

THE BALTIC SEA CITY ACCELERATOR CLUB

Stockholm
April 25-27
2023

POST EVENT INFORMATION PACKAGE FROM MEETING IN
STOCKHOLM 2022



BALTIC SEA
City Accelerator
Club

Photo: Marie Sparreus

The Baltic Sea City Accelerator Club

The municipalities with their local knowledge and mandate, combined with their access to financing are vital in solving the challenges of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea City Accelerator Club is a unique international network focused on eutrophication, where the municipalities get access to leading research and solutions, hands-on assistance on their challenges, knowledge exchange with other municipalities and guidance on financing opportunities.

This club is a continuation of the Baltic Sea City Accelerator, and a way for the municipalities previously involved in the City Accelerator programmes, to sharpen their work on eutrophication by a deepened cooperation, expanded knowledge exchange and improved funding opportunities.

2021 March – Kick-off (Digital)

The kick-off of the club took place in March 2021, with twelve participating municipalities, from four countries. The event included presentations from some of the leading solution providers and researchers as well as hands-on group work. The topics were selected based on feed-back from the municipalities and specific knowledge of Race For The Baltic and the Baltic Sea Challenge.

2021 October – Second meeting (Digital)

In October the second club event was conducted together with fifteen participating municipalities from four countries. Focus was on funding opportunities and how eutrophication can be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

2022 April – Third meeting (Helsinki)

The event in Helsinki, was the first in-person club event since the pandemic. The event gathered ten participating municipalities from three countries. However due to covid restrictions and the war in Ukraine, some municipalities were prevented from participating. Topics in focus were nutrient calculations and recycling, indicators for SDG 14 and treatments for agricultural runoff: gypsum, structural liming, biocoal, carbon sinks, and wetlands.

2023 April – Fourth meeting (Stockholm)

The club's latest event in Stockholm brought together people from 11 municipalities from 4 countries across the Baltic. The meeting focused on sustainable stormwater management and connecting with financial actors.

