



Document title	Provisional Programme of HELCOM Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities
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Agenda Item	3 - Matters arising from the HELCOM Groups
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Background

HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 committed to engage with the relevant river basin authorities to better align national and international nutrient reduction requirements of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP). Ministers also agreed to step up the cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions and relevant River Basin authorities in our work to reach SDGs.

To implement the Ministerial commitments, PRESSURE 8-2018 proposed to arrange an international workshop on the role of integrated river basin management in reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea, with the participation of river basin management authorities and transboundary river commissions. HOD 54-2018 approved organization of the Workshop with River Basin Commissions on nutrient reduction targets.

The first draft of the concept of the Workshop with River Basin Management Authorities, including the goals of the workshop, provisional themes to be discussed and potential participants to be invited, was circulated for commenting to the Pressure Working Group contacts in January 2019. As it was envisaged, the concept of the Workshop was further developed during February 2019, by taking into account the needs of HELCOM ACTION project (Actions to Evaluate and Identify Effective Measures to Reach GES In The Baltic Sea Marine Region). The agenda of the [Workshop](#) was slightly expanded to include specific tasks of the HELCOM ACTION project. The dates of the Workshop were proposed to be changed in order to ensure synergy with the Project and efficiency of the resource use.

The programme of the Workshop, presented in this document, was initially agreed by Pressure Group via correspondence and further developed by PRESSURE 10-2019, where Latvia confirmed hosting of the workshop in Riga. After PRESSURE 10-2019 the document was further developed during commenting round and at the meetings of RedCore group and PLC-7 project (RedCore 25-2019, PLC-7 7-201).

Goals of the workshop are:

- to discuss possibilities to align nutrient reduction requirements for individual river basins and targets of the Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- to enhance transboundary cooperation to coordinate the effort to reduce nutrient load to the Baltic Sea;
- to identify mechanism to assure sufficiency of measures included into the river basin management plans to achieve the Baltic Sea environmental targets in terms of nutrient loads;
- identify effective measures to reduce nutrient loads to reach GES in the Baltic Sea.

The Workshop also aims at an open dialog on the potential mechanisms to harmonize river basin management and related environmental targets under the EU Water Framework Directive and the Water Code of Russian Federation. Achievement of the goals of the workshop is not feasible without involvement of these authorities as well as representative of transboundary river basin commissions, scientific and public societies and other stakeholders.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to reflect on the provisional programme of the workshop and recommend concrete themes to be discussed and organizations to be invited from the national perspective of the Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties are invited to inform national authorities responsible for river basin management about the Workshop and encourage them to attend it and contribute to its work.

Provisional Programme of the Workshop

Part 1. Alignment of nutrient reduction requirements for individual river basins and BSAP

1. Nutrient input reduction targets for the Baltic Sea and potential to align reduction requirements for individual rivers with requirements to achieve Maximum Allowable Inputs (MAI):
 - a. Examples of calculation of the reduction needs for individual river basins to achieve marine environment targets (Baltic Nest Institute).
2. Current approach of setting nutrient input reduction targets for river basins:
 - a. Compilation and comparison of MS nutrient boundaries of good ecological status and developing of tool-kit to derive nutrient boundaries supporting good ecological status. (Joint Research Centre in collaboration with DG ENV)
 - b. An example of the work of Narva River Basin Commission to harmonize approaches to set environmental targets (project Water Management of the Narva River: harmonization and sustention (NarvaWatMen));
 - c. The nutrient strategy for the Elbe (Mr. Pavel Rosendorf, The International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe River (ICPER));
 - d. Examples from other river basins including those outside the HELCOM area.
3. Perspectives of international cooperation within transboundary river basins to improve information on transboundary loads (sources and pathways) as well as relevant measures to reduce nutrient loads:
 - a. Examples of coordinated river basin management planning between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia and potential cooperation with Belarus and Russia (Janis Sire, LEGMC);
 - b. An example of cooperation within the Vistula river basin.

Part 2. Effectiveness and sufficiency of measures to reduce nutrient loads to achieve environmental targets.

1. Measures implemented under different policies to achieve environmental targets for nutrient loads.
 - a. The first results of assessment of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads (WP4, HELCOM ACTION project);
 - b. Validation of the results of the analysis, an indication of the planned future nutrient load reductions, a reflection on feasibility and obstacles on implementation of further measures, and an improved understanding of the respective needs in the HELCOM and WFD communities;
 - c. When measures were implemented; whether they remain in place with maintained function together with estimates of both their local effects and their effect on the Baltic Sea;
 - d. Where information on the effects of measures is missing; what are alternative sources (e.g. EUROSTAT) to be used.
2. River basin management plans and perspectives to reduce riverine nutrient input to meet MAI – sufficiency of existing measures and potential for further nutrient input reduction:
 - a. Examples of evaluation of sufficiency of measures to achieve environmental targets for individual river basins.

Participants to be invited:

National authorities responsible for the implementation of HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme;

National authorities responsible for elaboration of the river basin management plans;

Representatives of scientific organizations and national agencies carrying out environmental monitoring;

Representatives of transboundary river basin commissions in the Baltic Sea region and outside: Danube, Elbe, Odra, Vuoksi, Narva, Tornejoki;

NGOs and other stakeholders (e.g. municipalities) involved in the work on implementation of the river basin management plans;

Water Research Centre – the organization which evaluates river basin management plans for the EU Commission;

Joint Research Centre of the European Commission;

Research institutions involved in development of marine and inland water environmental targets;

EU working groups responsible for implementation of WFD and MSFD (e.g. EC Working Group ECOSTAT);

Representatives of HELCOM working groups, expert networks and projects (Agri, Pressure, RedCore DG, PLC-7 IG, etc.).

Project partners of the HELCOM ACTION project.

The Workshop will be held with the support of the HELCOM-led ACTION project.



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