



DELIVERABLE 5.10

MID-TERM CLUSTER ACTIVITIES WITH SISTER PROJECTS

Work Package 5

Synthesis, Overall Communication & Outreach

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Abstract	This deliverable outlines joint actions among three projects (New-Harmonica, NAPSEA, NORDBALT-ECOSAFE) funded under HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01. They cover common topics across EU regions, including the UK and Norway, aiming to share methods, findings, and maximize impact through collaboration.
Keywords	Sister projects; NAPSEA; NORDBALT-ECOSAFE; NEW-Harmonica; joint actions

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BMP	Best Management Practices
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
OSPAR	Oslo Paris conventions
REA	Executive agency for research

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable will provide an overview of the joint actions for the three projects funded under the topic HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01 (New-Harmonica, NAPSEA, NORDBALT-ECOSAFE). The three projects have many topics in common and covers different regions of EU and outside (UK and Norway). These projects will share methodologies and findings, identify synergies, as well as come up with joint actions that could maximize the overall impact of the projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

The three projects funded under the topic HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01 are:

- New-Harmonica – coordinated by Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- NAPSEA – coordinated by Deltares, The Netherlands
- NORDBALT-ECOSAFE – coordinated by Aarhus University, Denmark.

The three projects have many topics in common and covers different regions of EU and outside (UK and Norway). These projects will share methodologies and findings, identify synergies, as well as come up with joint actions that could maximize the overall impact of the projects. In this report the actions are described in more detail.

2. JOINT ACTIONS

Kick-off Meeting

- Monday 24 October from 9h30 to 12h00

The event will gather Coordinators and Work Package leaders of the three new funded projects, as well as the Policy Officer of DG RTD and will be facilitated by REA.

The aim was to start exchanges and identify synergies, as well as joint actions among Consortia bearing the potential to maximize the overall impacts and outreach of projects. Agenda and more information in Appendix I.

Outcomes of the first meeting were that:

- the EU Commission proposed to form a cluster between the projects and define a joint roadmap for collaboration during the 3 years of the projects.
- The coordinators for each of the projects gave a brief presentation of the content of each of the projects with overview of aims, work packages and institutes involved.
- A follow-up meeting to tackle the first three topics between the three projects to take place before the 30th November 2022.

This formed the basis for questions and discussion of possible collaborations and thematic areas where possible synergies, joint communication efforts, etc., were foreseen.

First suggestions where for collaboration in the following topic areas:

1. Project disseminations – like joint webinars, policy notes, final workshop.
2. Project home page – create an overarching home page for the cluster of projects
3. Working together on governance methods and policy across our regions.
4. Working together on nature Based Solutions and Mitigation Methods – derive a joint Classification Framework for those included in our projects.
5. Develop a harmonized framework for our modelling approaches – to ensure that the outcomes can be compared.
6. Develop a common methodology and way of making climate change scenarios.
7. Databases for our models and outputs.

Follow up meetings

On the 30th of November a follow up meeting was held between the three sister projects. More information about this meeting in Appendix II.

Mid-term meeting NORDBALT-ECOSAFE

NAPSEA and NEW-HARMONICA projects were represented with a presentation of their projects at the mid-term meeting of NORDBALT-ECOSAFE on the 19-21st February, 2024, in Aarhus, Denmark. More information about this meeting in Appendix III.

3. PLANNED ACTIONS

Conference LUWQ 2025

The three projects managed are having a joint special session at LUWQ2025 in Aarhus, Denmark 2-5th June 2025. More information about this joined session request in the Appendix III.

Joined policy brief

We decided to at least plan for a joint policy brief about how to bridge the gap between present day nutrient levels and the boundaries set for achieving good ecological conditions for nitrogen and phosphorus in our total of 13 river basins covered in the three project (NEW-HARMONICA: 4 river basins; NAPSEA: 3 river basins; NORDBALT-ECOSAFE: 6 river basins). We plan to have a physical meeting about this back to back with the Land Use and Water Quality Conference in Aarhus, Denmark in 2025. Other joint policy briefs or other papers might appear from the work in our project WP's.