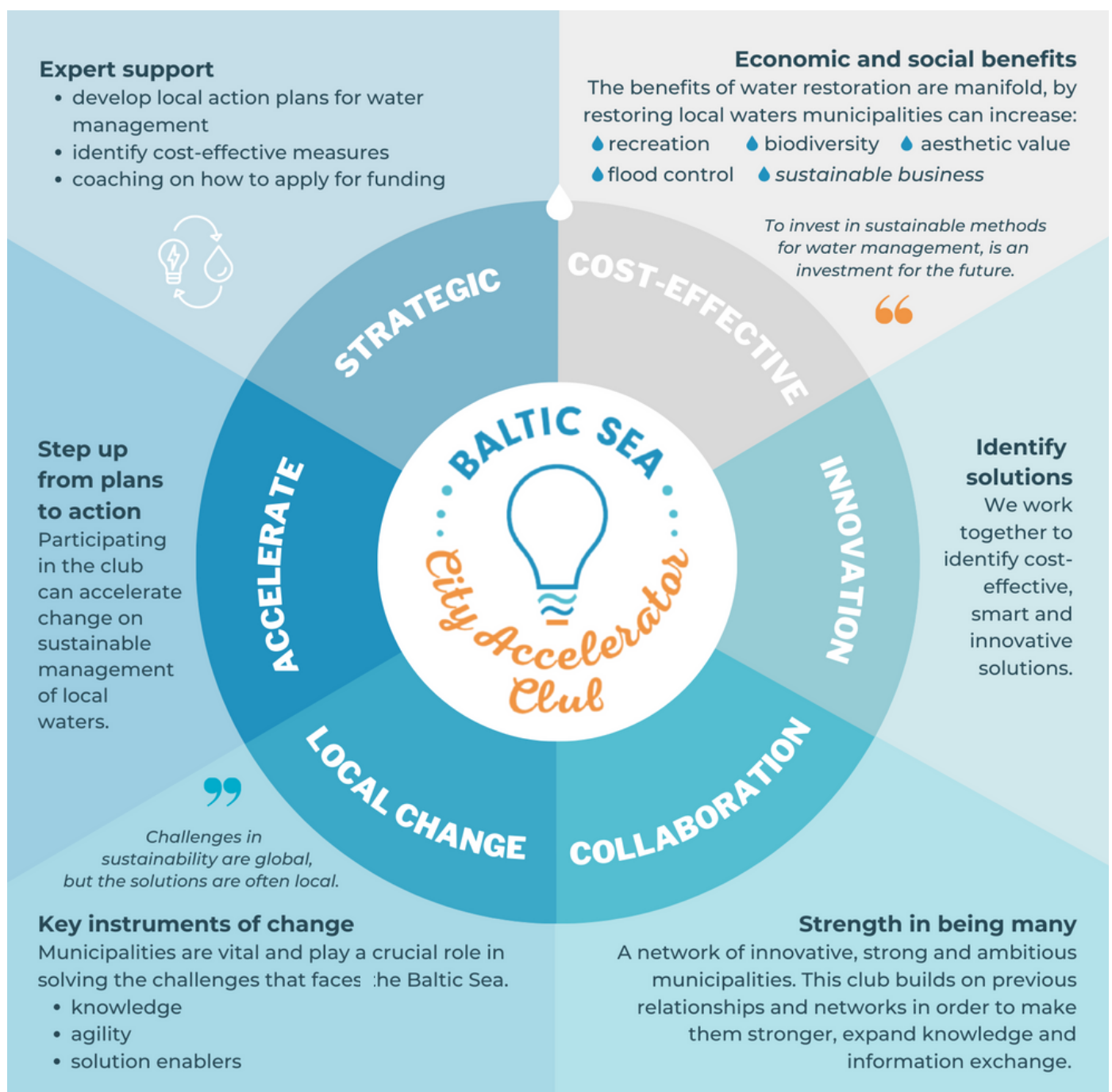


A network of municipalities dedicated to improving the Baltic Sea

We are always open for new and relevant club members. Is your municipality interested in becoming part of this network?

Read more about Baltic Sea City Accelerator Club on Race For The Baltic's website:

<https://www.raceforthebaltic.com/baltic-sea-city-accelerator-project>





Club meeting programme

2023 in Stockholm

Presentations

Day 1

- Project Database - Julia Gerlach, Business Manager, Race For The Baltic
- Towards circular resource use: wastewater treatment - Josefine Larsson Moa Persson, Simrishamn Municipality
- Slow dredging and beneficial use – how we can remediate bays and lakes and contribute to a circular economy - Renate Foks, Kalmar municipality
- Tech industry invested 4 million USD in a public wetland - how did we make it happen? Djulö wetland - Linda Aldebert, Katrineholm municipality & Sandra Karlsson, Amazon Web Services
- Blekinge Archipelagos wetland programme - reactivation of ecosystem services - Andreas Jezek, Blekinge Archipelago
- A handbook for dealing with internal phosphorus loading - Ernst Witter, County Administrative Board Örebro, LIFE IP Rich Waters
- Internal load – methods and solutions - Magnus Karlsson, the Swedish Environmental Research Institute
- Aluminium Treatment in eutrophied waters - Göran Andersson, Vattenresurs

Day 2

- WaterCentre@KTH - Innovations for the blue planet - Mariel Perez Zabaleta, KTH
- Introduction to sustainable stormwater management - Olof Jonasson, Tyréns
- Treatment of stormwater by the example of Interreg CleanStormWater project - Siim Reinia, Vimsii municipality & Gunaratna Kuttuva Rajarao, KTH
- Innovative methods being tested/employed around the world to treat polluted stormwater - Joydeep Dutta, KTH
- Self-powered IoT solutions for water networks - Emil Svensson, Aqua Robur
- Stormwater and eutrophication – effects on rivers and farmland - Anna Carina Ericson, County Administrative Board of Hallands Län

Day 3

- Words of welcome - Mannheimer Swartling
- Funding opportunities - Marc Klaus, Race For The Baltic
- Projects in a small municipality - Maria Svensson, Söderhamn municipality
- Funder Presentations - Dennis Hamro-Drotz, Nefco; Gabriella Eriksson, SEB; Maya Miltell, Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation; Tiina Kuusela & Kersti Talving; NIB, Teresa Viegling, The Swedish Postcode Foundation

Activities

Workshop: Stormwater management challenges and future plans

Funder Baazar

Field Trip

Norra Djurgårdsstaden

The meeting consisted of:

- 3 days
- 11 municipalities
- 21 presentations
- 1 workshop
- 1 funder networking
- 1 field trip
- 3 meeting locations



Photo: Marc Klaus

Participants

Kalmar

Renate Foks, Project Manager

Sopot

Maja Macur, Chief Specialist

Gdynia

Justyna Patyk, Head of Investor Support Center 'Invest in Gdynia'

Klaipėda

Rasa Grubliauskyte, Klaipeda district municipality administration

Kristina Lūžaitė, Department of agriculture and environment Chief specialist

Kristina Stulpinienė, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Chief Specialist

