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:** Vistula Lagoon (Poland/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:**

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Атлантический научно-исследовательский институт рыбного хозяйства и океанографии

Балтийская дирекция по техническому обеспечению надзора на море

Калининградский центр по гидрометеорологии и мониторингу окружающей среды

Институт экологии и устойчивого развития

Morski Instytut Rybacki w Gdyni

Stowarzyszenie Związek Miast i Gmin Morskich

Urząd Morski w Gdyni

Warmińsko-Mazurski Wojewódzki Inspektor Ochrony Środowiska

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

- Cross-border impact assessment of the large hydro-technical constructions on lagoons environment.
- Provide the information on procedures with the trans-boundary context (Espoo Convention).
- Water quality control and lagoon status assessment.
- Sustainable management of fish resources in the Vistula Lagoon

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. **Environmental impact assessment of different hydro-technical constructions;**
  2. **Reinforcement of transboundary cooperation in the water quality context;**
  3. **Current status and future scenarios for fisheries in both countries.**
- Number of innovative tools that will be applied to tackle existing TW environmental integrity problems **1:**
  1. **GIS tools will be applied;**
- Number of coastal inhabitants in both countries sharing the area that will be positively affected by the action **20'000**
- Number of stakeholders with improved capacities as a result of the action **~20 – experts 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: **~5**

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Kaliningrad Region enjoys rather broad political autonomy within Russian Federation on issues pertinent to management of lagoon resources • Fish resources management is regulated by the bilateral commission decisions • Water quality monitoring system exists on both sides of the border. Long-time series are available regarding nutrient loads from rivers and water quality in the lagoon • Technological know-how in sustainable lagoon resource management and pollution control available at research institutions in both countries • During the last decade a numerous water treatment plants were constructed, but water quality did not improved much. This is most probably due to recycling from sediments	• Vistula Lagoon is shared by an EU and non-EU member states • The area around the Vistula Lagoon is highly unbalanced in terms of economic capacity and development • High level of unemployment in the region due to disintegration of former economic structures • Unused tourism potential of the Lagoon due to poor water quality • Shrinkage of commercial fishing activity due to water quality and overexploitation • Lack or limited cooperation between administrations at many levels (limited information exchange) • Overuse of the Polish part of the Vistula Spit for recreational purposes during the summer season beyond the carrying capacity of resources • Continued eutrophication probably due to recycling from sediments • Fishing pressure and limited restocking programme

Opportunities	Threats
• Strengthen of cooperation within the Polish-Russian Intergovermental Commision for Economic Cooperation • Baltic Sea Action Plan, which, *inter alia,* 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. • Poland-Lithuania-Russia cross-border co-operation program of the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) • Increasing significance of tourism in national and local economy	• Appearance of alien species • Danger of flooding of low-lying areas due to the climate change • Delay to sign or complete withdrawal of Russian Federation from the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument • Reluctance of Russian Federation to ratify Espoo Convention obstructs application of trans-boundary SEA instrument in the Vistula Lagoon