



# **EUSBSR** EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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## **PA Nutri - Challenges for water management in the Baltic Sea Region**

8.11.2023 WaterMan-meeting

**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
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# Implementation of the EUSBSR

- ✓ 3 main objectives
- ✓ 14 interconnected Policy Areas



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## Short info on EUSBSR

- Mission: The Strategy provides a unique platform for cooperation and coordination with open and transparent participation, inclusiveness, and multi-level governance in the Baltic Sea Region. It contributes to a better vision of labour and decreased overlaps among existing networks and organisations.
- Vision: Through cooperation and coordinated actions, we protect and preserve the Baltic Sea and build a well-connected and prosperous region.

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## Four Actions for PA Nutri in the Action plan

- 1) Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources
- 2) Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources
- 3) Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling
- 4) Address nutrients already accumulated in the Baltic Sea

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## What is happening in PA Nutri

- Developing work towards policy processes
- PA Nutri Talks – sessions
  - Next 4.12. about Extreme weather events and nutrient leakage from rural areas
  - In 2024: Internal loading of nutrients and nutrient recycling –topics
- Cooperation with other PAs
- Cooperation with Ukraine
  - Clean Baltic Source –project
  - Seminar on wastewater-issues in May 2023
  - Cross-PA workshop at the EUSBSR Annual Forum
- Discussions with all Interreg-programmes from the Baltic Sea Region and Interact

## Challenges in water management - recent policy briefs

- Nordbalt Ecosafe-project, policy brief on “Towards efficient and just policies for mitigating agricultural nutrient emissions in the Nordic-Baltic region”,  
[https://projects.au.dk/fileadmin/projects/nordbalt-ecosafe/Filer/D6.1\\_Final\\_6\\_September\\_2023.pdf](https://projects.au.dk/fileadmin/projects/nordbalt-ecosafe/Filer/D6.1_Final_6_September_2023.pdf)
  - Policies should be clear, fair and effective
  - Farmers are interested in water protection, but they need clear rules and support
  - Danish model of setting water quality targets for river basins



Table 1. EU level regulations and policies with an impact on N and P emissions to EU waters

Regulations and policies with an impact on N and P emissions to EU waters	
The name of regulation or policy	The aim of regulation or policy
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC & national river basin management plans	Prevent deterioration and enhance status of aquatic ecosystems
Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC & national action plans	Protect water quality and promote good farming practices
Common Agricultural Policy & national strategic plans	Promote food security, sustainable use of natural resources and rural livelihoods
Public Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU & national public procurement law and policy	Increase transparency, fairness, environmental protection, societal welfare through procurement decisions
Taxonomy Regulation 2020/852/EU & upcoming Delegated act on water and pollution	Facilitate investments to environmentally sustainable economic activities

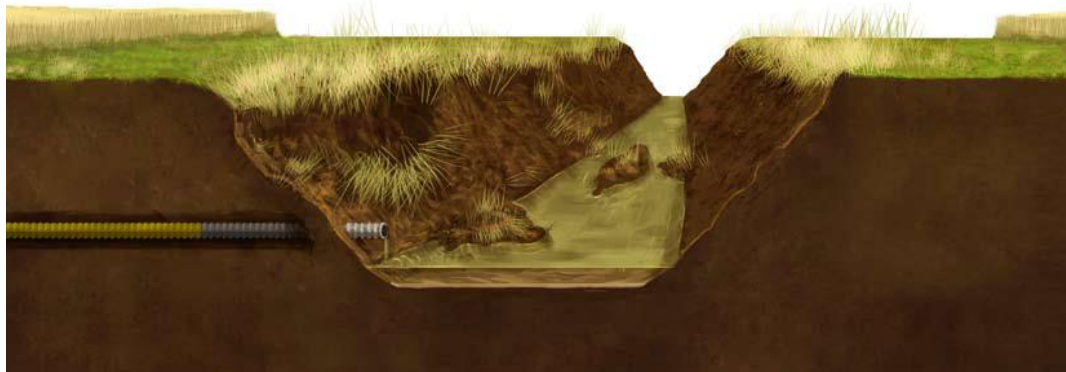
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## Challenges in water management - recent policy briefs

