



Challenges in municipal water protection work – a need for tools?

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Union of the Baltic Cities



City Network Established in 1991 by 32 cities

Today ~100 member cities in 10 countries around the Baltic Sea Region

Focusing on Policy and Urban development

Grouped in 7 thematic commissions

Sustainable Cities Commission: sustainable mobility, maritime, climate change and urban water management

Today

- UBC Sustainable Cities Commissions work with cities and water protection
- Challenges related to municipal water protection work
 - Money
 - Lonely work
 - Getting your message through
- Final words & conclusions



Collaboration in wastewater management

Project on Reduction of the Eutrophication of the Baltic Sea Today

PRESTO

Project on Urban Reduction of Eutrophication PURE

Focus: Decreasing phosphorous loads from municipal wastewater treatment plants via

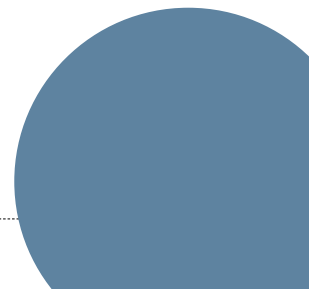
- Investments
- Capacity development
- Awareness rising



Background:

- Attractive Baltic Sea is important for the cities → eutrophication
- Municipal wastewater treatment plants are one the biggest point source polluters → smart management

• Awareness of the threats and possibilities is still low



Challenges: Money

There is no money!

Tool: include the work into the city strategies



Challenges: Lonely work

- Motivation is needed from peers (voluntary actions)
- Tool: peer-review



Challenges: Getting your message through

- How to convince
 - Political leadership
 - City authorities
 - Inhabitants
- Tool: cross-sectoral city working groups, what other tools?



Final words

Basic success factors:

- Awareness of local situation and needs
- Political leadership and engaged
- Sufficient budgeting and resourcing
- Individual enthusiasm

Additional success factors:

- Good cross-sectoral cooperation
- "External pressure" or support such as EUSBSR
- Making climate **water** issues into economic profit



Success factors in Climate work



Recommendations

- Use this day efficiently, discuss, ask and comment
- Think what tools that are presented today, could benefit your city or organisation
- When you get back home, gather a cross-sectoral working group and discuss, how to proceed with water issues, decide the next steps for your city
- Make a Baltic Sea Challenge Commitment!

