Baltic Sea cooperation: pros & cons

10th Pan-European Green Belt Conference in Eisenach, Germany
15 – 19 October 2018
Mikhail Durkin
Networking among citizens and sectors

- **CCB:** established in **1990**
- **CCB:** a network of **grass-root** env. NGOs
- **CCB:** 22 NGOs and **almost 1 000 000** environmental concerned citizens
- **CCB:** 11 countries of the Baltic Sea basin
- **CCB:** works through
  - **lobby** at EU and HELCOM level,
  - coordinated actions and field work,
  - awareness raising and capacity building
- **CCB’s** working areas
  - Agriculture, Rivers, Fisheries
  - Biodiversity, Hazardous Substances, Coastal Areas, Harmful Installations

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Lessons learnt from the Baltic “model”

- **Transparency and trust**
  - Joint monitoring
  - Credible and open data
  - Sharing and exchange
  - **Mistrust to citizen-science**

- **Commitment**
  - Good will by governments
  - Regional ownership
  - Voluntary actions
  - **Lack of enforcement & new actions**

- **Cooperation**
  - Across the region
  - Across river basins
  - Across stakeholders
  - **Lack of EBM coherence**

Valentina Bukeeva Durkina, 2011
Typical Baltic Sea ecosystem inhabitants
Baltic Sea = busy region

- **14 basin states** (9 at the coast)
- **85 million people**
- One of the **busiest shipping**
- **Intensified agriculture** to cope with climate
- One of leading in **renewables**
- **Regional GDP** worth €1,350 billion
- **Highest welfare** level in EU
- One of **best sewage treatment** in EU
HELCOM

- Intergovernmental body
  - governs Helsinki Convention

- Watershed approach
  - 9 coastal states + EU

- Regional env policymaker
  - pollution prevention,
  - nature conservation,
  - safety of navigation

- Commitment & obligation
  - EU exclusive competence in fisheries and agriculture
  - GES work coordination

- Partnership
  - Observers (2 Govts, 17 IGOs, 8 eNGOs, 18 industry, 2 foundations, 3 research, 3 municipal)
  - Sector-stakeholders

- Prevention and Control
- Precaution
- BAT & BEP
- Polluter Pays
- Monitoring and assessment
- Transboundary cooperation

Helsinki Commission
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
How does it work?

• Unanimity rule
  – Any decision to be agreed by all Contracting Parties

• Mixed jurisdiction (8 out of 9 CPs = EU Member States)
  – EU exclusive competence in fisheries and agriculture
  – Prevailance of EU law for CPs in many fields (e.g. UWWTP Dir.)
  – Likewise, non-applicability of EU law to Russia

• Soft law approach
  – Recommendations, declarations and political commitments
  – No enforcement or proper follow-up mechanism

• Focus on national environmental and maritime administrations
  – Lack of involvement of sectorial ministries (agri, fish, industry)
Baltic Sea Action Plan (2007): Where are we?

VISION OF
A healthy Baltic Sea with biological components sustaining human activities

- Nutrients
- Biodiversity
- Maritime Traffic
- Hazardous Substances

How many accomplished per segment
Number of joint actions accomplished by segment, May 2016

- Biodiversity and nature conservation: 22 Accomplished, 14 Partly accomplished, 8 Not accomplished
- Maritime activities: 18 Accomplished, 8 Partly accomplished, 3 Not accomplished
- Hazardous substances: 9 Accomplished, 7 Partly accomplished, 2 Not accomplished
- Financing and implementation: 8 Accomplished, 3 Partly accomplished
- Eutrophication: 5 Accomplished, 2 Partly accomplished
- Monitoring and Assessment: 11 Accomplished
- Awareness: 1 Accomplished

Accomplished: 59%
Ongoing: 31%
To be started: 10%

Co-funded by EU LIFE Programme
Are we on the right track?

- > 40% reduction in loads of nitrogen and phosphorus
- 50% reduction in discharges of 46 hazardous substances
- 117 of the designated 162 major pollution Hot Spots have been recovered (2016)
- Populations of grey seal, white-tailed eagle have been recovered, as well as wild salmon populations restored in some rivers.
- Improved safety of navigation and accident response capacity – less accidental and less illegal oil spills, better preparedness, also on shore
HELCOM Observers & their role

• **Eligibility**
  – IGOs and international NGOs, as well as countries
  – Contribute to matters dealt with by HELCOM
  – Membership in a wide number of the Baltic Coastal States
  – organised internal structure

• **Role & opportunities**
  – Participate in any HELCOM meeting of relevance, including meetings of the ministers and Stakeholder conferences
  – Contribute with research, position papers, proposals
  – Provide inputs to current policy discussions
  – Address target audience directly
Examples of Observers’ contribution
• Lacking real reporting on progress (= no progress?)
• Lacking implementation and commitment
• Lacking concrete actions and targets

THE ONLY OUTCOME: AGREEMENT ON BSAP REVIEW BY 2021
WE ARE READY TO ACT AND ASK YOU TO DO SO!

- **WE** have a plan, we **NEED** committed **LEADERSHIP**!

- **WE ASK** the Contracting Parties **TO FOLLOW** THE AGREED ACTIONS!

- **WE CALL** on each BSR country **TO HEAR** their CITIZENS’ DEMANDS!

- We need to keep the strength and ambition of the BSAP after 2021!
#IamTheBaltic

I NEED YOUR VOICE

Join us:

http://www.ccb.se/iamthebaltic
http://y2u.be/iMwxZpPw1Ds
@coalitioncleanbaltic/
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