

Project acronym: PROBALT

Reporting period: 1.1.2009 – 31.12.2009

1. Gained scientific results during the reporting period

The objectives for the first reporting period of Probalt were to begin the work for i) analysing societal conditions for the effective protection of the Baltic Sea (WP1) through various case studies, ii) examining nutrient trading as an instrument for more effective protection (WP2), and iii) increasing national concern about the state of the Baltic Sea in individual countries (WP3).

Out of the Probalt partners, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, the European University of St. Petersburg, and the Division for Peace and Conflict Research of the Institute of Social Sciences, Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel were contributing to work package 1. Department of Economics and Management from the University of Helsinki was responsible for the work carried out in work package 2. The coordinator, FIIA, is responsible for the execution of the objectives of work package 3, but the other partners also contributed to the activities of WP3 carried out during the first reporting period. More detailed description of the work carried out by each partner is given below.

Finnish Institute of International Affairs:

The main objectives and achievements for the reporting period for FIIA have been; coordinating the project and organising consortium meetings, the launch and maintenance of the project website, organising Baltic Sea eutrophication training for 20 journalists from the Baltic Sea countries, hiring a Polish researcher to collect data for the Polish case study, and to begin the Finnish case study relating to work package 1.

The Finnish case study was launched with phase 1 examining the linkage between scientific knowledge and decision-making from the viewpoint of scientists and experts. Total of 18 in-depth interviews were conducted and an analysis on different features of knowledge that have implications on the science-policy interface in the case of eutrophication of the Baltic Sea was carried out. Preliminary results of this part of the Finnish case study were presented at the Coping with Uncertainty seminar in Stockholm on November 17th, 2009. The results will be published in a scientific journal.

The University of Tampere is supervising the PhD project carried out as part of Probalt at FIIA. Dr. Nina Tynkkynen is one of the supervisors for the PhD project and her postdoctoral project “Knowledge management for the Baltic Sea protection”, funded by the Academy of Finland, relates closely to the objectives of Probalt. Therefore there has been close cooperation between FIIA and the University of Tampere; for example the data collection for the Finnish case study has been carried out in cooperation and there are plans to produce joint articles based on the Finnish case.

In order to conduct the Polish case study, a researcher from the University of Gdansk was hired (as already indicated in the Research Plan) to carry out the

data collection and its translation into English. The researcher was able to start her work late 2009, therefore the first results are expected in 2010.

FIIA coordinated the organisation of the journalist training on the Baltic Sea eutrophication. The training was done in cooperation between Probalt and Media21 Global Journalism Network Geneva. 20 journalists and 12 guest speakers were brought together on September 14-16th 2009 in Gdansk. The workshop was followed by a visit to the Gdansk wastewater treatment plant and a field trip to the Hel Marine Station. The presentations given at the training and the first results of the training; the articles on Baltic Sea eutrophication produced by the journalists can be found and downloaded from the Probalt website: www.probalt.fi.

Division for Peace and Conflict Research of the Institute of Social Sciences of the Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel:

The main objective for the reporting period was to start data collection for the case study on the European-level and partly also for the case study on Germany with the aim of understanding policy decision-making processes with relevance to Baltic Sea protection. Moreover data analysis was scheduled to start from the second half of the year onwards.

The work had been performed according to the planned schedule i.e. collection of data and analysis as well as reporting of data has started. One major outcome was a survey, which specifies the German contribution to Baltic Sea eutrophication by relating German nutrient loads to those of other coastal states and specifying various German emission sources. The survey has been published on the PROBALT website.

Primarily, during the reporting period data had been collected with the intention to form a basis for a comprehensive case study on the European Union's capacity to combat Baltic Sea eutrophication. Those data had been derived from the study of literature, documents as well as from interviews with stakeholders, which were conducted in Brussels in autumn 2009. The data are currently analysed and processed in a research paper. The preliminary results were presented at the annual BONUS conference in Vilnius in January 2010.

Department of Economics and Management from the University of Helsinki

The main objectives were to collect data on WWTPs and on agriculture of the Baltic Sea countries and to formulate cost functions based on the data. Several sources (publications, databases, visits) were used to gather data, a number of memos written and preliminary cost functions formed. Main achievement so far has been the data collected and the documented information on the waste water treatment process in order to formulate cost functions. This forms the basis for the next steps in the project

European University of St. Petersburg

For 2009, three research phases were planned and implemented by the EUSP team:

1. PHASE (May – August 2009): The start of the project.

Here, the preliminary analysis of the literature and documents concerning the problem of eutrophication in the Baltic Sea was conducted. The research focus, theoretical and methodological approaches as well to methods of collection and analysis of the data were clarified. On this stage, the research focus was broad and included general policy analysis in the environmental sphere in Russia on both federal and regional levels, especially in example of Kaliningrad oblast.

2. PHASE (September – October 2009): Empirical research in Kaliningrad oblast.

The interviews were conducted and the documents were collected and analyzed.

3. PHASE (November – December 2009): Writing a short research paper

The paper on environmental policy on the basis of the analyzed documents on the Russian federal level and empirical study in Kaliningrad was drafted.

The first part of the main conclusions is connected with the analysis of the policy-making process on environmental issues on the Russian federal level in the 1990-2000s and mechanisms of public participation in the environmental policy in Russia. It found problems with policy-making and implementation as well as limits of public participation in it. The second part of the paper describes the main problems of the Baltic Sea protection in Kaliningrad oblast as well as discourse of the main regional policy-makers, experts and stakeholders on these issues.

