

## *BaltAqua – Initiating a dialogue to build a network between German and Baltic actors from the water industry*



Photos: OOWV

<b>Funded by</b>	German Federal Environmental Foundation
<b>Duration</b>	Approx. 09/2021 – 02/2023
<b>Funding / Funding quota</b>	144.618€ / 50%
<b>Background</b>	<p>With the Sustainable Development Goal 6, the United Nations established the importance of ensuring the availability of clean drinking water and sanitation for everyone and securing sustainable management of water as a vital resource for unlocking economic growth and productivity. Yet, the water management sector is facing growing challenges, such as increased pressure on groundwater resources due to climate change, and nitrate pollution from intensive agriculture. These problems manifest particularly on local and regional levels, as evident in the Baltic States as well as North-West regions of Lower-Saxony, Germany. Both regions do not only share comparable geographical characteristics but also face similar pressures on the supply and demand of their water resources. Therefore, these shared experiences present a hitherto largely untapped potential for expanding cooperation among water management actors from both regions.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p><i>BaltAqua</i> aims to advance cooperation by initiating a dialogue and building a Partner Network between German and Baltic actors in the water sector. Various potential Priority Themes can be identified as starting points to stimulate knowledge transfer and cooperative solutions, inspiring the joint development of strategies and projects, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative supply concepts, e.g. water reuse</li> <li>• Watershed management impact on aquatic ecosystems</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of groundwater bodies (e.g. nutrient pollution, water quantity)</li> <li>• Impacts of climate change (e.g. salinization)</li> <li>• Regional and sustainable supply chains</li> <li>• Holistic approaches to sustainable regional development governance</li> <li>• Digitalisation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Work packages</b></p>	<p><i>BaltAqua</i> is organised in the following 3 work packages</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Identification of potential cooperation partners and future-oriented topics</li> <li>(2) Organisation of workshops to intensify exchange between German and Baltic decision makers, practitioners, and scientists</li> <li>(3) Roadmap development with framework conditions for the long-term cooperation between the two partner regions</li> </ol>
<p><b>Project Partners</b></p>	<p><i>Waterboard of Oldenburg and Eastern Frisia (OOWV)</i> Situated in Lower Saxony, close to the North Sea and the Dutch Border, the OOWV is one of the biggest water providers and waste water treatment organization in Germany in terms of area. The OOWV aims to find and implement innovative and sustainable management approaches through its own research activities in cooperation with several university institutions and has therefore been involved in several national and international research projects (<a href="#">further information</a>).</p> <p><i>University of Oldenburg, COAST - Centre for Environment and Sustainability</i> The research centre COAST at the University of Oldenburg unites activities in the field of sustainability sciences, linking natural and social sciences, economics, computing sciences, and renewable energies, focussing on the connection between societies and the environment in coastal areas (<a href="#">further information</a>).</p>
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