

FACTSHEET

BLUE GROWTH IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

● SUMMARY

This factsheet provides an overview of the achievements gained by the transnational projects within the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020** thematic priority “**efficient management of natural resources**” and the objective “**blue growth**”. In this factsheet, you will find examples of the projects’ solutions. For more information, visit the [project library](#). These projects also contributed to progress towards the objectives of the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)** “increase prosperity”, “connect the region” and “save the Sea”. The projects helped to advance the implementation of the EUSBSR action plan in the policy areas of Innovation, Spatial Planning, Nutri, and Culture.

Besides, the projects’ solutions can serve as a basis for the inspiration of what else can be transnationally developed under the new priority of the **Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027** “**water-smart societies**” and its objective “**blue economy**”.

What?

The projects tackled the following challenges and opportunities:

- Plentiful water and marine resources for sustainable economic growth;
- Raising environmental concerns on the use of the Sea and marine resources by business;
- Joint use of the Sea and coastal space.



Who?

The solutions are for national, regional and local authorities responsible for environmental protection, use of natural resources, regional development and shipping, advisories supporting business in blue economy maritime spatial planners, maritime cultural heritage agencies, enterprises and their associations from blue economy sectors: aquaculture, mussel farming, and blue biotechnology.

● ACHIEVEMENTS

New business opportunities created for companies

Tools and advice on how to set up and run mussel farms in the Baltic Sea ([Baltic Blue Growth](#))

- Decision support platform for planning mussel farm. It combines spatial modelling of environmental parameters and mussel farm-related ecosystem services with spatial data related to marine resources usages.
- Factsheet for mussel farmers covering advice on water salinity and depth, placement, farming technologies, growth cycle, harvest period, production costs, and communication with neighbours.
- Methodological approach for maritime spatial planners to run a planning process for establishing mussel farms
- Analysis on how mussel farmers can receive payments for the provision of ecosystem services, e.g. nutrient recycling, habitats, water purification.
- Factsheet on turning mussel meal into poultry feed, to be used by mussel and chicken farmers, as well as feed producers looking for new opportunities to develop their businesses.

Services to support start-ups, SMEs and academia in developing blue biotechnology products ([ALLIANCE](#))

- Services run by a network of experts such as case mentoring, partner search, marketing, legal and financial advice to start-ups, small and medium enterprises and academic institutions. The network helps connect the right actors and resources throughout the BSR.
- Database for blue biotechnology research and product developers including laboratory equipment, laboratory surfaces, bacterial and fungal strains as well as marketing or product development.

More coherent maritime spatial planning

Tools for planning coherent shipping routes and energy corridors between the counties ([Baltic LINes](#))

- BASEMAPS – a web-based user-friendly map service that collects Baltic maritime spatial planning decentralised data from official data providers in Denmark, Estonia, Finland,



Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. It is for national and regional authorities responsible for maritime spatial planning as well as representatives from the energy and transport sectors.

- Practical guidelines for maritime spatial planning authorities to designate areas for energy and transport infrastructure at sea and to allocate transport corridors and energy infrastructures in national sea beds. The guidelines enable to compare different approaches, gain a common understanding of the planning processes in different countries, and align own maritime spatial planning.

Planning solutions on how to integrate cultural heritage into maritime spatial plans ([BalticRIM](#))

- Recommendations for cultural heritage agencies and maritime spatial planning experts how to manage coastal and underwater cultural heritage in the context of maritime spatial planning
- BalticRIM data portal that integrates the maritime cultural heritage into the maritime spatial planning. It includes a shared digital geodata infrastructure enabling to identify cross-border cultural heritage phenomena.

TAGS: biodiversity, marine space, use of marine resources, maritime spatial planning, cultural heritage, eutrophication.