BONUS

SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

BONUS annual report 2010

BONUS

BONUS is a joint research and development programme producing knowledge to support development and implementation of regulations, policies and management practices specifically tailored for the Baltic Sea region. It issues calls for competitive proposals and funds projects of high excellence and relevance based on its strategic research agenda.

BONUS is supported by the national research funding institutions in the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea and the EU Commission's Research Framework Programme. Scientists from the Russian Federation participate in BONUS research projects through special agreements. BONUS builds on the ERA-NET and BONUS+ programmes. BONUS EEIG (Secretariat) is the legal management organisation of BONUS.

Contents

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Foreword

BONUS was launched in 2010 – in good time to reflect its journey to date in the light of the European Union's recent call for integrated approaches. This is the very quality BONUS has based its existence on since the early days of ERA-NET and BONUS+ pilot and the today's forward looking model of regional research cooperation. It is our hope that integration of research efforts across the disciplines, sectors of society and nations will shape significantly the quality of knowledge on macro-regional Baltic Sea and its drainage-area in the coming years.

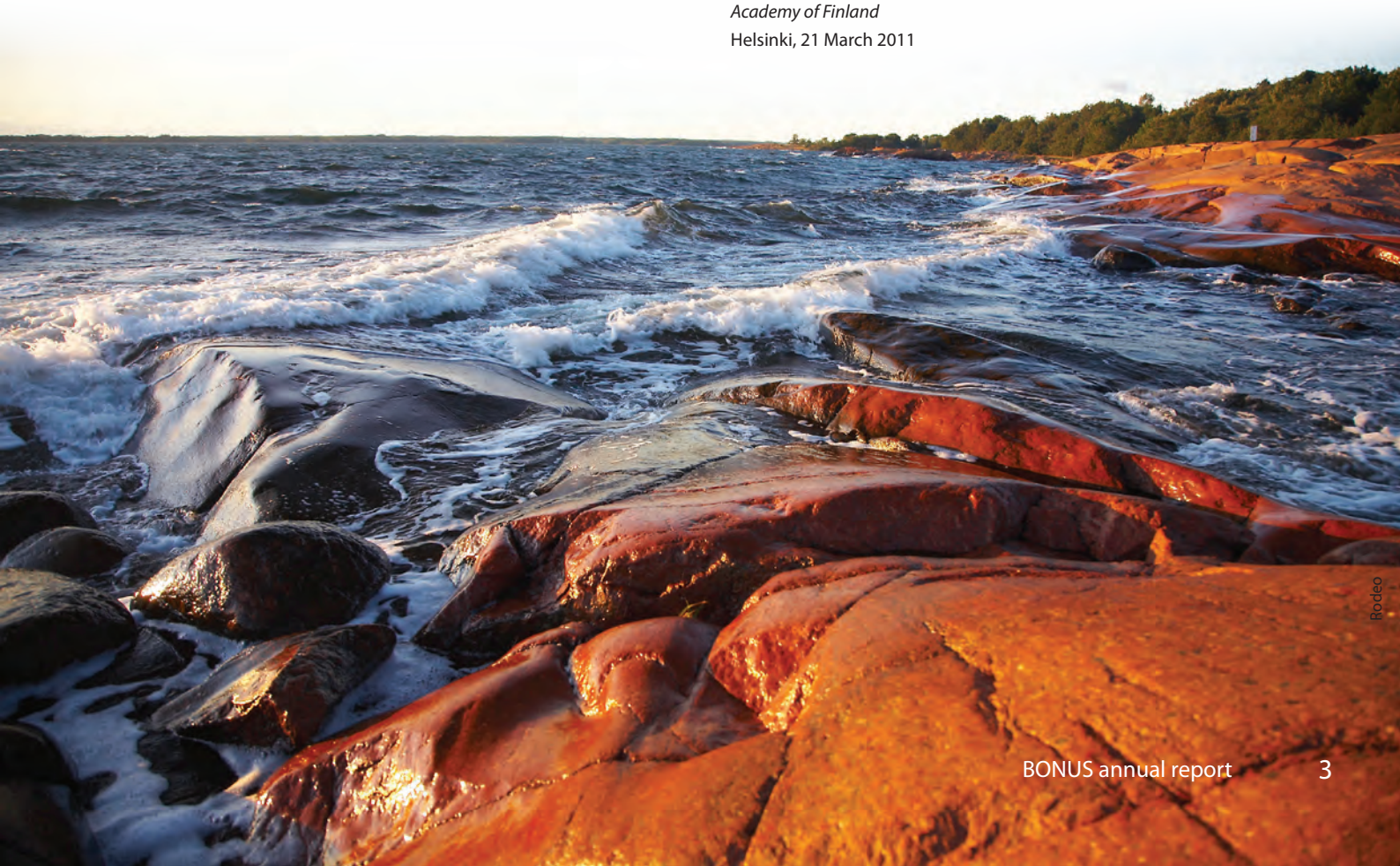
In the past year, and featured in brief snippets in the following pages, we have seen scientific community, policy makers and funders come together expressing their strong support for the sustainable, knowledge-based governance of the Baltic Sea region. BONUS has provided drive, momentum and ways for actors to share and coordinate research needs, resources, practice and plans to achieve our common goal of a better future for the Baltic Sea region.

