

# Finding the Link

HAZLESS will address the development and harmonisation of marine monitoring and environmental status assessment regarding substances from the HELCOM Core Indicators list. The integrated approach allows finding the link between the quality of the environment and health of living organisms in the eastern GoF. The main end-users of the results are the state, private companies and local authorities.

An essential aspect of HAZLESS is contribution to policy-driven and solution-oriented cross-border cooperation for the protection of the GoF between countries sharing the same sub-region.

Top experts from research institutions from Estonia, Russia and Finland contribute to the project. HAZLESS is a 35 month trilateral project launched on 4th April 2019.

Estonia-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 aims to foster cross-border cooperation across the borders between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation to promote socio-economic development in the regions on both sides of the common borders. The Programme website: [www.estoniarussia.eu](http://www.estoniarussia.eu)

Gulf of Finland

# HAZLESS partners

## Lead Partner:

- Department of Marine Systems, Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech) | Estonia



## Partners:

- Scientific-Research Centre for Ecological Safety of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SRCES RAS) | Russia
- Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ZIN RAS) | Russia



## Associated Partner:

- Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) | Finland



HAZLESS is coordinated by Department of Marine Systems, Akadeemia tee 15a, 12618, Tallinn, Estonia. e-mail: [ivan.kuprijanov@taltech.ee](mailto:ivan.kuprijanov@taltech.ee)  
Project webpage: [hazless.msi.ttu.ee](http://hazless.msi.ttu.ee)



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# Hazardous Chemicals in the Eastern Gulf of Finland: Concentrations and Impact Assessment

## Contamination in the Sea

The *Gulf of Finland* (GoF) suffers from a multitude of cross-border stressors generated by different kind of human activities. Besides the eutrophication and related problems, there are severe ecological effects linked to *Hazardous Substances* (HS). Both, industrial and agricultural waste represents a threat to the eastern GoF and its ecosystem from the Estonian and Russian side. Different HS are released to the Gulf environment from wastewater treatment plants (e.g. pharmaceuticals) or from harbours (e.g. biocides, heavy metals) and accumulate in the sediments and aquatic organisms. HS cause degradation of marine habitats, disorder in biological processes of organisms and finally decline of biodiversity and bioresources in the area.

## HAZLESS Objectives

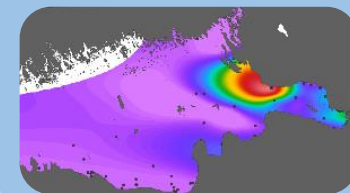
The overall objective of the project is adaptation and implementation of uniform biological indicators for assessment and control of environmental quality in the eastern GoF.

The knowledge obtained in the frame of different previous independent and collaborative initiatives in the Baltic Sea region will be acknowledged and assessed/adapted for eastern GoF area.



## Outcomes

Knowledge on HS in hotspot areas and potential impact on the benthic organisms



Modelling of the potential distribution of HS from different sources



Selection of indicator species and biomarkers to develop the recommendations for regional monitoring programme

Estimation of the impact of HS on the biological processes

## Funding

The Project is co-financed by the Estonia-Russia CBC Programme 2014-2020. The total project budget is 469 300 €. The funding from Est-Rus CBC programme is 422 370 €