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Agenda Item	1 – Adoption of the Agenda
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Submitted by	Project Manager and Secretariat
Reference	

The Fifth Meeting of the Project Implementation Group (PLC-7 IG 5-2017) will be held in the premises of the HELCOM Secretariat, in Helsinki, Finland on 17-19 December 2018. The Meeting will start at 13.00 on Monday, 17 December and terminate not later than 16:00 on Wednesday, 19 December 2018.

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 5-2017 Meeting Site](#).

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Matters arising from other HELCOM work**

The Meeting will be informed on the latest decisions of HODs and HELCOM activities related to the group's work, and on finalized PLC-6 and PLC-7 products since last meeting.

- 3. Finalizing the PLC-6 project**

Progress in the work on evaluation of effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient loads and source apportionment based on source-oriented approach. PRESSURE 9-2018 noted that the part of the assessment related to quantification of effects of various measure is rather challenging, and that the material for such assessment had been compiled and the assessment will be made by the end of the year as a pilot product forming a background for the similar assessment by PLC-7. The document jointly prepared by Finland and the Project Manager will be presented.

The Meeting will be invited to consider presented version of the assessment document and agree on further steps including development of the updated questionnaire on to collate data on effectiveness of measures for PLC-7 project.

Overview of methodologies used in the countries for the assessment. The final compilation of the methodologies will be presented to the Meeting by the Project Manager. The information supplied by national representatives was verified by 24 June 2018. PLC-7 4-2018 agreed that the compilation should contain general conclusions on compatibility of the national methodologies and suggestions on further harmonization of the methodologies.

The Meeting will be invited to agree on the final document. The document is not an official PLC-6 product. Thus, the compilation can be published after endorsement by PRESSURE as PLC-6 supplementary material.

Scientific report on assessment of progress towards national nutrient input reduction targets. The major findings of the scientific report were presented at the Workshop on land-based nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea (NutriRed). A draft scientific report will be presented by the Project Manager.

The Meeting will be invited to comment on the scientific report and agree on its finalization.

Final draft of the background information report. A draft of the report will be presented by Finland (Antti Raike) together with Sweden and the Project Manager. All the data supplied by national data reporters were verified in February 2018 (outcome of PLC-7 IG 2-2017). The report is not an official PLC-6 product. It will be published as PLC-6 supporting material after endorsement by PRESSURE as PLC-6 supplementary material.

The Meeting will be invited to agree on the final version of the document.

4. Current activities of the PLC-7 project

Update of the data on phosphorus deposition. In line with the decision on compilation of national data on P-deposition, a questionnaire was circulated to the project team members. The project participants were invited to respond to the questionnaire by 15 August 2018. Compiled data on P-deposition were in average five times higher than those used in PLC-6 and also demonstrated high variation between individual monitoring stations. PLC-7 4-2018 agreed that the data requires of a thorough analysis and that the results would be presented to PLC-7 5-2018 by the Project Manager. Based on that, the PLC-7 project Implementation group will conclude on the further actions.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the results of the analysis of the P-deposition data and the perspective to revise P-deposition values currently used for PLC assessments.

Draft report on statistical methods. A draft report on statistical methods used for nutrient input assessment was prepared by Denmark and presented at PLC-7 4-2018. The Meeting provided feedback, agreed on commenting round on a revised version and consideration of the updated version of the statistical report at PLC-7 5-2018. An updated report will be submitted by Denmark.

The Meeting will be invited to agree on the updated statistical report.

Identification of the natural background for nutrient inputs. PLC-7 4-2018 agreed that analysis of the methods to identify natural background can be further used for harmonization of the methods and its transparency throughout the region with subsequent update of the PLC-water guidelines. PLC-7 4-2018 also agreed to respond to the questionnaire, prepared by Germany, by 1 December 2018 and discuss its results at PLC-7 IG 5-2018. A draft analysis of the supplied information will be presented to the meeting by Germany.

The Meeting will be invited to consider the results and discuss further steps on using the information for further improving the methods PLC-8, with the subsequent revision of the PLC-water guidelines.

Collecting information on background information, applied methodologies and measures for the PLC-7 assessment

Based on the PLC-6 project experience, the Meeting will be invited to discuss the need to update background information and applied PLC methodologies. Contracting Parties will also discuss availability of updated information on measures to reduce nutrient loads and its specification. The project manager will prepare some observations and questions based on the PLC-6 assessment experience.

5. Data reporting

Results of the annual data 2017 reporting will be presented by the Secretariat. The reporting deadline was 31 October 2018. The Meeting will be invited to discuss the status of the data reporting and follow up on eventually not reported data, identified data gaps, needed clarifications and data approval procedure.

Status of the periodic data 2017 reporting will be presented by the PLC data manager. 2017 was identified as a reference year for the PLC-7 assessment. The reporting deadline for periodic data is the end of December 2018. The Meeting will be invited to discuss the status of the data reporting, identified data gaps, needed clarifications and data approval procedure.

Verification of spatial data. Transparency of the assessment procedures including availability of the data used for the assessment is of paramount importance to accept the assessment results for policy needs. Spatial data being visualized as regional maps is one of the efficient ways to disseminate the information used for the assessment. HELCOM commitments to involve local stakeholders to implementation of the BSAP as well as specify potential nutrient input reduction for river basins increase importance of correct spatial references of the PLC water data.

PLC-7 4-2018 invited national experts to verify spatial datasets of monitored and unmonitored sub-catchment areas by 30 November 2018. The results of the verification procedure, including revealed inconsistencies between spatial data and data from PLC-water database will be submitted by the Secretariat.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the verification results and agree on the ways to resolve inconsistencies in spatial data and data in the PLC-water database.

6. Any other business

The Workshop on land-based nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea (NutriRed) was tasked to evaluate scientific advancement of the assessment of nutrient loads since 2013; identify future policy needs the assessment is to cater for; layout adjustment of the scheme based on the Ministerial decision and potential methodological improvement of the follow-up based on the up-to-date scientific knowledge; discuss possible new policy tools to enhance nutrient reduction such as reduction targets for river basins. Notes of the workshop will be submitted to the meeting by Secretariat.

The Meeting will be invited to discuss the ideas on policy expectations for the HELCOM nutrient reduction scheme and its methodological scientific developments expressed at the Workshop and conclude on the application of these ideas in the PLC-7 assessment.

Participants are invited to raise any issues related to implementation of the PLC-7 project.

7. Future work and meetings

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 discuss and take note on an updated PLC-7 timetable.

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

8. Closing of the Meeting.