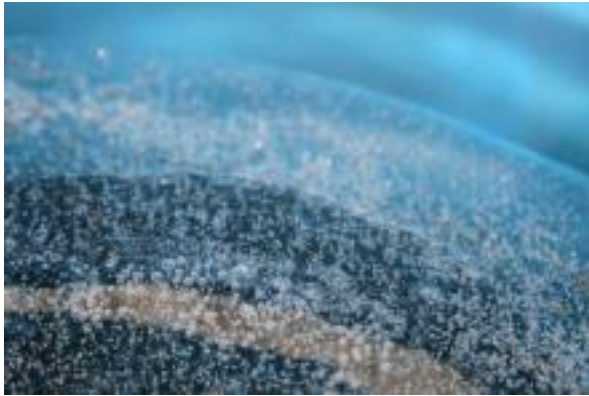


Pilot watersheds as a practical tool to reduce the harmful inflows into the Baltic Sea. (WATERCHAIN)



Programme Priority: P2 Sustainable use of common resources

Programme Specific Objective: 2.4. Reduced nutrients, hazardous substances and toxins inflow into the Baltic Sea

Sub-programme: Central Baltic

Duration: 01.10.2015 - 30.09.2018

Total funding: 2.574.250 EUR

ERDF funding: 2.029.057 EUR ERDF

Project Summary:

The project WATERCHAIN helps to reduce inflows of nutrients and hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea from all types of land-based sources by using pilot watersheds and environmental technology. The project tackles both highly developed intensely populated cities as well as less developed peripheral, sparsely populated rural and island regions in pilot watersheds.

The main actions are carried out in the pilot watersheds in each partner country with the practical actions targeted to sustainable impact. The sustainable use of common resources is based both on prevention of nutrients and hazardous substances inflow, as well as on water treatment of these harmful substances already entered the water bodies. During the project period, one to two sources of nutrients or hazardous substances recognized by river basin water management plans are identified and activities to reduce the substances in each pilot watershed are also initiated.

As a result of the project best practices with a common approach for sustainable development are launched in other geographical areas within the Central Baltic region and further all countries around the Baltic Sea. By year 2023, the pollution loads of nutrients and hazardous substances from targeted sources are reduced in pilot watersheds flowing into the Baltic Sea. Therefore, project results have a direct impact on the quality of living environment of local people and visitors to the area, especially on pilot watersheds.

Map of Partners



Partners

Lead Partner

Satakunnan ammattikorkeakoulu

Country: FI

www.samk.fi

Partner budget: 479.350 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 359.512 EUR ERDF

Project Partners

Pyhäjärvi-instituuttisäätiö

Country: FI

www.pji.fi

Partner budget: 288.900 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 216.675 EUR ERDF

Turun ammattikorkeakoulu

Country: FI

www.tuas.fi

Partner budget: 289.800 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 217.350 EUR ERDF

Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan

Country: SE

<https://www.kth.se/>

Partner budget: 374.100 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 280.575 EUR ERDF

Tallinna Tehnikaulikool

Country: EE

<http://www.ttu.ee/>

Partner budget: 262.375 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 223.019 EUR ERDF

Eesti Keskkonnauuringute Keskus

Country: EE

<http://www.klab.ee/>

Partner budget: 238.625 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 202.831 EUR ERDF

Rīgas Tehniskā universitāte

Country: LV

www.rtu.lv

Partner budget: 207.300 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 176.205 EUR ERDF

Vides Risinājumu Instituts

Country: LV

<http://www.videsinstituts.lv/>

Partner budget: 275.400 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 234.090 EUR ERDF

Ålands Vatten

Country: FI

<http://www.vatten.ax/>

Partner budget: 158.400 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 118.800 EUR ERDF

Results

Expected results

The main results are practices with a common approach for sustainable development i.e. reduced nutrients and hazardous substances inflows into the Central Baltic Sea region. Our main results are based on several approaches: 1) information collection, surveys for benchmarking, recommendations and guidelines, 2) prevention of inflows and 3) improvement and implementation of cost effective environmental treatment technologies, 4) involvement of local people and visitors, and implementation of best practices, 5) pilot investments. The grass root level, including local operators, results are achieved in working with pilot watersheds. During the project period, one to two sources of nutrients or hazardous substances recognized by river basin water management plans will be reduced in each pilot. By year 2023, in pilot watersheds flowing into the Baltic Sea the pollution loads of nutrients from targeted sources are reduced 30 % and concentrations of hazardous substances will meet the requirements environmental quality standards 39/2013/EU. The sources of these compounds are reduced to one third of the current situation. A web based interactive handbook of best practices for reduction of pollution is published in English and local languages. Social Media is already in use for the project: "Central Baltic WATERCHAIN" webpages, Facebook, LinkedIn Group, Twitter, Youtube and Instagram. Involvement of individual, local people living in the pilot watersheds and visitors to the area contributes to active, common practices of different instances. The existing action groups are activated and involved for cooperation and based on need, new groups will be formed. Local municipalities, organisations and authorities responsible for environmental protection and capable of the reduction of the nutrients and hazardous substances load, and research institutions with expertise in the area are working together to improve water quality and better condition of the Central Baltic Sea region.

Achieved results

Project Visibility

Social media links

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Other media visibility

[Project homepage](#)

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