

Hiking expedition around the Baltic Sea 2024

Presented by Laura Stukonyte, Science Engagement Coordinator









The recent HELCOM State of the Baltic Sea 2023 Report highlights the need for urgent action on various scales in order to improve the environmental state of our sea.





# Support in Lithuania and abroad



Valdas Adamkus President of the Republic of Lithuania



Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania





EU MISSIONS

**RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS** 





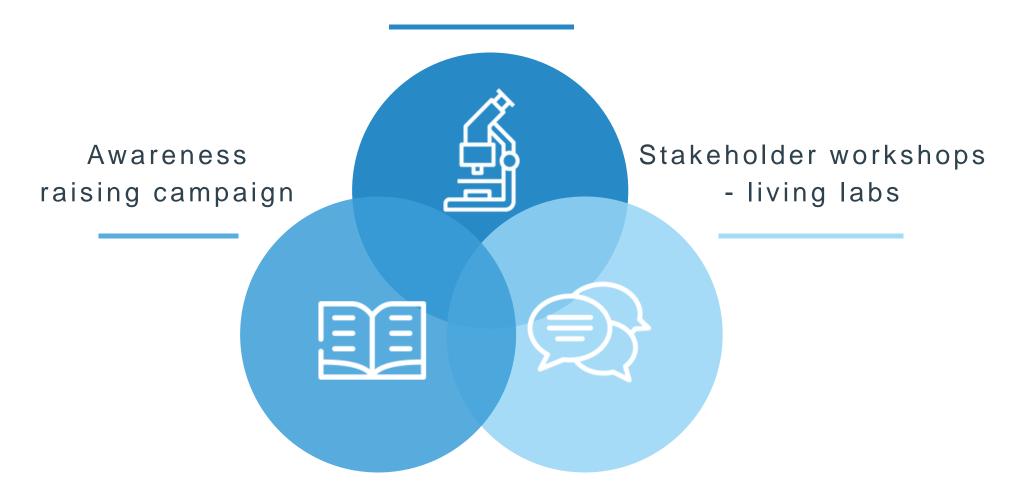




NGO

# But how will hiking help the sea?

Citizen science and educational activities



The main objective of the Expedition: Increasing ocean literacy and promoting action

# 1. Awareness raising campaign

to raise waves of change on an international level and to draw public attention to the current state of the sea and ways to improve it.

Means: Traditional media partners, website, social

media + partner NGOs and institutes





Save The Baltic Sea



save.the.baltic.sea

#### **Content:**

- Media articles on the state of the Baltic Sea and the importance of citizen action prepared in collaboration with scientists from eight Baltic Sea countries
- Website: Regular weekly newsletters and video blogs from the expedition's daily life
- Educational social media content, print material, etc.

#### 2. Educational activities

to invite citizens to take a closer look at our sea and its issues, as well as engage in citizen science activities.

Means: Educational events/activities organized in 8 countries together with local partners

Supported by funding from the EU4Ocean Challenge of the Year

# **Activity examples:**

- Microplastics sampling
- Marine litter monitoring / cleanup
- Beach biodiversity spotting
- Open doors lab/research vessel visit
- + talks by scientists and stories from the expedition hiker team

#### 3. Living labs

to foster cooperation between science, government, industry and local community representatives in finding the most suitable ways to take action and reduce negative impacts on the Baltic Sea in each area.

Means: Half-day stakeholder workshops organized in each country through local partners

Supported by funding from the EU4Ocean Challenge of the Year

## How can you become part of the initiative?

- Organizing an educational/citizen science activity or event with the expedition team in your area
- Organizing a living lab stakeholder workshop in your area
- Help spread the message and reach traditional media in your country
- Logistical help: places to stay overnight for the hiker team of 10-20 people
- Financial support



## How can you benefit from the initiative?

- Help in implementing your educational projects through Save the Baltic Sea activities
- Ready to use content for you to share: educational social media posts, informative articles, video blogs you can become part of as the expedition team hikes through your country
- Media visibility
- Other ideas? We are open for your suggestions!



#### **Timeline**

#### November 2023 - February 2024

Preparatory work - developing partnerships, planning activities, refining communications, starting media outreach

March 2024: Expedition begins; activities in Lithuania and Poland

April 2024: Activities in Germany and Denmark

May-July 2024: Activities in Sweden

August-September 2024: Activities in Finland

October 2024: Activities in Estonia

November 2024: Activities in Latvia





#### **LET'S CONNECT!**

- in Save The Baltic Sea
  - save.the.baltic.sea
  - science@savebaltic.eu