



VILA – Opportunities and Benefits of Joint Use of the Vistula Lagoon

HELCOM-BASE Implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan in Russia

We would kindly like to invite you to take part in the First International Forum dedicated to sustainable use of water resources in the Vistula Lagoon sub-region which will be held **on 13-14 of May 2014 in Kaliningrad** (Russia). The event is organized by two international projects VILA and HELCOM BASE.

BASE and VILA projects are organizing this Forum to bring together representatives of different interests from international, national, regional and municipal levels. Representatives of government, regional authorities, economic sector, research institutions and projects are invited.

The aims of the Forum are to share knowledge about current plans for the Lagoon and to exchange ideas towards a joint management plan for the Vistula Lagoon for reaching its good environmental status, sustaining wide range of human economic and social activities in the region, an overall aim of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

The Vistula Lagoon and its watershed are shared by Republic of Poland and Russian Federation. The Vistula Lagoon itself is on the list of HELCOM “hot spots”, as nutrient load from its catchment significantly influences water quality of the Baltic Sea. At the moment there is no joint trans-border management plan of activities in the Vistula Lagoon and its watershed. There is also a lack of serious public discussions in Russia and in Poland on water resources issues in the area.

Long history of cooperation among stakeholders from Poland and Russia brought the understanding that next step in trans-regional cooperation may be done only via open discussions of wide scope of themes.

On the other hand, the Vistula Lagoon and its basin have always been and will remain the most important development factor of this sub-region. Many local, regional, national, and even international bodies and projects are already cooperating on issues related to the management of the Lagoon. Cooperation is often structured around one specific issue. A joint discussion between institutions representing different interests such as maritime spatial planning, fisheries management, environmental protection and several other important factors has been lacking.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop plans for common use of the Vistula Lagoon and its catchment. This can be done in cooperation between Russia and Poland, based on the ecosystem approach, where the economic benefits are achieved while the vital interests of the parties as well as environmental safety of the region remain intact.


Participation in the Forum is free of charge. The working languages of the event: Polish / Russian / English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

In case of your interest to take part in the event we kindly ask you to fill in the registration form (attached) and send to Organizing Committee.

Please forward your proposals and questions to Ms. Ekaterina Vorobyeva (vorobyeva@helcom.ru) who is a contact person for technical organization of the Forum.

Annexes: (1.) Draft program (2.) Registration form

On behalf of VILA project


KIEROWNIK ZAKŁADU
Ekonomiki i Prawa
mgr Urszula Kowalczyk

Urszula Kowalczyk
Head of Department of Economy and Law,
Maritime Institute in Gdańsk

On behalf of HELCOM BASE project



Mikhail Durkin,
Professional Secretary,
Helsinki Commission - HELCOM





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Forum Partners

VILA project:

HELCOM-BASE project:



Maritime Institute in Gdańsk, Poland



Public Organization “Ecology and Business”, Russian Partner in the BASE Project, St. Petersburg, Russia



Municipality of Elbląg, Poland



Service for Environmental Control and Supervision of the Government of Kaliningrad Region, Russia



P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Atlantic Branch, Kaliningrad, Russia



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission – HELCOM)



Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaliningrad, Russia



Baltiysk Municipal District, Kaliningrad Region, Russia

