



**OUTCOME OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF SIXTH BALTIC SEA  
POLLUTION LOAD COMPILATION PROJECT (HELCOM PLC-6)**

**INTRODUCTION**

0.1 In accordance with the decisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the project Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (paragraph 6.4, Outcome of PLC-6 5-2014) and the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the HELCOM Expert Group on follow-up of national progress towards reaching BSAP nutrient reduction targets (paragraph 6.6, Outcome of LOAD 7-2104), the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sixth Baltic Sea Pollution Load Compilation (PLC-6) project group (PLC-6 6-2014) was held on 2-4 June 2014 at the premises of HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki, Finland.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Russia (via Skype), Sweden, the Data Consultants SYKE and Baltic Nest Institute (BNI) - Sweden. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting focused on finalizing the PLC-6 guidelines.

0.4 Mr. Lars M. Svendsen, PLC-6 Project Manager, chaired by the workshop and Ms. Minna Pyhälä, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as Secretary.

**Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Documents: 1-1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the agenda as contained in document 1-1.

**Agenda Item 2 Information from the Project Manager, Secretariat and Contracting Parties**

Documents: 2-1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the progress in implementation of the PLC-6 project as summarized by the Project Manager, Mr. Lars M. Svendsen (document 2-1, presentation 1).

2.2 The Meeting took note of the publication of a corrected version of the final report of the [PLC-6 intercalibration activity](#) on the PLC-6 project webpage on the HELCOM website. The report was corrected due to that some results from one laboratory not having been included in the original report.

2.3 The Meeting took note that the results of the questionnaire on the monitored parameters, monitoring frequency, sampling and monitoring methodology by Contracting Parties in rivers and at point sources can be downloaded as an Excel file via the [PLC-6 project webpage](#). The Meeting agreed that the file should be referred to in the PLC-6 guidelines, but not attached as such, since it contains information that will be changed. The Meeting acknowledged that the information should be reviewed and updated every 2-3 years.

2.4 The Meeting noted that the compilation on monitored parameters has been referred to in the HELCOM monitoring templates on inputs of nutrients and contaminants to the Baltic Sea, which are being compiled by the HELCOM MORE project for revision of HELCOM monitoring programmes, and hence also supports those Contracting Parties that are also EU members in their MSFD reporting requirements.



reduction targets. As these tasks are very time and resource consuming, the Meeting stressed that it will not be possible to add/correct data at a later stage.

3.5 The Meeting emphasized that if a country cannot provide their own input data or estimates for 2011 and 2012 by 13 June 2014, then Contracting Parties should be urged to approve the data estimated by the LOAD core group, pointing out that if a country cannot approve the use of the data, then it will not be possible to show progress to MAI/CART in those sub-basins to which the country discharges inputs.

#### **Agenda Item 4**

#### **Elaboration of PLC-6 Guidelines**

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3

4.1 The Meeting took note of and considered the latest version of the OSPAR RID programme paper as contained in document 4-2 and agreed to make use of it when updating the PLC-6 guidelines.

4.2 The Meeting considered and supported a proposal by the Project Manager to restructure the PLC-6 Guidelines. The Meeting divided the tasks of further elaborating the different sections and worked on guidelines during the workshop. Draft chapters of the PLC-6 guidelines were made available via the [PLC-6 project Workspace](#) on the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

4.3 The Meeting recalled the request of LOAD 7-2014 and MONAS 20-2014 that the PLC-6 project should elaborate a table on the main transboundary rivers, including also information on the status of available data and noted that part of the information was already compiled in document 4-1. The Meeting elaborated a table on the main transboundary rivers which will be included in the PLC-6 guidelines.

4.4 The Meeting considered and discussed the maps of PLC monitored and unmonitored areas, updated using latest available GIS datasets provided by Contracting Parties as well as comments provided by PLC-6 5-2014 as contained in document 4-3.

4.5 The Meeting took note that the catchment area size of Neva has increased by 10% and invited Russia (with input from Finland) to provide a few sentences explaining the reasoning behind this so that it can be included in the Guidelines. The Meeting also noted that Estonia is planning to re-report their catchment area size due to re-calculation as a consequence of a new altitude dataset.

4.6 The Meeting discussed the reporting of point sources to inland surface waters (for periodic reporting) and pointed out that individual reporting of point sources is an advantage from a quality assurance perspective and for assessing effectiveness of measures especially in small catchment areas.

4.7 The Meeting noted that Russia is not in a position to report most point sources individually and requested the other Contracting Parties to consult nationally whether they are able to report point sources individually. The Meeting took note of the preference of Finland to report their point sources individually. The Meeting invited Contracting Parties to inform on their position to the Project Manager ([lms@dmu.dk](mailto:lms@dmu.dk)) and Secretariat ([minna.pyhala@helcom.fi](mailto:minna.pyhala@helcom.fi)) **by 12 June 2014**. The Meeting suggested that if necessary HELCOM HODs should be requested to decide on the individual reporting of point sources for PLC-6.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the invitation from MONAS 20/2014 that it would be useful if the PLC-6 project could make an estimate of the financial consequences of changes in the PLC-6 monitoring, especially as concerns monitoring and assessment of heavy metal parameters. The Meeting pointed out that the amount of mandatory heavy metal input reporting has been reduced since PLC-5 but was of the opinion that before a cost estimate can be made more clarification is needed on which heavy metal and additional hazardous substance parameters need to be reported in the future. The Meeting suggested that this should be discussed at the meeting of the new Pressure/Input group.