- HELCOM
  - Policy Brief on Integrated rural water management (coming soon)
    - Based on results from WaterDrive-project (<https://water-drive.eu/policy/>)
    - Fragmented water management → the leadership and strategic vision in many cases is present at the local level but is lacking on governmental and ministerial levels & cross-sectorial local collaboration needed also
    - Catchment officers, etc
- Upcoming: Finnish national policy brief on agricultural peat lands

## Challenges in water management - climate change and winter rains

- In 2015, Finland:
  - “With the oncoming climate change the problem is to find means to reduce flux of nutrients to aquatic systems, but at the same time ensure that the agricultural lands are properly drained and do not suffer from wetness.”
  - “There is untapped potential in drainage systems with benefits for aquatic systems and biodiversity. Restructuring drainage would require changes in many subsidies, policies and even attitudes towards water protection in agriculture.”

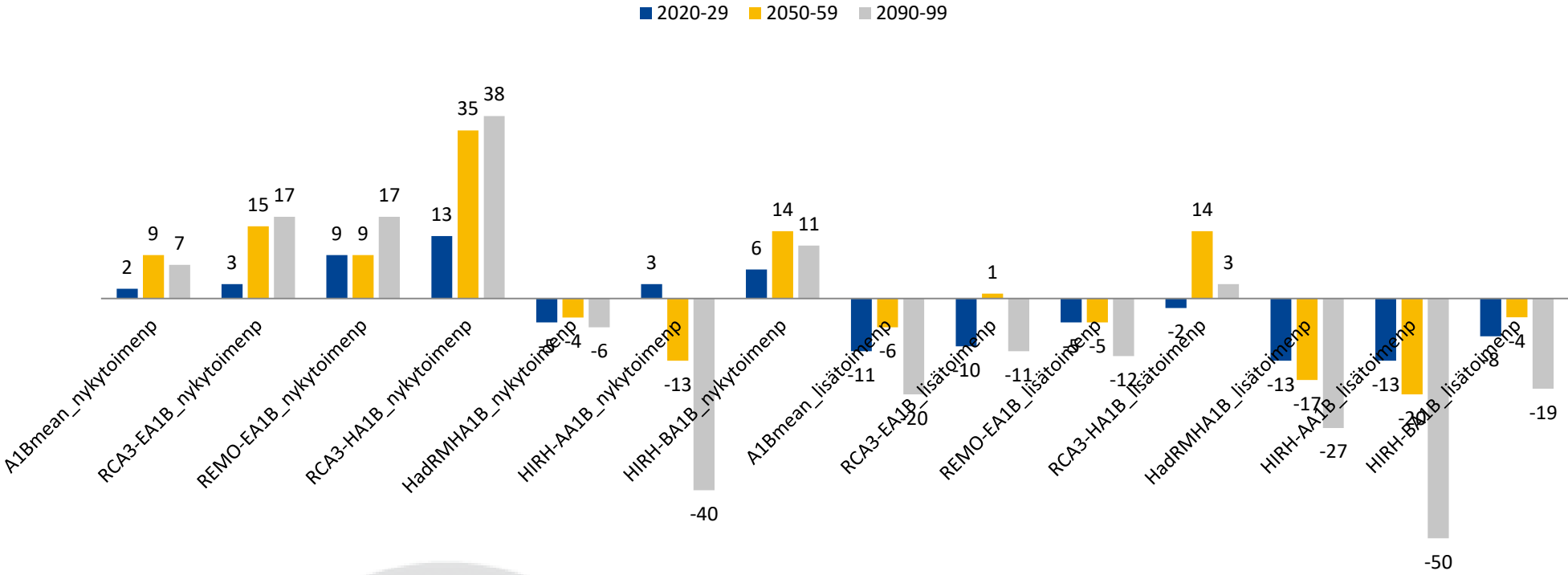


Pictures: A typical open ditch vs a semi-natural open ditch with flood plains (Finnish "Metsästaja"-magazine 3/2009)