The necessary steps initiated in 2010 to form research themes that provide the basis for the BONUS calls for multidisciplinary and transnational projects were completed. The broad themes were confirmed earlier this month by the stakeholders from nine Baltic Sea countries. These relate to the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment area, the complexity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem structure and functioning; observation and data management tools and methodologies for future marine information needs; sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea; and the capabilities of the society to respond to the current and future challenges directed to the Baltic Sea region.

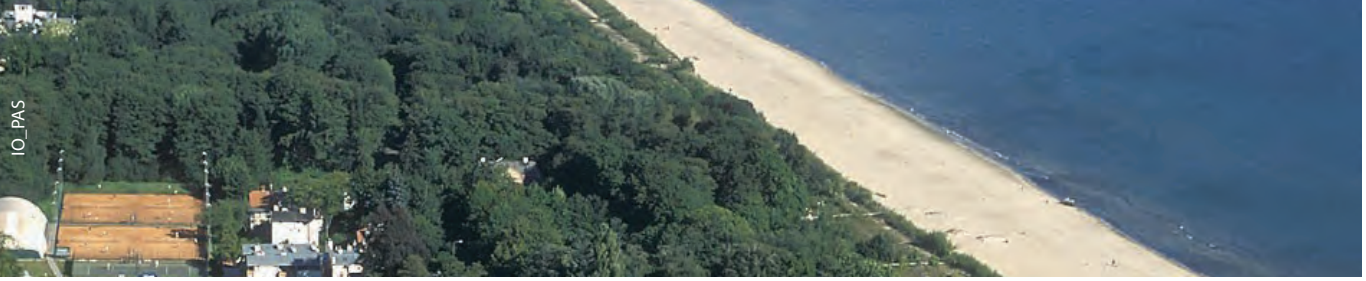
The research themes and projects to be funded in the coming years aim to respond to some grand challenges the region faces today: Adaptation to the climate change, achieving good environmental status of the Sea, sustainable and safe use of the goods and services as well as evaluation and development of relevant policies and collective governance of the human activities. Also, attention is given to maritime and coastal spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region based on the ecosystem approach and enhanced cross-sector and cross-border cooperation, as required by EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

I am delighted that BONUS is not only continuing the crucially important work of its predecessors but is aiming for holistic understanding of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and seeking for sustainable solutions for the Baltic Sea region which includes now the entire sea-cost continuum. It is clear that BONUS and the multidisciplinary science it supports will have a critical role to play in tackling some of the issues presently facing the Baltic Sea region. BONUS provides an excellent opportunity to all stakeholders to make Baltic Sea Region environmentally, socially and economically attractive and a wealthy place to live.

Dr. Laura Raaska
Chair of the BONUS Steering Committee 2010/11
Academy of Finland
Helsinki, 21 March 2011



Rodeo



Executive summary

In June 2010, the European Parliament supported the European Council's decision that launched a new research and development programme to protect the Baltic Sea, BONUS, worth of EUR 100 million for the years 2010-2016. In particular, the exceptionally high support by the Members of the Parliament – 97 % of votes for BONUS – reflects well the status of BONUS as the first model case for the development of science-based management of the European regional seas. BONUS thus serves the whole Europe, not only the Baltic Sea.

