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**Type of report:** Year 2 progress report to BONUS+ programme

**Project:** RISKGOV (Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea)

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**Reporting period:** Year 2 – Month 13 to 24 (January 1 to December 31, 2010)

### **Summary of RISKGOV aims**

RISKGOV pursues **two general and interrelated aims**:

- 1) RISKGOV aims at improving our understanding of the structures and processes that shape the governance of environmental risks in the Baltic Sea and determine the conditions and opportunities that could improve governance for sustainable development (**descriptive/analytical aim**).  
This analysis will focus on three interrelated key areas for the governance of environmental risks in the Baltic Sea:
  - a) Governance structures (policy context, regulatory frameworks, forms for decision-making, participation, etc).
  - b) Governance processes: Interactions between risk assessment and risk management.
  - c) Governance processes: Stakeholder communication.
- 2) Based on the theoretical and empirical knowledge gained from these tasks, RISKGOV will suggest a normative framework for improving environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea (**normative aim**).

### **Summary of original RISKGOV time plan according to the research plan**

The time plan, project activities and deliverables of RISKGOV as specified in the original research plan are summarised in Table 1. The project is thus planned to commence in four consecutive research stages. During the **first research stage** (Month 1-6) the RISKGOV team will develop a joint analytical and methodological framework in order to assure comparability and to develop a common protocol for conducting the five case studies. In the **second research stage** (Month 7-15) each case study research team will, based on the analytical and methodological framework, conduct a review of secondary material (existing literature, documents and data bases) on risk governance structures, risk assessment and stakeholder communication processes in their respective area. In the **third research stage** (Month 16-26), each case study research team will conduct complementary investigations to collect and process primary data. Each team will conduct complementary text analysis and qualitative interviews – approx. 15 per case – of key experts representing governmental and non-governmental actors surrounding governance structures and processes in the respective risk area. The **fourth project stage** (Month 27-36) will be





**Table 2.** Project meetings (PM), milestones (M), deliverables (D) and dissemination activities of RISKGOV during year 2 (2010).

RISKGOV activity	Date	Description
Year 1 – progress report	27 Jan 2010	D7a: Mandatory progress report to the BONUS secretariat.
Roundtable 1 – Stockholm (Sweden)	8 March 2010	Roundtable discussions with invited stakeholders and experts on the topic ‘ <i>Scientific uncertainty, precaution and implementation of the ecosystem approach to risk management</i> ’
Project meeting (PM2) – Stockholm (Sweden)	9 March 2010	This meeting was devoted towards planning the finalisation of the case studies (D2-D6)
Project meeting – Stockholm (Sweden)	11 October, 2010	Discussions on final case study drafts as well as on how to implement cross-case comparisons
Roundtable 2 – Åbo (Finland)	13 January, 2011	Roundtable discussions with invited stakeholders and experts on the topic ‘ <i>Implications of EU integration for environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea region</i> ’
Project meeting (PM3) – Åbo (Finland)	12 January, 2011	This was devoted towards discussing initial results of cross-case comparisons in WP1-3.
<b>Dissemination activities</b>		
<p><u>RISKGOV Deliverables</u> (all published at <a href="http://www.sh.se/riskgov">www.sh.se/riskgov</a> in Dec 2010):</p> <p>D2: Eutrophication: a case study of environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea.  D3: Fisheries: a case study of environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea  D4: Biodiversity with regard to alien species  D5: Hazardous substances: a case study of environmental risk governance in the Baltic Sea region.  D6: Marine oil transportations in the Baltic Sea area</p>		
<p><u>Scientific peer-reviewed articles:</u></p> <p>Gilek, M, Hassler, B, Jönsson AM and Karlsson M. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>Coping with Complexity in Baltic Sea Risk Governance</i>. Special Issue in the international scientific journal AMBIO (including introduction by Gilek et al.)  Hassler, B. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>Accidental versus operational oil spills from shipping in the Baltic Sea – Risk governance and management strategies</i>. AMBIO  Johannesson, K., Smolarz, K., Grahn, M. and André, C. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>The future of Baltic Sea populations - local extinction or evolutionary rescue?</i> AMBIO  Jönsson, AM. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>Framing Environmental Risks in the Baltic Sea – a News Media Analysis</i>. AMBIO.  Karlsson, M., Gilek, M., and Udovyk, O. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>Governance of Complex Socio-Environmental Risks – the Case of Hazardous Chemicals in the Baltic Sea</i>. AMBIO  Kern, K., Söderström, S., Boström, M. and Gilek, M. (Under revision). <i>Environmental Governance’ and ‘Ecosystem Management’: Avenues for Synergies between Two Separate Approaches</i>  Linke, S. Dreyer, M and Sellke, P. Forthcoming March 2011. <i>The Regional Advisory Councils: What is their potential to incorporate stakeholder knowledge into fisheries governance?</i> AMBIO</p>		
<p><u>Scientific conferences:</u></p> <p>Gilek, M., et al. 2010. <i>Comparing the governance of environmental risks in the Baltic Sea</i>. Oral presentation at BONUS+ scientific conference January 21, 2010, Vilnius, Lithuania  Hassler, H. 2010. <i>Risk governance and management strategies: Accidental vs. operational oil</i></p>		



