

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

1st Call for Applications

Timeline: 02 December 2014 – 02 February 2015

Annex to Concept Note

Letter of Commitment

for a project applying as a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region's Action Plan

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, as the Priority Area Coordinator of Hazards of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region's Action Plan, hereby expresses its support to the project *Innovative management solutions for minimizing emissions of hazardous substances from urban areas in the Baltic Sea region (NonHazCity)* led by Tonie Wickman from Sweden and its application for funding from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014-2020.

We confirm that the project has potential to become a flagship project of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and contributes to achieving the objectives of the action Facilitate implementation of regulatory frameworks and conventions.

The concept note of the project demonstrates a realistic approach to develop a high quality full project application. The objective of the envisaged project is important in realising the overall objectives of Priority Area Hazards. Urban areas are large contributors of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea and the regional waters. Concentrations of hazardous substances are generally higher in discharged water and sludge from urban wastewater systems than from rural areas. Diffuse domestic and commercial sources, as well as the general use of chemicals in the urban environment, cause major inputs to urban wastewater. The specific identities of these various small scale single sources are, however, usually not well known, which makes them difficult to regulate and control using traditional legislative tools. This is an important gap to close. Novel and improved methods as well as shared knowledge and best practices are of outmost importance to reduce the input of hazardous substances from urban areas to the Baltic water bodies. NonHazCity aims to practically support several Baltic Sea city administrations to identify and map their main inherent sources of hazardous substances and develop chemical management plans. In addition, specific actions directed towards small and medium sized enterprises and urban inhabitants will be developed. The project builds on good examples and experience from similar projects by several project partners, and is set up in a logic step-by-step approach. Site specific measures will be necessary based on the outcome of the local source identification and prioritization. However, the project will provide joint strategies of how to address and manage these sources and increase the capacity of the managing authorities in the Baltic Sea region.

In case the project is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2014-2020, we will follow its implementation and support it in achieving the planned results. We will also include the project in the reporting to the EU Commission as part of the progress within the Priority Area Hazards, and disseminate project's results.



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28 January 2015, Stockholm

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