

Project NutriTrade introduces voluntary nutrient trading and nutrient offsets for the Baltic Sea

The Project NutriTrade is moving forward rapidly, with its first pilots in full swing.

NutriTrade promotes cost-effective, cross-border and cross-sector nutrient reduction measures in the Baltic Sea basin. The project, first of its kind in Europe, will pilot a platform for voluntary nutrient trading, nutrient offsets and joint implementation of nutrient reduction targets in the Baltic Sea area.

The NutriTrade platform that will be developed during the project, will connect effective nutrient abatement measures with voluntary financiers who are willing to acquire nutrient offsets and neutralise their nutrient footprint. These can be e.g. businesses, public organisations, municipalities, or private citizens.

The objective of the NutriTrade project is to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loads to the Baltic Sea with fast, effective and economically efficient measures. The project is of such high relevance for the Baltic Sea region and the condition of the sea that it has been nominated as a flagship project of the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy.

The project partner organisations have all an extensive track record in addressing eutrophication, which continues to be the most serious problem of the Baltic Sea. The project is led by John Nurminen Foundation and the other project partners collaborating in the project are Natural Resources Institute (Luke), University of Helsinki, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Anthesis Enveco.

During the project, several proven nutrient abatement measures including e.g. mussel farming, gypsum treatment of fields, fishing of cyprinids and utilisation of nutrient-rich wastewaters at industrial wastewater treatment plants will be implemented.

Along with the pilots, the project will develop

- 1) credible nutrient offset verification mechanisms, and
- 2) assessment mechanisms to find and support innovative but proven and verifiable nutrient reduction methods which have not yet become market-driven or integrated into governmental policies.

The platform will first function with phosphorus offsets, but can later be expanded also to nitrogen. The lessons learned in the pilot scheme will be used for analysing nutrient trading as a water policy instrument on a national level, and also for the analysis of a Baltic Sea wide inter-governmental nutrient trading. Based on these, NutriTrade will produce new policy recommendations for the Baltic Sea region.

The total project budget for 2015-18 is 2,1 MEUR, of which the share of the European Union (EU Interreg Central Baltic Programme) is almost 1,6 MEUR.

The project website is now published at www.nutritradebaltic.eu. You can also join us at www.nutritradebaltic.eu/facebook to follow our activities.



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NutriTrade
Nutrient Offsetting for the Baltic Sea