

Development of Regional Joint Master Program in Maritime Environmental Protection and Management - MEP&M -

HELCOM's Contribution to the Prevention of Marine Pollution

**WP3. Capacity Building through staff training and equipment purchase .
Dev 3.4.3 KNOW-HOW TRANSFER TO TEACHING STAFF RELATED TO THE MEP&M**

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What is HELCOM?





Why is Emilio speaking about this?





What is HELCOM?

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection
Commission – also known as the Helsinki
Commission (HELCOM)



Ok. I know the definition but, why is interesting for us?





Because

It is a regional platform for environmental
policy making



I. The Beginning - History



Signing the Helsinki Convention in 1974. © HELCOM



Objectives of HELCOM:

- Increase scientific knowledge about the state of Baltic sea;
- Application of “substance wise” (Recommendations);
- Focus on prevention of pollution from ships;



II. Organization

The Contracting Parties signed the first Helsinki Convention in 1974 and updated it in 1992. The current Convention entered into force in 2000.



The 10 Contracting Parties (CPs)

DK EE EU FI DE
LV LT PL RU SE



Each Contracting Party designates its own Head of Delegation as well as members of the Working Groups and of the Expert Groups and Networks

Helsinki Convention

The set of guiding principles and obligations signed by the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea

HELCOM Secretariat

Coordinates the work and meetings of the Helsinki Commission and ensures CPs meet their obligations under the Helsinki Convention

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM chairmanship rotates every two years between the Contracting Parties (CPs)

- Heads of Delegation**
Permanently represent the CPs and are decision-makers
- HELCOM Working Groups**
Develop recommendations, policies & strategies
- Expert Groups & Networks**
Provide scientific and technical underpinnings



Decision making in HELCOM



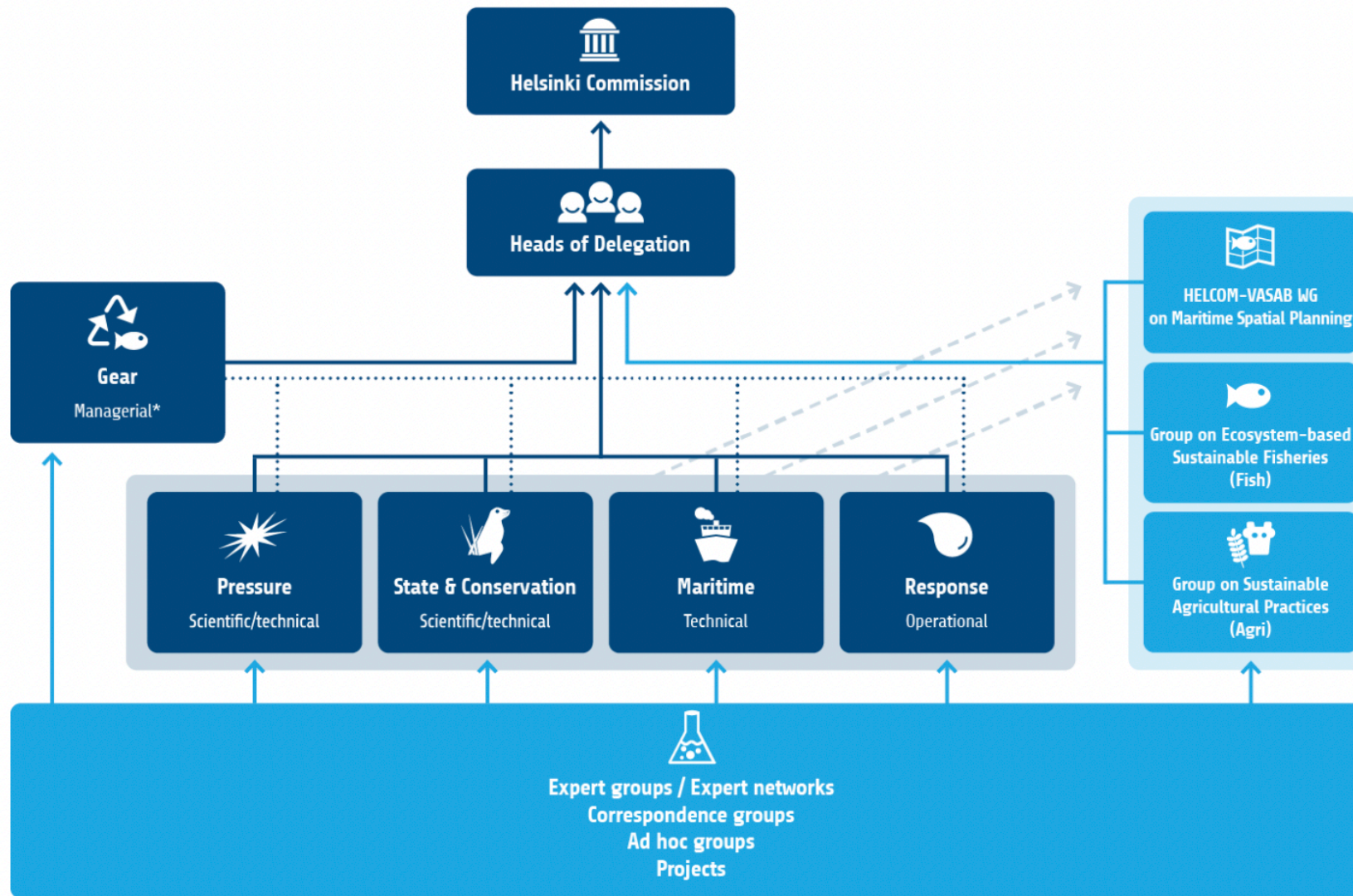
The highest decision-making body in HELCOM is the Ministerial Meeting (the meeting of the HELCOM line ministers of each CP) that takes place every three years.