<p><i>spills from shipping in the Baltic Sea</i>. Poster presentation at BONUS+ scientific conference January 21, 2010, Vilnius, Lithuania</p> <p>Jönsson, A-M. 2010. <i>Media Framing of Environmental Risks in the Baltic Sea</i>. Oral presentation at BONUS+ scientific conference January 21, 2010, Vilnius, Lithuania</p> <p>Jönsson, M. 2010. <i>Risk communication and the European Public Sphere</i>. Oral presentation at Annual conference of the Society of Risk Analysis (Europe). London, UK June 21- 23 2010.</p> <p>Linke, S. 2010. <i>Science and policy in European fisheries management: reassessing the interface from different theoretical perspectives</i>. Oral presentation at the conference Governance of Natural Resources in a Multi-Level Context, 20-22, January, 2010, Leipzig, Germany</p> <p>Linke, S. 2010. <i>Stakeholder Participation in International Environmental Governance: Science &amp; Policy in European Fisheries Management</i>. Oral presentation at the International Symposium on Environmental Sociology, RC 24 of the XVII ISA world congress. 10-11, July 2010. Gothenburg, Sweden.</p> <p>Linke, S. 2010. <i>The Regional Advisory Councils: What's their potential to incorporate stakeholder knowledge into European fisheries governance?</i> Oral presentation at the at the <i>Nordic Marine Science Conference</i>, 13-16 September, 2010. Strömstad (Sweden).</p> <p>Lundberg, C. and B-M, Haahti. 2010. <i>Eutrophication as a manageable risk in the Baltic Sea</i>. Poster presentation at Eutro 2010, 3rd International Symposium on Research and Management of Eutrophication in Coastal Ecosystems, 15-18, June 2010, Nyborg, Denmark.</p> <p>Smolarz K., Wołowicz M. 2010. <i>Endocrine disruptors (EDs) in the marine environment – how could we, and what should we?</i> Oral presentation at the Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology. Hong Kong, China. 31 May - 5 June 2010.</p> <p>Smolarz K., Wołowicz M. 2010. <i>The use of cytogenetic biomarkers for evaluation of the environmental toxicity of polluted Baltic locations</i>. Poster presentation at the Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology. Hong Kong, China. 31 May - 5 June 2010.</p> <p>Söderström, S and Hassler, B. <i>Power relations and marine oil transportations in a multi-actor system</i>. Oral presentation at the 16th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, Hong Kong on 30 May - 1 June 2010</p> <p>Udovyk, M., Michael Gilek and Mikael Karlsson. 2010. <i>Improving assessment and management of hazardous chemicals in the Baltic Sea: towards an ecosystem-based approach</i>. Oral presentation at Annual conference of the Society of Risk Analysis (Europe). London, UK June 21- 23 2010.</p>
<p><u>Workshops:</u></p> <p><i>Governing Europe's Marine Environment, Stockholm</i>. Author's workshop with the aim of developing an edited book with ca 15 scholars from Sweden and Europe. June 14-15, 2010</p> <p>Discussion seminar with representatives from the EU Parliament, NGOs and academia (In Swedish). 2010. <i>Kunskap för att rädda Östersjöns miljö - en paneldiskussion</i>. September 3, 2010, Södertörn University, Sweden.</p>
<p><u>PhD course:</u></p> <p><i>Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea</i>. Askö Laboratory, August 2010. 9 Students from Sweden, Poland and Norway.</p>
<p><u>Popular science articles:</u></p> <p>Jönsson, A-M (on behalf of the RISKGOV consortium). 2010. <i>RISKGOV – Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea</i>. BONUS Newsletter, May 2010</p> <p>Udovyk, O. 2010. <i>Tension between those who have information and those who need it. Will reach be helpful?</i> Baltic Worlds. <a href="http://balticworlds.com/will-reach-be-helpful/#comments">http://balticworlds.com/will-reach-be-helpful/#comments</a></p>
<p><u>Briefing presentations (funding organisations etc):</u></p> <p>Gilek, M. 2010. <i>Vetenskapskommunikation och förvaltning av marina miljörisker</i> (In</p>



