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Background

BONUS projects are interdisciplinary and transnational scientific research endeavours and involve eligible legal entities from at least three EU member states or associated countries, with a minimum of two project partners originating from the BONUS member states (i.e. Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden).

Eight new projects are funded from a competitive 'BONUS call 2017: Synthesis' call worth a total of EUR 3.1 million. The funded projects will perform critical review of research outputs as well as identify the knowledge gaps and further research needs. They will also analyse how successfully the outputs of science have been taken up at different levels of public governance and management, and by industry, and suggest ways to enhance the societal significance and impact of research and innovation relevant to the specific topic.

After thorough evaluation by independent experts, a total of six topics out of the nine opened for the call are being covered. All topics have a strong reference to the themes of the BONUS strategic research agenda, which was from the outset defined in close cooperation with e.g. HELCOM and the national funding organisations. The eight projects start their implementation between October 2018 and January 2019.

This document contains short information on these new projects. Further information can also be found in the [BONUS project portfolio](#) (publication includes information on all BONUS projects).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Projects funded under 'BONUS call 2017: Synthesis' call

BONUS BALTIMARI - Review, evaluation and future of Baltic risk management

The BONUS BALTIMARI sets out to review the current state-of-the-art in risk analysis and decision support, focusing on the Baltic Sea area. We target the areas of Maritime transportation systems (MTS) and offshore energy production systems (OEPS). In collaboration with stakeholders, we aim to identify priorities for future research in risk management.

Coordinator Pentti Kujala, Aalto University

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS DESTONY - Decision support tool for management of the Baltic Sea ecosystem

Successful environmental management relies on an enormous amount of complex information that is processed further to interpret or predict potential changes and responses. A number of decision support tools (DST) have already been developed to support this process. The aim of BONUS DESTONY is to evaluate these tools and propose the direction of further development.

Coordinator Vivi Fleming-Lehtinen, Finnish Environment Institute

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS FUMARI - Future marine assessment and monitoring of the Baltic

BONUS FUMARI will explore gaps in current Baltic Sea monitoring and the possibility of using novel monitoring methods to address these shortcomings. The recommendations aim to enhance future coverage, comparability, sensitivity and cost effectiveness of Baltic Sea monitoring. Given the complexity of this task, stakeholder involvement will be critical to project success and will be integrated at all stages of the project.

Coordinator Kristian Meissner, Finnish Environment Institute

BONUS funding: EUR 0,4million

Duration: 1,5years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS MARES - Multi-method assessment for resilient ecosystem services and human-nature system integration

BONUS MARES will set out to identify possible future scenarios of best practices in the knowledge transfer and generate a geospatial tool to represent ecosystem goods and services, as well as their impact on human lifestyles and well-being. This instrument will contribute to efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.

Coordinator Maurizio Sajevo, Pellervo Economic Research PTT

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5 years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS ROSEMARIE - Blue health and wealth from the Baltic Sea – a participatory systematic review for smart decisions

When sustainable blue growth is the target, what are the burning questions of the decisionmakers? How can they balance the current uses of the Baltic Sea ecosystem services with the future uses? BONUS

ROSEMARIE aims to act as a 'research broker': By meeting policy advisors and decisionmakers we set out to identify their knowledge needs, and then search for the answers through the existing scientific works.

Coordinator Soile Oinonen, Finnish Environment Institute

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5 years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS SEAM - Towards streamlined Baltic Sea environmental assessment and monitoring

A safe, secure and sustainable society needs good information on the state of the sea. Monitoring of the marine environment and its biodiversity generates this valuable information describing how the marine environment and marine ecosystems vary through time. The objective of the BONUS SEAM project is to propose recommendations for a more efficient monitoring system to ensure that the information generated can be used by policymakers, scientists and wider society to inform and guide policies and actions for the sustainable management of the Baltic Sea.

Coordinator Mats Lindegarth, University of Gothenburg

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5years, 1.11.2018-30.4.2020

BONUS TOOLS2SEA - Policy tools for Baltic Sea nutrient management

From the end of the 20th century and up to 2014 nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea declined by 13% for nitrogen and 19% for phosphorus. Despite this relief, virtually the entire Baltic Sea (97%) remains eutrofied, according to HELCOM's second holistic assessment, and deep emissions reductions are required as agreed under the Baltic Sea Action Plan. In this context, the BONUS TOOLS2SEA project will provide much needed knowledge about the history and performance of governance approaches and policy instruments for nutrient management.

Coordinator Mikael Skou Andersen, Aarhus University

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5 years, 1.10.2018-31.3.2020

BONUS XWEBS - Taking stock of Baltic Sea food webs: synthesis for sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services

BONUS XWEBS wants to take stock of the field of food web science in the Baltic Sea region ("what do we know, what do we not know?"), provide a vision for this field for the coming decade ("what do we need to know, and how can we obtain this knowledge?"), and assess barriers standing in the way of the integration of food web knowledge in sustainable management of ecosystems.

Coordinator Jan Dierking, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

BONUS funding: EUR 0,45million

Duration: 1,5 years, 1.1.2019-30.6.2020