



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

As at end of project, June 2010

Building capacities for the management of hazardous substances



The Baltic Sea is globally the most polluted sea
Picture: R.Nasarek (www.pixelio.de)

Background

In November 2007, the Baltic Sea states adopted the Baltic Sea Action Plan under the Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM). In this action plan, they stipulated *inter alia* that the input of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea needs to be reduced.

In Russia, technical standards at industrial sites, waste water treatment plants and in agriculture often do not meet European requirements. Insufficiently treated waste water from industrial plants and households is discharged into the Baltic Sea, and substances are used which have been banned in the EU due to their dangerous properties.

In this project, representatives of relevant administrations in Russia familiarised themselves with the fundamentals of the classification and assessment of dangerous substances in the EU. With the training it provided, the project made an important contribution to the successful implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Project

The aim of the project was to help to reduce pollutant inputs into the Baltic Sea by familiarising key decision-makers in northwestern Russia with the strategy for the assessment of dangerous substances and the role of the EU's REACH Regulation in order to encourage efficient management of dangerous substances and thus reduce their input into water bodies.

Objectives, responsibilities, boundaries and potential conflicts were identified in working meetings with various stakeholders. The contractor, the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), contacted representatives of relevant authorities, industries and science and established a network of stakeholders interested in reducing pollution of the Baltic Sea.

BEF developed an electronic English-Russian glossary (<http://hs.befgroup.net>) with key terms and definitions on dangerous substances, which seeks to illustrate the differences between the European and the Russian legislation and can be used as a tool in future international cooperation.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 188
- Region: Russian Federation
- Duration: 10/2008 - 06/2010
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partner: Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia; www.bef.lv