



## Annual meeting for coastal municipalities in Latvia

**Time:** 24-25 October 2013

**Place:** Pāvilosta, Latvia

CITYWATER and the Baltic Sea Challenge (BSC) participated in the annual meeting for coastal municipalities in Pāvilosta, Latvia, on 24-25 October 2013. Pāvilosta is a small town with about 1000 inhabitants, located by the coast 230 km south of Riga. The meeting was organized by the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) and the aim of the annual meeting is to bring together coastal municipalities and discuss common issues. This year the meeting had 32 participants including cities, municipalities, NGO:s and ministry representatives.

During the meeting on 25 October, the CITYWATER project assistant Sintija Dzelme had a 25 minutes presentation about the Baltic Sea Challenge and the project expert Tina Nyfors briefly presented the CITYWATER project as well as EU LIFE+ as a financing part. Päivi Tirkkonen from Tallinn University participated in the trip in order to prepare for the upcoming environmental communication survey that will be conducted in the Baltic States. This report builds on input from all CITYWATER participants.



*Sintija Dzelme from the CITYWATER project presented the Baltic Sea Challenge at the annual meeting for Latvian coastal municipalities in Pāvilosta, Latvia.*

On the meeting agenda were several topics including:

- Current issues for coastal municipalities.
- The Baltic Sea Challenge network (CITYWATER presentation).
- Development of the infrastructure in the cities and the priorities for the future. Funding opportunities.
- Limiting erosion in the coastal areas.
- International cooperation, participation in project activities.
- Excursion in Pāvilosta led by Uldis Kristapsons, mayor of Pāvilosta; presenting the local achievements and plans.

The meeting was fruitful in terms of meeting and networking with Latvian municipalities. Contacts were made with both new and already known actors including municipalities, ministry representatives and NGO:s.



*Baltic Sea Challenge and CITYWATER material was available for participants in connection to the registration. Gunta Lukstiņa from Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) was the organizer of the meeting. As the final program of the day, the mayor of Pāvilosta, Mr. Uldis Kristapsons took the participants on a tour in Pāvilosta, and showed e.g. the effects of erosion.*

Text & photo: Tina Nyfors