



BONUS

SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE **BALTIC SEA** REGION





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BONUS builds on the ERA-NET and BONUS+ programmes and has engaged to date over 100 research institutes and universities in nine Baltic Sea countries.

BONUS combines research related to the Baltic Sea System into a joint and durable interdisciplinary and focused multinational programme that supports the Baltic Sea region's sustainable development.

BONUS produces knowledge to support development and implementation of regulations, policies and management practices specifically tailored for the Baltic Sea region.

BONUS issues calls for competitive proposals and funding projects of high excellence and relevance based on its Strategic Research Agenda; this developed in close collaboration with stakeholders across the Baltic Sea region.

BONUS facilitates researchers' collaboration, networking, human capacity building and joint use of research infrastructures.

BONUS supports European, regional and national coastal and marine environmental policies and plans, in particular HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan.



"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 the Danube, the Mediterranean Sea and the North Sea."

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



"BONUS makes the Baltic Sea System research more applicable for real-life solutions, and policy making more founded on scientific knowledge."

Dr. Kaisa Kononen, Executive Director, BONUS

EUROPEAN UNION CALLS FOR INTEGRATED APPROACHES

A new generation of key documents, as the emerging EU Integrated Maritime Policy, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning, all focus on integrated approaches. Integration of research efforts across the disciplines and nations is crucial for meeting the greatest challenges - such as the global change. The BONUS Programme amalgamates the scientific potential of the region's countries to support wise stewardship of the Baltic Sea System.

Today's picture of the Baltic Sea System (the Baltic Sea waters and the surrounding land cover) is a complex one. Both the environmental reality and the Baltic Sea region's varied policy landscape face increasing challenges. Both natural and human-induced pressures, and long-term and long-range influences of the global change, including climate change, are growing rapidly. The linkages between environmental concerns and the social and economic dynamics need urgent attention.

The complex issues in the Baltic Sea System require strong cooperation within the Baltic Sea science; joint initiatives are needed between environmental, social and economic scientists in order to fully understand the system and to generate answers that are scientifically first-rate and at the same time relevant for society.

BONUS WORKS TO ENSURE:

- Better mutual understanding of the needs for research on the functions of the Baltic Sea System and better cooperation with and among stakeholders
- Generation and transfer of targeted scientific knowledge to support European, regional and national coastal and marine environmental policies
- Scientific evidence as a driving force for decision making
- Broader involvement of scientific disciplines and the number of scientists in the Baltic Sea System research
- Improved efficiency and geographically balanced utilisation of the research capacity in the Baltic Sea region



The key element of the BONUS Programme is the *Strategic Research Agenda*. The Agenda which is developed together with stakeholders across the Baltic Sea region, is transparent, dynamic and flexible, and can thus take into account future demands.

For more information on the *Strategic Research Agenda*, email us at bonus@bonuseig.fi, we look forward to hearing from you.



TIMELINE

2010-2011 BONUS Strategic Phase

- Development of the Strategic Research Agenda
- Building strong links across the wider communities and different sectors in the society within and between the Baltic Sea countries

Contact your country specific BONUS Advocate for more information about the national action plan, how to engage and how to support BONUS www.bonusportal.org/advocates

2012-2016 BONUS Implementation Phase

- From 2012 opening competitive calls for proposals and funding projects of high excellence and relevance
- Facilitating the cooperation of Baltic Sea System researchers and integration of research programmes
- Strengthening human capacity building in interdisciplinary science and science-based management
- Establishing smooth links between scientists, policy makers and knowledge users

For further updates and how to get involved, see future updates at www.bonusportal.org



BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE OF BONUS ERA-NET AND BONUS+

- BONUS ERA-NET ran 2003-2008 and was a joint project by 12 research funding and coordinating agencies around the Baltic Sea set up to develop preconditions for a Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme (i.e. BONUS)
- BONUS+ in 2007 was a Joint Call to test the mechanisms of collaboration among the national funding institutions. A total of 16 projects involving over 100 research institutes and universities were funded (totaling EUR 22 million). To date these projects have made a number of suggestions and modifications to Baltic Sea related policy documents and action plans and benefited from joint use of research infrastructures; a total of 22 joint research cruises took place in 2009 alone.



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BONUS, ITS MEMBERS AND RELATED FUNDING AGENCIES

The BONUS Secretariat* was established in April 2007 as a grouping of research funding and managing organisations in the EU Member States around the Baltic Sea (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden). The BONUS Secretariat implements the BONUS Programme under Article 185 of the EC Treaty. BONUS is funded by the EU Commission's Research Framework Programme and the national funding agencies in the Baltic Sea countries. The Steering Committee has representation from all member organisations and governs the operations of the BONUS Secretariat. Additional funders are welcome to join BONUS as full members or associates.

BONUS MEMBERS AND RELATED FUNDING AGENCIES 2010:

FINLAND:

FiRD Coop
Academy of Finland

LITHUANIA:

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

GERMANY:

Forschungszentrum Juelich Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

LATVIA:

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

DENMARK:

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

POLAND:

Foundation for the Development of Gdansk University
Ministry for Science and Higher Education

ESTONIA:

Estonian Science Foundation

SWEDEN:

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

Russian scientists participate in BONUS through a number of special agreements.

*Established as an European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG)



For further information about BONUS and how to get involved

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