

# Healthy River – Healthy me – Healthy Sea

## Project title

Healthy River – Healthy Me – Healthy Sea: Joint actions for common challenges

## Short description of the project

The project will address common challenges (e.g. floods/drought, migration barriers, water quality) in 6 transboundary river basins within the Baltic Sea catchment (Nemunas, Daugava, Odra, Western Bug/Vistula, Narva, Pregolya) by joint actions to improve public participation in management of shared watersheds to reach their Good Environmental Status.

It is based on already established by CCB cooperation with the network of local grass-root environmental NGOs from Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine (funded from different source) with involvement of other local actors. The project is based on successful experiences from 2016 (Joint monitoring plan for Nemunas Basin) and 2017 (From River Watch to River Manage), also supported by NCM.

The following main objectives will be pursued:

- Introduce integrated ecosystem health and source-to-sea thinking into RBM
- Develop and strengthen Public Advisory River Teams (PARTs) in Nemunas and Daugava basins and establish new PARTs in Narva, Odra and Pregolya
- Activate the role of NGOs in existing national, bi- and multilateral RBM bodies

A novel element introduced in the project will comprise of more explicit connection of the ecosystem health and human health, as well as source-to-sea and connection of personal environmental footprint and responsibility to a good environmental status of rivers and the Baltic.

The working mode to be applied comprises of meetings and workshops at basin level, communication and engagement of local stakeholders as well as a joint conference by the end of the conference.

## Basic information about the Project

### Project period

2018-06-01 / 2019-10-31

## Basic information about the Applicant

### Organization's name

Coalition Clean Baltic

Östra Ågatan 53, Uppsala, Sweden

<http://www.ccb.se>; +4618711170

[secretariat@ccb.se](mailto:secretariat@ccb.se)

Mikhail Durkin; +46739770793; [mikhail.durkin@ccb.se](mailto:mikhail.durkin@ccb.se)

### Description and legal status of the organisation including registration No and web address

Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) is a network of grass root environmental NGOs committed to protection and improvement of the environment of the Baltic Sea catchment area. It was established in 1990 and includes 19 member and observer organizations representing main largest environmental NGOs in the countries within the Baltic Sea Region, both within and outside the EU (in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine). Cooperation is built on the idea that national NGOs need international representation and cooperation to strengthen impact on policy development and implementation. An important part of the CCB network, besides the environmental aspects of policy development and implementation, is the basic function to uphold and develop the civil society ability and possibility to take part in decision making. The CCB cooperation has helped to establish several national NGOs as well as to sustain them over time to become relevant stakeholders and voices of civil society in Eastern Baltic states. CCB, with many water-oriented activities, works mainly through means of lobbying, information sharing, environmental education and other activities to raise public awareness, concrete cooperation projects in the field, support to member organisations.

The joint work of the CCB is focused on 3 priority areas: 1) Water Protection in Agriculture, 2) River Basin and Wastewater Management and 3) Fisheries and Aquaculture. Additionally 4 other Working Areas (WAs) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, Hazardous Substances and Marine Litter, Sustainable Development in Coastal and Marine Areas, Harmful Installations and Maritime Transport are considered important for CCB Members. Each of these WAs is coordinated by a designated Leader or the CCB Secretariat. The overall coordination of the network is done by the CCB International Secretariat, situated in Uppsala, Sweden.

CCB is registered in Sweden (reg.No 802015-1281), politically independent NGO.

CCB's website is [www.ccb.se](http://www.ccb.se)

## PROJECT CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

### Purpose and Success Criteria

To reduce significant upstream pollution inputs to the Baltic, CCB has started public engagement in ecosystem-based integrated river basin management (RBM) in Daugava, Nemunas and Vistula transboundary river basins. Sharing experiences on identified problems and solutions became evident for other river basins and thus scope will be extended.

The overall objectives of the project are:

- Introduce integrated ecosystem health and source-to-sea thinking into RBM
- Develop and strengthen Public Advisory River Teams (PARTs) in Nemunas and Daugava basins and establish new PARTs in Narva, Odra and Pregolya
- Activate the role of NGOs in existing national, bi- and multilateral RBM bodies

The project will ensure public participation in RBM, through local engagement in prioritised water- and ecosystem health related themes (e.g. climate change, modification of natural river streams, barriers for fish migration, surface water quality). The project will address personal responsibility for protecting the Baltic by actions upstream. In a long run, the Project will prepare a ground for ecosystem based integrated RBM at national and transboundary level (joint bodies). The Project will contribute to priorities of the Nordic Environmental Action Plan 2013–2018 and Nordic Climate Policy through enhanced cooperation with RBM bodies, as stipulated by HELCOM, and through engaging third countries as required by the EU WFD. The Project will contribute to priorities of Nordic Strategy for Sustainable Development and Nordic co-operation programme on gender equality 2015–2018 through actions for relevant SDGs.