Possible main focus points for joint Policy Brief between the three projects:

- Nitrogen and phosphorus safe ecological boundaries in surface waters.
- Identified nutrient gaps from different sectors in our river basins.
- Available BMP's within our participating countries, regions and river basins.
- Models and Governance methods applied

Our project river basins are all either draining to the Baltic Sea (HELCOM) or North Sea (OSPAR).

APPENDIX I

Agenda and more information on joint kick-off meeting.



Joint Kick-off meeting of the new funded projects on “Regional nitrogen and phosphorus load reduction approach within safe ecological boundaries”¹

Webex

Description and objectives

The event will gather Coordinators and Work Package leaders of the three new funded projects, as well as the Policy Officer of DG RTD and will be facilitated by REA.

The aim is to start exchanges and identify synergies, as well as joint actions among Consortia bearing the potential to maximize the overall impacts and outreach of projects.

Expected outcomes:

- Introduce new projects, including objectives and activities towards clustering with other projects;
- Improved awareness of synergies and collaboration potential among projects;
- Discuss ways on how the projects can contribute to future policy developments and decision making;
- Shared commitments and joint actions on dissemination activities and stakeholder engagement.

¹ Topic HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01

<i>09:15 – 09:30</i>	<i>Connecting to the meeting & participation guidelines</i>
09:30 – 09:40	Opening and introduction of the session’s activities Blanca Saez Lacave & Sofia Pachini Project Adviser (REA) (10 min)
09:40 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation on policy aspects ➤ Silvia Maltagliati, Policy Officer in Circular Economy & Biobased Systems, European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation (15 min) ➤ Q&A (5 min)
10:00 – 10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project presentation: NAPSEA ➤ – Project Coordinator (15 min max) ➤ Q&A (5 min)
10:20– 10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project presentation: NORDBALT-ECOSAFE ➤ – Project Coordinator (15 min max) ➤ Q&A (5 min)
10:40 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project presentation: NEW-HARMONICA ➤ – Project Coordinator (15 min max) ➤ Q&A (5 min)
11:00-11:15	➤ Break
11:15 – 11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion on synergies, common deliverables and events ➤
11:50– 12:00	Closing of the session Blanca Saez Lacave & Sofia Pachini, Project Adviser (REA)

Minutes of meeting held with EU Commission between three sister projects under funded under HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01

The three projects funded under this thematic call is:

New-Harmonica – coordinated by Wageningen University, The Netherlands

NAPSEA – lead by Deltares, The Netherlands

NORDBALT-ECOSAFE – coordinated by Aarhus University, Denmark

The three projects have many topics in common and covers different regions of EU and outside (UK and Norway).

The aim of the meeting from the EU Commission is to provide a basis for collaboration and exploitation of synergies between these three funded projects.

Therefore, the EU Commission proposed to form a cluster between the projects and define a joint roadmap for collaboration during the 3 years of the projects.

The coordinators for each of the projects gave a brief presentation of the content of each of the projects with overview of aims, work packages and institutes involved.

This formed the basis for questions and discussion of possible collaborations and thematic areas where we can foresee possible synergies, joint communication efforts, etc.

First suggestions where for collaboration in the following topic areas:

1. Project disseminations – like joint webinars, policy notes, final workshop.
2. Project home page – create an overarching home page for the cluster of projects
3. Working together on governance methods and policy across our regions.
4. Working together on nature Based Solutions and Mitigation Methods – derive a joint Classification Framework for those included in our projects.
5. Develop a harmonized framework for our modeling approaches – to ensure that the outcomes can be compared.
6. Develop a common methodology and way of making climate change scenarios.
7. Databases for our models and outputs.

We decided to have a first meeting on the first three topics between the three projects to take place before the 30th November 2022.

Brian Kronvang, Aarhus University will take the lead for arranging this first online meeting and send around a Doodle for planning of a suitable date and time for this meeting.

Each of the three projects will send to Brian the names and e-mails of those participants that they believe should take part in this first meeting - that again only covers the first three topics on the list above.

At the meeting sub-groups are foreseen to be established around different topics.

APPENDIX II

Agenda and more information on joint follow-up meeting.



