

**Letter of Agreement between the  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the  
Baltic Organisations Network for Funding Science EEIG concerning  
collaboration within the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme  
(BONUS-169)**

This Letter of Agreement aims at creating added value through collaboration between the two organisations in the fields of mutual interest and congruent activities.

**Recognizing that under BONUS-169**

- The key research funding agencies in eight EU Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden) and in the Russian Federation have been creating conditions leading to a Joint Baltic Sea System Research Programme, to be implemented under Article 169 of the EC Treaty.
- That in 2007, a dedicated legal entity, Baltic Organizations Network for Funding Sciences EEIG, was established.
- The objective of BONUS-169 is to integrate Baltic Sea System research into a durable interdisciplinary, well-integrated and focused multinational programme to support the region's sustainable development.
- The Programme develops into a programme that includes the sea and coast with strong linkages to the full catchment where direct influences on the Baltic Sea can be expected to occur.
- BONUS-169 has a strong integration with stakeholders, and knowledge inputs from stakeholders in the socio-economic and scientific sectors.
- the Programme implementation structure, BONUS EEIG, needs strengthening both in terms of its representation and organisation, and its operational capacity

and

**Recognizing that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), exists as a international governmental scientific organization to:**

- promote and encourage research and investigation for the study of the sea, particularly related to the living resources thereof,
- draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organize, in agreement with its Contracting Parties, such research and investigations as may appear necessary,
- publish or otherwise disseminate the results of this work,
- provide scientific information and advice to Member Country governments, and the regulatory commissions with which cooperative relationships have been established.

In order to carry out these tasks appropriately and efficiently, ICES seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other organisations and networks which have related objectives and co-operate, as far as possible, with them, in particular in the supply of scientific information requested.

The countries that are responsible for BONUS 169 are also members of ICES and therefore BONUS 169 scientists are welcome to participate in ICES.

The parties to this Letter of Agreement do hereby agree to work together by promoting integrated marine and coastal science and develop useful scientific advice for the management of marine ecosystems of the Baltic Sea. In particular, BONUS EEIG and ICES agree to

1. Co-operate in co-ordinating research and avoiding unnecessary duplication, in the study of the Baltic Sea
2. Develop a common approach to specific issues, for example planning research of mutual interest, organizing scientific symposia or conferences, transitioning research results into forms suitable for practical applications (such as decision support tools and scientific advice).

To achieve these goals, the following shall apply:

1. There shall be reciprocal consultations between the Parties on matters of common interest in the field of marine scientific research.
2. Each organisation will invite the other party to participate in meetings at which matters of mutual interest will be discussed. BONUS EEIG and ICES will normally pay their own costs in response to such invitations. Administrative arrangements for experts participating in working groups will follow the established rules of each organisation.
3. There shall be exchange between the Parties of information, documents and publications agreed to be of mutual interest, joint or otherwise.
4. There shall be joint policy discussions for officers of ICES and BONUS EEIG on future developments of and key issues in Baltic marine science and on the consequent development of co-operation between the two organizations;
5. The Parties shall, as appropriate, undertake joint activities and establish joint subsidiary bodies or other suitable arrangements to study and report on matters of common interest.
6. The Parties shall consult regularly on ways in which cooperation between them can be further improved. Specific joint programmes and activities may be defined through addenda to this framework agreement.
7. The terms of this Agreement may be revised by the Parties if they both agree. If they fail to agree upon new terms, the Agreement shall continue on the basis of the existing terms until new terms have been agreed. Either Party may withdraw from the Understanding at any time subject to giving one year's written notice.
8. Recognizing and fully respecting their various mandates, policies and priorities, the signatories agree that this Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force unless either Party withdraws pursuant to Paragraph 7 above.
9. Any Agreement, arrangement or joint activity entered into in consequence of this Letter of Agreement which involves a financial commitment will be covered by a separate agreement that will be added as an annex.

This MOU will enter into force on the date of signing.

Signed on behalf of BONUS EEIG and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea:

Copenhagen, ... April 19, 2010

M Siclari

(ICES President)

Helsinki, ... April 27, 2010

Kaisa Kononen

Kaisa Kononen, Executive Director