The Project's success will be measured by policy-related and activity-specific indicators, on e.g.

- inputs to HELCOM/EUSBSR to improve RBM
- communication and dissemination, incl. social media
- PARTs, their composition and themes → River Watch implementation, incl. novel methodologies (eel screening);
- mitigation measures undertaken for identified pollution sources within RW.

### Objectives

The Project will build upon activities that CCB is implementing within its Priority Working Area on River Basin and Wastewater Management. It includes, (1) public river monitoring (River Watch - RW) with established network of partners in each of the participating countries and (2) step-wise public engagement in transboundary water management. Both components will facilitate transboundary cooperation between countries within shared basins and reducing pollution inputs to the Baltic. Components will be coordinated to reduce costs through joint events, capacity building, etc. The Project will target internal (project partners, CCB network, donors, incl. NCM and other donors involved in co-financing) and external stakeholders. The latter are represented by civil society organizations, general public, communities, authorities, sectorial stakeholders (anglers, farmers, industry, e.g. hydropower etc), decision-makers, media and experts at local, regional and national level. International target group includes bi- and multilateral water protection bodies, BSR general public, international media, international policy-related bodies (HELCOM, EUSBSR), potential donors. However, most important target group are local waters' caretakers, as they have the best knowledge of local situation and are most suffering of inadequate water health. Such engagement is crucial to order to develop most viable solutions to address local water management issues. The final products that the project will deliver are (1) wide public engagement in integrated ecosystem-based river basin management and (2) understanding personal footprint and responsibility for both ecosystem- and human health. The final

products must meet the following requirements: - be simple, attractive and understood by all stakeholders (by connecting human and ecosystem health) - be tangible (by Public Advisory River Teams established in all priority basins) - be sustainable (public participation well established and integrated into river basin management)

### Comment on activities and expected results

The following core activities will be performed by the project: - Public Advisory River Teams meetings: 2 per basin in Nemunas, Daugava, 1 per basin – Narva, Odra and Pregolya - 1 joint international conference and 1 annual workshop - for all basins - Transboundary rafting/kayaking expedition on Daugava (from Belarus – to Latvia), for 15-20 prs. (2-3 per basin) to share knowledge and promote water protection - Information campaign: Woven “River Belt”, produced by stakeholders (e.g. schools) and symbolising each river basin will be delivered to Daugavpils Museum - Continuation of River Watch public monitoring with new elements included: microplastic and groundwater level - Screening of eel for hazardous substances (at least for mercury) in selected basins - Network of angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory species and their habitats, to share experiences and learn from each other, - Various awareness raising materials, e.g. for salmon information centres adapted to national conditions, - “River University” education programme in Poland - Public awareness actions in relation to the International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams, World Fish Migration Day, etc. Reaching these results will require partners in all project basins, so in addition to core partners, the following have committed to participate: Coalition Save Rivers, Poland, will lead work in Odra Basin and for “River University” Klaipeda Ecological Club "Žvejonė", Lithuania, will coordinate training of RW practitioners Environmental Protection Club of Latvia, will coordinate work in Daugava basin The Green Belt of Latvia, will plan and implement rafting/kayaking expedition on Daugava Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation will coordinate Narva basin Lake Peipsi Project (Pskov), Russia, will participate in Narva basin Green Planet, Kaliningrad, Russia, will coordinate Pregolya basin Ecohome / Neman Environment Group, Belarus, will coordinate activities on migratory fish/ivers