**Agenda Item 5****Future work**

Documents: 5/1

5.1 The Meeting discussed how to proceed with finalizing the PLC-6 guidelines and compiled the list of remaining tasks to be completed by PLC-6 project members as contained in **Annex 3**. The Meeting agreed that contributions should be uploaded to the PLC-6 project workspace in the Meeting Portal and/or sent to the Secretariat ([minna.pyhala@helcom.fi](mailto:minna.pyhala@helcom.fi)) **latest on Monday 9 June 2014**.

5.2 The Meeting recalled that draft annexes on reporting formats will be finalized after the September meeting of the PLUS project and that the PLC guidelines will be updated accordingly.

5.3 The Meeting requested that a “compiled version” of the complete guidelines should be forwarded to Project members **on 11 June 2014** for final review before the guidelines are forwarded to LOAD and MONAS contacts in early July 2014 for commenting and endorsement. The Meeting agreed that possible final comments should be submitted **by 8 August 2014** so that a final version can be submitted to HOD 46-2014 by 25 August 2014.

5.4 The Meeting reviewed the list of nominated project contacts contained in document 5-1 and updated it as contained in **Annex 2** to this Outcome.

5.5 The Meeting agreed to agree on the arranging of the next meeting of the PLC-6 project group after the meeting of HELCOM PLUS 6-2014 which will be held in September 2014. In principle, the Meeting was of the view that the next meeting could be held in late 2014/early 2015, preferably in a warm and sunny place.

**Agenda Item 6****Any other business**

Documents: None

6.1 The Meeting took note progress with the implementation of the PLUS project for modernization of the PLC database. The Project Manager Mr. Sriram Sethuraman informed that data migration is on-going from the old PLC database to the new database, but that many problems have come up and require more detailed discussion regarding quality assurance.

6.2 The Meeting noted that a list of questions and challenges related to the data migration will be made available to Contracting Parties via the HELCOM Meeting Portal [PLUS project workspace](#) before 20 June 2014 (Project Manager will send a notification). Contracting Parties are requested to provide their suggestions and comments to the document **by 6 August 2014**. The Meeting agreed that a Skype meeting should be arranged with the PLUS project contacts in the Contracting Parties to discuss the migration issues and agree on the solutions on 13 August 2014.

6.3 The Meeting welcomed the demonstration of a very early version of the reporting interface as presented by Alexander Sokolov, BNI and noted that an online skeleton of the system will be presented for consideration by the next PLUS workshop to be held on 9-10 September 2014.

6.4 The Meeting took note of information about the progress with OSPAR plans to develop a RID database and noted that more details will be provided at the HELCOM PLUS 5-2014 workshop.

**Agenda Item 7****Closing of the Meeting**

Documents: 7/1

7.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 8-1. The Minutes, together with the documents and presentations considered by the Meeting are available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal.

**ANNEX 1 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contracting Party/Organization</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
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**ANNEX 2 LIST OF NOMINATED PLC-6 PROJECT MEMBERS**

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**ANNEX 3 TASKS TO BE COMPLETED FOR FINALIZING THE PLC-6 GUIDELINES**

*The following work/contributions needs to still be done to finalize the guideline. Contributions should be added to the PLC-6 project workspace in the Meeting Portal and/or sent to the Secretariat ([minna.pyhala@helcom.fi](mailto:minna.pyhala@helcom.fi)) **latest on Monday 9 June 2014.***

Chapter 2 – Minna to update maps based on comments from meeting; move some text on reporting requirements to chapter 14 and 15

Chapter 5 – Heading of chapter 5 to be changed to Quantifying monitored river flow and riverine input

Chapter 6 – Rasmus and Dietmar to add details but overall structure is OK – to be forwarded by Monday 9 June 2014

Chapter 7 – Lars Sonesten still working on it – make dead links to fix, waiting for comments from modelling experts

Chapter 9 – New map to be inserted showing transboundary & border rivers as well as google maps snapshot of Nemunas. Table on transboundary rivers to be reported to be added once Peeter has received all the necessary input from CPs

Chapter 11 – Some minor changes to be made by Seppo

Chapter 12 – Lars Sonesten to make some minor changes. To be renamed Statistical methods and data quality

Chapter 13 – Heading to be renamed to “Quality assurance of chemical analysis” – some updated to be provided by Lars Sonesten

Chapter 14 – Annual reporting requirements – draft from received but Lars and Minna to add some overview/introductory text

Chapter 15 – Periodic reporting requirements - draft from Pekka received but Lars and Minna to add some overview/introductory text

Chapter 16 – References to be checked and completed when all other parts are ready

Chapter 17 – Annexes: Retention annexes to be updated by Lars Sonesten and Antti; annual and periodic reporting formats to be finalized by Pekka after next PLUS project workshop in September, and List of definitions and acronyms to be updated by Minna.... Other Annexes to keep: categories of industrial activities under IPPC and description of EMEP methods.