Swedish) (Science communication connected with marine environmental governance).  
 Presentation at a hearing discussing an evaluation of Swedish marine science 2003-2008.  
 The Swedish Research Council Formas. Stockholm May 6, 2010.

## Concluding remarks

1. *RISKGOV has during year 2 progressed according to plan (and when counting the number of dissemination activities during 2010 progress can even be interpreted as being faster than planned). Two articles linked to the case studies on eutrophication and alien species have not been submitted during 2010 as planned but will be submitted during the first half of 2011.*
  
2. *No future deviations from time plan and deliverables are envisioned. Consequently, Table 1 is still valid.*
  
3. *No significant deviations from the financial plan are envisioned over the entire project period.*  
 This will be clear in the financial reports that will be sent to the national funding agencies. As reported in the Year 1 report the project had some initial problems in allocating researcher work time to the project. That is the person-months used within RISKGOV was somewhat below what was planned for 2009. This problem has now been addressed and the use of person-months as well as funds are now at the end of 2010 in line with the financial plan of RISKGOV.
  
4. *The Polish partner (DMEF) has reported problems in receiving granted funds according to the finding plan indicated in their funding decision.*  
 Thus, according to DMEF EU funds have not been transferred according to the plan and recently they have been informed that the funding scheme has been changed so that advanced payment of EU funding has been changed to reimbursement of expenses. According to DMEF these changes from their signed contract might imply that they will encounter problems in keeping the time plan during year 3 (2011) of the project. During year 1 and 2 of the project DMEF have, however, despite these difficulties kept the time plan.
  
5. *The BONUS secretariat has requested a listing of the top three achievements with societal relevance.*  
 Clearly, this is not a simple matter given the number of research and dissemination activities performed in RISKGOV during 2010 (see Table 2). The obvious answer is naturally that the whole idea with RISKGOV is to describe and analyse risk governance in the Baltic Sea with the aim of both understanding governance structures and processes as well as generating recommendations on ways to improve these. In this respect all deliverables and dissemination activities within RISKGOV are of high societal relevance. Having said this some specific deliverables and activities that deserves to be mentioned are:
  - a. *The AMBIO special issue on 'Coping with Complexity in Baltic Sea Risk Governance' that will be published in March 2011. This publication assembles scientific research from natural and social sciences as well as interdisciplinary approaches that explore challenges for risk governance as well as describes and analyses various environmental issues. We argue that*



this publication provides a significant scientific contribution to the field, which will form a very good platform for the work within RISKGOV in the coming year to develop a normative framework.

- b. We argue that PhD courses such as the one on *'Environmental Risk Governance of the Baltic Sea'* arranged by RISKGOV are very important in terms of training a new generation of researchers and experts. We believe that interdisciplinary courses such as this RISKGOV course are especially important in relation to governance of environmental risks since the field still suffers from communication barriers between various scientific disciplines.
- c. *The project has participated with oral and poster presentations in a wide range of scientific conferences (spanning over natural and social sciences), workshops and policy briefing meeting.* We argue that such dissemination adjusted to various scientific disciplines and stakeholder groups is a vital prerequisite for promoting societal relevance in environmental research such as that produced within RISKGOV.

On behalf of the RISKGOV consortium  
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