### Long-term perspectives of the project

Currently, main environmental policy efforts in the BSR are focused on activities towards reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Baltic Sea and its basin, through implementation of respective Programmes of Measures under relevant EU Directives, respective sectoral policies and frameworks, coupled regionally with HELCOM BSAP. Original goals of the EU water policy to cut pollution are lacking ambition from the EU countries. Cross-border cooperation with third countries is crucial for reaching GES in transboundary river basins till 2027. HELCOM also constantly stresses the importance of addressing pollution inputs to the Baltic Sea originating from non-HELCOM countries through joint activities under the EU WFD and respective international conventions. CCB and its partners are persistent in addressing problems of the marine environment that originate far upstream, thus addressing the whole causal chain from pressures and impacts to effective response. Being an international network, CCB works both at international and national policy levels as well as with concrete field projects, channelling policy demands both ways. Of central importance is the support to implementation of EU and regional environmental policy within BSR (HELCOM). Therefore long-term effects of the project include - Contribution towards reaching GES by coordinated and coherent implementation of EU water policy and BSAP, in terms of improved public involvement and cooperation with third countries in joint river basin management, also addressing emerging pollution threats; - Step-wise strengthening of public participation in Baltic transboundary river basins; - Improvement of knowledge and data on surface and groundwater pollution for river basin management purposes through wider use of citizen science instruments across the BSR. When terminated the project will create sustainable network of partners in transboundary basins equipped with ecosystem-based management and ecosystem health tools.

# Provisional Timetable

## Healthy River – Healthy me – Healthy Sea: Joint actions for common challenges

			month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
##	ACTIVITIES	2017	Q1-Q2.18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Partners*			
<b>1</b>	<b>Public Advisory River Teams (PARTs)</b>	Preparatory work to provide baseline for 2018 activities (within previous projects)	Project preparation, forming partnerships in river basins																					
1.1	Continuation of PARTs (Nemunas, Daugava, W.Bug/Vistula)																						CES, LGF, GP, EHN, VAK, GBL	
1.1.1	PART meetings, including thematic groups (floods, migratory fish, inland navigation, nutrient runoff)					x	x	x	x	thematic groups					x	x	x	x						
1.2	Launching PARTs in new river basins (Narva, Odra, Pregolya)																							
1.2.1	Inventory of existing formal RBMPs, of previous attempts for transboundary management and public initiatives			continued process as an input to workshops																				FoB, CTC, LPP, KRR, GP
1.2.2	Kick-off workshops and follow-up meetings in new river basins						x	x	x							x	x	x						
1.2.3	Thematic working groups established and started			groups gather interessionally																				
<b>2</b>	<b>River Watch (RW)</b>																							Zv,FoB, GP,VAK, CES
2.1	Continuation of RW monitoring, including riverine litter and microplastic; identification and mapping of sources (RW map)			cont. process, according to agreed method									cont. process, according to agreed method											
2.2	Screening eel contamination by hazardous substances in selected basins						prep.	x	eval.										prep.	x	eval.			EHN, LGF, CES, VAK
2.3	Trainings for RW practitioners (schools and teachers)																							
2.4	Further development of video-lessons for RW Manual (adapting to local conditions and languages)								compilation of material, producing, translation															Zv, FoB, GP, VAK
<b>3</b>	<b>Joint activities for all basins - information and awareness</b>																							
3.1	Transboundary rafting/kayaking expedition on Daugava																?	?				all		
3.2	Info campaign: Healthy River belt																					all		
3.3	Workshop for angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory fish species and their habitats									preparation	x											EHN,KRR, FoB,LGF		
3.4	Communication and outreach activities including social media	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	all		
3.5	River University in Poland (within Green University Programme)		x														x					KRR		
3.6	Annual Workshop for all PARTs						prep.	x														all		
3.7	International Conference/Festival for Transboundary River Basins, [Poland]																preparation		x			all		
<b>4</b>	<b>Coordination, monitoring and evaluation</b>																							
4.1	Contracting																					CCB		
4.2	Capacity building (gender, communication, legislation)						coord. w. events						coord. w. events									CCB		
4.3	Evaluation and Reporting (interim and final)										prep.	x								prep.	x	CCB		