Blekinge Arkipelag

Andreas Jezek, Limnologist Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

Vaxholm

Marie Norstedt, Water Strategist and Beach Protection Officer

Katrineholm

Jenny Herbertsson, Environmental Strategist and Water Coordinator

Linda Aldebert, Environmental Strategist

Värmdö

Johan Suhr, Stormwater Engineer

Simrishamn

Josefine Larsson, Research and Innovation Coordinator

Moa Persson, Process Engineer

Viimsi

Siim Reinla, Civil Engineer Viimsi Municipality

Panevėžys

Asta Puodziuniene, Panevezys City Municipality Strategical Planning Chief Expert

Rūta Taučikienė, City Municipality Chief Expert

Kristina Kišonienė, Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Engineer-technologist

Angelė Plančiūnaitė, Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Head of Production and Technical Department

Day1

Presentations

Introduction and Database

The meeting kicked off with an introduction and welcome by RFTB's CEO Peter Wiwen-Nilsson. It was then followed by Julia Gerlach, RFTB, who reviewed the ongoing club database project and discussed the future of the database and results we have so far.

Sharing conclusions of the current data in the database helps club members make the most time and money efficient project decisions



Peter Wiwen-Nilsson, RFTB

Municipal Presentations

The introduction was followed by a selection of municipal presentations. 4 municipalities presented their ongoing and completed project regarding nutrient leakages and stormwater management

Katrineholm Municipality presented their wetland project that is funded in conjunction with Amazon Web Services. They discussed their partnership, plans, and history.



Linda Aldebert, Katrineholm
Sandra Karlsson, AWS

Internal Load Presentations

Ernst Witter, Life IP Rich Waters
Magnus Karlsson, IVL Svenska Miljöinstitutet
Göran Andersson, Vattenresurs
Each presenter discussed the topic of internal load and aluminium treatment. We began with Ernst Witter, who presented his handbook for dealing with internal phosphorus loading, followed by Magnus Karlsson who presented challenges to counteracting internal load in the Baltic Sea. These presentations together gave a comprehensive overview of what internal load is, the problems it presents, and methods for counteracting it. Next, Göran Andersson discussed what his company, Vattenresurs does, covering the process of aluminium treatment for combatting internal load.



Magnus Karlsson, IVL



Göran Andersson, Vattenresurs



Ernst Witter, Life IP Rich Waters

Panel Discussion to Close the Day

Day 1 ended with a panels discussion led by Rosemari Herrero from RFTB. The experts who presented on internal load discussed, in conversation, upcoming innovations for dealing with internal load and took question from the participants.



Day 2 Presentations

Introductions

After an introduction to the WaterCenter@KTH, we jumped into research from experts in the stormwater management sector.

First, Olof Jonasson from Tyréns introduced sustainable stormwater management and misconceptions and new developments in the field

KTH Researchers

Next, we were able to hear from KTH researchers. Beginning with Gunaratna Kuttuva Rajarao, a researcher at KTH Division of Industrial Biotechnology and Siim Reinia, Civil engineer, Vimsii municipality; we heard about their recent interreg project CleanStormWater. They discussed the collaboration between researchers and municipalities and the positive impacts and challenges they faced in executing their project.

They were followed by Joydeep Dutta who studies materials and nanophysics at KTH. Joydeep gave an inspiring talk on the future of stormwater solutions, including electrochemical solutions for cleaning water.

Water monitoring and water networks

Our final two presenter of the day were Emil Svensson from Aqua Robur and Anna Carina Ericson, former catchment officer and currently working at County Administrative Board of Hallands Län.

Emil presented the company Aqua Robur and their innovative monitoring technology. It is comparatively affordable, easily adaptable to existing systems, and does not require wired electricity. Many of the municipalities found that the technology could be beneficial in their communities.

Anna Carina Ericson focused her presentation on the impacts of farmland stormwater runoff on eutrophication. Having worked with farmers, she talked about the challenging of forging relationships and highlighted ways to increase water retentions including rain gardens and reduction of large, non-permeable surfaces in building.

Siim Reinia, Vimsii Municipality



Gunaratna Kuttuva Rajarao, KTH

Anna Carina Ericson, Hallands Län



Workshop Reflections on Stormwater

Objective of the workshop: To find out and understand the difficulties, challenges and opportunities when municipalities choose, plan and execute stormwater management plans



The participants were divided into 4 groups and asked to reflect and share about 4 questions:

1. What is the biggest stormwater management challenge you are facing today, what do you see as emerging challenges in the next 10 years?
2. Does your current stormwater management system account for nutrient leakages? If so, what measures are you taking and how are you tracking it?
3. What are your plans for the future of your stormwater management system?
4. Were there any solutions or topics talked about today that you could implement in your municipality? Which ones?