In 2010, the focus of the BONUS community was in three important areas of development: stakeholder platforms, the strategic research agenda and implementation modalities of the new programme. Parallel to this, the 16 BONUS+ pilot projects continued to perform well. In 2011 we can look forward to harvesting the results of these 3-year projects funded for 2009-2011. In August the final BONUS+ Science Conference will convene as part of the Baltic Sea Science Congress in St. Petersburg; and in October the BONUS Forum will convene and share a mutual stakeholder platform with the annual conference of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Gdansk, Poland.

'BONUS' provides an umbrella under which the full continuum of BONUS phases and activities are captured, including the BONUS+ programme of 16 pilot projects. In the following pages we capture the achievements of BONUS in 2010.

"Regional research governance frameworks at a regional seas level do not exist yet, except for BONUS."

Review of regional research governance frameworks for the purpose of future articulation of maritime governance at the EU level, MARCOM+ 2011

"BONUS deserves special attention as a valuable, forward-looking model for other forms of future regional research cooperation with common European value, such as those in the regions of Danube, the Mediterranean Sea and the North Sea."

Lena Ek, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

1 Background and context

Baltic Sea region forms a complex system, both in its bio-physical properties that involve many inter-connected pressures, as well as, in its complex policy situation. In the coming decades, global change, including climate change, and long-term as well as long-range influences are likely to intensify and thus will put additional external pressures on the Baltic Sea region.

The complex issues in the **Baltic Sea System, which is a part of the Earth System comprising the marine ecosystem, its catchment area and the human society interracting with it**, require strong cooperation. BONUS brings together the research communities of marine, maritime, economical and societal research to address the major challenges faced by the Baltic Sea region. We need to fully understand the System and to generate answers required that are scientifically first-rate and relevant for society.

The EU framework provides mechanism for combining national research funding and for using this in the work aiming to meet the challenges of today. Over the past years the EU regulations show a paradigm shift from substance and sector based directives to integrated approaches such as the Water Framework Directive, the Integrated Maritime Policy and the Roadmap for Marine Spatial Planning. The development of European macro-regional policy within Baltic and Danube regions in particular are viewed as pioneers.

Understanding and predicting global change in the Baltic Sea region requires integrated approaches and integrated research for the Baltic Sea System at several levels. We also need a full understanding of the Baltic Sea System in connection with relevant societal options for planning and remediation. In particular, it is important for BONUS to work together with relevant stakeholders and provide them an opportunity to participate in shaping the strategic research agenda and exploit its outcomes.

2 Key successes in 2010

In 2010, a number of BONUS activities got underway, namely those related to the development of the BONUS strategic research agenda and all necessary implementation modalities required to open calls as well as the partnerships and funding development activities. Furthermore, some activities continued, namely those related to the second year of implementation of the 16 BONUS+ projects.

2.1 Strategic phase underway

Since its launch, BONUS 2010-2016 set out to produce and support the implementation of 'fit-for-purpose' regulations, policies and management practices specifically tailored for the Baltic Sea region.

"It is extremely important that – both intellectual and material – resources of the Baltic Sea science community are joined to support the protection of the Baltic Sea. In a core of BONUS is long-term collaboration that supports in particular the work of the Baltic Sea Environment Protection Commission HELCOM."

Laura Raaska, 2010-2011 Chair
of the BONUS Steering Committee

BONUS management objective and priorities:

BONUS integrates the Baltic Sea System research into a durable, cooperative, interdisciplinary, well integrated and focused multinational programme in support of the region's sustainable development

Priority 1
Setting up and implementing a Baltic Sea System Programme of high excellence and relevance

Priority 2
Facilitating the cooperation of Baltic Sea System researchers and integration of research programmes

Priority 3
Carrying out strategies to strengthen human capacity building in interdisciplinary science and science-based management

Priority 4
Facilitating an active involvement of policy makers and stakeholders in the programme

BONUS vision:

Economically and ecologically prosperous Baltic Sea region where resources and goods are used sustainably and where the long-term management of the region is based on sound knowledge derived from multidisciplinary research.