## List of partners

*	Partners (abbreviations):		Basin	Contact person	Telephone	Email	Role	Commit.
1. SE	<a href="#">Coalition Clean Baltic</a>	CCB	all	Mikhail Durkin	+46739770793	<a href="mailto:mikhail.durkin@ccb.se">mikhail.durkin@ccb.se</a>	Management. Monitoring	yes
2. PL	<a href="#">Coalition Save Rivers / Koalicja Ratujmy Rzeki</a>	KRR	Odra	Ewa Leś	+48503414715	<a href="mailto:koalicja@ratujmyrzeki.org.pl">koalicja@ratujmyrzeki.org.pl</a>	Coordinator Odra basin	yes
3. LT	<a href="#">Lithuanian Fund for Nature / Lietuvos Gamtos Fondas</a>	LGF	Nemunas	Edmundas Greimas	+37069839665	<a href="mailto:edmundas.g@glis.lt">edmundas.g@glis.lt</a>	Coordinator Nemunas basin	yes
4. LT	<a href="#">Klaipeda Ecological Club "Žvejone" / Klaipėdos ekologinis klubas</a>	Zv	Nemunas	Jūratė Morkvėnaitė-Paulauskienė	+37067027357	<a href="mailto:jurate@zvejone.lt">jurate@zvejone.lt</a>	Coordinator River Watch	yes
5. LV	<a href="#">Environmental Protection Club of Latvia / Vides aizsardzības klubs</a>	VAK	Daugava	Aija Caune	+37129374253	<a href="mailto:aijacaune@gmail.com">aijacaune@gmail.com</a>	Coordinator Daugava basin	yes
6. LV	<a href="#">The Green Belt of Latvia / Latvijas Zāla Josta</a>	GBL	Daugava	Velga Vilcīna	+3717808320	<a href="mailto:info@zalajosta.lv">info@zalajosta.lv</a>	Expedition Daugava	yes
7. EE	<a href="#">Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation</a>	CTC	Narva	Margit Säre	+372 5088409	<a href="mailto:tartu@ctc.ee">tartu@ctc.ee</a>	Coordinator Narva	yes
8. BY	<a href="#">Center for Environmental Solutions</a>	CES	Daugava, Nemunas	Eugeny Lobanov	+375173345323	<a href="mailto:lobanow@ecoidea.by">lobanow@ecoidea.by</a>	Coordinator in Belarus	yes
9. BY	<a href="#">Ecohome / Neman Environment Group (part of Ecohome)</a>	EHN	Nemunas	Nina Palutskaya	+37061954489	<a href="mailto:ninja53@gmail.com">ninja53@gmail.com</a>	Coordinator migratory fish	yes
10.RU	<a href="#">Friends of the Baltic</a>	FoB	Narva (Luga)	Olga Senova	+78126777298	<a href="mailto:olga-senova@yandex.ru">olga-senova@yandex.ru</a>	Coordinator River Watch	yes
11.RU	<a href="#">Green Planet</a>	GP	Pregolya	Dmitry Filipenko	+74012463585	<a href="mailto:dmiphi@gmail.com">dmiphi@gmail.com</a>	Coordinator Pregolya basin	yes
12.RU	<a href="#">Lake Peipsi Project (Pskov) / Chudskoye Project</a>	LPP	Narva	Olga Vasilenko	+7112720688	<a href="mailto:peipsi_project@yahoo.com">peipsi_project@yahoo.com</a>	Stakeholders, Narva basin	yes

