

NURSECOAST-II

Adapting Wastewater Management to Seasonal Tourism Peaks in the Baltic Sea Region

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Pilot Activities in Rural Areas at Baltic Sea Region Tourist Destinations

The Problem: Seasonal tourism in rural Baltic Sea areas causes large wastewater load fluctuations. Small WWTPs (<2,000 PE) often lack capacity and fall outside strict regulations, leading to nutrient discharge and eutrophication.

Why it matters:

- Threatens marine ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Undermines tourism-based economies.
- Cumulative impact of small WWTPs is significant.
- Harms the local environment, e.g. bathing water quality, and poses health risks.

Key Solutions tested:

- Aeration upgrades (nanobubbles) to boost capacity.
- Compact bioreactors for stable performance year-round.
- Constructed wetlands (aerated/hybrid) for polishing effluent.

Strengthening Small WWTPs under Seasonal Pressure - Four Priority Policy Actions

1. Strengthen oversight of small WWTPs with seasonal wastewater fluctuations

Intensify monitoring, harmonise data collection at national and EU level, and establish a national database capturing performance and seasonal load data.

2. Promote seasonally adaptive wastewater treatment technologies

Support technologies that enable process intensification during peak seasons and stable, efficient operation during low-load periods.

3. Prioritise operationally simple wastewater treatment solutions

Promote low-maintenance solutions, especially in tourist areas and rural contexts, supported by simple operational guidance.

4. Integrate simplified life-cycle-based criteria into green public procurement

Embed streamlined LCA screening in procurement and technology selection for small-scale wastewater treatment projects.



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