Three steps closer to the calls opening in 2011

In 2010, much of the focus of BONUS was in preparation of an effective framework for the forthcoming calls of which the first is to open in December 2011. The calls will be funding projects based on the objectives set in the strategic research agenda jointly drafted with the decision makers, funding institutions and the science community across the Baltic Sea region:

First step – open poll

The open poll for suggestions for research themes ran during the summer months of 2010. Nearly 200 suggestions were received and analysed through an online consultations concerning the BONUS strategic research agenda.

Second step – national workshops

The basis for stakeholder platforms was founded by appointing the BONUS advocates to work in the country level in each of the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea. Starting from autumn 2010, significant work was carried out in regards of mapping and analysing the key stakeholder landscape around BONUS. The advocates organised national workshops in all of the eight member states to BONUS in order to define research priorities of each country separately.

Third step – BONUS Forum

In October 2010 at the kick-off conference of the BONUS Forum in Tallinn, representatives of ministries across sectoral borders of the nine Baltic Sea countries– environment, transport, agriculture, forestry and science – convened for the first time to define research needs from different sectors' perspectives.

Next steps

The open poll results, the national workshop reports and the BONUS Forum outcomes were summarised and considered at the Strategic Orientation Workshop in March 2011. Representatives from all eight member states will complete the consultation process of the jointly formulated agenda by agreeing the themes of the strategic research agenda. The final version will be available and distributed by summer 2011.

Implementation modalities

In 2010, the BONUS Secretariat started to prepare all necessary implementation modalities for the BONUS programme. Guidelines for researchers, legal and contractual arrangements, proposal evaluation scheme, procedure of integration of research infrastructures as well as financial structure will all be in place by the first call.

Overview, during 2010 BONUS:

- was voted by 97% of MEPs positively, this resulting into the start of the BONUS 2010-2016
- was cited in EU as the first model case for the development of science-based management of the European regional seas
- BONUS+ projects contributed to four consultations carried out by the European Commission
- scientists attended 200 stakeholder and scientific committees as members or observers
- BONUS+ projects' work resulted 12 times in modifications made to relevant policy documents and action plans
- BONUS+ projects made over 40 suggestions for designing, implementing and evaluating the efficacy of pertinent public policies and governance
- ran the first annual conference for 155 researchers to discuss the results of the first year of BONUS+ projects' implementation
- ran an Kick-off conference for the BONUS Forum bringing together 70 representatives of ministries across sectoral borders from all of the Baltic Sea countries to define research needs from their perspectives
- BONUS+ projects organised 10 young scientists' training courses, and made in 10 occasions modifications to the current PhD course programmes
- ran 14 national workshops led by the BONUS advocates in the eight member states consulting over 700 policymakers and members of the scientific community
- Secretariat was invited as key speaker to over 10 key international events
- scientists attended 350 international workshops, working group meetings and/or conferences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Communications and publicity, during 2010 BONUS:

- became known simply by the name 'BONUS', this providing an umbrella under which the continuum of BONUS phases and activities are captured
- adapted a strapline *Science for a better future of the Baltic Sea region* to encapsulate the vision of the programme
- published two issues of the BONUS newsletter, now renamed BONUS in Brief and available online at www.bonusportal.org/inbrief
- posted over 40 news items on the website and circulated fortnightly e-Bulletins to stakeholders with news and updates from the BONUS community www.bonusportal.org/bulletin
- was interviewed, quoted and/or featured in the media over 300 times related to issues ranging from events and views of the BONUS Secretariat to interviews with BONUS+ projects
- had over 10 000 unique visitors to the BONUS website, demonstrating an increase of 40% from the previous year, with a total of over 20 000 visits and nearly 80 000 page views
- BONUS+ projects produced a total of 50 popular science papers
- BONUS+ projects produced some 200 posters and other dissemination materials for national, regional and international conferences and stakeholder events
- issued nearly 50 recommendations aimed at improving general public's comprehension and priorities regarding the Baltic Sea
- contributed over 130 times to development of dissemination products and/or events for general public concerning the marine environmental quality & human health and well-being


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2.2 BONUS+ projects piloting the BONUS approach

BONUS+ programme started the year by convening a conference in January 2010 to discuss the first year's progress made. All projects continued to perform well. The outcomes and next steps of the BONUS+ projects are scheduled to be showcased at the second BONUS Forum on 24 October 2011, the scientific results will be communicated earlier at the BONUS Science Conference in late August as part of the Baltic Sea Science Congress in St. Petersburg. Already now the projects are showing strong results. See the next three pages for a full list of the BONUS+ projects.


