

# CONTRA

## Baltic Beach Wrack: CONversion of a Nuisance To a Resource and Asset.

**Start:** 01.01.2019

**End:** 30.06.2021

**Partnership:** DE, SE, DK, PL, EE, RU

**Total Budget:** € 2,565,180.87

**ERDF co-financing:** € 1,924,940.3



Island of Rügen. 2017. EUCC-D

### BEACH WRACK

Beach wrack is organic material that is washed ashore, e.g. torn off sea grass & brown algae. It is often regarded as a nuisance, particularly when it lands in large quantities on tourist beaches. After storms, it can cover beaches for weeks, rotting to a smelly soup and leaching back into the water. Managing wrack is a specific issue for local authorities and the tourism industry, particularly in the western and southern Baltic Sea. CONTRA compiles the knowledge required for the sustainable management of beach wrack in the Baltic Sea Region and carries out case studies for beach wrack treatment. The project facilitates cross-border & public-private co-operation, opening up much-needed dialogue between authorities and commercial manufacturers of marine bio-waste products. It produces guidelines and management tools to address the challenges that coastal authorities face with respect to logistics, regulations and social requirements. Up until now, beach wrack has proved to be a problematic and unpredictable 'waste' product. Expertise from the Baltic Sea Region has been drawn together to bring the latest ideas and testable solutions to the table in-line with The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).

### CHALLENGE TO BE ADDRESSED

Local authorities have to pay a lot of money to collect and dispose of problematic beach wrack and it is often done with little or no regard for the environmental consequences. The challenge is to find a balance between public demand for 'clean' beaches, environmental protection and the economy. CONTRA aims to change how coastal municipalities see and deal with beach wrack and help convert this nuisance into a resource and asset.

### OBJECTIVES

- Test and propose utilization/recycling options that are sustainable & economically viable
- Investigate & define value chains, market opportunities, legal frameworks for wrack based products.
- Analyse its recycling potential for pollution & nutrient remediation
- Improve knowledge about the ecological role & importance of beach wrack
- Raise awareness about the impact of beach cleaning operations
- Reduce the costs of problematic beach wrack for local authorities

## ACTIVITIES

Project Management	Capacity Building	Sustainability & Ecological Assessment	Resource Management & Value Chains	Innovative Technologies
Project administration	Capacity building: Knowledge & awareness raising	Quantitative assessment of wrack landings	Regulations & requirements: Legal and policy frameworks	Development & demonstration of recycling options.
Progress reporting and project goal fulfilment	Stakeholder & local Working Group co-ordination	Impact of beach cleaning techniques	Opportunities: Business models & markets	Analysis of site and case specific challenges
Management of project budget	Socio-economic impact study	Evaluation of beach management strategies	Comparing the case studies: Sustainability, legal and economic aspects	7 case studies: fertilizers, soil improvers, bio-coal, bio-cover, coastal protection, bio-energy, water quality
Transnational partner meetings	Project communication	Eco-system services: Assessment of Case Studies	Analysis of value chains for pollution & nutrient reduction	Development of guidance and reference document 'Toolkit'

## OUTPUTS

- A 'Toolkit' of innovative & sustainable recycling options for problematic beach wrack
- Guidance to help municipalities put into daily practice the processes that will bring the most benefits, both environmental & economic.
- Information on tourism trends & socio-economic responses to beach wrack and its management.
- Transnational & cross-discipline stakeholder support network

## EXPECTED RESULT

Coastal authorities adopt beach wrack management strategies that are environmentally sound and include sustainable recycling options for pollution & nutrient remediation that provide blue growth opportunities.

## CONTACTS

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