



PROBALT: Improving societal conditions for the Baltic Sea protection

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PROBALT project members

- Finnish Institute of International Affairs (Finland, Coordination)
- Department of Regional Studies, Uni Tampere (Finland)
- Department of Economics, Uni Helsinki (Finland)
- European University of St Petersburg (Russia)
- Peace Research Division at the Institute of Social Science of the Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel (Germany)



PROBALT project in a nutshell

- The aim of the PROBALT project is to study societal conditions for the Baltic Sea protection AND to facilitate the protection by different means
- geographical focus: all coastal countries, regional level, the EU level
- the project focuses on the problem of eutrophication, later possibly also to other problems



Background of the study

- Baltic Sea, the "unhealthiest" sea in the world
at the same time
- Baltic Sea, the most studied AND protected (?) sea
in the world
- what is the problem?
 - not merely a question of science/knowledge and
knowledge "transmission"
 - designing and implementing policies not purely rational
but, ultimately, *social activity*



- this social activity depends on different socioeconomic, political, cultural and other factors (+ physical/ material)
 - example: common-pool resource → dilemma of governance and commitment

- research and knowledge concerning the role of such societal factors, conditions of the protection, is almost nonexistent → importance for the BONUS+ programme



Research tasks

- Work package 1: the analysis of societal conditions for the effective protection
 - three levels of analysis: national, regional, EU level
 - WP1 consists of data collection, analysis and interpretation, reporting
 - the main data of the WP1 will consist of in-depth interviews of relevant actors and stakeholders
 - WP1 serves as the basis for the conduct of WP3
 - FIIA, EUSP and CA



Research tasks (cont.)

- Work package 2: the analysis of nutrient trading
 - study of the possibility to apply nutrient trading at regional level
 - University of Helsinki
 - A PhD project



Research tasks (cont.)

- Work package 3: building of political capacity to protect the Baltic Sea
 - Production of policy recommendations
 - Raise of the awareness about the state of the BS and about what should be done
 - Journalist training, newsletter, web page etc.
 - Formation of a regional-level advocacy coalition



Outcome of the project

- Knowledge on the societal conditions for effective protection
- Detailed knowledge on nutrient trading
- Policy recommendations + awareness raising

Ultimately

→ Overall improved protection and the state of the environment of the Baltic Sea

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sky is filled with golden and orange clouds, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is partially frozen, and two people are ice skating in the middle ground. The silhouettes of trees and buildings are visible in the background against the bright sky.

*Kiitos -
Thank you!*