



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

UNOC3 Conference Side Event Green Recovery for Ukraine: from source to sea/sink

Friday, 06 June 2025, at 04:00-06:00 EDT in Zoom (in English and Ukrainian)

Organized by: Basin Department of Water Resources of Zakhidnyi Buh and Sian Rivers, Lviv municipal utility company "Lvivvodokanal", State Water Holding Polish Waters (PGW WP):
NGOs: Lviv City Public Organization "Ecoterra", ZeroWaste Lviv, "Chemical Safety Agency" (CSA), Center for Environmental Initiatives Ecoaction (Ecoaction), "Vruna", Polish Ecological Club (PKE)

Background on the event

The event:

- highlighted solutions to war-driven environmental impacts in the Ukrainian part of the Baltic Sea basin;
- showcased reduction of contaminants and biodiversity loss by linking upstream actions with climate goals;
- promoted source-to-sea innovation and cross-border cooperation emphasizing Baltic Sea as a carbon sink
- facilitated cross-sectorial partnership by presenting the connections in e.g. water-energy nexus by the experts involved in Green Recovery actions, as well as by sharing experiences from Baltic to the Black Sea basins.
- supported SDG 14 implementation through resilient, ecosystem-based marine recovery and nature restoration; and
- addressed needs for help to Ukraine to rebuild the country in environmentally sound way

Key Issues discussed

- Ukrainian and Polish water management authorities stressed the importance of transboundary cooperation between Ukraine and Poland for the implementation of the goals of protecting both Vistula River and the Baltic Sea, including the support to harmonization of EU law.
- "Ecoterra" and Polish Ecological Club introduced the Green Recovery Plan for Ukrainian part of the Baltic Sea basin, and highlighted the needs to reduce nutrient discharges into watershed by (1) WWTPs modernisation, (2) sustainable sanitation programmes in rural communities, (3) restoring groundwater monitoring, (4) full application of the EU Nitrates

Directive and good agricultural practices, (5) establishing buffer zones, (6) promoting organic production by including it in the public procurement system

- [LvivVodokanal and Lviv Agglomeration](#) stressed the need of a comprehensive inventory of water bodies, especially small watercourses, in order to address widespread illegal discharges of wastewater, particularly from individual households, as well as numerous leaks from outdated and worn out centralized sewerage system, and overflows. Creating the connection of residents to the state of watercourses in their neighborhood, by making them aware of their problems, as well as for jointly seeking solutions to those – is a key.
- [NGO EcoAction](#) specified the steps in the EU Nitrate Directive's implementation, including consideration whether the whole territory approach should be applied to designation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones with stricter requirements for the whole country, introduction and promotion of Code of Good Agricultural Practices, and aligning with River Basin Management Plans.
- [NGO ZeroWasteLviv](#) focused on challenges related to inconsistent waste management reform, lacking regulation for pharmaceuticals and microplastics generated by households, outdated or missing collection and treatment infrastructure multiplied by lack of public awareness and impacts of the war on medicinal and plastic waste generation.
- [NGO Chemical Safety Agency](#) outlined the need for raising awareness of farmers/agricultural producers about negative health/environmental impacts and promoting safer biological alternatives/methods to pest and disease control, ensuring control over import, application and handling of pesticides by agricultural producers and by private households.
- [Basin Department of Water Resources of Zakhidnyi Buh and Sian Rivers and CCB](#) highlighted that revitalization of rivers should be based on restoration of Good Ecological Status as defined in River Basin Management Plans under the EU WFD and Nature Restoration Regulation.

Key recommendations for action / voluntary commitments

- **Several priority projects for Green Recovery in Ukraine were suggested**, including establish comprehensive climate adaptation and water management strategy, implementing sustainable water management pilots, promoting Good Practices through advisory services and incentives, developing pilots for waste- and wastewater management for livestock farms, promoting organic food in public procurement for educational and healthcare institutions
- **Promoting and sharing experiences from Baltic Sea to Black Sea Region can be done through** sharing knowledge on Nitrates Directive implementation, including monitoring and enforcement routines and practices, exchanging experiences how to implement nature restoration projects, promoting projects with positive impacts and solid results, providing expertise on evaluation of environmental impacts of the war
- **Options for financing Greening the Ukrainian Recovery should include** opportunities for small-scale solid/hard projects with scalable results, need for demonstration, hands-on practical projects in wastewater and sanitation sector, need for building capacities in technical expertise in waste-, wastewater and water monitoring sectors
- **Participants of the side event agreed to commit themselves** to implementation of the priorities identified in the [Green Recovery Plan for Ukrainian part of the Baltic Sea basin](#) and outlined during the event, including jointly seeking funding for possible future cooperation projects and sharing experiences from the Baltic to the Black Sea Region.