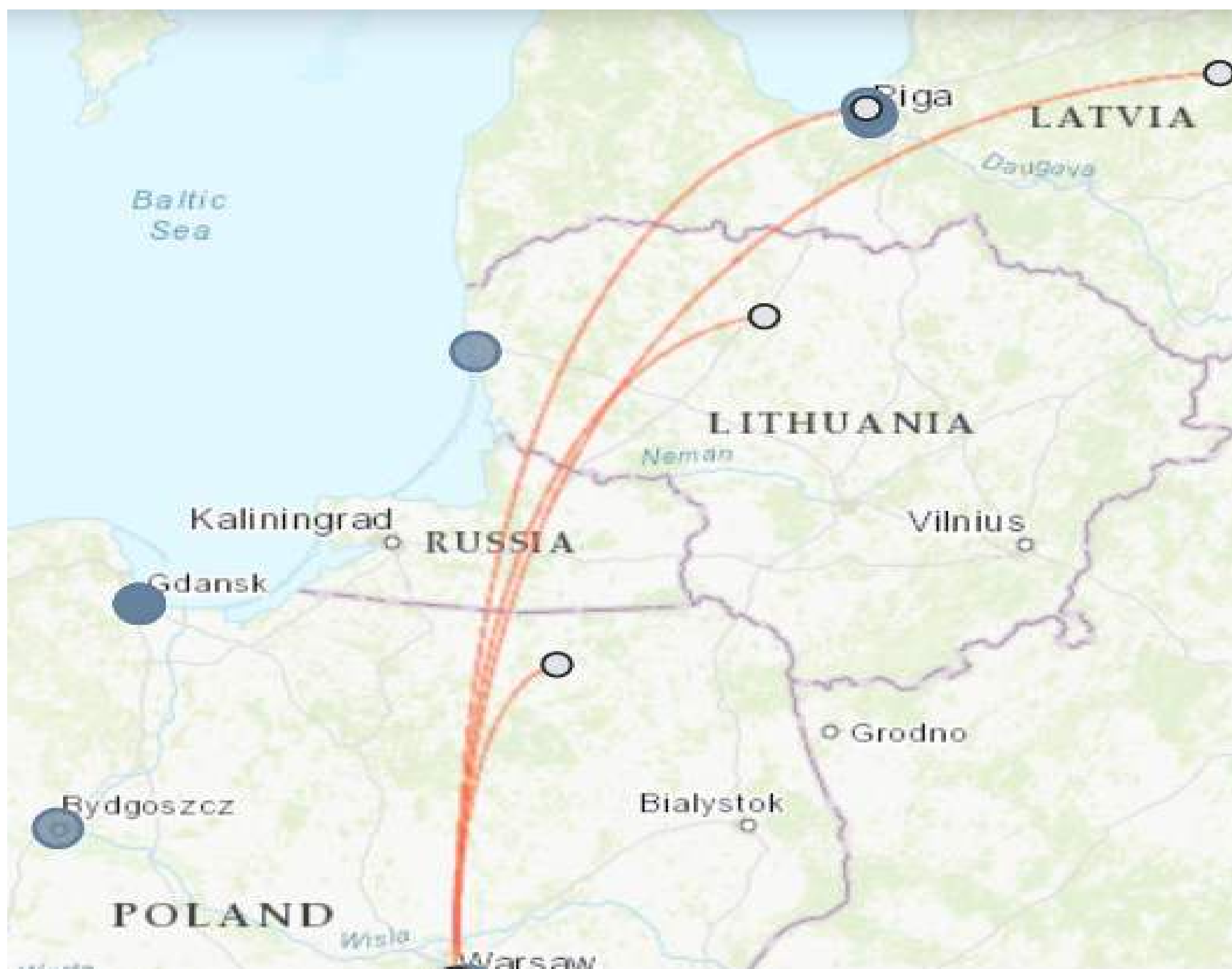


Building networking hub for units interested in lakes protection in Baltic Sea tourist regions



Our aim

Our challenge is to find a solution to prevent and reduce water pollution in three Baltic Sea countries - Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. So we decided to create a networking hub for organisations interested in using knowledge-based solutions to mitigate the impact of tourism on inland water quality. Building trust and raising awareness of lake pollution is a key objective. To achieve this, the project promotes collaboration between the scientific community, local authorities and other organisations. Meetings and training sessions are organised to facilitate the integration of scientific knowledge with the real problems faced by local communities. International cooperation is encouraged to share experiences and develop best practices for collaboration between different levels of government, the scientific community and other organisations.

