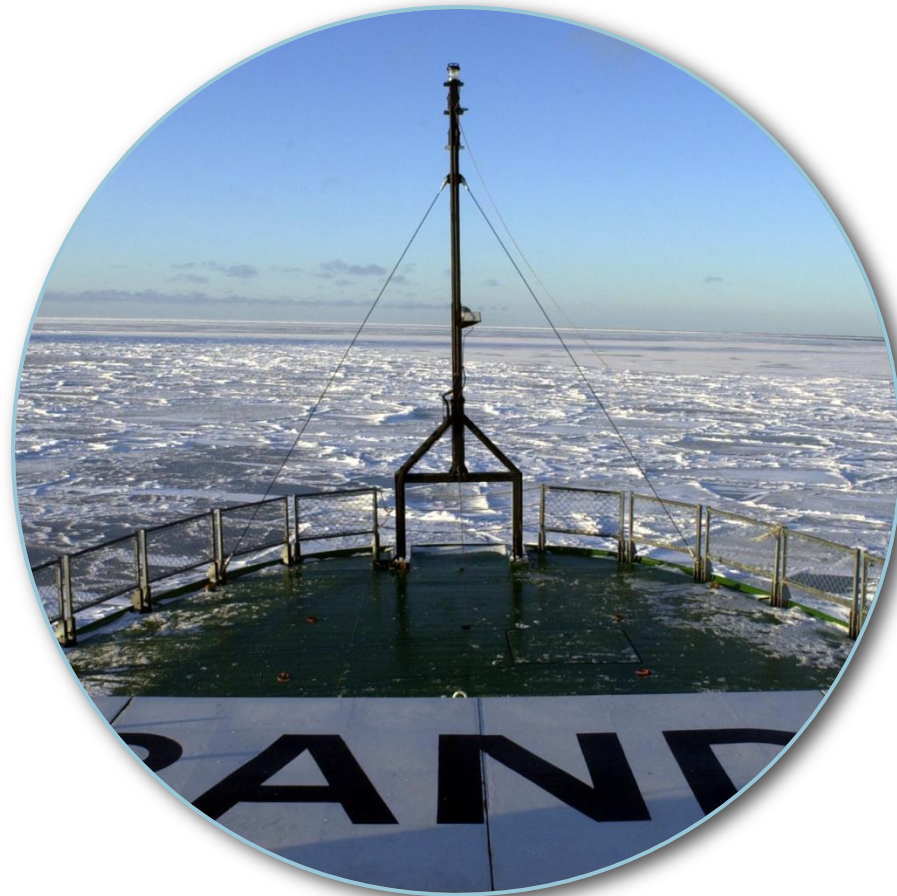


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MONITORING

The 5 themes have each a scientific contact person:

- Bio- and geodiversity
- Fish and fisheries
- Pollution and ecosystem health
- Marine traffic, specifically in winter conditions
- Maritime Spatial Planning



Actions in 2012–2013



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- Conferences/negotiations in Estonia, Russia and Finland regarding the practical realization of the Thematic Year
- Start of the research projects
- Specific workshops for each research theme
- Assessment of public and private funding sources
- Preparation media plan
- Ongoing negotiations with scientific institutes, ministries and stakeholders about the content of the Thematic Year



Activities during GoF Year 2014



Year 2014

- Realization of the research projects
- Seminars for decision makers, ordinary citizens, including university students and children
- Kotka Maritime Festival 2014, similar activities in Estonia and Russia
- Additional activities of the coastal cities
- Baltic Sea Day Forum in St. Petersburg
- Closing Forum for decision-makers
- PR activities
- Media happenings
- Announcement of the Gulf of Finland Declaration

Year 2015

- Forums for researchers, presentation of results in scientific conferences and in articles
- Closing Forum for ordinary citizens

The Gulf of Finland Declaration



**Gulf of Finland
Year 2014**

- Create guidelines for the protection and sustainable use of the Gulf of Finland the by 2021
- To commit all three countries at the political level
- Increase political stability, Peace and Friendship in the Gulf's area



GoF Year 2014 – additional scientific value



- Collaborative efforts of marine researchers from all three countries in interdisciplinary, basing-wide studies with high spatial and temporal resolution for various ecosystem processes
- Comprehensive measurement campaigns (**including joint monitoring**) and modelling exercises of the Gulf
- New information on key processes like:
 - Recent scientific estimations of the health status of the GoF
 - New and accurate research results on coastal-open sea-interactions including watersheds
 - Background information for the estimations of what effects the climate change may have on the GoF ecosystem and human activities
 - List of the most important environmental actions which should take place to improve the state of the GoF

GoF Year 2014 – additional practical value



- New information to support ecosystem-based decision-making
- Deepening of international co-operation
- Enhancing the relation between science and environmental administration
- More contacts with private sector
- Professional Services available to all
- Increase in the public awareness in questions related to the GoF
- Increase in co-operation among universities and institutions in the training of students and experts - a new generation of scientists for the Gulf of Finland- Baltic Sea studies will grow up
- Preparations of the Gulf of Finland Declaration, which will demonstrate the measures necessary to achieve a good environmental status of the GoF by 2021, which is the goal of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan

Thank You!

