



CONTRA – Project Start Announcement

Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, together with other partners from Germany, Poland, Denmark, Estonia, Sweden and Russian Federation have launched the project CONTRA for beach wrack management within the Baltic Sea Region.

Beach wrack is organic material that is washed ashore, e.g. torn off sea grass & brown algae. It is often regarded as a nuisance and coastal authorities, particularly in tourist resorts, are put under a great deal of pressure to meet demands for it to be removed. Current 'beach cleaning' practices are costly for the local communities and are often in direct conflict with measures to safeguard the environment.

The project CONTRA (CONVersion of a Nuisance To a Resource and Asset) aims to compile the knowledge required for the sustainable management of beach wrack. It will operate at six case study sites to assess the environmental, social & economic impact of wrack removal. It will also open up new opportunities for treatment and reuse options incl. fertilizer / soil improvers, bio-char, algae bio-covers for landfills, coastal protection / dune formation, biogas production and water quality improvement.

The project will develop a 'tool-kit' of management & recycling options that will ensure that all BSR municipalities can balance tourists' demands for clean beaches with environmental protection. Over the project's lifetime, an international network of stakeholders will be installed to exchange knowledge, build capacity & raise awareness including the promotion of low-treatment and no-treatment options.

The main focus of Association Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic as part of the project activities will be coordination of activities held on the Polish side of the border, including the creation of a local Beach Wreck network, bringing together stakeholders and municipalities. We will also be responsible for creating a set of rules and legal requirements that exist in the BSR Member States with the legal and policy framework for Beach Wreck.

The project coordinator is the University of Rostock, Germany.

The coordinator of the Polish side is the Association of Communes of the Republic of Poland Euroregion Bałtyk, Poland

The Polish partnership of project CONTRA includes:

Gdańsk University of Technology, Oceanology Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Puck Municipality, Tolkmicko Municipality, Gdynia Sports Center, Gdańsk Water and Sewerage Infrastructure, Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Olsztyn, Gdańskie Wody sp. Z.o.o.

Other partners are public authorities, businesses, academia & NGOs from the six countries (DK, DE, EE, SE, RU) covering marine systems, coastal tourism, sustainable development as well as administrative structures of the Baltic Sea region.

Project Duration: January 2019 – June 2021

EU Interreg B Program 2014-2020

Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, ERDF