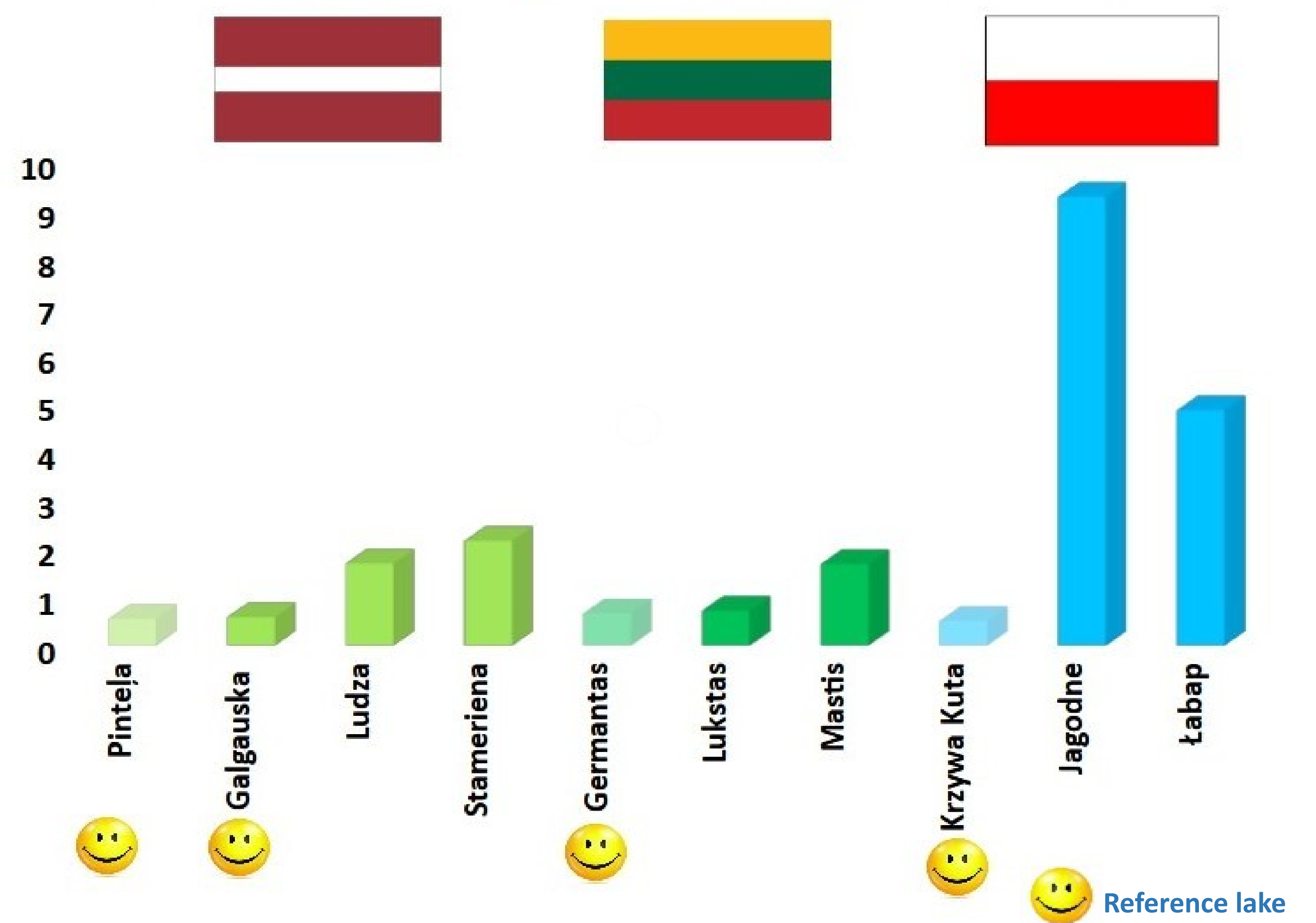


Pilot study

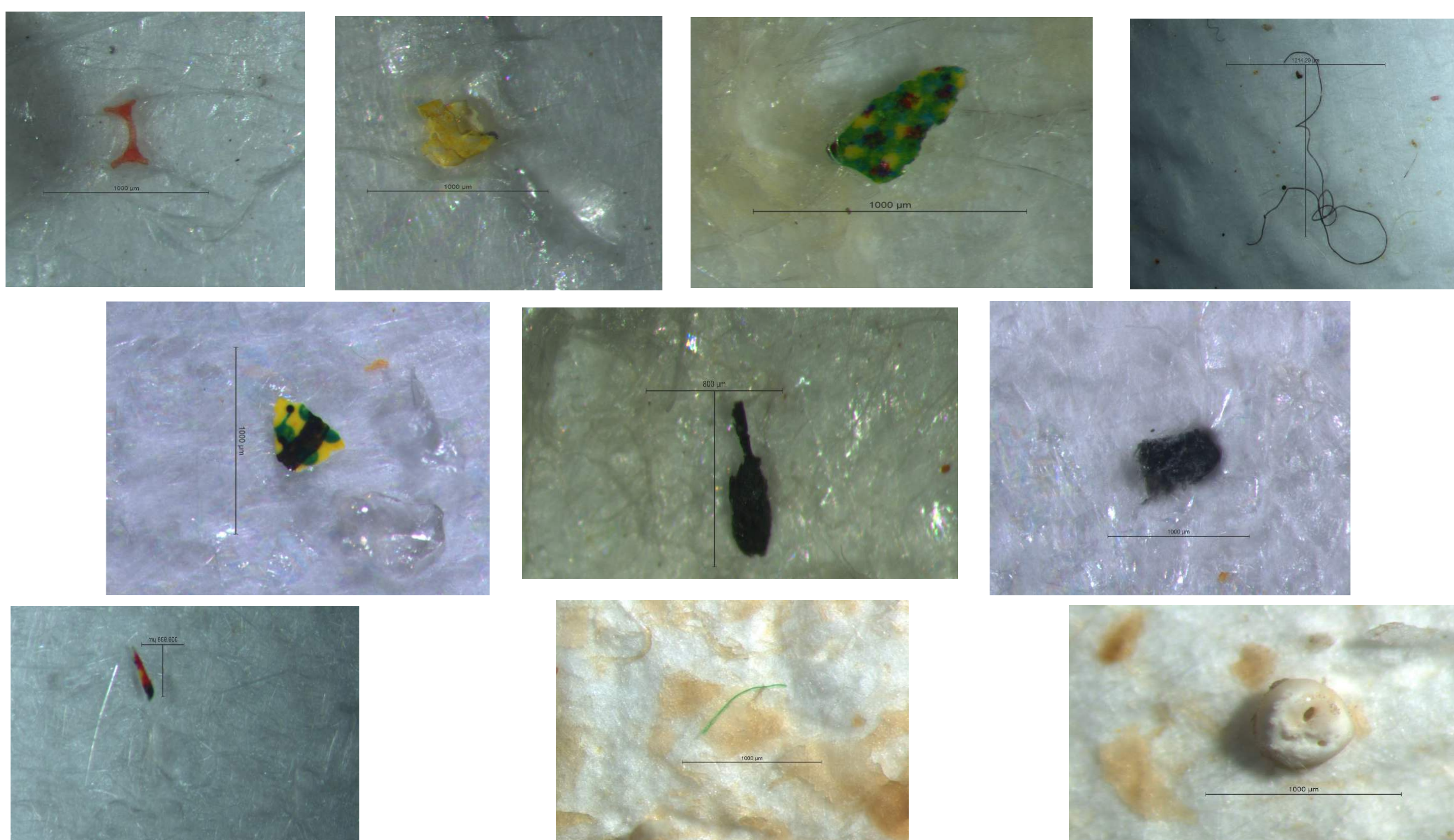
One of the main tasks of the project is to carry out a pilot study on the pollution of selected lakes in the context of tourist intensity. We collect water samples from lakes in Poland, Lithuania and Latvia and analyse them three times a year for microplastics, nitrogen, phosphorus and other parameters. This data will facilitate discussions between different organisations when pollution is detected. To link the results of the analysis with the impact of tourism, we'll involve local authorities to provide tourism data. NGOs will share their experience in disseminating pollution information. We also work with local authorities, NGOs and academic institutions to raise awareness of lake pollution in tourist areas through their communication channels.

Preliminary results

Mean micropalastic particles content per m³ of water



Diversity of microplastic particles found in studied lakes



Conclusion

By presenting the collected lake pollution data to our partners, we hope to improve communication and information exchange between professionals from different fields at local and international level. We plan to maintain a constant flow of information between the co-operating organisations regarding practical activities (lake sampling) and analytical results in order to test and evaluate this solution as the flow of information increases.

