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The Tenth Meeting of the PLC-7 Project Implementation Group (PLC-7 IG 10-2020) will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, at the premises of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Gullbergs Strandgata 15, SE-411 04 Gothenburg) 10-12 March 2020. The Meeting will start at 10:00 on Tuesday, 10 March 2020 and is expected to terminate at 12:00 on Wednesday, 12 March 2020. The Meeting will be followed by the HELCOM ACTION workshop 4.2 - BSAP and MSFD measures to abate eutrophication which will start at 13.00 on Wednesday, 12 March 2020.

Documents for the Meeting, which are restricted until after the Meeting has ended, will be made available in the HELCOM Meeting Portal, on the restricted PLC-7 IG 10-2020 Meeting Site.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting is invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda.

2. Matters arising from other HELCOM work

The Meeting will be informed on the recent HELCOM activities related to the Group's work, including outcome SOM Platform, ACTION project and other HELCOM activities.

3. Data reporting and processing

Finalizing 2018 annual data reporting including update of spatial data.

PLC-7 9-2019 noticed remarkable progress in the reporting of annual 2018 data. Nonetheless, some open issues remained as well as harmonization of the reported data and spatial datasets had not been fully accomplished. The Meeting will be invited consider the state of the reported data 2018 with the view to start their processing and produce related BSEFSs on waterborne input of nutrients to the Baltic Sea in time.

The Meeting will be also invited to consider the status of verification of spatial data and agree on finalization of the related updates of this data.

The Meeting will also be invited to take note that the work on producing of the maps illustrating spatial distribution of nutrient load should start in the spring 2020 to make the maps available for publication of the main PLC products.

The Meeting will be further invited to discuss maps to be produced and methods utilized for the visualization of spatial distribution of nutrient loads.

Status of the periodic data 2017 reporting will be presented by the PLC Data Manager. The state of the periodic reporting was discussed at PLC-7 9-2019. The Meeting concluded that all countries except Poland accomplished periodic data reporting 2017 and almost of the national data reporters approved the reported data. The Meeting requested national data reporters to approve the remaining data by 15 January 2020. Nonetheless, as a part of data verification process the Meeting invited national data reporters to check

overviews of the reported data ([PLC-7 workspace](#)) and notify the data manager on any inconsistencies in the overviews.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the state of the periodic dataset (document to be submitted by the PLC Data Manager) including approval of periodic data 2017. Participants will be invited to discuss whether the assessment of the data can be started, and further efforts needed to deliver this project product in time.

Data on atmospheric deposition of nitrogen.

The source (sector) receptor matrix of nitrogen deposition is crucial component for source apportionment. PLC-7 9-2019 welcomed the offer by EMEP to make the data available for the assessment work already in February 2020.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the data on contribution of different sectors/sources per country in the total nitrogen load to the Baltic Sea sub-basins and agree on the use of these data for PLC-7 source apportionment.

PLC-7 9-2019 also invited EMEP to provide a short description on the main reasons for the changes in atmospheric deposition (about 30% in average) in the reference period evaluated in 2012 (for the MD2013) and in 2019.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the document presented by EMEP and conclude on its relevance for the use as one of the background documents substantiating the update of the nutrient input ceilings.

A draft project (ENIRED II) report on ESTIMATION OF COUNTRY-WISE REDUCTIONS OF ATMOSPHERIC NITROGEN DEPOSITION ACHIEVABLE BY 2030 BY IMPLEMENTING THE GOTHENBURG PROTOCOL/EU -NEC DIRECTIVE was presented by EMEP at the PLC-7 9-2019 and RedCore DG 29-2020. A number of comments have been provided and the report updated.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the final version of the report and agree on its submission to PRESSURE 12-2020 for endorsement.

4. *Current activities of the PLC-7 project and coordination with other HELCOM activities including ACTION project*

Assessment of the progress towards implementation of national nutrient input ceilings

Assessment of national implementation of existing HELCOM agreements to achieve national input reduction targets expressed as net nutrient input ceilings (NIC) is one of the project's key tasks. The assessment is to cover period from 1995 to 2017. The data on waterborne inputs of nutrients covering the assessment period has been successfully reported and verified. The data on atmospheric deposition of nitrogen specified for each country and sub-basin, including also economic sectors have been recently reported by EMEP.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the quality of input data for the assessment, especially the data on transboundary loads, and agree on the next steps and deadlines to deliver the assessment products. Further, the Meeting will be invited to discuss how to present NIC assessment results, taking into account the first NIC assessment products (document to be submitted by the Project Manager).

Updating background information

PLC-7 9-2019 discussed the preparation of the PLC-7 background information report and agreed on the following next steps:

- provide information on population, including transboundary areas;
- provide feedback on national data used for the background information report indicating the need of their update and in particular on agricultural related data;
- Secretariat to update tables in the background information report with an overview of the national data used in the PLC-7 assessment products.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the implementation of the task and agree on finalizing of the background information (information by PLC-7 Project IG members).

Assessment of inputs of selected hazardous substances

The Meeting will be invited to consider progress in the work strand to evaluate inputs of selected hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea (initial information will be presented by SLU, Sweden).

Progress in the work on assessment of the main sources and pathways of nutrient input to the Baltic Sea, including input by big rivers.

PLC 7 9-2019 in general agreed on the structure of the report consisting of 2 main parts: contribution of various sources and pathways to the total nutrient load on the Baltic Sea (load-oriented approach) and emissions from different sources of nutrients to air or inland waters (source-oriented approach). The report will also integrate an update of the data on input by major rivers.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the progress in preparation of the report, taking into account availability of data, and agree on the next steps for its preparation, consideration and release.