## Communication and Visibility

### COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY PLAN

Target group	Message	Media	Outcome	Phases	Ownership
<i>Who is the target-group? Please add as many as you find relevant to your project!</i>	<i>Which kind of message is communicated?</i>	<i>Which kind of media are you planning to use to realize your communication effort?</i>	<i>What is the expected outcome of your plan?</i>	<i>Please outline the different phases of your communication plan - during the project period and after</i>	<i>Who is responsible for carrying out the plan (or the different phases of the plan?)</i>
<i>Public Advisory River Teams (PARTs) from previous project (Nemunas, Daugava, W.Bug/Vistula, Luga)</i>	<i>Internal project communication</i>	<i>Project meetings, e-mail, phone</i>	<i>Successful project implementation: PARTs are strengthened and theme-wise groups are working actively</i>	<i>See "Provisional timetable" for the project</i>	<i>CCB and partners organizations</i>
<i>New PARTs (Narva, Odra, Pregolya)</i>	<i>Internal project communication</i>	<i>Project meetings, e-mail, phone</i>	<i>Successful project implementation: PARTs are established and main relevant themes identified</i>	<i>See "Provisional timetable" for the project</i>	<i>CCB and partners organizations</i>
<i>River Watch (RW) practitioners (e.g. school teachers and volunteers)</i>	<i>RW methods (theory and practice)</i>	<i>Trainings for RW practitioners (schools and teachers), Further development of video-lessons for RW Manual (adapting to local conditions and languages)</i>	<i>Increased knowledge in the target group about River Watch methods</i>	<i>See "Provisional timetable" for the project</i>	<i>Zvejone, Friends of the Baltic, Green Planet, Environmental Protection Club of Latvia, Center for Environmental Solutions</i>
<i>Angling clubs</i>	<i>Importance of protecting migratory fish species and their habitat for "healthy" state of rivers; River-to-Baltic connection</i>	<i>International workshop for angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory fish species and their habitats</i>	<i>Shared experiences between anglers engaged in river protection within BSR; new network is formed; basis for activities related to removal of migration barriers</i>	<i>finding partners among angling clubs (if those are not yet established); developing common agenda; selecting rivers; planning and arranging international workshop; evaluating and planning for the next period</i>	<i>Ecohome, Coalition Save Rivers, Friends of the Baltic, Lithuanian Fund for Nature, Environmental Protection Club of Latvia</i>
<i>Wider public in partner countries, represented by schools, municipalities, general public within specific basins, interested in river protection and healthy environment</i>	<i>Healthy River - Health Me - Healthy Sea: why and how healthy upstream flows contribute to health of people leaving along those, and how it all contributes to the health of the Baltic Sea</i>	<i>Info campaign: Healthy River Belt consisting of creating joint river belt connecting river basins across eastern Baltic, information and awareness raising events</i>	<i>Tangible: a women river belt created by people from different river basins in the project is created and brought to Daugavpils Museum; joint river expedition with public awareness events arranged. Less tangible: increased knowledge about other river basins and general awareness about source-to-sea and benefits of healthier environment upstream and downstream among the public</i>	<i>Setting up a common plan for implementation of information campaign; creation of "River Belt" by partners in the basins; information events for participants about health of rivers</i>	<i>All</i>
		<i>Rafting/kayaking expedition from Belarus to Latvia along Daugava with stops at both side and information events for public; communication channels before, during and after the events</i>		<i>Planning of the expedition, including stops, practicalities, information campaign; nominating participants from each basin; chartering equipment; performing expedition; evaluating</i>	<i>All, lead - Latvian partners (Environmental Protection Club of Latvia and Green Belt)</i>
		<i>Communication and outreach activities including social media</i>	<i>General raised level of awareness about state and health of rivers and source-to-sea and healthier environment</i>	<i>Planning, including specifying target audience; developing more clear and focused communication message, including gender-oriented; selecting channels;</i>	<i>All</i>

				<i>performing throughout the whole project, evaluating</i>	
	<i>Demonstrating how a single aquatic species, that is traditionally very important in the countries can suffer of pollution and why it is important to protect nature from contamination and protect single species</i>	<i>Screening of eel contamination by hazardous substances in selected</i>	<i>first time ever screening of Baltic European eel for contamination by hazardous substances; raising awareness about poor state of this species and why it is important avoiding catching and why protection is needed for it - both nature and health wise</i>	<i>inventorising available information on eel contamination; checking methodologies available; planning, including selection of relevant basins; finding partner laboratories; sampling and analysis; evaluation; information campaign connected to the whole exercise</i>	<i>Partners in Daugava, Nemunas, Vistula and Narva Basins</i>
<i>Young people, students and general public in selected river basins</i>	<i>Healthy River - Health Me - Healthy Sea: why and how healthy upstream flows contribute to health of people leaving along those, and how it all contributes to the health of the Baltic Sea</i>	<i>River University in Poland (within Green University Programme)</i>	<i>supporting already established water- and river health related curricula in Polish high schools, contributing to further development of training and education materials</i>	<i>necessary steps to be devised in close contact with course organizers - e.g. planning for new materials; knowledge to be shared and spread to other river basins</i>	<i>Coalition Save Rivers and other potential partners in Poland, e.g. Universities</i>
<i>National and regional (bi- or multilateral water management and protection bodies) stakeholders</i>	<i>Let the rivers flow naturally - no further modifications needed that degrade water status Ecosystem health of rivers depends on coordinated approach by various stakeholder - public and the authorities Joint forces within one river basin by different countries will addressing common challenges</i>	<i>Communication and outreach activities including social media</i>	<i>Need of constructive dialogue with civil society and with neighbouring countries is understood by the water management bodies; Proposals for integration civil society agenda are provided to river commissions; Ground for better cooperation of HELCOM and transboundary river basin management bodies is prepared</i>	<i>project partners will approach respective water management bodies to check the level of public participation and suggest ways and means of improvement; meetings with respective bodies are performed; CCB will play active role in facilitation of dialogue with transboundary water bodies and HELCOM</i>	<i>All partners</i>
<i>Donor (NCM and CCB Member Organizations)</i>	<i>Results communication</i>	<i>Narrative and financial reports</i>	<i>Stakeholders (donors) are satisfied with the information about project results</i>	<i>See "Provisional timetable" for the project</i>	<i>CCB</i>