Rodeo

- During 2010 BONUS+ projects contributed to four **consultations carried out by the European Commission**. For example RECOCA was consulted by the European Task Force Group on the EU Marine Strategy Directive for Quality Descriptor 5 on eutrophication.
- BONUS scientists were members or observers of nearly 200 **stakeholder and scientific committees** ranging from ICES/HELCOM Working Group on Integrated Assessment of the Baltic Sea to Steering Committee of the private fund Baltic Sea 2020 and from BACC II Science Steering Group to Curonan Lagoon Transboundary International Stakeholder Committee.
- **Modifications made to relevant policy documents and action plans** totaled 12 in year 2010 and included among other contribution to "Biological effects" chapter of HELCOM's Assessment of Hazardous Substances in the Baltic Sea (BEAST), contribution to the preparation of the Marine research and coordination strategy in Finland (PREHAB) and contributions to HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) through TARGREV project on waste water directive on river nutrient loads as well as on nitrogen ceiling directive for atmospheric deposition over the Baltic Sea area (RECOCA), the latter two to be implemented as the related BSAP updates are completed.
- A total of 42 suggestions were made by the BONUS+ projects **for designing, implementing and evaluating the efficacy of pertinent public policies and governance**. For example, a draft ICES guideline for eelpout monitoring was delivered for inclusion (BALCOFISH), report for the Nida city municipality on eutrophication and public bathing possibilities was produced (AMBER) and estimates of manure leaching made to be used in Integrated Pollution Protection and Control (IPPC) Directive (RECOCA).

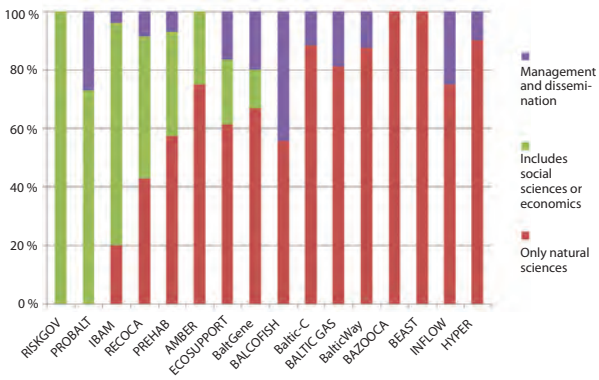


Figure 1: The proportion of natural sciences and social sciences/economics in BONUS+ project workpackages. 2010, Sanna Eirtovaara, Council of Biosciences and Environmental Research, Academy of Finland.

In addition, BONUS+ projects demonstrated in 2010 transnational flair with over 80 foreign scientists taking part on research vessel cruises of BONUS+ projects. Furthemore, in 50 occasions foreign scientists worked in other major facilities used by the BONUS+ projects, stretching into a total of over 3 years worth working days. Projects also encouraged student visits between different BONUS+ projects in 15 occasions of varying durations.

According to an analysis of the interdisciplinarity of BONUS+ projects carried out in late 2010 (see Figure 1), half of the BONUS+ projects include both natural sciences as well as economics and/or social sciences in their workpackages. According to the results, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research among different disciplines of natural sciences is common in the BONUS+ projects. In addition, there is interdisciplinary research among natural sciences and social sciences and economics, but generally this can still be improved substantially in the future BONUS calls.

BONUS+ projects 2009-2011 – some 2010 highlights

AMBER
www.bonusportal.org/amber

Works to separate the effects of climate change and human pressures on the coastal ecosystems by combining outputs of the regional climate scenarios and simulating the drainage basin processes

The AMBER Project was presented to the President of the Republic Finland Tarja Halonen and the President of the Russian Federation Dimitri Medwedew during their stay at Seili, Finland on 21 July 2010.


Tasavallan presidentin kanslia

BALTGENE
www.bonusportal.org/baltgene

Assesses the genetic diversity situation in several Baltic key species and identifies the most significant pressures, investigates new ways to incorporate genetic biodiversity information into an ecosystem-based management of the Baltic Sea

In October 2010, BALTGENE delivered its proposal to establish international targets and indicators that are needed for gene level biodiversity at an event co-organised by BALTGENE at the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan.

