

# CirCan

## Capacities for Nutrient Circularity in the Baltic Sea Region

Presentation to the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri Steering Group

Interreg Baltic Sea Region | Priority 4 – Cooperation governance  
Programme objective 4.1 Project platforms | Thematic objective 2.1 Sustainable waters  
Implementation 01/07/2026 – 31/10/2028 | Lead partner: HELCOM Secretariat

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## What CirCan is

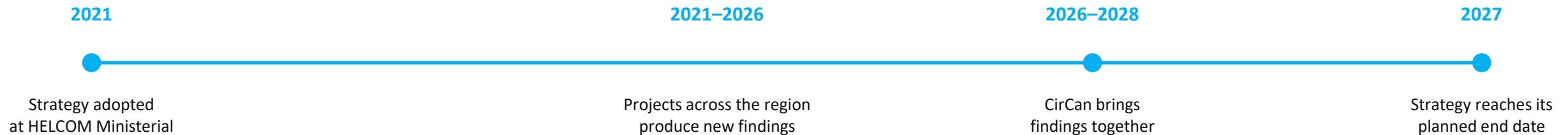
CirCan is a project platform led by the HELCOM Secretariat. Its job is to bring together the findings from recent Interreg, Horizon and national projects on nutrient recycling, and to make them usable for HELCOM and for national authorities working on the topic.

### In practical terms

- Three short synthesis papers built around the questions that matter to authorities: markets, benefits and trade-offs, and policy choices.
- One HELCOM policy product that brings the findings into the regional policy process.
- We work through HELCOM Working Group Source to Sea and through EUSBSR PA Nutri channels, through structures that already exist.

## Why now

The Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy was adopted at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in October 2021 and runs to 2027. Since then, many projects across the region have produced new findings on nutrient recycling: what works, where it works, and where the bottlenecks are. These findings are scattered across many reports and projects. CirCan brings them together while the Strategy is still being implemented, so HELCOM and national authorities can see where things stand.



*CirCan brings findings together while they are most useful — late in the Strategy's implementation, when HELCOM and national authorities need a clear picture of where things stand.*

# What we will produce

PAPER 1

## Markets

What progress has been made on the market side since 2021? Which barriers identified at the time have been addressed, which are unchanged, and what does the picture look like now?

PAPER 2

## Benefits and trade-offs

What do the new findings show about the environmental, agronomic, social and economic effects of nutrient recycling? What is clearer now than in 2021, and what has turned out to be more complicated?

PAPER 3

## Policy choices

What do the findings suggest about policy options for nutrient recycling?

HELCOM POLICY PRODUCT

## Bringing findings into HELCOM's policy work

A short HELCOM document that takes the findings from the three papers into HELCOM's policy work. Built in HELCOM's own format and approved through HELCOM's regular working processes, so it stays usable for HELCOM after the project closes.

# Project at a glance

## Lead partner

HELCOM Secretariat (Finland)

## Project partners

Luke – Natural Resources Institute Finland

IUNG – Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation (Poland)

MEERI – Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute (Poland)

Organe Institute Plc (Denmark)

## Duration

28 months: 1 July 2026 – 31 October 2028

## Associated organisations

National public authorities, the PA Nutri coordinator (Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland), the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform, Race For The Baltic, the German Phosphorus Platform, etc.

## Budget

Around € 1 million total, 80 % ERDF co-financed.

## How outputs reach decision-makers

Primary channel is HELCOM Working Group Source to Sea. Secondary channels are EUSBSR PA Nutri (Talks, cooperation groups, Annual Forum) and the partners' national networks.

# How outputs will reach you

## Short, browsable documents

Long reports do not get read. Our papers are designed to be browsed in minutes and to point clearly to where the detail lives.

## Contextualised, not universal

Countries are at different stages. A single instruction rarely fits the whole region. Where it matters, we will point to national context instead of forcing one regional answer.

## Timed to national windows

We will work with the target groups to understand national policy windows.

## The right level of detail

Too general is meaningless, too detailed is unusable. Recommendations spark interest, the data, examples and project evidence behind them carry the weight.

## Plain language, stated with confidence

Clear wording is more useful than cautious wording that hides the point. The evidence can still be precise.

## Personal contact alongside the documents

Direct relationships outlast the project. Written exchange and short conversations with national contacts are part of the work.

# How we could work together

## **The new PA Nutri cooperation groups starting in autumn 2026.**

The nutrient recycling group on the agriculture side is a good fit for CirCan. We can bring content from the first meeting and help build a shared agenda.

## **Existing PA Nutri channels.**

PA Nutri Talks for short, focused content. Annual Forum sessions, co-organisation with PA Bioeconomy where the agenda overlaps. We would value the chance to use these channels at the right moments rather than building our own.

## **Reaching the right people in your countries.**

Many of you also participate in HELCOM Working Group Source to Sea, where the synthesis papers will be reviewed. Beyond that, you know who else in your national administration could find the findings useful — advisory bodies, environmental agencies, fertiliser regulators, CAP implementation desks. We would value connections that help the work reach the people it should reach.