



## Comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM action plan aimed to reinforce the environmental integrity

### ARTWEI PROJECT COMPONENT 3

1. **Name of the cross-border Transitional Waters Area:** Curonian Lagoon (Lithuania/Russia)

2. **Themes for the comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM actions:**

- Cross-border coastal and aquatic NATURA 2000 management and EU Water Frameworks Directive implementation
- Cross-border spatial planning/ Strategic Environmental Assessment issues
- Baltic Sea Action Plan implementation in the SBTW areas
- Sustainable and cross-border integrated management of TW resources
- Cross-border eutrophication (and/or water quality modeling)
- Cross-border data and information exchange
- Cross-border mussel farming as a tool for practical implementation of EU Water Framework Directive
- Cross-border fisheries control
- Other comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM action themes:.....

3. **List of stakeholder institutions ready to participate in the implementation of the comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM actions:**

- Klaipėda University (Lithuania)
- Immanuel Kant State University of Russia (Kaliningrad, Russia)
- EUCC Baltic Office (Klaipėda, Lithuania)
- Atlantic Branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences
- Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, Kaliningrad branch
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Lithuania
- Atlantic research institute of marine fisheries and oceanography (AtlantNIRO, Kaliningrad, Russia)
- Baltic sea maintenance administration, Kaliningrad branch, Russia
- Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development (Kaliningrad State Technical University, Russia)
- Rusnė Fund for Nature
- Kintai sailing club "Marių burės" (Lithuania)
- Sustainable Development Agency, public company (Klaipėda, Lithuania)

4. **Objectives of the comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM actions:**

- Ensuring water quality in the Curonian Lagoon, combating water contamination and eutrophication.

- Sustainable management of fish resources in the Curonian Lagoon.
- Integrated management of the coastal zone of the Curonian Lagoon.
- Joint response to the global climate change impact upon the lagoon environment.
- Preserving biological diversity, endangered species and habitats, combating proliferation of invasive species.
- Cross-border strategic environmental impact assessment of megaprojects.
- Facilitation of the implementation of the national action plans of Lithuania and Russia for the Baltic Sea Action Plan.
- Joint addressing of the problems of waste management and eventual technogenic adversities.
- Cross-border fostering of ecosystem goods and services, sustainable tourism and cultural heritage conservation.

**5. Comprehensive long-term cross-border SEA and ICZM actions:**

- Coherent cross-border practical field actions
- Creation of joint databases and/or maps
- Joint cross-border fostering of sustainable utilization of TW ecosystem goods and services
- Dedicated IT programming and modeling
- Spatial planning / Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures
- Institutional / organizational actions (establishing cross-border task groups etc.)
- Public awareness and capacity building actions (stakeholder training etc.)
- Scenario simulation exercises and / or games
- Other methods: .....

**6. Key result indicators:**

- Number of cross-border solutions that will be applied to tackle existing TW environmental integrity problems **3**:
  - 1. Simulation of various cross-border scenarios and actions influencing ecological processes in the Curonian Lagoon;**
  - 2. Interactive simulation game to train grass-root stakeholders in both countries to conduct transboundary SEA procedures on megaprojects potentially having a cross-border effect on the Curonian Lagoon;**
  - 3. Simulation-based recommendations to limit fish catches in both parts of the Curonian Lagoon to sustainable levels.**
- Number of innovative tools that will be applied to tackle existing TW environmental integrity problems **3**:
  - 1. Simulation model of the Curonian Lagoon;**
  - 2. Interactive simulation game of a trans-boundary SEA;**
  - 3. Common cross-border web-based GIS and database.**
- Number of coastal inhabitants in both countries sharing the area that will be positively affected by the action **30'000**
- Number of stakeholders with improved capacities as a result of the action **~20 – experts and NGO activists from stakeholder institutions**
- Number of stakeholder institutions in both countries to be additionally involved into the implementation of the cross-border SEA and ICZM action plan: **~10**

**7. SWOT analysis of the proposed comprehensive cross-border SEA and ICZM action plan:**

<u><b>Strengths</b></u>	<u><b>Weaknesses</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaliningrad Region enjoys rather broad political autonomy within Russian Federation on issues pertinent to management of lagoon resources</li> <li>• There exists a comparatively well managed system of the trans-boundary regulation of commercial fish catches</li> <li>• Curonian Lagoon region possesses abundant natural resources with strong economic diversification and sustainable development potential (sustainable tourism, environmentally friendly agriculture, etc.).</li> <li>• Technological know-how in sustainable lagoon resource management and pollution control available at research institutions in both countries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curonian Lagoon is shared by an EU and non-EU member states</li> <li>• Extremely acute problem of illegal fishing in both parts of the lagoon</li> <li>• Areas around the lagoon are relatively poor with ageing and decreasing population lacking professional skills necessary for economic diversification and sustainable development</li> <li>• Technological co-operation on the state level is missing, except of emergency relief efforts</li> </ul>

<u><b>Opportunities</b></u>	<u><b>Threats</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1999 Agreement between the Governments of Lithuania and Russian Federation on the Long-term Cooperation between the Regions of Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Region of Russia providing a political background for the cross-border action plan.</li> <li>• Baltic Sea Action Plan, which, <i>inter alia</i>, anticipates development of a common approach for the mitigation of negative impacts on fish resources and establishing a coherent transnational system of aquatic and coastal protected areas.</li> <li>• Poland-Lithuania-Russia cross-border co-operation program of the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (ENPI)</li> <li>• Regulation of the Commission for the Prevention of the Extreme Situations and Emergency Relief at the Long-term Cooperation Council between Lithuania and the Kaliningrad Region of Russia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal of Russia from the 1999 Agreement due to deteriorating political relations between the EU and Russia</li> <li>• Reluctance of Russian Federation to extend the protected areas' network to the Curonian Lagoon might hamper the cross-border co-operation on the protection of fish resources and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Delay to sign or complete withdrawal of Russian Federation from the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument</li> <li>• Reluctance of Russian Federation to ratify Espoo Convention obstructs application of trans-boundary SEA instrument in the Curonian Lagoon</li> </ul>