## Risk and mitigation measures:

The project contains the following risks, ranked by priority (from highest to lowest), that will be prevented and minimised by respective mitigation: 1. Problems with local authorities while running PARTs or addressing "hot-spot" issues Project partners have regular contacts with local authorities, and have experience of working with them. In case of conflicts, project partners will rely on public and mass-media support and will discuss more detailed mitigation strategy, including communication. Responsible for mitigation: Local project coordinators 2. Low level of involvement of key beneficiaries and general public Creation of detailed communication plan for each country; partners will try to use different sources of communication to reach the maximum coverage of the audience, use of social media, mobile apps and webinars as an optimal way of spreading information. Responsible for mitigation: directors/chairpersons of local partners 3. Improper financial planning, foreign exchange rate fluctuations, unexpected costs Development of detailed project budget, quarterly budget reviews, reallocation of the costs between initiatives, Audit. Responsible for mitigation: Financial manager/controller of CCB 4. Non-adherence of project partners to the agreed operational or project principles of CCB Clear communication of the principles that will guide project implementation to the partners. Additional guidelines and drafts will be provided to make reporting easier. Responsible for mitigation: project manager 5. Corruption in project partner organization There is no tolerance towards corruption in the organisations. Anti- corruption policies and guidelines are explained to staff at all levels. Rigorous financial management systems in place. Audit for the whole project is required. Responsible for mitigation: Project manager at CCB, CCB Board, leadership of partner organizations

## Nordic Synergy/Relevance

CCB was created in 1990 by several big Nordic environmental NGOs to enable BSR citizens address decision-makers, as it is fundamental for efficient environment protection. Since then, Nordic NGOs kept providing CCB members with relevant support by sharing experiences, knowledge and capacities. The project will further contribute to strengthening cooperation between the Nordic and Eastern Baltic NGOs and as a result will mutually enhance their capacities and knowledge. Cooperation between organisations in Nordic countries, "new EU member countries, Belarus and Russia" will increase the possibility to influence the development in the whole BSR in a more sustainable direction, thereby creating a better environmental state in the Nordic areas as well. Other synergy effects that will be generated by the project: - Cooperation of NGOs, representing BSR general public, gives a strong prerequisites to solve the joint problem of restoring Baltic Sea environment. - project activities will create a better dialogue between citizens and officials, thus promoting a sustainable environmental outcome in the BSR. - through cooperation within the BSR-wide and Sweden-based NGO network, project partners will be strengthened to communicate their standpoint at an intergovernmental level (HELCOM, EUSBSR) In particular, the project will relate to the following priorities of NCM's programmes for NGOs - Promoting respect for human rights and civil society by working together on good governance in local government, inter-parliamentary collaboration, media and journalist co-operation, and NGO co-operation. - Cross-border issues that impact on the Nordic countries and Eastern Baltic countries, such as environmental matters. - Strengthening of economic and social development including NGO partnerships The Nordic states share many similarities concerning water related issues and face mutual challenges that need to be solved in collaboration, e.g. implementation of EU water policies. Likewise in Eastern Baltic EU countries the same requirements of the EU WFD are applied, despite certain exceptions and extended deadlines for implementation. For Russia and Belarus, the EU water policies are not applicable, however their water policies are also based on river basin approach. It creates a potential for approximation of EU and non-EU approaches. With Swedish long-standing experience in river basin management, including public and stakeholder engagement in river/water councils, the project will gain knowledge and advise on how to proceed with establishment of Public Advisory River Teams in transboundary catchments within Eastern BSR. Some of the issues to be addressed by PARTs and listed under activities are corresponding to those addressed in Swedish water management, e.g. hydropower, migratory fish protection and nutrient runoff. So, the project will provide opportunities to both learn from Nordic countries, but also share and jointly discuss the approaches to tackle common environmental issues. Similarly, the use of public monitoring tools has very good tradition in Sweden, e.g. through branches of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, one of CCB's members and hence River Watch (RW) activities can be supported with relevant Swedish knowledge and expertise. Riverine

litter monitoring and contamination of biota (eel) are rather novel areas, therefore these experiences can be of interest for utilising in the Nordics.

