

Baltic Sea Subregional Meeting

So how do we take care of the Baltic Sea together?

**Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)
and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Dorota Toryfter-Szumańska

Deputy Director of the EIA Department, General Directorate for Environmental Protection in Poland
Chair of the Working Group on EIA/SEA matters UNECE Espoo

Our story

- 2005 – first meeting in Stockholm
- The Baltic Sea countries have met 13 times
- The last meeting organized online by Lithuania in May 2024
- The meetings are attended by representatives of 8 Baltic States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, as well as Norway, Secretariat of the UNECE Espoo and European Commission
- The next meeting is planned in Poland in June 2025



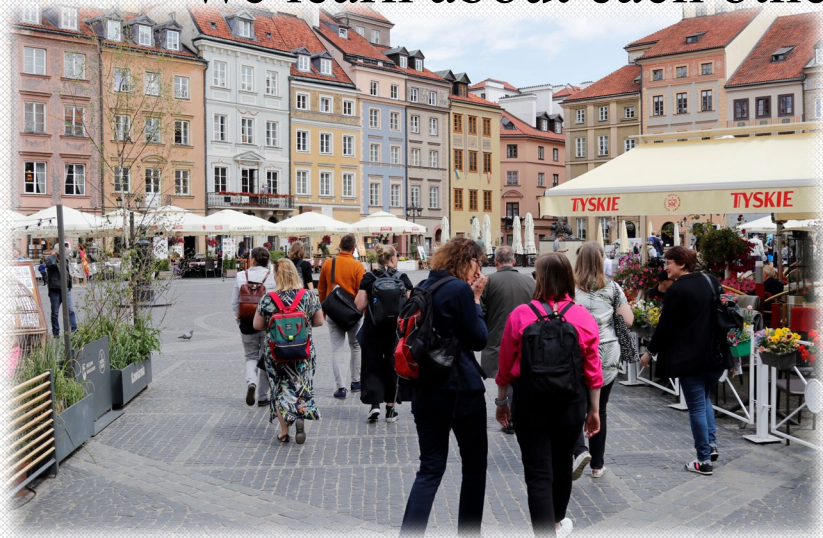
Goals

- Exchange of expert knowledge in the field of marine environmental protection for the purposes of EIA/SEA
- Exchange of information on legal systems in Baltic States
- Unification of the approach to procedures within transboundary EIAs for investments and SEA in the Baltic Sea
- Facilitation of the EIA/SEA course of the proceedings
- Exchange of information on planned procedures
- Developing solutions to minimize potential cumulative impacts



Benefits

- We have the opportunity to get to know each other better
- We share the results of the latest research
- Our common knowledge speeds up proceedings
- We share common challenges in EIA/SEA implementation (as well as other legislation)
- We develop joint projects more easily
- We learn about each other's EIA systems operating in our countries



- Together, we try to take a broader look at the cumulative effects of our maritime investments
- Strengthening bilateral cooperation



Challenges

- Our relationships can be difficult
- We do not always agree in our views on how to solve various problems
- It is not easy to develop common solutions to protect our sea and at the same time reconcile the economic and political interests of many countries
- The difficult geopolitical situation constitutes an additional threat and is the source of our concern for the protection of the Baltic Sea environment

What we managed to achieve



- We have built a platform for the exchange of information and expert knowledge
- We have created the "Baltic family of Espoo countries"
- We better understand how environmental protection systems work in other Baltic countries
- We make common arrangements and follow them
- We are not afraid to develop joint projects

Plans for the future

- Continuation of cooperation in the current formula and development of new initiatives
- Further joint work on minimizing cumulative impacts
- Development of common notification templates for maritime investments
- Increasing efforts for more binding arrangements
- Joint Declaration



Thank you for your attention!

I will be happy to answer your questions

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