

Further information

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Baltic Deal

PUTTING BEST PRACTISES IN AGRICULTURE INTO WORK

FLAGSHIP PROJECT IN THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
CO-FINANCED BY THE BALTIC SEA REGIONAL PROGRAMME 2007-2013
CO-FINANCED BY THE NEFCO/NIB BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN TRUST FUND



Baltic Deal



KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE



Justification

The problem of on-farm nutrient losses that eventually enter the Baltic Sea and contribute to its eutrophication has been fully recognised by the farmers' federations of the region.

All countries have a strong interest in optimal integration of the agricultural sector within both the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and the EU Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans. Agri-environmental advisory services and awareness activities are suggested as essential instruments to improve agricultural practices. Baltic Deal has been initiated by five farmers' federations (the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF), the Danish Agricultural & Food Council (DAFC), the German Farmers' Association (DBV), the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) Finland and the Central Union of Swedish-speaking Agricultural Producers in Finland (SLC) as a major transnational and joint agricultural undertaking towards reduced loads of nutrients to the Baltic Sea without impaired competitiveness or production by putting the farm, the farmer and the advisor in focus. Baltic Deal is a Flagship Project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and is endorsed by the EU Council of Ministers. It belongs to Priority 1 'To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels'.

Association (DBV), the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) Finland and the Central Union of Swedish-speaking Agricultural Producers in Finland (SLC) as a major transnational and joint agricultural undertaking towards reduced loads of nutrients to the Baltic Sea without impaired competi-



Objectives

The long-term strategic objective is to reduce agriculture's contribution of nutrients to the Baltic Sea using a cost-efficient and sustainable approach that is attractive to farmers.

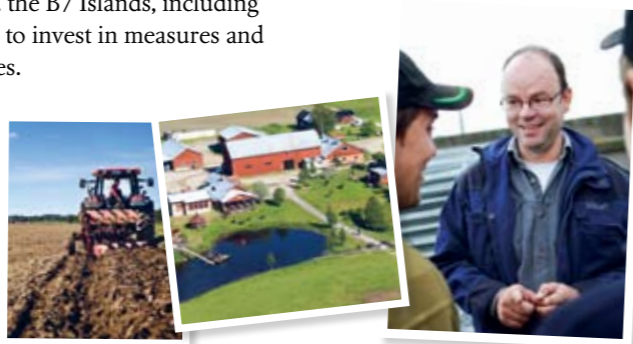
Within the time frame of the project period, the BalticDEAL has the following objectives:

- To develop a common and transnational strategy for the Baltic Sea region (BSR) and approaches to advance and strengthen agricultural advisory services and related demonstration activities. The emphasis is on good agri-environmental practices, taking national and economic conditions into account.

- To build a strong co-operative platform and network for farmers and advisory services for concerted actions during the project period and beyond.

- To test, evaluate and refine the strategy and approaches in some selected pilot regions, eg. the B7 Islands, including willingness to invest in measures and technologies.

- To demonstrate, document and disseminate best practices and agri-environmental measures on more than 100 demonstration farms around the Baltic Sea.



Outputs and outcomes

Reductions in nutrient losses from the agricultural sector without impaired competitiveness or production by putting the farm, the farmer and the advisor in focus.

The main outputs will include baseline studies, a common strategy for development of agri-environmental advisory, a toolbox for advisors, a joint internet platform and related ITC solutions, a BSR farmers' vision on sustainable development, study trips for farmers and advisors, a branded network of demonstration farms and inspiring handbooks.

Some key outcomes:

(i) A strong co-operative platform and network for farmers and advisory services for concerted action during and after the project period;