BALTGENE

BALTIC GAS
www.bonusportal.org/balticgas

Employs advanced technology and novel combinations of approaches to develop a predictive model of gas accumulation and emission under realistic scenarios of climate change and eutrophication. It aims to understand how climate change and long-term eutrophication affect the accumulation and emission of methane and hydrogen sulfide from the seabed to the water column and atmosphere

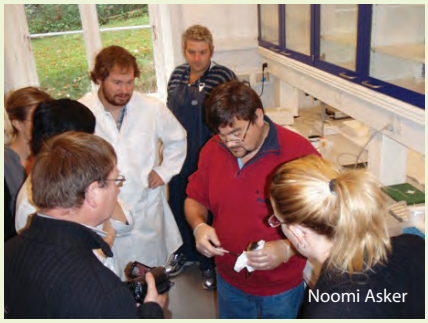
The Maria S. Merian cruise in August 2010 received significant public interest through weekly reports, blogs and press releases. BALTIC GAS cruises have contributed significantly to new information on the distribution of methane gas in the Baltic Sea sediment.


R. Prien, IOW

BALCOFISH
www.bonusportal.org/balcofish

Tests strategies for exploring and establishing causal links of pollutants, effects and status of coastal fish populations

The study on eelpout population models are nearing completion and it adds important knowledge explaining how populations can be affected by contaminants in the environment. Preliminary results indicate, among other, that induced malformation from contamination can have a large effect on population dynamics and even lead to extinction depending on dynamics in the population before.


Noomi Asker

Standardising sampling of Eelpout workshop, BALCOFISH


Christian Stranne

From l. to r. Professor Fredrik Wulff, opponent Annie Venant, Erik Gustafsson.

BALTIC-C
www.bonusportal.org/balticc

Attempts to establish the first-ever complete carbon budget of the Baltic Sea. Investigates how climate change and human impact alternate carbon fluxes in the ecosystem

As part of the BONUS Baltic-C project developments, Erik Gustafsson defended his thesis *The Baltic Sea marine system – human impact and natural variations* at the Earth Sciences Centre in Gothenburg, Sweden on 1 October 2010. The work is a part in developing improved biogeochemical models for the Baltic Sea and addressed effects of climate change, eutrophication and the CO_2 system.

BALTICWAY
www.bonusportal.org/balticway

Examines how to make shipping, as well as offshore and coastal engineering activities environmentally safer by using new knowledge on semi-persistent surface currents to avoid maritime activities where, in case of a spill, dangerous substances are likely to be washed to the most vulnerable areas

In 2010, BALTIWAY participated in the discussions related to the new legislation on the use and protection of the marine environment by the Estonian Ministry of Environment and made several suggestions related to the necessity of accounting for the different dynamics and patterns of transport in different sea areas stemming directly from the BALTICWAY project.


Sirje Lapinmaa

BAZOOCA

www.bonusportal.org/bazooca

Tests possible cascading effect of alien comb jelly on the plankton foodweb in the Baltic - predation on cod eggs and larvae, depletion of plankton-eating fish food resources, changes in water clarity eventually leading to a regime shift of the whole system

In 2010 the monitoring of Mnemiopsis (comb jelly) was completed with preliminary results showing that currently it is not very widely spread in the Baltic. However, this may well change in the future given its living capabilities and growth that have been substantiated now more by BAZOOCA.

BAZOOCA

BEAST

www.bonusportal.org/beast

Develops tools needed to detect and understand human-induced pressure on the Baltic Sea ecosystem based on a broad range of biological effects of pollution. By establishing links between responses to chemical pollution within the individuals and effects at higher biological levels, the project generates an integrated "multi-level toolbox" including biomarkers as sensitive diagnostic tools

In 2010, BEAST was nominated as a flagship project of the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region Priority Area 3 titled 'Reduce the use and impact of hazardous substances,' strengthening further the synergies between BONUS and EUSBSR. In total, the BONUS+ projects contribute directly to 11 out of the 15 EUSBSR Priority Areas.

