



Flagship Project in EU's strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The identification of priority investment projects to reduce nutrient pollution from Belarus to the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea Action Fund has financed a project that has identified cost efficient ways to reduce Belarusian discharges of nutrients to the Baltic Sea. The **main purpose** of the project is to identify and prioritise investments for the upgrading of municipal infrastructures, especially wastewater treatment, as well as industrial and agro-forestry point sources that would reduce nutrient discharges into the Baltic Sea catchment area in Belarus.

PROJECT:

Identification of priority investment projects to reduce nutrient pollution from Belarus to the Baltic Sea

PROJECT OWNER:

Pöyry Oy

DURATION:

November 2012–December 2013

YEAR OF BSAP FUNDING:

2012

BSAP FUNDING:

EUR 250,000

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The study's development objective has been to improve:

- public health and water quality in the Baltic Sea region by identifying and addressing the negative impacts of nutrient pollution of surface waters in its catchment area; and
- effluent quality standards to meet EU requirements and HELCOM recommendations.

The Nordic Environment Finance Corporation NEFCO has been assigned to act as the Flagship Leader for the project.

The assignment has been carried out by

- Pöyry Finland Oy
- Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (CRICUWR)
- UNITER Investment Company
- SWECO
- MTT

The project team has selected a priority list based on the potential to reduce discharges of nutrients into the Baltic Sea. The list has identified the wastewater treatment plants in the Belarusian cities of Polymir, Kobrin, Lida, Smorgon, Novogrudok, Skidel, Schuchin, Oshmyany, Pruzany and Lyakhovichy as well as a poultry farm in Skidelskaya.

The needed investments were broken down into two categories:

- investments needed to fulfil the HELCOM recommendations; and
- affordable low-cost, high-efficiency investments.

From this background, the needed investments at municipal wastewater treatment plants were identified with the following results:

- Investments needed to fulfil HELCOM recommendations: EUR 54.3 million.
- Priority investments: EUR 18.3 million.

The total environmental load reductions resulting from the implementation of the selected priority investment projects at municipal wastewater treatment plants are as follows:

- Total nitrogen load will be reduced by 166.3 tonnes/year.
- Total phosphorus load will be reduced by 176.0 tonnes/year.

And when fulfilling HELCOM recommendations:

- Total nitrogen load will be reduced by 435 tonnes/year.
- Total phosphorus load will be reduced by 176 tonnes/year.

