

Improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment

BALTIC 4th
FORUM **MSP**



1-2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE



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Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia



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DEVELOPMENT
FUND



Project in nutshell

Project title “Improving knowledge on the state of the marine environment”

Financed by European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2014-2020

Lead by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

Consultative support by Baltic Environmental Forum-Latvia

Project Nr. 17-00-F06803-000001

Duration 06/2017-06/2022



Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija

NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA

Eiropas Jūrlietu un
zivsaimniecības fonds

Atbalsta Zemkopības ministrija un Lauku atbalsta dienests



Project aim

To **improve the knowledge** of the marine ecosystem, the state of the marine environment and the pressures **to achieve and maintain good environmental status in the marine environment** in accordance with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) and Latvian marine legislation by:

- **research (field works, analysis, assessments, etc.)** on state of the marine environment, marine ecosystem, pressures affecting the marine environment and their interactions
- **studies and analysis** of socio-economic aspects of marine use and assessment of socio-economic benefits of marine uses
- **development of proposals for measures** to achieve good marine environmental status and conservation in marine waters under the jurisdiction of Latvia



Project studies (I) - ongoing

2017-2022 **Improving knowledge of the marine ecosystem, the state of the marine environment and the pressures affecting it** implemented by the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology

The study covers 11 topics to characterize the state of the marine environment and the causes and trends of its changes, to assess the elements of the marine ecosystem and biological and physical pressures affecting the marine environment, as well as to identify and quantify key ecosystem values, non-monetary assessment of marine degradation.

2017-2021 **Building a knowledge and information base of economic and social analysis of the use of marine waters and achievement of the marine environmental targets** implemented by AKTiiVS Ltd

The study includes an economic and social analysis of marine use, an assessment of the costs of marine degradation, an assessment of potentially necessary additional measures and their cost-effectiveness analysis, an assessment of the socio-economic benefits of the sea and the use of ecosystem services



Project studies (II) - past

2018 Determination of nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea from major land-based pollution sources in Latvia to define effective measures for pollution reduction implemented by the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre

2019 Study on sediment flow and application of indicators on the qualitative descriptor “Hydrographical conditions” for determining the good environmental status” implemented by Center of Processes’ Analysis and Research Ltd.

2020 Report on the Rīga wastewater treatment plant, Daugavpils wastewater treatment plant and Liepāja City and Harbour for the removal from the HELCOM “hot spots” list” implemented by the Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre. The study concluded that the Riga city wastewater treatment plant complies with the existing criteria for the removal of the Riga WWTP from the HELCOM list of “hot spots”*

**The Riga WWTP has been deleted from the list of “hot spots” by the decision of the 59th meeting of HELCOM Heads of Delegation (7.-8.12.2020)*



Dissemination and stakeholder involvement

- Reporting to the meetings of the Marine Environmental Consultative Board: inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination group on marine issues
- National stakeholder event in Latvia organized (on May 21, 2021) associated with the European Maritime Day as well as other publicity activities planned to stress the importance of the good environmental status in the Baltic sea
- Thematic discussions on specific targets and measures with relevant stakeholders (e.g., marine litter, invasive species)
- Supporting Latvian experts` participation in the EU, the Baltic Sea Region and other events related to Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning Directive

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