BEAST

Patric Källström

ECOSUPPORT

www.bonusportal.org/ecosupport

Builds a complex modeling system dedicated entirely to untangling the combined effects of eutrophication and climate change in the Baltic Sea

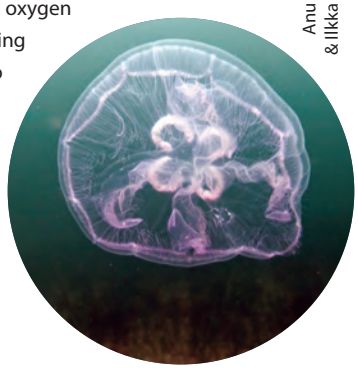
In 2010, ECOSUPPORT created to policy-makers and other stakeholders a special visualization platform, GeoDome (in picture). According to the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from visitors to date, the visualization technique helps visitors to understand and be more receptive of the research on the state of the Baltic Sea under different scenarios of nutrient supply, pressure from fisheries and impact of climate change.

HYPER

www.bonusportal.org/hyper

Estimates the required nutrient reduction in the Baltic region to maintain a healthy sea ecosystem taking into account future climate changes; synthesises information at an ecosystem scale and enriches the knowledge on processes leading to oxygen depletion, and the role the sediments and the benthic animals play in recycling nutrients

Currently, there are 416 areas in the world with reported coastal oxygen depletion. About 30 sites in the Baltic Sea region have been reported previously, including both coastal zone and deep water sites. HYPER has identified an additional 96 sites that have experienced oxygen depletion increasing the global total to nearly 500 sites. Of all the known sites around the world, about 20% of the sites are now found in the Baltic Sea region.



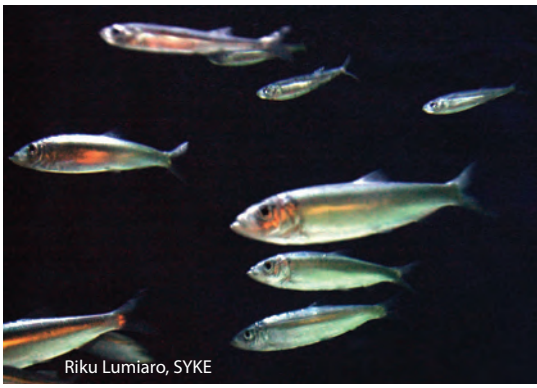
Anu Hirvonen & Ilkka Lastumäki

IBAM

www.bonusportal.org/ibam

Constructs an integrated risk analysis of ecosystem management in the Gulf of Finland related to fisheries, eutrophication, oil spills, dioxin risks on the consumption of herring, and climate change

In 2010, IBAM staff, together with other authors, were shortlisted for winning the "Tieto Finlandia" (i.e. "Fact Finlandia") award 2010 with a book titled "Itämeren tulevaisuus" (i.e. The future of the Baltic Sea") published in 2010.



Riku Lumiaro, SYKE

BONUS+ projects 2009-2011 – some 2010 highlights

Markku Viitasalo, Finnish Environment Institute

INFLOW

www.bonusportal.org/inflow

Develops scenarios of the Baltic Sea development to the end of the 21st century by establishing the links between marine sediment markers and conditions in the sea, reconstructing the 6000 year development of the marine system based on these sediment proxies

The INFLOW project is creating a model for natural variability in marine ecosystems, which will help in understanding long-term changes in the Baltic Sea and the contributing factors and allow for better forecasting of future variations. This knowledge is crucial in drafting plans for the sustainable use of marine areas and in preparing for the impacts of climate change.

RECOCA

www.bonusportal.org/recoca

Develops and applies the modeling and decision making support tool to settle eutrophication over the entire Baltic Sea drainage basin

The database and hydrological – biogeochemical models have been presented to HELCOM (TARGREV project) and the model tools will be used as the basis for the "country allocation scheme" i.e. distribution of nutrient reductions needed per country based on the new targets which will be updated within the next phase of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

iStock

PREHAB

www.bonusportal.org/prehab

Develops powerful, precise and cost-efficient methods for spatial prediction of the biological properties of coastal underwater habitats, and combines predictive models and scenarios of human pressures to assess effects on coastal ecology

A set of models developed by PREHAB in 2010 form a solid basis for designing recommendations about predictive mapping and subsequent spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region. The models cover five case study areas, include some 80 response variables (including fish, macro vegetation, invertebrates, ecosystem services) and 50 environmental predictors.

