



Soil-related issues discussed at the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) held in Lithuania

The Annual Forum of the EUSBSR took place from 27 September to 1 October, 2021. The motto of the Annual Forum “Revitalize – Recover – Recharge” was directed towards fostering green transition in the Baltic Sea Region through close partnerships and more active involvement of different stakeholders. The Forum was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Kaunas City Municipality, Klaipėda City Municipality, and the Union of the Baltic Cities.

In the welcome speech, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Ingrida Šimonytė noted that the Annual Forum 2021 will be an opportunity for open and thorough discussions on the possibilities of the EUSBSR to contribute to the green transformation of the region and at the same time to implement the three objectives of the Strategy: “Save the Sea, Connect the Region, Increase Prosperity”.

On September 29, the webinar “Fertilizer leakage issue. Farming impact for Baltic Sea. What can be done? Sustainable farming practices, latest research” was organized. Three invited speakers delivered their presentations on this topic. One of them was Dr Virginijus Feiza from Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, who made a presentation on “Soil fertility and sustainability improvement: the present-day challenges”. The presentation focused on different initiatives and programmes related to soil issues: EJP SOIL, European Green Deal, Mission Caring for Soil Caring for Life and EU Soil Observatory. Six soil-related concerns: organic carbon reduction in both mineral and organic soils, soil compaction, crop nutrition optimization, soil water conservation, drainage improvement, soil acidification, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, were highlighted and discussed in Lithuania. The attention on renewed Code of Good Agricultural Practices was paid, as it is based on scientific recommendations and best practical experience of leading farms as well as on recommendations of EU and national directives concerning sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural activity. Susanna Kaasinen from HELCOM (Helsinki Commission) made a presentation on “State of the Baltic Sea: Nutrient Inputs from Agriculture and New Approaches to Reduce them”. The speaker Minna Sarvi presented the results of the project SuMaNu (Sustainable Manure and Nutrient Management for Reduction of Nutrient Loss in the Baltic Sea Region) and provided policy recommendations for improving manure sustainability and nutrient management in the Baltic Sea Region.