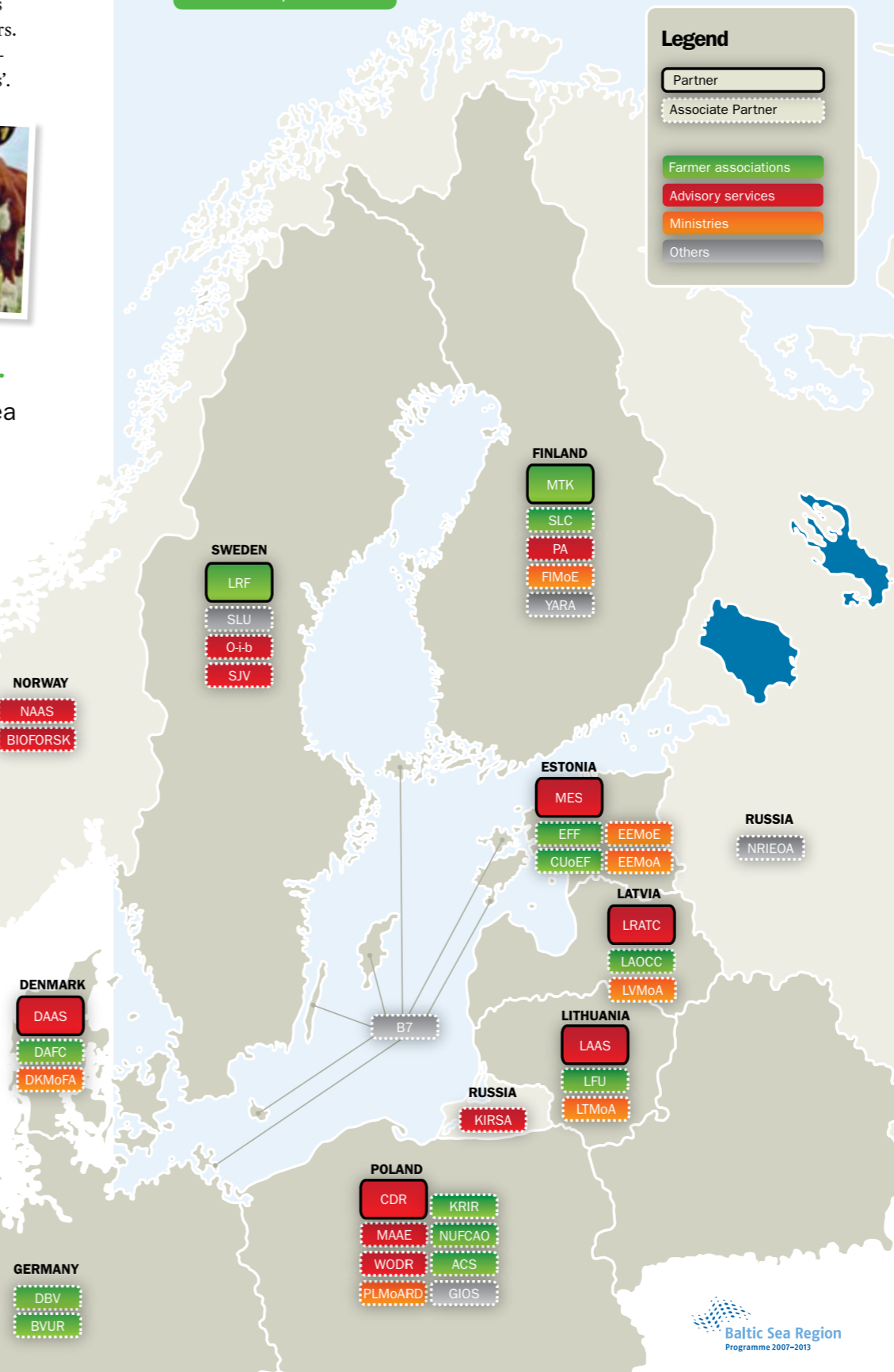
(ii) A common strategy with selected approaches that have been tested, evaluated and refined in selected pilot regions (eg. B7 Islands);

(iii) A network of more than 100 demonstration farms around the BSR demonstrating, documenting and disseminating best advisory and agricultural practices and agri-environmental measures, somewith investment feasibility studies. Overall outputs and results will further the strategic project objective of a less eutrophied Baltic Sea.

Partnership network

Two farmers' federations and five advisory organisations from seven countries are partners in the project. Organisations from additional three countries are taking part in the project as associate partners.

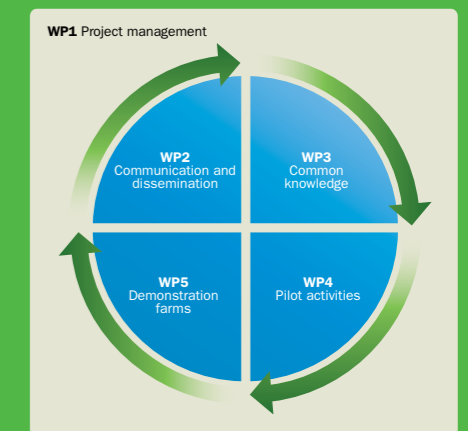
See the map for details.



Activities

The activities within Baltic Deal will be structured into five work packages (WP), tailored to meet the project aim and objectives.

WP 1 and WP 2 will deal with Project Management and Communication & Information, respectively. WP 3, Common Knowledge, will adopt a step-wise and cohesive approach to develop a Baltic Sea region-wide joint platform for knowledge exchange in the area of integrated or agri-environmental advisory services and related information activities. Within WP 4, Pilot Activities, good practices for improved water management will be tested in everyday farming and adjusted to farming conditions in each country. WP 5, Demonstration Farms, will establish and maintain a network of demonstration farms that will feature suitable agri-environmental investments, practices and measures from a farm business perspective.



Time schedule

Baltic DEAL will start in September 2010 and run for 3 years

Project budget

The total budget is around 4 million Euros. Around 3 million Euros is financed by the Baltic Sea Regional programme 2007-2013. Around 1 million Euros have been granted by the NEFCO/NIB Baltic Sea Action Plan Trust Fund.