

ECODUMP develops effective decision support tools for proper management of the offshore dumping sites

### Welcome to ECODUMP

We are happy to welcome you to the first issue of ECODUMP project Newsletter. It was prepared to introduce our project, highlight main activities and invite you to participate.

#### Need for new offshore dumping sites

Non-contaminated sediments are often deposited at offshore dumping sites. Rapid expansion and development of new port areas creating an increasing need to dredge. As a result the need for new dumping sites should be considered.

#### Minimizing the negative dumping impact on marine ecosystems

Within ECODUMP we are promoting the idea of beneficial use of dredged material with minimum effect on ecosystem quality and maximum benefit for natural marine processes.

#### Introducing dumping sites management tools

The 3-year project will prepare detailed guideline for proper location and recommendations for adequate management of the offshore dumping sites. Achieved results will be communicated to HELCOM and relevant organizations.

#### Kick-off meeting in Klaipeda

The introductory meeting of ECODUMP project was hosted by Coastal research and planning institute in Klaipeda at the end of December 2011, bringing together 15 participants, comprising of project partners, associated organizations and interested stakeholders.

#### Current state of dumping sites in South-eastern Baltic region

This activity, which is led by the Maritime Institute in Gdansk (Poland) started with comprehensive assessment of existing offshore dumping practices in South-eastern part of the Baltic Sea region, focusing on three countries: Lithuania, Poland and Russia (Kaliningrad oblast). Relevant institutions dealing with dumping sites selection and management were approached by project partners and associated organizations in order to collect valuable information. Theoretical work was supplemented by field surveys of existing dumping areas in Poland and Lithuania. The results will be highlighted in the next Newsletter issue.



Photo by S. Suzdalev

Successful introductory meeting in Klaipeda



Photo by A. Dziubich

Maritime Institute in Gdansk multi-purpose research vessel

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Plans for reconstruction of Sventoji port

#### New offshore dumping site for Sventoji port in Lithuania

Reconstruction of small Sventoji port in Lithuania has already started. Regular operation of the port will require permanent dredging and further utilization of sediments from the outer port. Potentially, there are no suitable offshore dumping sites for sediment disposal. Within the ECODUMP scientific team from the Coastal research and planning institute (Lithuania) will propose suitable locations in Lithuanian territorial waters based on the results of detailed scientific investigations of marine areas in the vicinity of Sventoji port.

#### Partners

Klaipeda University Coastal Research & Planning Institute (Lead Partner)  
Maritime Institute in Gdansk

#### Associated organizations

Maritime Office in Gdynia  
Atlantic Branch of P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology of RAS  
SE Klaipeda state seaport authority  
Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland  
Port of Gdynia Authority S.A.  
Szczecin and Swinoujscie Seaports Authority

#### Further information

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#### Website

[www.corpi.ku.lt/ecodump/](http://www.corpi.ku.lt/ecodump/)



Photo by E. Vlsakavicius

Sampling of bottom sediments in Lithuanian deep-water dumping site



Photo by A. Dziubich

Sampling of water in Gdynia offshore dumping site, Poland