



Document title	Thematic report on effectiveness of measures to reduce nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea
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Background

Effectiveness of measures (EOM) and the PLC-8 project

After discussions in PLC IG and in the 15th PRESSURE meeting in November 2021 it was agreed that the draft of the content of the PLC-8 EOM report would include these topics:

- 1) Changes in point source loads (1995 to 2021)
 - a. Indirect and direct point source loads
 - b. Inputs of nutrients from nine big municipal wastewater treatment plants
 - c. Potential to reduce nutrient inputs from municipal wastewaters
- 2) Examples of river catchments with reduced nutrient inputs (1995 to 2021): quantify the effectiveness of the measures taken
- 3) Connectivity and inputs from scattered dwellings
- 4) Implementation status of the planned mitigation measures in 2023
- 5) Expected reductions in nutrient inputs by 2030 due to be implemented and planned measures

Based on the discussion in PLC IG, there are still many open issues concerning what kind of EOM data countries are finally able to submit for the PLC-8 project (e.g. spatial scale, time period, accuracy of different mitigation measures, effect of climate change). It also became evident that point source data stored in the PLC database was for many countries erroneous, especially indirect point source data. Therefore, countries are invited to answer following questions in the PLC-8 IG-6 meeting in December:

- 1) Point source data
 - a. Are there gaps or errors in direct or indirect point source data (1995-2020) in the PLC database? If there are, are you able to correct those gaps/errors during 2022?
 - b. Are the time series for the nine big MWWTs as complete as possible and can you complement them, or alternatively provide a longer time series from a big MWWTP?
 - c. Are you able to report data of individual MWWTPs (or for how many MWWTP are you able to report annual timeseries since 1990 or 1995), so that it will be possible to update the chapter dealing with potential reduction of nutrient inputs?

2) Examples of river catchments

- a. Are you able to provide data for river catchments with reduced nutrient inputs during 1995-2021 with the relevant supporting parameters (e.g., a specific list of measures applied in each catchment, changes in connectivity, changes in local population density, changes in levels of activities such as aquaculture or industries, usage of fertilizers, changed livestock, nutrient balances on farm or field level)?
- b. If yes, how many and which catchments (max 3 per country)?

3) Connectivity and inputs from scattered dwellings, and if possible, statistics on treatment categories (what kind of treatment and how many scattered dwellings in each category)

- a. Would it be possible to update connectivity and number of scattered dwellings for the year 2021?

4) Implementation status of the planned mitigation measures in 2023

- a. Are you able to submit information on some kind of estimates on expectations that different measures will provide as reduction either at the source and/or to the sea?
- b. Is there some relevant assumptions we need to have to use the information?

5) Expected reductions in nutrient inputs by 2030

- a. Would it be possible to get a (modelled) estimate of the expected nutrient reductions by 2030 on a national level on TN and TP inputs at sea per CP sub-basin? If not, how about for some catchments (e.g., those example river catchments in point 2).

To keep in mind: a request from Germany in the PRESSURE 15-2021 that future work on the effectiveness of measures in PLC-8 needs to align with action E1 in the updated BSAP in order to support Contracting Parties in their fulfilment of this action and to avoid double work.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- discuss the presented questions and answers provided to them by the Contracting Parties;
- consider the alignment of the work with BSAP 2021 action E1;
- agree on the way forward with ensuring reporting of proper and complete effectiveness of measures data that would not be submitted too late.