Funded by the
European Union

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Meeting between EU projects NAPSEA, NEW-Harmonica and NordBalt-Ecosafe

Discussion of future collaboration needs on different topics and planning for a road-map

<https://projects.au.dk/nordbalt-ecosafe>



Draft agenda for the meeting

- › **1. Introduction to meeting and participants**
- › **2. Discussion of joint work on topic about policy and governance**
- › **3. Discussion of joint work on topic about mitigation measures**
- › **4, Discussion of Road Map including joint disseminations**
- › **5. Next meetings in sub-groups and between projects**

Topic 4: Road map

- › **Suggestion to hold joint webinars (1-2 per year) on selected topics with invited presenters from the three projects and one invited from outside – maybe plan for launching a first joint webinar in late spring 2023?**

- › **Topics could be:**
 - 1. Safe ecological boundaries in water bodies in the regions**
 - 2. Establishing reference nutrient concentrations**
 - 3. NBS and Mitigation Measures**
 - 4. Modelling nutrient hot spots for management**
 - 5. ?**
 - 6. ?**

Road Map continued

- › **Suggestion to have a joint meeting with WP-leads+ in autumn 2023 or spring 2024 to present first outcomes from projects and how to integrate results in joint policy briefs/papers/etc. – meeting venue could be Sandbjerg Estate in Southern Jutland, Denmark owned by AU.**

- › **Suggestion to host special sessions at LUWQ2024 - jointly on different topics or project based?**

Main conclusions from the meeting

- › **To establish a joint Teams folder for our sharing of documents, logo's, etc. – Brian Kronvang, AU**
- › **To send around an excel sheet to fill in by coordinators for people interested in the four different topics we have identified as common ground – Brian Kronvang**
- › **Coordinators of the three projects to meet regularly (every 4 month: Brian Kronvang will invite)**
- › **We agreed to have a joint meeting between the WP-leads from the three projects in spring 2024 – at Sandbjerg Estate, Denmark**
- › **We agreed to seek for hosting special sessions at LUWQ2024 in The Netherlands in 2024.**
- › **We will also investigate the possibility of hosting joint webinars.**

Topics identified for collaboration between the three projects with first leads to take actions are:

- › **Policy and Governance: Oscar Schoumans, Wageningen**
- › **Mitigation Measures/BMP's: Katrin Bieger AU**
- › **Models: xxx Deltares**
- › **Ecological safe boundaries: Brian Kronvang, AU**

Summary of decisions taken during a status meeting between coordinators for the three Horizon Zero Pollution projects: NAPSEA, NEW-HARMONICA and NORDBALT-ECOSAFE hold on 15th January 2024.

Participants:

Gerard Velthof, Wageningen University and Research for NEW-HARMONICA

Anouk Blauw and Luuk van der Heijden, DELTARES for NAPSEA

Brian Kronvang, Aarhus University for NORDBALT-ECOSAFE

A teams meeting was held with the following agenda:

1. Short briefing about deliverables and progress within projects – 10 minutes for each project.

The three projects presented the status of their projects in brief with a focus on the deliverables produced and upcoming ones.

2. Discussion about planning for joint policy briefs – themes, planning and deadline.

We decided to at least plan for a joint policy brief about how to bridge the gap between present day nutrient levels and the boundaries set for achieving good ecological conditions for nitrogen and phosphorus in our total of 13 river basins covered in the three project (NEW-HARMONICA: 4 river basins; NAPSEA: 3 river basins; NORDBALT-ECOSAFE: 6 river basins). We plan to have a physical meeting about this back to back with the Land Use and Water Quality Conference in Aarhus, Denmark in 2025. Other joint policy briefs or other papers might appear from the work in our project WP's.

Possible main focus points for joint Policy Brief between the three projects:

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- Identified nutrient gaps from different sectors in our river basins.
- Available BMP's within our participating countries, regions and river basins.
- Models and Governance methods applied

Our project river basins are all either draining to the Balic Sea (HELCOM) or North Sea (OSPAR).

3. Discussion about joint meetings – Conferences – e.g. special session at LUWQ2025 in Aarhus, Denmark.

We agreed to apply for having a joint special session at LUWQ2025 in Aarhus, Denmark 2-5th June 2025. We will make a joint letter between the three projects applying for a special session and submit to the LUWQ2025 organizers as soon as possible.

4. Other business

We have now established the following three project home pages:

NEW-HARMONICA: <https://newharmonica.eu/>

NAPSEA: <https://napsea.eu/>

NORDBALT-ECOSAFE: <https://projects.au.dk/nordbalt-ecosafe>

We have also a shared teams folder for the three projects that will be updated with information about deliverables from the three projects before 1st February 2024 and onwards to share information between our projects.

