

Photo: Kaj Forsius

EUSBSR Policy Area ‘Hazards’ actions on reducing the impact of hazardous substances – PFAS

EMPEREST Kick-off meeting
7.2.2023, Turku
Jukka Mehtonen / Finnish Environment Institute
– Finnish Focal point for PA Hazards of EUSBSR

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Interreg Baltic Sea Region

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SUSTAINABLE WATERS
EMPEREST



EUSBSR - EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- *"…focuses on challenges and opportunities, which are more efficiently addressed when working in a coordinated manner within the region."*

- *Strategy was established 2009*
- *"…accompanied by an action plan…":*
  - Updated in 15.2.2021 (EC 2021)

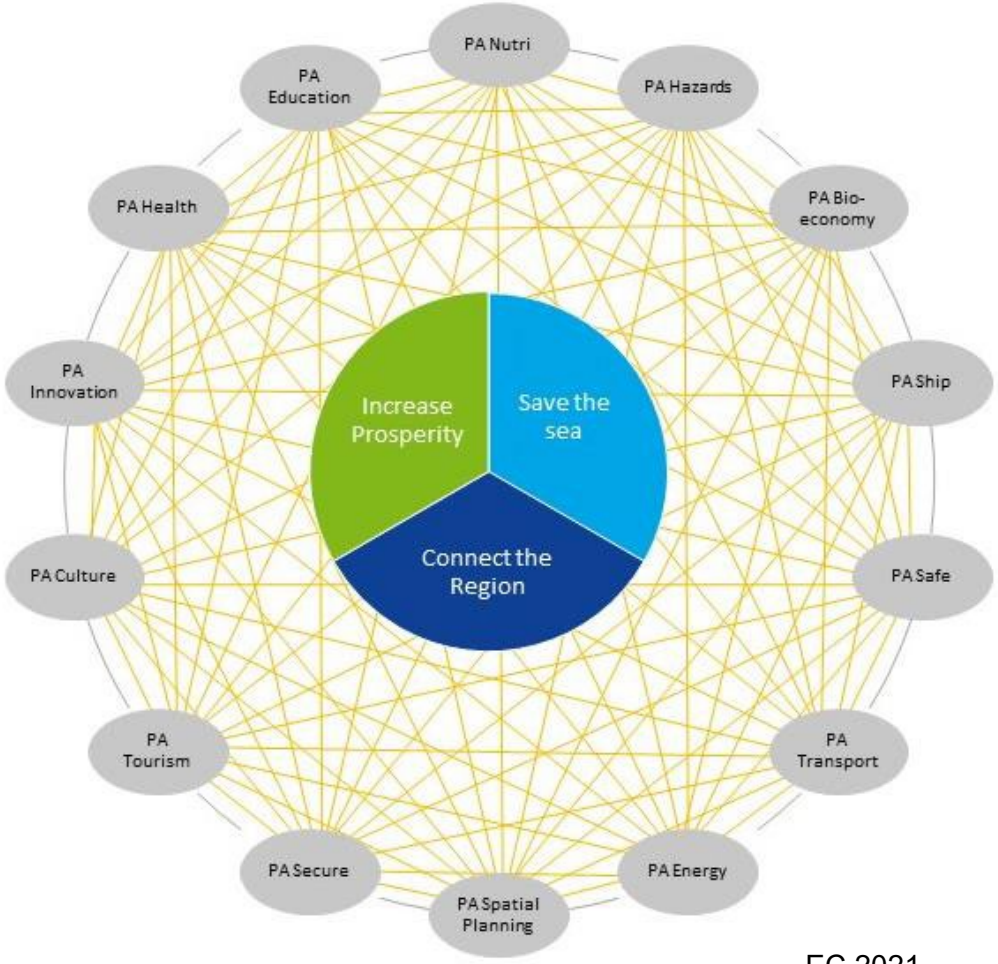


- *"…it is clear that its objectives can only be successfully pursued through constructive cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries. (…) Therefore, cooperation with these countries should be promoted, where relevant and appropriate, across the activities within all policy areas."*

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EUSBSR - 3 Objectives & 14 Policy Areas

- Most relevant for EMPEREST perhaps
  - Objective Save the Sea & PA Hazards



EC 2021

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EUSBSR - 9 Sub-objectives

- Clear water in the sea
  - Focus on nutrients & eutrophication but cover also hazardous substances

- Rich and healthy wildlife
  - One of the threats identified is hazardous substances
    - e.g. PFAS

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44 actions in EUSBSR; 2 actions for PA Hazards

Action 1: Prevent pollution and reduce the use of hazardous substances

- PFAS is one of the two issues prioritized by PA Hazards
- “To tackle the PFAS issue on a macro-regional level…: promote knowledge transfer from countries that have come further in … developing national actions, capacity building, development of policy approaches through cooperation in the regional platform”
- Key achievements - PFAS:
  - Macro-regional network on PFAS with respective awareness raising; *Baltic Sea PFAS Network*
    - led by IVL: www.ivl.se/Baltic-Sea-PFAS-Network
  - *Inventory study on awareness, action and strategies related to PFAS in the BSR* (Sahlin 2017)
    - Available in HELCOM meeting portal

Action 2: Mitigate new and remediate historic contamination

References - EUSBSR

- EC 2021. Commission staff working document. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - Action Plan. 15.2.2021. SWD(2021) 24 final.
  - www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/action-plan/17-action-plan/download

- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) websites:
  - EUSBSR in a nutshell (balticsea-region-strategy.eu)
  - www.centrumbalticum.org/en/eusbsr

- EUSBSR Policy Area Hazards
  - www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/news-room/highlights-blog/item/138-new-flagship-leaders-within-pa-hazards

PFAS activities – EU / Finland

EU level:

- COM proposal for a Directive amending WFD, GD & EQSD (COM (2022) 540): ∑PFAS24 proposed as surface water priority substances with EQS & groundwater contaminants
- Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (COM (2020) 667):
  - wide PFAS proposal to restrict PFAS under REACH for all non-essential uses &
  - Restriction proposal on PFASs in firefighting foams

Finland:

- PFAS national coordination meetings 1-2 times / year coordinated by SYKE: information exchange between authorities and companies

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Recent SYKE PFAS publications

- Towards zero pollution future: Foresights on pollution policy and policy instruments (Saarela et al. 2022): https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163971
- KasviHAVA-project: Retention of contaminants to stormwater ponds (Vahtera et al. 2022, in Finnish)
  - www.vhvsy.fi/files/upload_pdf/10245/Julkaisu90-2022%20KasviHava-hanke%20Loppuraportti.pdf
- PFAS in River Vantaanjoki (Junttila et al. 2021, in Finnish)
  - www.vhvsy.fi/files/upload_pdf/9940/Julkaisu%2089-2021%20Vantaanjoen%20PFAS-hanke%20-%20Loppuraportti.pdf
- PFASs in Finnish Rivers and Fish and the Loading of PFASs to the Baltic Sea (Junttila et al. 2019).
  - Water | Free Full-Text | PFASs in Finnish Rivers and Fish and the Loading of PFASs to the Baltic Sea (mdpi.com)
- Env. studies and risk assessment of perfluorinated alkyl compounds (Reinikainen et al. 2019, in Finnish)
  - https://helda.helsinki.fi/handle/10138/301524
- PFAS in Environment – Information Pack (Mehtonen ym. 2016, in Finnish)
  - SYKE websites, to be updated in 2023

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Photo: Katri Siimes

Thank you & congrats for funding!!

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