BalticPFASResolve

Cross-border cooperation for a cleaner Baltic Sea

NEWSLETTER No. 1 | June 2026

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union

Central Baltic Programme

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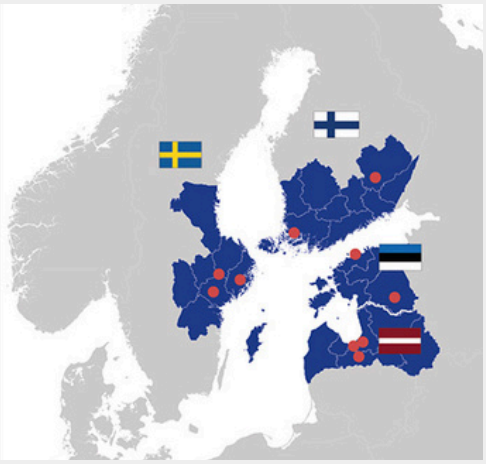


Welcome to the BalticPFASResolve Newsletter!

We are pleased to present the first edition of the BalticPFASResolve Newsletter.

Over the next two years, we will publish five editions featuring project updates, research highlights, partner activities, events, and practical solutions for tackling PFAS pollution across the Baltic Sea region. Whether you represent a municipality, water utility, rescue service, airport, research institution, or simply care about protecting the environment, we hope this newsletter keeps you informed and engaged with the project's progress.

Stay up to date with the latest project news, events, and results. ***Subscribe*** *to the BalticPFASResolve newsletter to receive future issues directly in your inbox.*

ABOUT THE PROJECT

What is BalticPFASResolve?

BalticPFASResolve is an **Interreg Central Baltic Programme 2021-2027 project co-funded by the European Union**. Running from August 2025 to July 2028, the project brings together eleven partners from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia to reduce PFAS emissions into the Baltic Sea.

Photo: Pixabay

The project addresses PFAS pollution through a combination of preventive, regulatory, and technical remediation measures, focusing on major pollution sources such as municipal wastewater, stormwater, and firefighting activities.

Project activities include:

- Developing a **PFAS tracking and mitigation tool** for municipalities and water utilities
- Launching joint **monitoring and remediation programmes**
- **Testing innovative technical solutions** in stormwater systems and wastewater treatment plants
- Promoting **collaboration with firefighting brigades and airport rescue services**

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in manufacturing and consumer products since the 1950s.

Thanks to their water-, grease-, and stain-resistant properties, PFAS are used in a wide range of products, including firefighting foam, waterproof clothing, carpets, food packaging, non-stick cookware, cleaning products, cosmetics, and many others.

Often referred to as "forever chemicals," PFAS are highly persistent in the environment and can accumulate in water, soil, wildlife, and the human body.

Read more about the project on our website.

Make sure to follow our LinkedIn page for the latest project updates.

Meet the Project Manager:
Bo Hjälmefjord
County Administrative Board of Stockholm

Bo Hjälmefjord, Project Manager, BalticPFASResolve

What are the main objectives of the BalticPFASResolve project?

- Our goal is to reduce PFAS emissions into the Baltic Sea by helping authorities find, manage and eliminate PFAS contamination at or close to its source, which is a cost-effective way to prevent further PFAS pollution on land and in water. We do this by developing practical tools and methods together with eleven partners across the region. The cooperation allows us to combine expertise, raise awareness of PFAS risks, and support authorities in preventing PFAS from spreading into our waters.

What are the project's expected outputs?

- Our work is organised into four focus areas. An important output of the project is a PFAS handbook for municipalities, which will give clear, step-by-step guidance on how to identify PFAS sources and clean contaminated soil and water, adapted to each country's conditions and language.

We are also developing tools for wastewater treatment plants, including a PFAS flux model and a pilot in Jūrmala that tests producing biochar from sludge.

In parallel, three full-scale pilots in Katrineholm, Turku and Viimsi will use nature-based solutions, such as vegetation, floating wetlands and pre-filtration, to clean stormwater.

Finally, we focus on airports and fire & rescue services, building knowledge of the environmental effects of firefighting foam containing PFAS and developing a method for collecting and destroying this foam in Finland.

Together, these outputs aim to provide practical, scalable solutions that authorities can use directly in their daily work.

Why is cross-border cooperation important for tackling PFAS-related challenges in the Central Baltic region?

- PFAS pollution crosses borders, and so must our solutions. Working together lets us share experience, avoid duplication and ensure that our tools fit each country's needs. Sweden's progress in phasing out PFAS-based firefighting foam is one example of knowledge that benefits the whole partnership.

As lead partner, the role of the County Administrative Board of Stockholm is to help guide the cooperation so that our 11 partners move forward in the same direction, coordinating our work, aligning timelines and supporting quality throughout the process. It's a significant task, but above all, a privilege to work with such a dedicated partnership striving for a cleaner Baltic Sea.

PARTNER MEETINGS

The BalticPFASResolve project officially began with the kick-off partner meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on 8-9 September 2025. It was the first opportunity for all project partners to meet in person, launch the project, establish collaboration, and plan the upcoming activities.

