

HELCOM Regional policy document on hazardous substances: goals and content

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There is a need to *modernize HELCOM's work with hazardous substances*

→ The regional policy document

- During 2020: Work with **background report** to support development of a regional **systematic approach** to work with hazardous substances

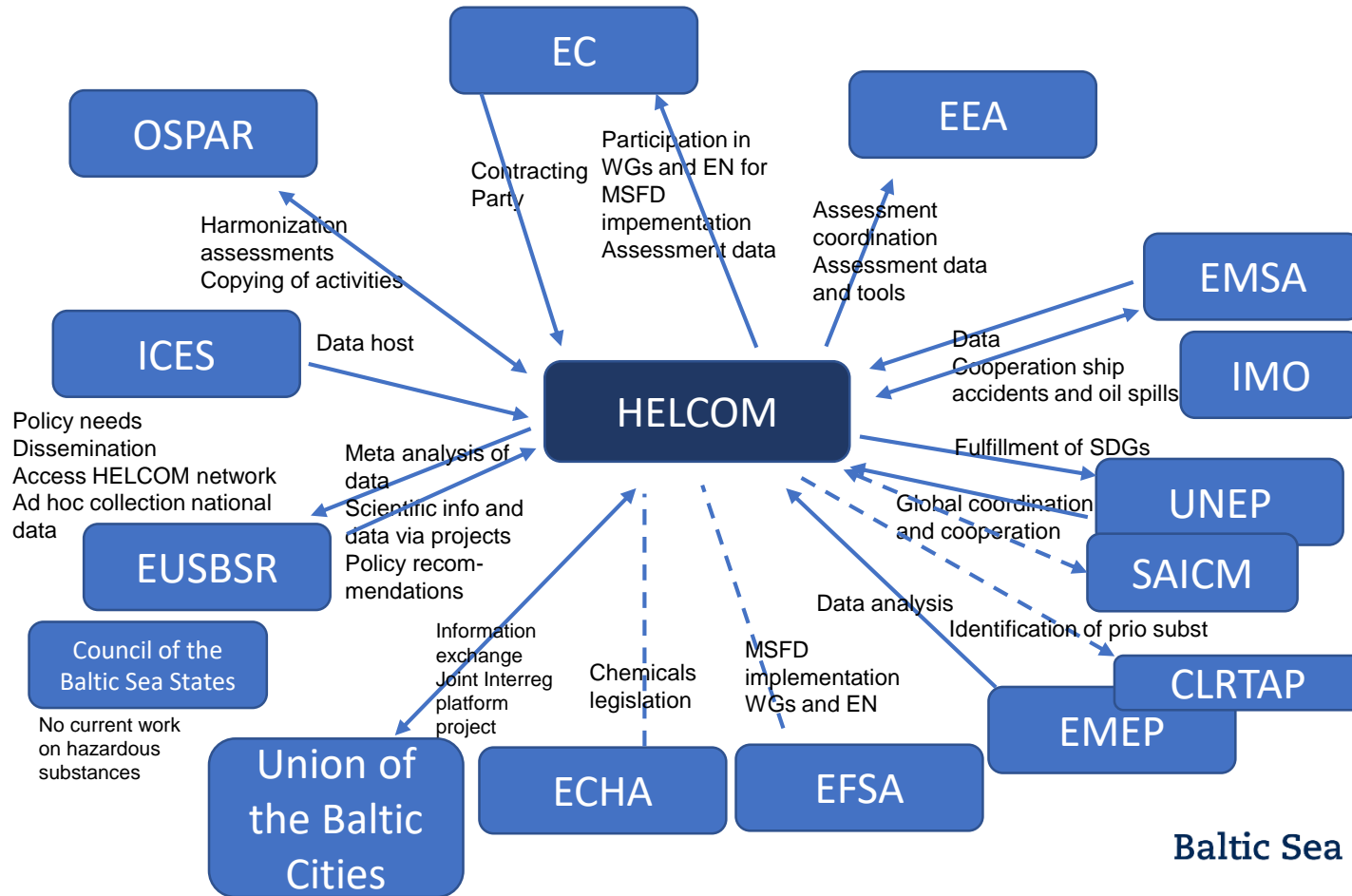
Background report :

- Current HELCOM Actions, Recommendations and Activities
- HELCOM role and interactions with other regional actors
- Overview of data compilation in HELCOM
- Current HELCOM work on broad scope assessments and emerging concerns