Anu Hirvonen & Ilkka Lastumäki

PROBALT

www.bonusportal.org/probalt

Analyses the societal conditions for the effective protection of the Baltic Sea at national, macro-regional and the EU levels, using an interdisciplinary framework

PROBALT journalists training session in December 2010 aimed at building awareness amongst media on the Baltic Sea protection. It addressed challenging aspects of the Baltic Sea protection and eutrophication protection policies and consequently generated media interest related to these key issues.

iStock

RISKGOV

RISKGOV

www.bonusportal.org/riskgov

Integrates social and natural science approaches to improve our understanding of the structures and processes that shape the governance of environmental risks and suggests a normative framework for improving environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea

A RISKGOV postgraduate researcher training course titled 'Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea' took place in August, taking the total number of training courses for young scientists provided by the BONUS+ projects up to a round ten for the year 2010.

2.3 Partnerships & funding development

In 2010, BONUS worked closely with and contributed to a number of key European, regional and national programmes including a wide array of different actors on varying levels and capacities, all important in their own rights. These include such as HELCOM, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Baltic Nest Institute, BALTEX, VASAB, Baltic Stern, Baltic Sea Action Group, ICES, Baltic Sea Regional Programme, ERANET SEASERA, the BSR Stars programme and many more.

Broadening of the BONUS's funding base was a key priority in 2010. Initial steps were taken towards involving innovation funding agencies, and in particular the EUSBSR flagship project BSR Stars.

"Collaboration with BONUS is a great opportunity. It enables us to combine the tools, clusters and structure to be developed via our BSR Stars to match the calls to be opened in BONUS, and vice versa. There are several themes of mutual interest, such as ICT services, ecoinnovation, and observation and data management technologies."

Karin Nygård Skalman,
Programme Manager of BSR Stars, VINNOVA, Sweden

Financial review of BONUS in 2010

In 2010 the coordination of the 16 BONUS+ projects by the BONUS Secretariat continued. The projects received in total ca. 22 M Euros for 2009-2011 to implement research benefiting the Baltic Sea. BONUS + projects are funded by the eight Baltic Sea national funding institutions and European Commission.

The results will be utilised further in the next steps when the new calls under the BONUS Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme are launched. The new calls have a total volume of ca. 100 M Euros for 2012-2017 and funding is composed of national and EC funds.

The preparations for implementing the joint programme from 2011 onwards were started in 2010 and the costs of this Strategic Phase are funded by the BONUS EEIG Member Institutions and the European Commission.

In 2010, the BONUS EEIG incurred costs for the total amount of ca. 0,8 M Euros. Majority of the costs is related to the preparatory work of the BONUS 2010-2016.

3 Looking forward

The BONUS community will have busy and challenging years ahead. In today's climate of seeking solutions to complex problems, BONUS values partnerships and looks forward to strengthening further its work with other key actors who share the mutual goal of ensuring a better future of the Baltic Sea region. Also, we will continue the dialogue with the innovation and other funding agencies in order to reach our goal of broadening the funding base of BONUS.

The outcomes and next steps of each of the BONUS+ pilot project will be showcased in the coming months and years to stakeholders through different events and activities. In particular, these outcomes will be linked to the decision making processes of the European, regional and national policy arenas. The key events in the BONUS calendar 2011 will include the BONUS Science Conference (22-26 August), the BONUS seminar for EU stakeholders in Brussels in early October and the BONUS Forum 2011 (24 October).

The BONUS+ pilot projects will be paving the way also to the next series of BONUS funded projects. The competitive call will open in late 2011 and the successful projects will be selected based on the BONUS strategic research agenda which has been developed together with stakeholders across the Baltic Sea region. The first set of projects funded by the new BONUS model will start their valuable work in late 2012.

BONUS is supported by the national research funding institutions in the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea and the EU Commission's Research Framework Programme

BONUS members and related funding institutions:

Finland:
FiRD Coop
Academy of Finland

Germany:
Forschungszentrum Jülich Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Denmark:
Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation
Danish Council for Strategic Research

Estonia:
Estonian Science Foundation

Lithuania:
Research Council of Lithuania
Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania

Latvia:
Latvian Academy of Sciences
Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia

Poland:
Foundation for the Development of Gdańsk University
Ministry for Science and Higher Education
National Centre for Research and Development

Sweden:
Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, FORMAS
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Russian scientists participate in BONUS through special agreements.

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SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME