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**Coastal municipal governance and marine ecosystem management integration: stakeholders perception and action development**

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Case study research (CSR) has been developed under the BONUS BaltCoast project in Latvia – based on national level overview and selection of Salacgriva coastal municipality, including local stakeholders interviews, studies of the municipal development planning documents and society driven LEADER programme projects, as well as data on voluntary marine/coastal litter monitoring.

Interviews indicated that the coast is a well-recognized value at the local level, but the sea is perceived rather as transport media, but other its services (fishery, tourism) as real local development resource were identified just by few stakeholders. Importantly also, that coastal processes were not linked to the climate change. Marine litter estimations show: more than 52% of all litter are artificial polymers and 25% of litter are coming from marine-based sources. Besides, fishermen pointed out an increase of washed out algae during last decades, caused by the change in traditional fishing practices. Neither bottom-up LEADER projects nor top-down municipal planning documents does not reveal real relationship development between planning/project activities and marine issues, besides traditional and still limited coastal area activities.

The CSR whole results show that interest and, both involvement and participation, of municipalities in the marine resources management is very limited and fragmented as also their awareness of marine ecosystem services. The reasons are also the insufficient experience in integration of national marine and coastal planning documents into local level policies, and at the same time self-disassociation from finding opportunities for pro-active participation in the coastal and further marine resources management.

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