The Helsinki Commission meets annually and is also entitled to make decisions. Its participants are designated by the CPs.



The Heads of Delegation meet twice per year and are also authorised to make decisions on behalf of the CPs.

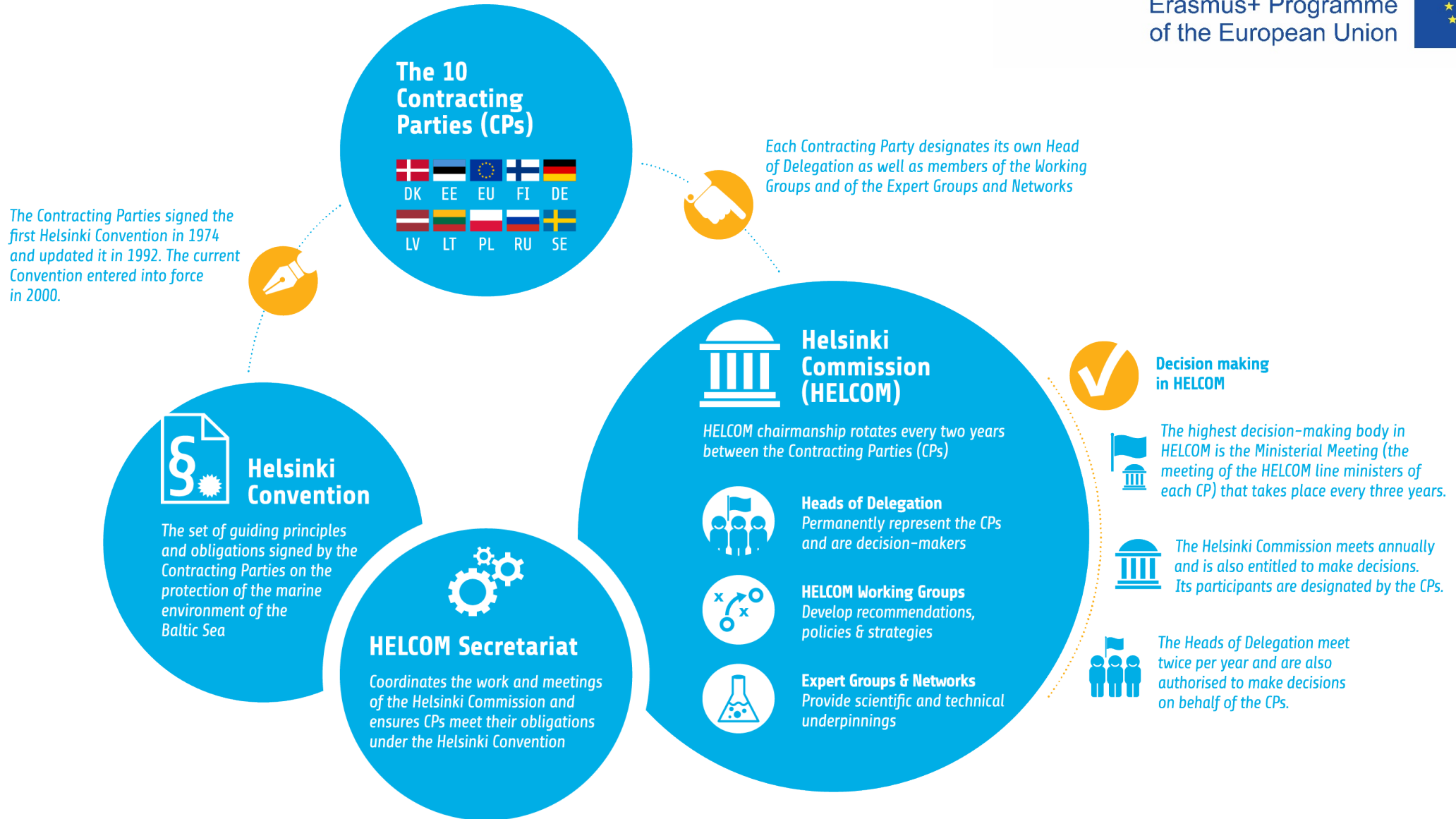


*) integration and coherence

- Permanent
- Time limited/
ad hoc
- WG** Working Group

Full names of the permanent working groups

Gear = Group on the Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach
 State & Conservation = Working Group on the State of the Environment and nature Conservation
 Pressure = Working Group on Reduction of Pressures from the Baltic Sea Catchment Area
 Maritime = Maritime Working group
 Response = Response Working Group





III. Expansion of the “Convention Area”



New principles and approaches are characteristic of this second era:

- Expansion of the “Convention area” (Inland waters);
- Enlargement of the area “Area of application” (Countries);
- Recognition to mobilise financial resources (Need of cooperation with other countries) —> “Pollution Hot spots”;
- Extension of work to cover nature conservation and biodiversity;
- Harmonisation of measures (EU - HELCOM - OSPAR)



IV. Encouraging Results

- More than 200 Recommendations;
- More than 40 HELCOM Recommendations concern measures limiting pollution originating from the land (industrial plants...);
- Since the early 1990s, a 20-25% overall reduction in the emissions of oxygen-consuming substances (BOD) has been achieved;
- Since 1992, 81 of the 162 major pollution “Hot spots” in the Baltic Sea region have been successfully eliminated;
- HELCOM has developed special legislation to prevent pollution from ships, including measures to eliminate illegal discharges by ships into the Baltic Sea, and to ensure the safety of navigation



V. Entering the New Era (2004)

- Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland joined the club of Baltic EU Member States.
- HELCOM new role and specific tasks:
 - ➔ Improve the ability to identify environmental problems in the Baltic Sea region, and to relate these to quantifiable objectives for a healthy Baltic Sea;
 - ➔ Strengthen indispensable links with Russia and to facilitate cooperation between Baltic EU Member States;
 - ➔ Maintain HELCOM's important role in strengthening cooperation between HELCOM and the non-HELCOM states;
 - ➔ Intensify cooperation with other Marine Commissions, aiming for comparable decisions for comparable issues.



VI. Identifying and Addressing Key Environmental Problems

- Improve the ability to identify environmental problems in the Baltic Sea region, and to relate these to quantifiable objectives for a healthy Baltic Sea; **HELCOM has been collecting and disseminating environmental data for over 25 years.**
- Identify environmental proprieties:
 - ➔ Eutrophication;
 - ➔ Reducing hazardous substances;
 - ➔ Improving maritime safety;
 - ➔ Conserving nature, and biodiversity



VII. Cutting nutrient loads

VIII. Actions on Hazardous Substances

IX. Ensuring Shipping Safety and Response Capacities

X. Promoting the Conservation of Baltic Sea Biodiversity



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IX. Ensuring Shipping Safety and Response Capacities

- Baltic Sea is an area of heavy ship traffic (Around 15% of the world's cargo transportation);
- The Gulf of Finland has experienced an increasing of shipping due to expansion of Russian oil terminals;
- Estimated that an oil-spill involving over 10000 tonnes would affect 35% of the Baltic Sea and 100% for the Gulf of Finland;
- Average of more than 60 ship accidents occur each year.



IX. Ensuring Shipping Safety and Response Capacities (Measures)

- HELCOM pushed to implement AIS (Automatic Identification System) on ships;
- Regular exercises to respond maritime pollution incidents under HELCOM flag (BALEX DELTA);
- Aerial surveillance flights;
- Average of more than 60 ship accidents occur each year.



XI. The Road Ahead

- Need and possibility of establishing pilotage in high-risk areas;
- Designation and exchange of information on places of refuge (legal matters)
- Ensure adequate emergency capacity (towing, lightering and fire fighting capacity)
- Work in the publications like this: <https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/End-of-Life-Boats-Policy-Brief-2021.pdf>



HELCOM dissertation conclusions:

- Good tool to implement on Adriatic Sea;
- The master that your designing could be a good step to consider HELCOM as a model to “sell”;
- Although you can copy (adapt) a good tool that is working and no need a new design;
- HELCOM has experience working with EU countries a NON EU countries;
- Adriatic Sea pollution is an important matter for the coastal countries.
 - ➔ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-000605_EN.html
 - ➔ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2018/01/04/croatia-reducing-wastewater-pollution-in-sensitive-coastal-areas-of-the-adriatic-sea>
 - ➔ <https://euobserver.com/environment/150784>

¡GRACIAS!

Thank you

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Hvala.

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