ACTION project: Evaluation of the potential reduction of nutrient input from point sources (SYKE)

A draft assessment of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads from point sources presented by SYKE, Finland at the PLC-7 9-2019. The Meeting invited national data reporters to verify the data in the report and provide feedback by 15 January 2020.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the updated draft of the assessment report (document to be submitted by SYKE, Finland) and agree on its presentation to PRESSURE 12-2020 for endorsement and publication.

ACTION project: River catchment analysis (SYKE)

An example of evaluation of the effects of measures to reduce nutrient loads from individual river basins was presented to PLC-7 IG 9-2019 by Finland as a result of implementation of the relevant ACTION project task. The meeting discussed further steps to accomplish the task, availability of the information and invited the countries to provide available information on the measures applied in the river catchment selected as examples for the evaluation of effectiveness of measures by 15 January.

The Meeting will be invited to consider progress in the implementation of the task (document to be submitted by SYKE, Finland) and provide feedback regarding its accomplishing and reporting to PRESSURE 12-2020.

Implementation of the task on evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads

PLC-7 IG 9-2019 discussed a draft report on evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads and agreed on the content of the final report. The Meeting also invited PLC-7 implementation group members to verify the data used in the draft and provide additional information on connectivity and number of scattered dwellings. The report is one of the main PLC-7 products which also utilizes the results of deliverables of HELCOM ACTION project, WP4.

The Meeting will be invited to consider an update draft (document will be submitted by SYKE, Finland) and reflect on the completeness and correctness of the data used for the assessment.

The Meeting will be also invited to agree on the urgent actions to prepare the draft report for submission to PRESSURE 12-2020 for initial evaluation.

The Meeting will also be informed on the ongoing work on evaluation of sufficiency of measures to achieve BSAP targets by SOM platform with support of ACTION project, WP6 (document will be submitted by the Secretariat).

5. *BSAP nutrient reduction scheme*

Update of the input ceiling's values and drafting the text of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme.

PLC-7 9-2019 took note of the information by Bo Gustafsson BNI, Sweden on the latest update of the nutrient input ceilings values as well as the reasons and magnitude of changes of the national nutrient input reduction requirements. The Meeting agreed to address clarification questions, verify transboundary data and comment on the proposed textual part of the updated scheme before submission of the revised document to PRESSURE 12-2020.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the proposed values for the updated nutrient input ceilings, clarifying remaining open issues, and renewed draft of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme (document will be submitted by Bo Gustafsson and the Secretariat). The Meeting will be invited to agree on the version of the document for submission to PRESSURE 12-2020.

The Meeting will be also invited to discuss the provisional agenda of the workshop on the update of the national input ceilings which is proposed to be convened back-to-back with PRESSURE 12-2020 (document will be provided by the Secretary).

Rephrasing of actions for the BSAP update

The work on the BSAP update implies rephrasing of actions which will likely not be implemented by 2021 and their inclusion to the updated BSAP. The list of rephrased actions is to be finalized by PRESSURE 12-2020. The Meeting will be informed on the state of work to rephrase actions and invited to contribute where it is requested (information will be provided by the Secretariat).

6. Planning PLC-8 project.

HOD 57-2019 ([Outcome](#), para 4.25 and 4.26) requested the Secretariat to prepared a draft PLC-8 project proposal. The draft project proposal contains a description of tasks, deliverables, budget and project timeframe based on the agreed reference year and deadlines for the delivery of different PLC products as defined in [document 4-10](#) of HOD 57-2019. The draft was considered and in general welcomed by RedCore 29-2020, though some improvements were recommended by the group members during the commenting round after the meeting. The document has been submitted to HELCOM 41-2020.

The Meeting will be invited to take note of the decision on HELCOM 41-2020 regarding PLC-8 project proposal and act accordingly.

7. Any other business

Development of the PLC-Water database

BNI is invited to inform the Meeting of any developments of the user tool of the of the PLC-Water database.

PLC-7 9-2019 raised question regarding the type of Personal Equivalent parameter reported to the PLC water database: capacity of the WWTP, actual load or number of actually connected residents. In general, the Meeting agreed that the PE parameter should reflect the capacity of the WWTP in the background information and actual load in the annually or periodically reported data and invited Sweden and Finland jointly to prepare a background information describing various types of PEs used for characterization of WWTPs.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the background document (document to be jointly submitted by Sweden and Finland) and agree on the definitions of the OE parameters for PLC reporting. The definitions will be further integrated to the PLC water guideline.

Development of a structure for the web page for nutrient input reduction scheme for the new HELCOM website.

PLC-7 9-2019 considered a proposal on the structure of web pages describing various aspects of the HELCOM nutrient input reduction scheme. The Meeting agreed that members of the group would review texts for the web pages and also provide input to that.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the progress in updating the content of the web pages.

8. Future work and meetings

Preparation for PRESSURE 12-2020 is a key task of the meeting. PLC-7 project activities are to be accomplished by the end of 2020 and all products delivered and approved by PRESSURE 13-2020. Thus, one of the key tasks of this Meeting is to draft project reports for initial consideration by PRESSURE 12-2020 21-24 April 2020 with intention to finalize them during the month remaining by autumn 2020. The Meeting will be invited to summarize the results of the discussions during previous sessions and agree on the documents for submission to PRESSURE 12-2020.

The Meeting is invited to review the list of project contacts (document to be submitted) and update it as necessary.

The Meeting is invited to take note of the updated PLC-7 timetable (will be updated during the Meeting).

The Meeting is invited to discuss the main agenda themes for the next PLC-7 Project IG meeting, decide on meeting dates, and consider hosting the meeting.

9. Closing of the Meeting

The Meeting will be invited to comment on the draft Outcome and approve it via correspondence.