→ Concrete suggestions for improvements



Interactions with other actors



The role of HELCOM

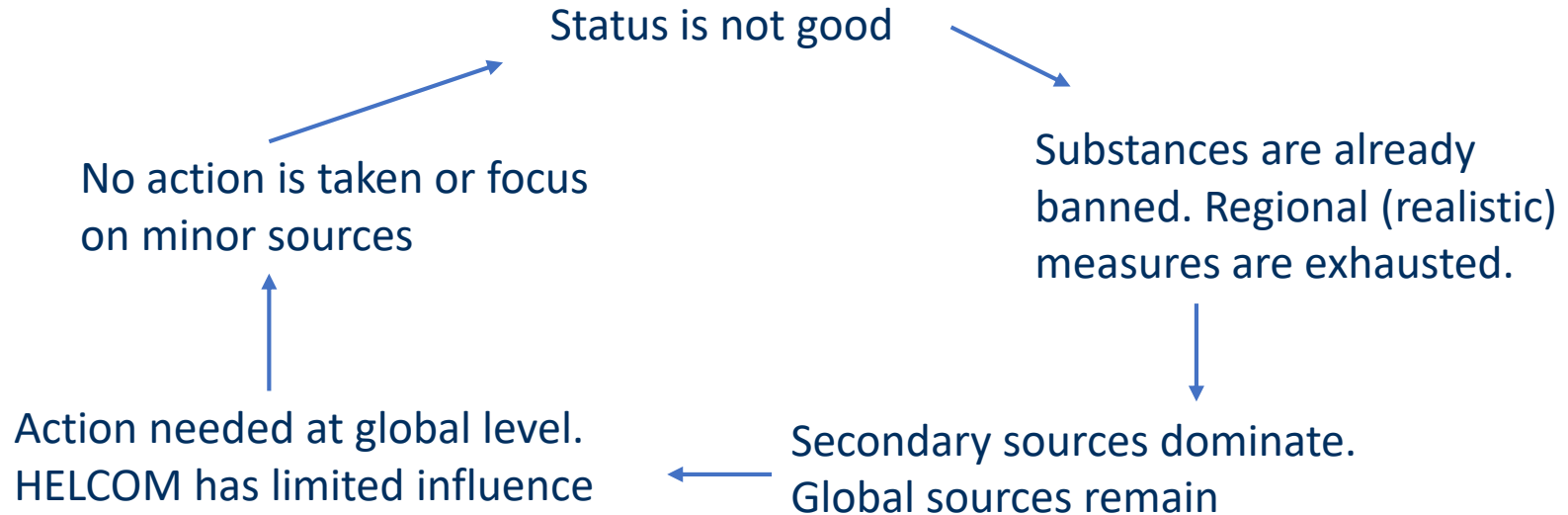
- Forerunner, arena for **policy development**
- **Knowledge exchange** platform
- Organ for synthesis and **analysis of data**
- **Coordinating organ for MSFD**

Strengthen the role of HELCOM

- Baltic Sea perspective – formulate **added value** (relative other existing policies) of all Actions, Rec and activities
- Knowledge exchange platform – share national **pressure analyses** and **Programs of Measures**
- Data analysis – **provide “bigger picture”**, define goal of data analysis and what are CPs willing to do to enable this analysis (filling data gaps, harmonization that enables comparisons)
- Develop activity aiming to improve **linkages with other policies** – eg approach in global fora?