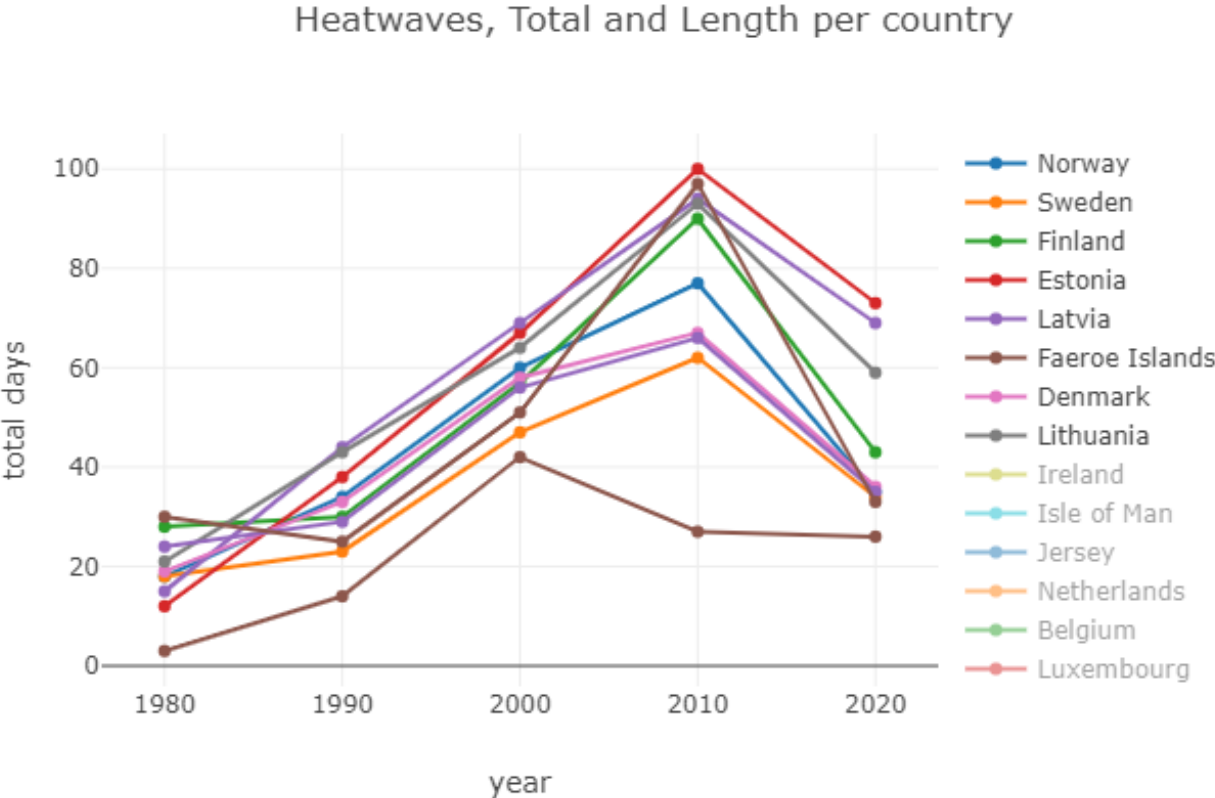
# Challenges in water management - climate change and winter rains