Moreover, NAPSEA and NEW-HARMONICA projects are represented with a presentation of their projects at the upcoming mid-term meeting in NORDBAL-ECOSAFE 19-21st February 2024 in Aarhus, Denmark.

APPENDIX III

Agenda and more information on mid-term meeting of NORDBALT-ECOSAFE.

NORDBALT ECOSAFE

NORDBALT-ECOSAFE all-partner meeting 19-21st February 2024
Location: Hejmdal Conference House, Peter Sabroes Gade 1, 8000
Aarhus C – on Aarhus University Campus



HEJMDAL

MØDE- OG KONFERENCEHUS

Monday 19th February

Morning: Individual meetings if arrival on Sunday

- 12.00-13.00 Arrival and Lunch
- 13.00-13.30 Welcome and practical arrangements etc.
- 13.30-14.00 Information about requirements for our project periodic report to EU
- 14.00-15.00 Status of project work - one hour per WP – important results, upcoming deliverables, etc. – WP1.
- 15.00-15.30 Coffee/Tea
- 15.30-18.30 Status of project work - one hour per WP – important results, upcoming deliverables, etc. – WP2, WP3 & WP4.
- 18.30-19.30 Check-in at hotel for those arriving on Monday.
- 19.30- Dinner at Hejmdal House,

Tuesday 20th February

- 09.00-11.00 Status of project work - one hour per WP – important results, upcoming deliverables, etc. - WP5 & WP6

- 11.00-12.00 Short news from PO, sister EU projects – NEW-Harmonica, NAPSEA

- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-15.30 Free time for WP or cross-WP discussions (will be finally planned for)
 - 13.00-14.00: 1. round WP1 & WP2 & WP6.
 - 14.00-15.00: 2. round: WP3 & WP4 & WP5
 - 15.00-15.30: Time for other meetings
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee/Tea
- 16.00-18.00 Modelling Workshop – presentations from OPTAIN and own SWAT+ model setup from WP4
- 18.30- Dinner at Hejmdal House
- 20.30 Free for smaller meetings in WPs or across WPs

Wednesday 21st February

- 09.00-10.30 Planning for next round of stakeholder meetings in autumn 2024 (September/October) – what should be the main themes for the meetings (G/M boundaries, modelling, mitigation measures)? Do we need feedbacks like last time via Mentimeter?
- 10.30-11.45 Planning for dissemination strategies, conferences and proposal for webinars
- 11.45-12.00 Wrapping up
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch and departure for those not taking part in back to back WP workshops
- 13.00-18.00 Parallel WP workshops at Hejmdal House
- 18.00 Departure from Hejmdal House

Application for hosting a special session during LUWQ2025 in Aarhus

Dear organizers

We are three running EU HORIZON projects that are working with finding solutions for reaching the boundaries for good chemical and ecological quality in the aquatic environment in our part of the world for river basins running to the North Sea and the Baltic Sea:

NAPSEA: <https://napsea.eu/>; Coordinated by Luuk van der Heijden and Anouk Blauw, Deltares, NL

NEW-HARMONICA: <https://newharmonica.eu/>; coordinated by Gerard Velthof, Wageningen University and Research, NL.

NORDBALT-ECOSAFE: <https://projects.au.dk/nordbalt-ecosafe/>; Coordinated by Brian Kronvang, Aarhus University, DK.

We are involving 12 countries involved in our three projects and a larger number of scientists from 20 research institutions.

We are ending all the three projects in autumn of 2025 and the LUWQ conference will therefore be a perfect match for us to share our most important project results. We anticipate that we can fill in maybe 3 slots of time for a joint session covering aspects such as:

- Setting boundaries between good and moderate ecological conditions.
- Modelling of nutrient concentrations, loadings and sources in river basins and their included catchments
- How to meet the nutrient boundaries choosing BMPs, Mitigation Measures and Naturebased Solutions (NbS).
- How to involve stakeholders, choose among governance methods and discover implementation in policies/management.

We hope that you are interested and we are of course open for any suggestions from your side. and t

Best wishes on behalf of all coordinators

Brian Kronvang