

External Funding from EU TEN-T for the HELCOM Resurvey Scheme

Background

The BSHC Re-survey Monitoring Working Group has since BSHC17 finalised the Re-survey plan for survey areas with status Category I and II and it is also complemented with time estimates. The plan has been presented to HELCOM Maritime and will be presented and hopefully agreed upon at the ministerial meeting in Copenhagen 3 October 2013. Most of the countries are aiming to have finalised the Cat I and II areas within 2020. Exceptions are Latvia 2022, Estonia 2028 and Denmark 2030.

The actions taken by the Baltic Sea Countries are of the utmost importance in order to improve safety of navigation and reduce the risk of accidents and environmental accidents. Based on that assumption, the re-surveying of the HELCOM shipping routes in the Baltic Sea, mainly the HELCOM Category I and II areas, should be speeded up. This task is supported by the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration and by EU's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The political support for this important work is thus very strong.

Analysis

The timetable, to be decided at the HELCOM ministerial meeting, for finalising the surveying of the Cat I and II areas is very ambitious and co-financing from EU TEN-T is essential to ensure that the Hydrographic Offices responsible can fulfil these obligations. It is also mentioned in the Moscow Declaration that we should undertake necessary measures to ensure that sufficient funding, including external funding, will be available for re-surveys.

EU's legal framework for the Trans-European Transport Network has been subject to a revision during 2011 – 2013. Motorways of the Sea and parallel actions such as hydrographic surveys are strongly supported in the revised guidelines. Sweden and Finland have good experiences from the work with the Trans-European Transport Network, from which MONALISA is co-financed.

The next financial perspective for EU, 2014-2020, provides the Baltic Sea EU Member States with an open window to raise EU-funding for speeding up the HELCOM re-surveying.

The first call for project proposals under the new financial perspective is estimated to open in 2014, or early 2015. A joint application for co-financing from the Trans-European Transport Network by the Baltic EU Member States for a program aiming at finalizing the re-surveying of the HELCOM Cat. I and II areas until year 2020 should have good possibilities to be positively evaluated. The level of EU co-financing amounts to 20-30% and could be used to partly cover the cost of surveying Cat I and II areas either with the organisations own vessels or by external contracting.

Recommendations

BSHC member states are recommended to cooperate on a strategic and operational level in the re-surveying of major shipping routes in the Baltic Sea Region and jointly apply for EU co-financing for the finalization of the re-surveying of HELCOM Cat I and II shipping routes with the aim of improving

safety of navigation. Sweden therefore invites all EU member states within the BSHC to participate in an application for co-financing from the Trans-European Transport Network.

Sweden is willing to take the lead in submitting an application and lead a possible project, provided that the cost for project management is covered within the project.

The Commission is invited to

- take note of the report
- discuss the impact of such an application and a project
- inform Sweden regarding the respective member states willingness to participate in an application and a project