### Intersectorial strategies: children and young people, sustainable development and gender equality

The project incorporates all three intersectorial strategies in its preparation, content and organization as those are embedded in CCB's Plan of Action for 2016-2018 and its anticipated extension for the next biannual period (2018-2020). More specifically, the project will impact: - children and young people through engaging them into volunteer work on public river monitoring (River Watch) and providing them with new capacities and knowledge on both general water protection issues (e.g. River University), as well as specific monitoring methodologies (riverine litter and biota contamination). - In the field of sustainable development the project will strengthen and create new partnerships (SDG 17) and address protection of fresh- and marine waters, and terrestrial ecosystems also in climate change context, thus directly contributing towards reaching the targets of the UN SDGs 6,13,14,15. Within its work it will as well address issues of social and gender diversity and equality, also contributing to targets under SDGs 5,10,16. Local sustainable use of water resources is a precondition for true ecosystem-based management of waters, including transboundary ones. The project will also contribute to the "Realizing the Vision: The Baltic 2030 Action Plan" adopted by CBSS in 2017 and HELCOM's voluntary commitments to the UN Conference "Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of SDG 14" - In field of gender equality: any of CCB's activities are implemented in accordance with the network's Gender and Equity strategy, see here: <http://www.ccb.se/about-ccb/gender-and-equity-within-ccb/>. Respective performance indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluation of project activities will be adapted to take into account children and youth, sustainable development, social and gender diversity perspective. Likewise the communication activities will be adapted to suit for purposes of various social and gender groups when addressing specific project issues. According to CCB's experience the share of women engaged in environmental work, including NGOs, in Eastern Baltic countries is usually higher than men. This will be addressed by the project activities as well, with a view to raise the attractiveness of environmental protection to men. Based on the experiences of CCB's ongoing projects, a training will be arranged to raise the capacity of partners in gender and water related issues.

## Provisional budget breakdown (only in DKK)

	TOTAL	NCM
<b>1. Activities: The main activity and delivery. It includes all direct expenses related to the operation of the project (Conference, report, networking etc).</b>	<b>416 000</b>	<b>416 000</b>
<b>1.1 Specify the main activity (add additional spaces for details)</b>	160 000	160 000
PART meetings, including thematic groups (floods, migratory fish, inland navigation, nutrient runoff)	35 000	35 000
Inventory of existing formal RBMPs, of previous attempts for transboundary management and public initiatives	5 000	5 000
Kick-off workshops and follow-up meetings in new river basins	35 000	35 000
Continuation of RW monitoring, including riverine litter and microplastic; identification and mapping of sources (RW map)	25 000	25 000
Screening eel contamination / methodology, sampling, evaluation, reporting	10 000	10 000
Trainings for RW practitioners (schools and teachers)	10 000	10 000
Workshop for angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory fish species and their habitats	20 000	20 000
River University in Poland (within Green University Programme)	20 000	20 000
<b>1.2 Travel expenses</b>	80 000	80 000
PART meetings, including thematic groups	15 000	15 000
Annual Workshop for all PARTs	15 000	15 000
International Conference/Festival for Transboundary River Basins, [Poland]	30 000	30 000
Workshop for angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory fish species and their habitats	20 000	20 000
<b>1.3 Meeting expenses</b>	120 000	120 000
PART meetings, including thematic groups	35 000	35 000
Annual Workshop for all PARTs	25 000	25 000
International Conference/Festival for Transboundary River Basins, [Poland]	40 000	40 000
Workshop for angling clubs engaged in protection of migratory fish species and their habitats	20 000	20 000
<b>1.4 Communication expenses (prints, website, layout etc.)</b>	18 000	18 000
Info campaign: Healthy River belt	10 000	10 000
Communication and outreach activities including social media	8 000	8 000
<b>1.5 Fees/salary for experts, external consultants etc.</b>	38 000	38 000
Screening eel contamination / analysis	8 000	8 000
Further development of video-lessons for RW Manual (adapting to local conditions and languages)	8 000	8 000
Transboundary rafting/kayaking expedition on Daugava / renting equipment	22 000	22 000
<b>1.6 Other expenses</b>		0
<b>2. Project administration: expenses related to dissemination of the projects results, project monitoring including interim reporting to NMR</b>	<b>41 000</b>	<b>-</b>
2.1 Salary (to the NGO's own employees related to the operation of the project)	30 000	
2.2 Travel expenses	5 000	
2.3 Subsistence expenses	5 000	
2.4 Other expenses	1 000	
<b>3. Communication</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>20 000</b>
3.1. Information about the project's content to e.g. partners, stakeholders, targetgroups etc	10 000	10 000
3.2 Communication of the project's result	10 000	10 000
<b>4. Unexpected expenses (max. 10% of point 1-3)</b>	<b>21 285</b>	<b>21 285</b>
4.1. Unexpected expenses	21 285	21 285
<b>5. Evaluation</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>10 000</b>
<b>6. Project expenses in total DKK</b>	<b>508 285</b>	<b>467 285</b>
<b>7. Audit</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>-</b>
7.1 Audit (Applicable only to projects who receives more than DKK 200,000 and the administrative body is not subject to revision by one of the Nordic national audit offices, the project accounts must be audited by a certified or chartered public accountant)	10 000	
<b>8. Subtotal</b>	<b>518 285</b>	<b>467 285</b>
<b>9. Overhead (if relevant, max. 10%)</b>	<b>36 280</b>	<b>32 710</b>
9.1 Overhead	36 280	32 710
<b>10. Total</b>	<b>554 565</b>	<b>499 995</b>

