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Type of report: Year 1 progress report to BONUS+ programme

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

Coordinator: Michael Gilek (Södertörn University, Sweden)

Principal scientists: Cecilia Lundberg (Åbo Akademi University, Finland), Ortwin Renn (DIALOGIK, Germany), Maciej Wolowicz (DMEF, Gdansk University, Poland)

Reporting period: Year 1 – Month 1 to 12 (January 1 to December 31, 2009)

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 devoted to comparative analyses as well as to the development of a normative framework based on the results of the comparative review and the final dissemination of project results.

Thus, for Year 1 (this reporting period) the aims were to develop and publish a RISKGOV webpage (D1), to develop a joint analytical and methodological framework (M1) and to start work with the five case studies.

Table 1. Gantt chart of the RISKGOV project showing the timing of different Work packages (WP), Tasks, Milestones (M), Roundtables (R), Deliverables (D), and Project meetings (PM).

Time in Months	Research stage 1						Research stage 2						Research stage 3						Research stage 4																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
WP1 (ÅAU and SUC)																																			
Analytical framework						M1																													
Roundtable 2 (R2)																																			
Cross-case analysis																																			
Normative framework																																			
WP2 (SUC leading)																																			
Analytical framework						M1																													
Roundtable 1 (R1)																																			
Cross-case analysis																																			
Normative framework																																			
WP3 (DIALOGIK)																																			
Analytical framework						M1																													
Roundtable 3 (RC)																																			
Cross-case analysis																																			
Normative framework																																			
Case studies																																			
Eutrophication (ÅAU)																																			
Fisheries (DIALOGIK)																																			
Biodiversity (DMEF)																																			
Chemicals (SUC)																																			
Maritime transp (SUC)																																			
RISKGOV web-page	D1																																		
Yearly reports																																			
Final conf. (DMEF)																																			
Final report																																			
Project meeting (PM)																																			

Milestones = M1: Analytical and methodological framework; M2: Working papers on case studies; M3: interim reports of case studies available on RISKGOV web pages; M4: Report informing decision-makers and stakeholders of the developed normative framework for 'Environmental risk governance of the Baltic Sea'.

Description of RISKGOV activities and gained scientific results during the reporting period

The project has during year one progressed fully in line with the above described research and time plan. This can clearly be observed by comparing the RISKGOV achievements (activities, milestones and deliverables) for year 1 listed in Table 2 with the research plan (Table 1). Thus, in short, we have (i) published a RISKGOV webpage (D1) for external and internal communication, (ii) developed a joint analytical and methodological framework (M1) that defines main research questions and methodological challenges and solutions. Finally, (iii) we have initiated the five case studies (*eutrophication, overfishing, hazardous chemicals, oil spills and invasive species*). Furthermore, we have participated with paper and abstract presentations at a number of scientific conferences, arranged the international conference 'Coping with Uncertainty' and also published a popular science article (in Swedish) describing the project.



Table 2. Project meetings (PM), milestones (M), deliverables (D) and dissemination activities of RISKGOV during year 1 (2009).

RISKGOV activity	Date	Description
Start-up meeting	13 Jan 2009	A start-up meeting was held in connection with the BONUS meeting in Espoo, Finland
RISKGOV web-page (D1)	31 Jan 2009	The RISKGOV web-page http://www.sh.se/riskgov includes both a public area with information of all activities and outcomes as well as a password protected area for sharing empirical information and drafts.
Project meeting (PM1)	31 March – 1 April 2009	This meeting held in Stockholm was fully devoted to developing the analytical and methodological framework.
Analytical and methodological framework (M1)	30 June 2009	The framework defines and describes main research questions, methodological challenges and solutions as well as joint recommendations on information documentation and sharing (available at http://www.sh.se/riskgov)
Clustering meeting in Stockholm	15 Nov 2009	Representatives from PROBALT, BalticGene and RISKGOV discussed possibilities of collaborating on questions concerning science-policy interactions, and uncertainties.
Dissemination activities		
Paper presentation at International Studies Association Annual Convention, New York	14-18 Feb 2009	‘‘Environmental governance’ and ‘ecosystem management’ – avenues for synergies of two separated approaches’
Invited presentation at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	April 23 2009	‘The Ecosystem Approach to Management of Environmental Risks in the Baltic Sea’ (In Swedish)
Popular science article	June 2009	‘Får Östersjön en hållbar förvaltning ‘ (in Swedish). Miljöforskning No 3-4, p 30-31. The Swedish Research Council Formas.
Platform presentation at Annual conference of the Society of Risk Analysis (Europe). Karlstad, Sweden	June 28 – July 1 2009	‘Comparing the governance of environmental risks in the Baltic Sea’
Platform presentation at 7th Baltic Sea Science Conference, Tallinn	17-21 Aug 2009	‘Governance of environmental risks in the Baltic sea from an ecosystem management perspective – a framework for analysis’
International Conference on ‘Coping with Uncertainty’ http://www.sh.se/uncertainty09	15-17 Nov 2009	The conference attracted 90 researchers and practitioners from 13 countries to discuss challenges connected with uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity in environmental risks. Several of the presentations were connected with RISKGOV and other BONUS+ projects. A subset of the participants will be invited to write articles for a special issue in <i>Ambio</i> (forthcoming 2011).

Concluding remarks

1. *RISKGOV has during year 1 progressed according to plan*
2. *No future deviations from time plan and deliverables are envisioned*
Consequently, Table 1 is still valid.
3. *Some adjustment of the allocation of person-months over time might be necessary for some partners (e.g. SUC, DMEF)*
Initially there has for some partners been some complications in allocating person-months to researchers. The reasons for this varies but includes e.g. a slightly slower than anticipated recruitment of PhD students, late arrival of Polish funding (November 2009) and maternity leaves. As described in 1 above this has not lead to any significant delay in the progress of the project (apart from a slight delay in the case study work). However, by allocating more research effort to the spring of 2010 this slight delay in case study work will be caught up before the summer of 2010.
4. *No significant deviations from 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. However, as a consequence of the above described need for some minor adjustment of person-months from 2009 to 2010, cost for 2009 will in some cases be somewhat below what was anticipated in the financial plan. However, at the end of 2010 costs are anticipated to again be in line with the financial plan.

On behalf of the RISKGOV consortium
Michael Gilek (coordinator)
Södertörn University, Sweden