

Nordic Baltic co-operation on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Framework Programme 2010–2013





The purpose of the Nordic Baltic co-operation is to help the Nordic Countries and the three Baltic countries, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, meet the challenges of climate change and safeguard genetic diversity for the present and future.

This framework programme serves as a guiding mechanism for Nordic Baltic co-operation on fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, food and forestry 2010–2013.

CLIMATE

Climate change will have consequences for the natural living resources in the Nordic and Baltic countries (NB8-co-operation). It will also have an impact on public health and supply systems.

Through co-operation the Nordic and Baltic countries will improve their capacity to meet the challenges posed by climate change and to exploit the opportunities it offers.

In particular, issues that arise in relation to use, production and processing of products, and in relation to provisions for coping with new plant and animal diseases, new food risks and new organisms, are considered important.

Natural resources are important tools in the effort to address the climate change challenges. For instance, carbon dioxide gas is captured from the atmosphere and is temporarily stored in forests biomass and soil organic matter, in marine algae as well as in wood products. Sustainable, energy-efficient production and processing methods, that minimise emissions of greenhouse gases, are needed.

The development of bio-energy and renewable raw materials will be addressed.

GENETIC RESOURCES

Genetic diversity is the basis on which animals and plants adapt to changed conditions such as climate change, new growing conditions, new plant and animal diseases, increased production and new environmental and consumer requirements. The genetic diversity is a common resource and the cooperation will focus on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

Co-operation is designed to safeguard for future generations, the genetic diversity in food production, in forestry products and in the common Nordic Baltic cultural heritage.

The co-operation should strengthen and further develop existing networks and facilitated the exchange of knowhow, on the basis of existing agreements.¹

The good, effective management of genetic resources will provide the foundation for future processing, development and innovation. Better dissemination of information, e.g. about intellectual rights, user rights, skills enhancement and international commitment will also be needed to facilitate the use of genetic resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

This framework programme is a flexible instrument and will be adjusted as circumstances change and new priorities arise within the two areas of co-operation.

The programme sets the framework for co-operation within the Nordic Baltic Co-operation, while the annual programmes for the Presidency of Nordic Baltic cooperation will provide any essential complementary elements.

Presidency programmes reflect the priorities of the country holding the annual Presidency and they flesh out and complement framework programmes. In order to ensure continuity, the annual Presidency collaborates with its predecessor and successor.

Since many of the challenges faced by fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture, food and forestry are cross-border issues, they are best dealt with in the context of wider international co-operation at regional, European or global level. Nordic Baltic Co-operation could be seen as relevant for the work done within the EU-initiated Baltic Sea Strategy.

The programme will be evaluated towards the end of the period.

¹ The Nordic Baltic co-operation on genetic resources is carried out within the framework of Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for preservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, signed in April in St. Petersburg by the N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry in Russia, the Estonian Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Latvian Genetic Resource Centre, the plant Gene Bank in Lithuania and the Nordic Genetic Resource Centre.



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Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and three autonomous territories: the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, economics and culture. It plays an important role in European and international collaboration, and promotes a strong Nordic community in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation seeks to promote Nordic and regional interests and values in a globalised world. Common values strengthen the position of the Nordic Region and make it one of the most innovative and competitive regions in the world.

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