Identified challenges

- lack of resources
- knowledge gap
- financial limitations
- old systems & technology
- small staff capacity
- no tracking of nutrient leakage from stormwater



Identified solutions and future plans

- increase monitoring capacity and regularity
- update infrastructure
- secure funding sources
- increase internal knowledge on stormwater



Day 3

Presentations

Introductions

Mannheimer Swartling law firm began the day by welcoming us to their office and introducing their involvement with Race For The Baltic and their philanthropic measures.

Funding Opportunities

To highlight funding from the point of view of those seeking funds, we had two presentations. First, Maria Svensson from Söderhamn municipality discussed their process finding funding as a small municipality, giving a peer insight from a community that has had success in securing funds.

Later, Marc Klaus from Race For The Baltic presented about financing opportunities that are currently and regularly available and applicable for the participating municipalities.

Financial Actor Presentations

The final day commenced with presentations from each of these funders:

- NEFCO
- SEB
- Baltic Sea Conservation Foundation
- Nordic Investment Bank
- Swedish Postcode Foundation

Each financial actor discussed their organisation's unique funding opportunities for municipalities, Baltic innovations, improvement projects, and environmental initiatives.

Financial institutions from across the board were represented, giving participants insight into the spectrum of options available to them from grants to loans and everything in between.



Funder Bazaar

The funder bazaar gave participants the opportunity to connect directly to funder's. In rounds, each municipality had the chance to go to a funder's table, exchange contact information, talk about projects, and discuss funding streams.



Each municipality was given the chance to spend 10 minutes each with 3 different funders who, based on the previous presentations, seemed to align best with the needs of their community. Once 10 minutes was up, they cycled to a different financial actor.

Take Aways

- It is important to be aware of new and relevant funding streams
- Face-to-face contact with funders is useful
- Connections to and relationships with financial institutions and funders can make or break a project
- Funders are always on the look out for projects that are a good fit for their funding portfolio
- There is a broad array of projects from municipalities that need funding and ways to be funded from funders.
- Good connections were made at the event

The day ended with each funder taking part in a short reflection panel where they discussed their major takeaways and what they would take back to their organisation with them. The consensus seemed to be that they were happy to have made connections with the municipalities and to hear about other funding institutions and would hope to follow up on these connections.



Field trip

Norra Djurgårdsstaden

The club visited Norra Djurgårdsstaden, a Stockholm City project which is developing former industrial land into a sustainable, residential area. Our tour of the area focused on their stormwater management innovations and how they prevent nutrients from leaching into waterways.



The club received a guided tour around the area, where they learned about the ongoing sustainable development. Rain gardens, intentional grading, and stormwater retention requirements all contribute to their stormwater management strategy.

The excursion provided a look into emerging and ongoing development in technology and techniques for stormwater management.



Concluding remarks

Key takings

- Qualified experts shared their knowledge in informative ways
- Connections with funders is invaluable and highly desired
- Gained new contacts and Identified opportunities for collaboration with cities, organisations, and funders.
- Inspirational presentations and conversations led to ideas for new projects and innovations.

Focus areas & topics

- Solutions to capture nutrients in stormwater systems.
- Ongoing and finish projects from participating municipalities.
- Innovations in the stormwater management world.
- Emerging research and projects for stormwater.
- Internal load management and challenges.
- Connecting directly with funders.

Outcome from the event

The database with the members' measures and projects' against eutrophication will be updated to increase possibilities for collaboration and knowledge exchange within the club.

Participants made good connections with funders, researchers, and other municipalities.

RACE FOR THE BALTIC



Race For The Baltic (RFTB) is a non-profit organization with a mission to ensure a healthy Baltic Sea. We focus on solution-oriented and cost-effective projects with measurable impact.

To achieve the greatest positive impact, RFTB's efforts are focused on solving the root problem of the Baltic Sea - Eutrophication. Of the various environmental pressures on the Baltic Sea, eutrophication has by far the largest environmental impact. Beyond dead sea bottoms, eutrophication also leads to algal blooms, fish mortality and poor water transparency.

RFTB is a business oriented non-profit organization, with vast experience from the private sector. The work is focused on solution-oriented and cost-effective projects with measurable impact.

The organization works in close collaboration with researchers, governmental institutions, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, and the private sector. RFTB is funded by a small group of philanthropists. The organization was founded, and continues to be supported, by Zennström Philanthropies.



**THANK YOU FOR
PARTICIPATING IN
THE BALTIC SEA CITY
ACCELERATOR CLUB
AND SEE YOU NEXT TIME!**

