



**SPRING 2019**

# **PROGRAMME**

# Introduction

## A business lens for cities

### Our vision is simple.

By restoring the health of the Baltic Sea, the Baltic Sea becomes an attractive investment area for everyone. Municipalities, businesses, government, investors, and citizens and future generations all benefit from a healthy and sustainable Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea City Accelerator builds on the successful pilot programme which ran from 2015-2017.

In the 2019 programme, the focus is to provide a comprehensive business framework and tools to help cities accelerate and advance their water projects.

During the programme and activities, Race For The Baltic and partners support a core group of participating municipalities by providing tools and workshops.

At the same time, there is potential for new areas of cooperation to encourage peer knowledge sharing, innovations, solutions, collaboration and new types of finance.

### Why municipalities?

We believe that municipalities are vital and play a crucial role in solving the challenges the Baltic Sea faces. Municipalities have local knowledge, are agile, and can have significant impact on sustainable management of local waters.

Programme participants decide on which water project they want to focus on and develop. The programme is tailored to current needs and equips municipalities with relevant exercises and homework to carry out and advance their water project.



*“The City Accelerator pilot programme revealed other ways to look at the Baltic: that there is bigger business potential than we previously thought.”*

— Karin Löfström, Strategist Ecological Sustainability, Kalmar Municipality. Kalmar participated in the Baltic Sea City Accelerator pilot programme during 2015-2017.

# How does it work?

**1**

## **apply**

Apply for your municipality to be part of the programme. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and you will be contacted with some detailed questions about your municipality and current projects. Deadline to apply is February 28, 2019. Accepted participants will be notified no later than March 4th, 2019. Spaces are limited.

**2**

## **start**

The programme is free of charge, conducted in English and is a six months programme which includes three meetings in Sweden. It starts with a kick-off on March 19, 2019 in Stockholm and runs until mid-June 2019. At the kick-off, participants are introduced to the programme, meet other municipalities and the team of experts who will guide the municipalities during the programme.

**3**

## **workshops & homework**

The programme consists of live workshops in Stockholm and Homework assignments in-between the workshops. Tools and expert support will be provided.

**4**

## **municipalities**

The programme requires the municipalities to share with participants, invest time and resources to participate in the live meetings in Stockholm and to do the homework and project planning. The representative from the municipality should have an environment strategy and/or project management role.

**5**

## **implementation**

At the end of the programme in mid-June, municipalities will be equipped to accelerate local water initiatives and plans.

# Schedule Spring 2019



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## What's a water project?

Performing a water project can have different meanings depending on your municipality's previous experience & work. Some examples which can be explored during the programme can include:

- Develop a knowledge base
- Dedicate resources/team
- Establish initiatives
- Execute concrete solutions

# Output from the Programme

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01

## TOOLS & PLANS

Municipalities will have a concrete project plan on how to execute the project, budget framework and insight on available funding sources.

Ideally, the municipalities should use the programme to develop a project plan which can be used to apply for funding and/or partnerships.

02

## EXPERT SUPPORT

Municipalities will receive expert support in creating and developing a business driven project plan, creating a pitch and presentation for potential investors, and coaching on how to apply for funding.

03

## PEER LEARNING

Municipalities will have the opportunity to be inspired, learn from and share knowledge with peer municipalities around the Baltic Sea region.

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# Contact

Application

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The Baltic Sea City Accelerator is managed and facilitated by Race For The Baltic Foundation.

We are truly grateful for partner support from:

## **The Boston Consulting Group**

The Boston Consulting Group, the business management consultant company, has kindly provided the development of the programme project plans and tools.

## **LIFE IP Rich Waters**

LIFE IP Rich Waters is an EU funded project providing support to municipalities in Sweden working with water management. For this programme, they have provided knowledge about municipalities and their work with local waters.

## **Mälaren-lake for millions**

Mälaren- lake for millions (Mälaren – en sjö for miljoner) is part of Lake Mälarens Water Conservation Association (Mälarens vattenvårdsförbund) in Sweden. They have contributed their knowledge about municipalities and their work with local waters.