2. Comparison with the original research and financial plan

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs:

The work carried out by FIIA contributes to the objectives of WP1 and WP3. The kick-off of the project was delayed until beginning of March and this evidently had an affect on the timetable of the project, however, the original research plan was followed and all the deliverables scheduled for 2009 were produced. The late kick-off affected also the financial plan; FIIA was not able to use 15% of the planned budget during 2009 and a request letter to modify the budget accordingly has been sent to the BONUS EEIG secretariat.

Probalt coordinator, Tapani Vaahtoranta, was working in the USA in the spring 2009 and therefore, as agreed with Bonus EEIG secretariat, Dr. Nina Tynkkynen from the University of Tampere acted as an executive coordinator/principle scientist during Vaahtoranta's absence. This appears as a subcontracting cost in the FIIA budget for 2009.

Division for Peace and Conflict Research of the Institute of Social Sciences of the Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel:

The work carried out contributed to WP1 and, by organizing two stakeholder seminars, partly also to the objectives of WP3. The starting phase was affected by the delayed kick-off. However this did not lead to any major modifications of the project's general tasks.

The original research plan has been rearranged to the effect that the case studies on Germany and the European level are now conducted in a reverse order. Thus the case study on Germany has been postponed to the second half of the project's lifetime. In contrast the research during the first phase concentrates on the European level. This change is due to an increased appreciation of the European Union's relevance for the issue of Baltic Sea eutrophication and consequently for the overall progress of the PROBALT work, including that of the project partners in Helsinki and St. Petersburg. Starting with the case study on the European level should enable an improved utilization of its results in the case studies related to the national and regional levels.

The budget for the year 2009 had to be slightly reduced by the sum of 2000 Euro.

The Department of Economics and Management from the University of Helsinki

The original research plan for work package 2 has been followed during the first periodic reporting. There are no deviations from the research and financial plan.

European University of St. Petersburg

During 2009, the EUSP has worked on the Task E1: Contribution to the Work Package 1 ("Analysis of societal conditions for the effective protection of the Baltic Sea") at the national level, focusing on Russia and regional level focusing on the regions of St. Petersburg, Leningrad oblast and Kaliningrad oblast. In accordance with the Research Plan, special attention in 2009 was paid to the national level of policy-making in regard to the environmental policy in general and protection of the Baltic Sea in particular. Among the regions, Kaliningrad oblast was analyzed, due to the empirical study in Kaliningrad in September 2009. The interviews were conducted in Kaliningrad with a number of relevant policy-makers, experts, civil servants, local NGOs leaders, journalist, university representatives, etc. As a result, the first draft of the Paper was prepared in Russian language, which should be published first in Russian in the beginning of 2010. After that, it will be translated into English and adapted for the English-language international publication. The paper also became a basis for the oral and poster presentations at the BONUS Annual Conference in January 2010.

In the same time, it is important to mention that the national funding for the EUSP team, given by the Russian Foundation of the Basic Research (RFBR) was cut afterwards significantly. Although there was a confirmation of 691000 Rub (about 16000 Euro) in May 2009, the funding was only transferred in the sum of 493000 Rub (about 11400 Euro). In December, the message came from the RFBR that this funding of 493000 Rub will be the only funding for 2009 and nothing more can be expected.

It means that the total funding for 2009 was **11 400 Euro only** instead of 16 000 Euro confirmed by the RFBR and 19 203 Euro indicated in the PROBALT application.

The travel costs for the BONUS Annual Conference in Vilnius were applied by Dmitry Nechiporuk in December 2009, but until January 18, 2010 no official decision was given. It means that this funding was also not delivered by the RFBR. Two

participants of the project Elena Belokurova and Maria Nozhenko have received an additional third-party funding from the Center for German and European Studies (University of Bielefeld - St. Petersburg State University), which funded their travel and accommodation costs.

3. Statement if the research plan and schedule of deliverables had to be adapted

The kick-off of the project was delayed until the beginning of March, however, apart from the evident changes related to the time schedule; this implied no changes to the research plan nor deliverables.

The EUSP was not was not able to hire a PhD student and the research plan was modified accordingly. The content of the research carried out by the Russian participants remains the unchanged.

4. Will results of third parties have influence on the working programme?

No

5. Are there any changes in the future work plan expected?

The possible changes for 2010 will be connected with the cutting of the funding by the RFBR. Firstly, from 2009, the EUSP team has to pay to the European University back about 2700 Euro back (because some salaries were already paid by the EUSP before the message about the fund cutting came). Secondly, for 2010 the funding will be only applied during February 2010, and then decided by different selecting committees. The decision should come around May 2010 and the actual funding for 2010 in June 2010.

Taking into consideration both circumstances, not so much work input should be expected from the EUSP team in the first half of 2010. The article, which was drafted already in 2009, will be completed, but no new research efforts will be done. When the funding will be approved in May 2010 and the money will be transferred in June 2010, the decision will be taken only then, in which extent the participation of the EUSP team will be possible.

The possible consequences of these circumstances for the whole PROBALT project should be reflected and taken into consideration.

6. Are there any changes expected for the deliverables?

The possible changes to the deliverables depend on the Russian funding. See explanation under heading 5.