



VILA – Opportunities and Benefits
of Joint Use of the Vistula Lagoon

HELCOM-BASE Implementation of the
Baltic Sea Action Plan in Russia

Vistula Lagoon Forum - the First International Forum dedicated to sustainable use of water resources in the Vistula Lagoon sub-region

*contributing to the implementation of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan ,
organised by international projects VILA and HELCOM BASE*

Date: 13-14 May 2014

Venue: Kaliningrad, Radisson Blu Hotel

Rationale:

The Vistula Lagoon and its watershed are shared by Republic of Poland and Russian Federation. The Vistula Lagoon itself is on the list of HELCOM “hot spots”, as nutrient load from its catchment significantly influences water quality of the Baltic Sea. At the moment there is no joint trans-border management plan of activities in the Vistula Lagoon and its watershed. There is also a lack of serious public discussions in Russia and in Poland on water resources issues in the area.

Long history of cooperation among stakeholders from Poland and Russia brought the understanding that next step in trans-regional cooperation may be done only via open discussions of wide scope of themes.

On the other hand, the Vistula Lagoon and its basin have always been and will remain the most important development factor of this sub-region. Many local, regional, national, and even international bodies and projects are already cooperating on issues related to the management of the Lagoon. Cooperation is often structured around one specific issue. A joint discussion between institutions representing different interests such as maritime spatial planning, fisheries management, environmental protection and several other important factors has been lacking.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop plans for common use of the Vistula Lagoon and its catchment. This will be done in cooperation between Russia and Poland, based on the ecosystem approach, where the economic benefits are achieved while the vital interests of the parties as well as environmental safety of the region remain intact.

Objectives:

BASE and VILA projects are organising this Forum to bring together representatives of different interests at international, national, regional and municipal levels. Representatives of government, regional authorities, economic actors, research institutions and projects are invited.

The aims of the Forum are to share knowledge about current plans for the Lagoon and to exchange ideas towards a joint management plan for the Vistula Lagoon for reaching its good environmental status, sustaining wide range of human economic and social activities in the region, an overall aim of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Working languages: Polish / Russian / English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.





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Monday 12 May 2014	
	<i>Arrival of participants</i>
08:00 (Polish time)	Departure of mini-bus with VILA group. Main Railway Station – Gdańsk (tbc). <i>(only for projects partners)</i>
15:00* (Kaliningrad time)	Arrival of mini-bus with VILA group.
14:00 (Polish time)	Departure of bus with participants from Gdańsk. Main Railway Station - Gdańsk (tbc).
15:00 (Polish time)	Pick-up of participants from Elbląg. Main Railway Station (tbc).
16:00-17:00*	Press-conference * - all times are Kaliningrad time (Warsaw time + 1 hour) unless otherwise stated
20:00-20:30	Arrival of the bus with participants from Poland. Check-in
20:30	<i>Reception</i>
Tuesday 13 May 2014	
9:00-9:30	Registration, welcome coffee
Official opening	
9:30-10:00	Welcome speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaliningrad Oblast Authorities, - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, - Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland, - HELCOM, including the BASE Project, - VILA Project.
Plenary Session	
10:00-10:15	The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea [EC DG Regio – to be confirmed]
10:15-10:30	Legal basis regulating Polish-Russian socio-economic relations in the Vistula Lagoon sub-region [Office of “Rosprirodnadzor” in Kaliningrad Oblast and representative of the VILA Project, Poland]
10:30-11:00	Strategy and plans for development in the Vistula Lagoon Subregion [Kaliningrad Ministry of Economic Development / representative of the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, tbc.]
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Session 1. Maritime spatial planning for the Vistula Lagoon - potential conflicts of interests in water using, transboundary conflicts. <i>Moderators: Dr. Jacek Zaucha (PL) and Dr. Boris Chubarenko (RU)</i> <i>Rapporteur: Saija Vuola (BASE Project Manager)</i>
11:30-11:40	Maritime spatial planning and territorial spatial planning of coastal communities for the Vistula Lagoon [Dr. Jacek Zaucha, Maritime Institute in Gdańsk]





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11:40-11:50	Protected areas [representative of the VILA Project, Poland]
11:50-12:00	Fishery [representative of the VILA Project, Poland]
12:00-12:10	Potential conflicts of interests in water use of the Vistula Lagoon [Mr. Dmitri Domnin, Atlantic Branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of Russian Academy of Sciences]
12:10-13:00	Open discussion on potential conflicts of interests in water using, trans boundary conflicts
13:00-14:15	Lunch break
14:15-15:40	Session 2. Directions and prospects for cooperation across Vistula Lagoon region. <i>Moderators: Prof. Tadeusz Palmowski (PL) and Ms. Ekaterina Vorobyeva (RU)</i> <i>Rapporteur: Marcin Burchacz (VILA Project)</i>
14:15-14:45	Directions and prospects for cooperation across Vistula Lagoon region [Mr. Jerzy Weisła, Elbląg Municipality, and representative from the Russian municipality]
14:45-15:00	Possible impacts from climate change and catchment born nutrient loads [presentation from FP7 Project LAGOONS]
15:00-15:40	Discussion on directions and prospects for cooperation across Vistula Lagoon region
15:40-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:00	Presentation of current international projects (after prior agreement, projects ARCH, MOMENT, ARTWEI, VISLA, HERRING, PL0223 and others are expected)
17:00-17:45	Discussion of “VL Forum Resolution”, communication with audience. Moderators: tbc (PL) and tbc (RU) Rapporteurs: Saija Vuola (BASE Project Manager), Marcin Burchacz (VILA Project)
18:00 - 20:00	Networking meeting for participants
20:30	Departure of bus with participants to Elbląg and Gdańsk
Wednesday 14 May 2014	
10:00-12:30	Open joint meeting for BASE, VILA, ... (after prior agreement) projects: next steps towards common use/management plan for the Vistula Lagoon. Moderators: Ms. Ekaterina Vorobyeva (BASE Project) and Dr. Boris Chubarenko (VILA project)
	Coffee will be served along the session.
12:30-13:00	Summary : Ms. Ekaterina Vorobyeva and Dr. Boris Chubarenko
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00	Departure of bus to Elbląg and Gdańsk <i>(only for projects partners)</i>





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Forum Partners

VILA project:



Maritime Institute in Gdansk, Poland



Municipality of Elblag, Poland



P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Atlantic Branch, Kaliningrad, Russia



Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaliningrad, Russia



Baltiysk Municipal District, Kaliningrad Region, Russia

HELCOM-BASE project:



Public Organization “Ecology and Business”, Russian Partner in the BASE Project, St. Petersburg, Russia



Service for Environmental Control and Supervision of the Government of Kaliningrad Region, Russia



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission – HELCOM)