## Comments on project funding

The EU LIFE NGO operating grant (approved for CCB for the period 2018/2019) provides the core funding for CCB activities. Additional funding (40% of total operating costs, matching the EU grant) is raised of various amounts that mainly supports the topical projects, while the NGO operating grant merely ensures the longterm core funding. Currently, other sources of CCB's funding include annual grant from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, country-wise project grants from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) for the years 2018/2019, grants for targeted environmental projects from various foundations. As its "own share" of cofinancing for the proposed project, CCB will raise ca.25000 DKK from funding allocated by Sida for the activities in Belarus and Russia and ca.30000 DKK from funding allocated by the EU LIFE for activities in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. In addition and beyond the requested NCM grant, the activities in Ukrainian part of the Western Bug/Vistula catchment are expected to be financed by funding allocated by Sida through ForumSyd. Also another application for activities in Western Bug catchment is submitted to the Swedish Institute.

## Comments on expenditure:

Projects expenditures per country will be provisionally allocated in the following way

- (1) Sweden 38,0% (Project management and communication costs, travel budget), out of which 9,8% is third party financing)
- (2) Belarus 15,4% (2 organizations, involved in activities in two priority basins and will lead some of the tasks)
- (3) Russia 9,1% (3 organizations, 2 river basins, will coordinate and River Watch in general)
- (4) Poland 13,0% (1 organization, 2 river basins, will coordinate PART Odra, provide linkage to Ukraine)
- (5) Lithuania 8,9% (2 organizations, will coordinate PART Nemunas)
- (6) Latvia 10,9% (2 organizations, will coordinate PART Daugava)
- (7) Estonia 4,7% (1 organization, will participate in PART Narva)

## Have you previously been granted funds from NCM?

2007 400 000 DKK project no 09604070252 Citizens Organisations Partnership in Nordic Countries, new EU member states and Russia/Belarus for a better Baltic Sea environment.

2009 450 000 DKK Citizens Organisations Partnership in Nordic Countries, new EU Member States and Russia/Belarus for a better Baltic Sea environment.

2011 470 000 DKK Project no 11268 Citizens Organisations Partnership in Nordic Countries, new EU Member States and Russia/Belarus: Solutions for Baltic Sea Eutrophication Understanding and actions

2014 434 350 DKK Baltic region sustainable agriculture limiting nutrient leakage from farmland to mitigate Baltic Sea eutrophication

2016 461 000 DKK Creation of a Sustainable, NGO-led River Monitoring Network on the Neman and Pregola Rivers

2017 499 950 DKK From River Watch to River Manage (Public engagement in Integrated River Basin Management in the Eastern Baltic)