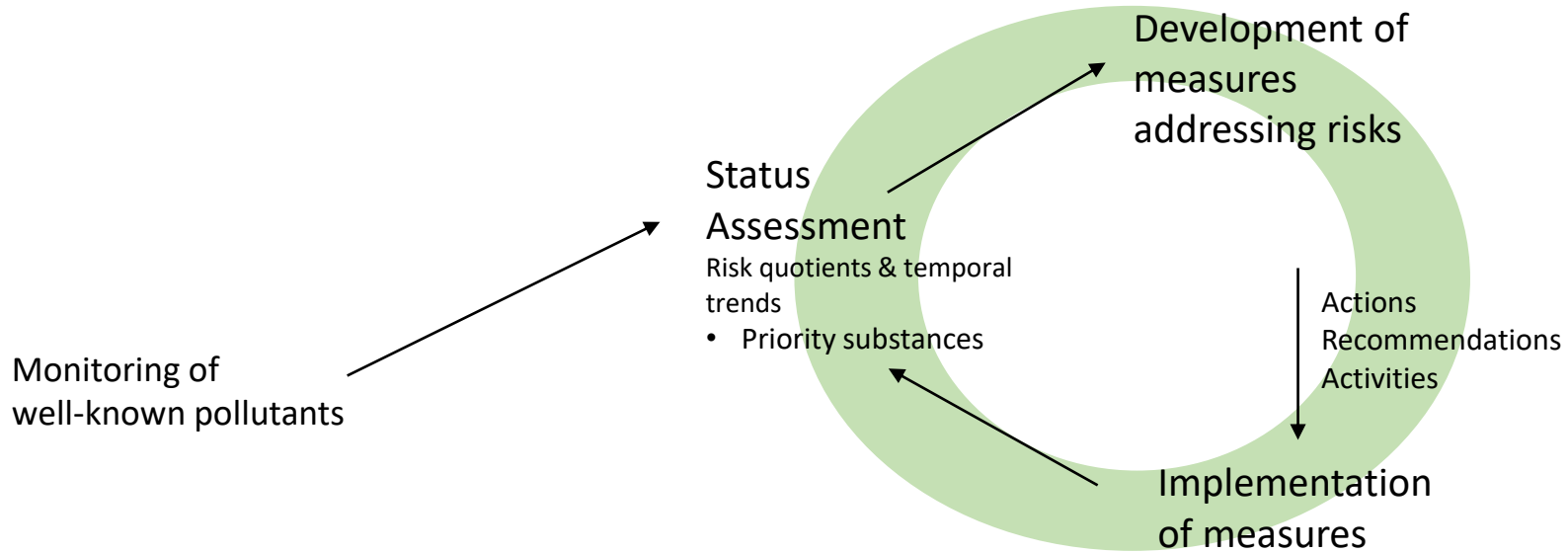
The legacy pollutant problem

Focus on legacy pollutants



→ More focus on **risks that can be managed regionally** (eg MSFD indicators) (substances, sources)

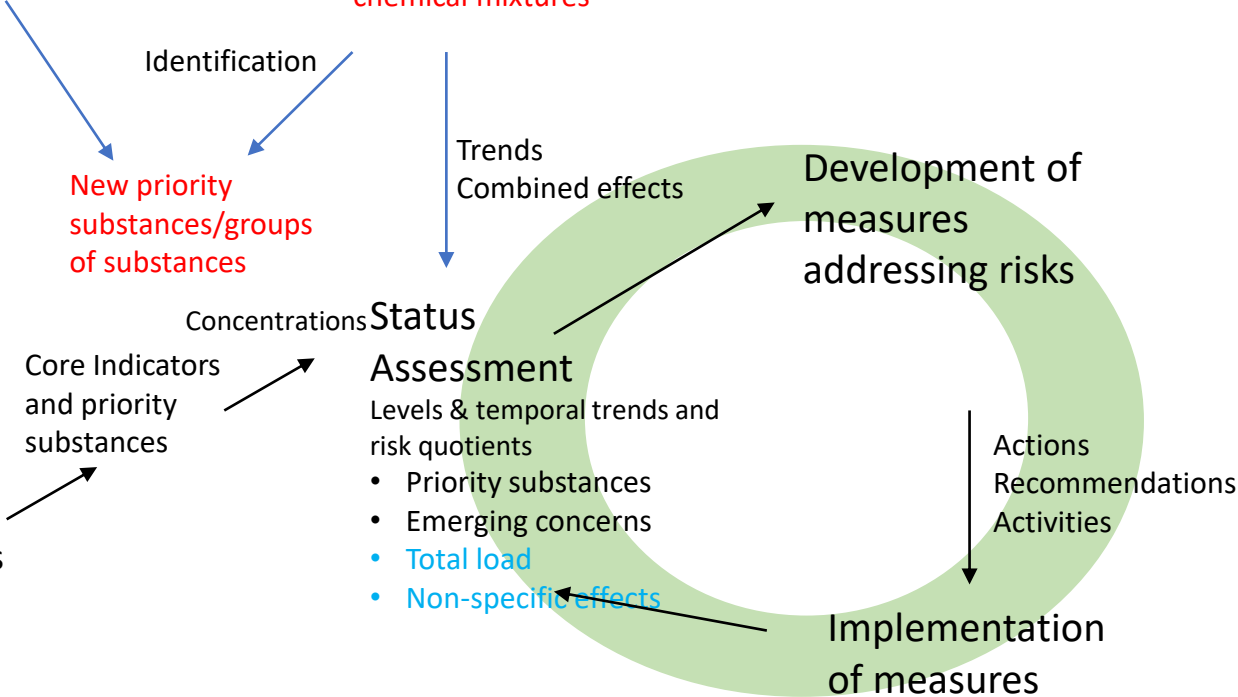
Gaps and missing links in the management cycle