Leakage of phosphorus from agricultural lands, change%



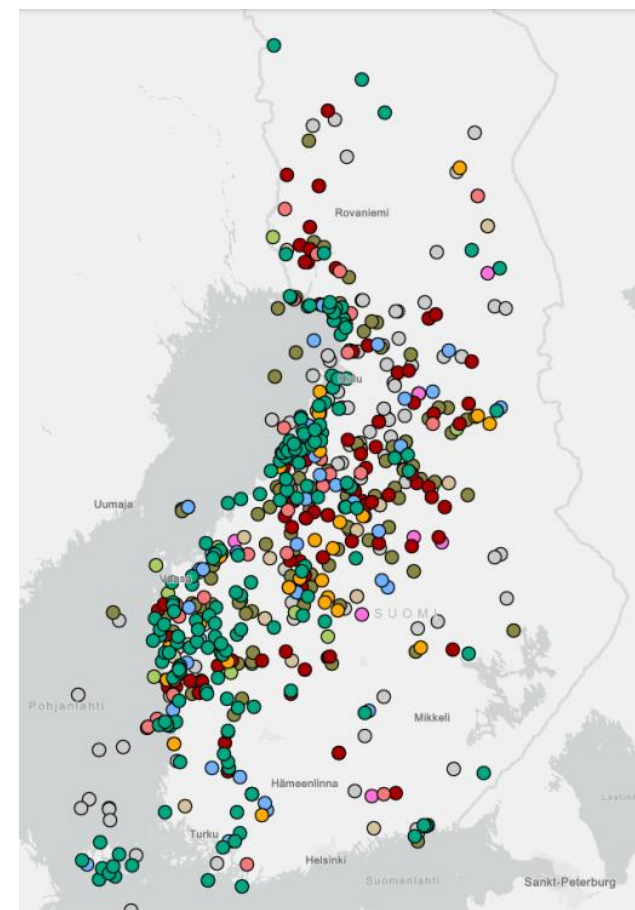
# Challenges in water management - climate change and drought during spring/summer

Baltic Sea Region countries



## Challenges in water management - green transition (Finland)

- Closing of many peat extraction sites
- New wind turbines on land areas: 63 100 MW
- New solar farms: 20 000 hectares (spring 2023)
  - Many planned for old peat extraction sites, drained peat lands / wastelands
    - Need (?) for new/revamped drainage
    - Unclear situation with need for environmental permits and EIA
    - Is environmentally friendly water management considered?
- In comparison:
  - Over 100 000 ha of peat extraction sites (in 2020)
  - 4.7 million ha of drained peat lands
  - 32 ha of restored bog/swamp (in 2018)



Wind power projects in Finland,

<https://tuulivoimayhdistys.fi/tuulivoima-suomessa/kartta>

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## Challenges in water management

- Main questions from Nutri's perspective:
  - How does the climate change impact nutrient leakage?
  - Co-benefits for reducing nutrient leakage from adaptation to drought and floods?
  - What policies are needed in future? How to combine needs for water recycling, irrigation, drainage and ecological benefits for water systems?
  
  - Big picture, story of the whole transition that is needed → reduce fragmentation of policies, create motivation for local stakeholders
  - And not forget about carbon sinks and benefits for biodiversity
- Urban water management → CityBlues-project (adaptation to floods at watershed level)

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## PA Nutri Talks - Extreme weather events and impact on nutrient leakage from rural areas

- Chain of events aiming to form a dialogue process of sharing good practices about innovative water management measures and stakeholder engagement and how to start the progress towards integrated water management
- First workshop 4 December

### **AGENDA**

13:00 Introduction to the workshop and follow-up events – PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy/EUSBSR

13:15 Policy brief supporting implementation of the HELCOM BASP action E19 as well as the work on climate change impact on agricultural practices in the Baltic Sea region – Lotta Ruokanen/HELCOM

13:30 Experiences and challenges from WaterDrive-project – Kaj Granholm/BSAG and Staffan Lund

13:45 Farmers perspective and experiences from ongoing innovative water management tests – Marie Østergaard/Danish Agriculture & Food Council / Baltic Farmers Forum for Environment

14:15 Workshop

16:15 Summary and conclusions

16:30 End of workshop



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