

MicroWasteBaltic - Impact of micropollutants emitted from municipal wastewater treatment plants on Baltic Sea ecosystems and assessment of cost-benefit of advanced treatment technologies in a regional perspective

The project was approved seed money from Interreg Baltic Sea Region May 23th 2017. The main project aims at reduction of micro-pollutants (MP) loads and toxicity of the waste waters coming to the Baltic Sea. Several countries with different economic status, environmental policies and current level of conventional wastewater treatment are contributing to the pollution of the Baltic Sea.

The project intends to enhance institutional capacity and trans-national dialogue among Baltic Sea regional authorities and other institutions dealing with water quality issues. It will also provide valuable information for sustainable and resource efficient investments in the water sector by providing cost-benefit analysis for various implementation scenarios for advanced wastewater treatment in municipal waste water treatment plants (MWWTPs).

During the seed money project the partners will compile the data in order to identify data-poor regions and types of MPs measured and to guide the planning of a sampling campaign with the purpose to fill these data gaps.

Emission control measures including treatment of wastewater containing MPs differs between countries. Therefore, transnational cooperation in data collection from e.g. WWTPs and coastal waters is needed. Cooperation between Baltic Sea Region countries is needed as well to evaluate the impacts of MPs as well as the benefit of additional wastewater treatment in region-specific circumstances.

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Apart from Interreg BSR, the partnership considers applying for funds to several programmes, such as EU Horizon 2020, INTERREG South Baltic, NEFCO Nordic Environment Finance Corporation, Nordic Council of Ministers, Swedish Institute, National funding sources in SE, FI, PL.

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