Gaps and missing links

Identification of contaminants of emerging concern

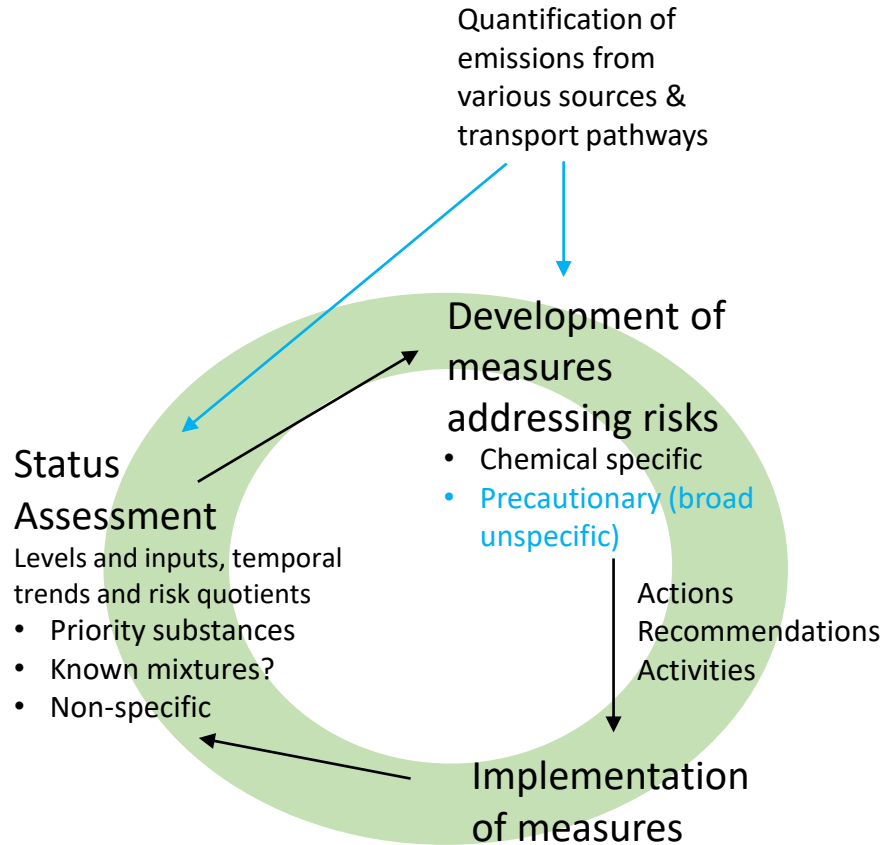
Monitoring of unknown contaminants and effects
Broad scope monitoring (non-specific) of effects and chemical mixtures



Gaps and missing links – work with inputs

Work with **quantification of inputs/emissions**.

- **Challenge!** Data on inputs not available for most substances.
- Lack of pressure analyses in WFD and MSFD
- Cooperation between CPs to **jointly assess sources** of hazardous substances, shared knowledge gap!



Data collection

Dashed line = Link not clear
Grey = temporary activity

Helcom processes

(HOLAS II)
pressure index (maps).
SOM analysis
Hg, TBT, PFOS, diclofenac
(EN CLIME)
cumulative effects

EMEP
atm dep: Cd, Pb, Hg, PCDD/Fs annually
PCBs, PBDEs periodically

PLC projects
Waterborne inputs Hg, Cd, Zn, Cu, Pb, Ni, Cr, annually

Temporary projects

Research or other, HELCOM

- UNESCO/HELCOM Pharma Status report
- CW Pharma (pharmaceuticals)
- HazBref (industrial emissions)
- SOM analysis + supporting reports (Hg, TBT, PFOS/PFAS, diclofenac, PBDE, dioxins&PCB)
- HELCOM data call micropollutants (PFAS, phenols, metals, pharma)
- Submerged?

Helcom Indicators (Core, Pre)

concentrations, temporal trends

HOLAS projects
Status assessment

Continuous activity of Helcom WGs



Identification of contaminants of emerging concern

- Sharing of national experiences
- Expert judgement
- Prioritization schemes
- Joint screening campaigns
- Baltic Sea Risk assessment

Monitoring of unknown contaminants and effects

Broad scope monitoring (non-specific) of effects and chemical mixtures

- Non-target/suspect analysis
- Effect based monitoring

Quantification of emissions from various sources & transport pathways

Existing regulations – remaining primary emissions

New priority substances/groups of substances

Identification

Trends
Combined effects

Development of measures addressing risks

- Chemical specific
- Precautionary (broad unspecific)

Actions
Recommendations
Activities

Ongoing regulation processes (EU)

Other policy processes

Existing national measures

Inputs

Concentrations

Status

Assessment

Levels and inputs, temporal trends and risk quotients

- Priority substances
- Known mixtures?
- Non-specific

Core Indicators and priority substances

Monitoring of well-known pollutants

De-selection

Follow up: efficiency of measures

Implementation of measures

Surveillance

○ Current work with hazardous substances – some challenges

- Identify chemicals of emerging concern
- Address combination effects
- Unknown risks - precautionary measures
- Pressure analysis (data on inputs)

- The Baltic Sea perspective: Added value of HELCOM measures in relation to other existing legislation or policy processes should always be identified

Thank you

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