Almost a year later, on 8-9 June 2026, the partners gathered again in Mikkeli, Finland, to review the project's progress, discuss achievements and challenges, and agree on the next steps.

Both meetings also included study visits, giving partners valuable insights into PFAS-related research and water management practices. In Sweden, the consortium visited the Henriksdal Wastewater Treatment Plant, one of the world's largest wastewater treatment facilities. In Finland, the programme included visits to the research facilities of the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (XAMK) and LUT University, as well as the Mikkeli Wastewater Treatment Plant. These visits provided practical knowledge and strengthened collaboration between the project partners.

Additionally, during the second partner meeting, a seminar entitled "From Wastewater to Resource – Tackling PFAS and Microplastics" was organized by BalticPFASResolve in partnership with two other Interreg Central Baltic Programme projects: Balt-Plast-Free and SIWat.

Kick-off meeting, Stockholm, 08-09.09.2025

Study visit to Henriksdal Wastewater Treatment Plant, Stockholm, 09.09.2025

Partner meeting, Mikkeli, 08-09.06.2026

"From Wastewater to Resource" seminar, Mikkeli, 09.06.2026
Photo: Pihla Liukkkonen / Kontrastia

Study visit to the Mikkeli Wastewater Treatment Plant, 09.06.2026

Study visit to the LUT University water laboratory, Mikkeli, 09.06.2026

Stakeholders workshops

On 24 March 2026, the first stakeholder workshop was held in Jelgava, Latvia. Organised by the Zemgale Planning Region, the event brought together representatives from municipalities across the Zemgale region to discuss PFAS-related challenges and potential solutions. The insights gathered during the workshop will support the planning of further research and targeted mitigation measures. Read more **here**.

Workshop in Jelgava, Latvia, 24.03.2026

Workshop in Jelgava, Latvia, 24.03.2026

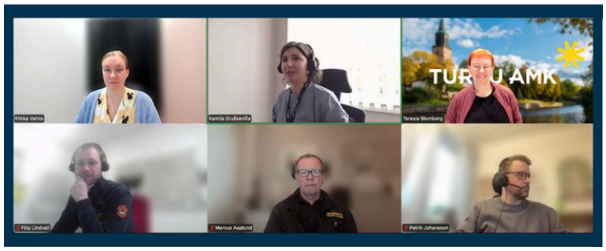
On 23 April 2026 in Stockholm, the Lake Mälaren Water Conservation Association, in cooperation with the County Administrative Board of Stockholm and Katrineholm Municipality, organized the event "PFAS in your municipality: risks, measures and financing." The results of the session will contribute to the development of the BalticPFASResolve handbook supporting municipalities in their work with PFAS. Read more **here**.

Workshop in Stockholm, Sweden, 23.04.2026

Webinar on transitioning to PFAS-free firefighting foams

On 12 May 2026, the BalticPFASResolve project hosted a webinar addressing one of the most pressing PFAS challenges: transitioning from PFAS-containing firefighting foams to safer alternatives.
The session highlighted the experiences of the Municipality of Katrineholm and the Västra Sörmland Rescue Service.

Watch the webinar recording and read the highlights **here**.



28 SEP 2026

Workshop and Study Visit at Stockholm Arlanda Airport

Airport operators, national aviation stakeholders, environmental authorities, regulators, water resource owners (cities, municipalities, and other relevant authorities), and military aviation stakeholders will gather for an exclusive workshop and study visit hosted by Swedavia at Stockholm Arlanda Airport. Participation is strictly limited to ensure meaningful exchange and access to operational facilities. More information will be provided closer to the event.

29-30 SEP 2026

Workshop and Study Visit in Katrineholm, Sweden

An exclusive workshop and study visit for experts from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Latvia, hosted by Katrineholm Municipality and the Västra Sörmland Fire and Rescue Service. Participation is strictly limited to ensure meaningful exchange and access to operational facilities. More information will be provided closer to the event.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union

Central Baltic Programme

BalticPFASResolve

WEBSITE
centralbaltic.eu/project/balticpfasresolve/

LINKEDIN
linkedin.com/company/balticpfasresolve/

DURATION	BUDGET	PARTNERS	COUNTRIES
2025–2028	3 497 668 €	11	4

PROJECT PARTNERS

The project is carried out by 11 partners from 4 countries (Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia): Stockholm County Administrative Board (Sweden) • Estonian University of Life Sciences (Estonia) • Turku University of Applied Sciences (Finland) • Katrineholm Municipality (Sweden) • Lake Mälaren Water Conservation Association (Sweden) • Riga Technical University (Latvia) • Mikkeli Development Miksei Ltd. (Finland) • Stockholm Water and Waste Company (Sweden) • Jurmala Water Ltd. (Latvia) • Viimsi Municipality (Estonia)• Zemgale Planning Region (Latvia)

Also represented in the Steering Group: Swedavia (Sweden) • Norrvatten (Sweden) • Käppala Association (Sweden) • Helcom (Finland) • UBC Sustainable Cities Commission (Finland)

Co-financing (Swedish Partners): Region Stockholm (Sweden)

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