Göteborgs Stad

Partner Search: **Reduce risk of spreading invasive species when cleaning hull**

City of Gothenburg

Title of proposed project	**Reduce risk of spreading invasive species when cleaning hull**
Call incl. reference no.	**LIFE Nature and Biodiversity (Biodiversity)**
Funding programme	**LIFE**
EC Service	**DG Environment and DG Climate Action**
Deadlines: Call and EoI	**Most likely september-november 2015**
More information on the call	**not open yet**
Description of project idea incl. theme and activities	The problem that we want to find solutions to is the invasive species spread in coastal areas associated with hull cleaning of the water. When cleaning the hull while the vessel remains in the water it loosens the plants and animals that are fastened to the hull and there is a risk that the species is spread between different areas in this way. In some cases, such species are a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystems in coastal areas, so-called invasive species. Today we have little experience of how great the risk of such distribution is and what treatment techniques you can use to deal with the spread of invasive species associated with hull cleaning. There is at position no international binding agreement on measures to prevent the spread of alien organisms with fouling on ship hulls. UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recognized this issue and decided on voluntary guidelines. Within a few years the IMO will evaluate the implementation of their policies in order to take further binding measures. An important prerequisite for international binding measures to come about is that there is a factual basis for the problem description and evaluation and suggestions for effective action. The hope is that this project will give a greater knowledge of the risks of spread of invasive species, and knowledge of appropriate technology for purification. It would also be desirable to provide

	performance levels at the relevant level when testing for hull cleaning in European ports with adequate protection of our ecosystems. For us to be able to know if the treatment performed is sufficient to prevent the spread of invasive species it requires a collection of existing knowledge and probably also a development/testing methods. Some proposed actions: • identification of species in port areas • survey of the procedures followed by shipowners today • survey of the methods of treatment available • test and evaluate different methods for hull cleaning • develop contingency plans for what to do when potentially invasive species occur in new waters • develop tools/practices/guidelines/routine/agreement/policy to reduce the risk of spread of invasive species • dissemination of knowledge and experience
Partner consortium (so far)	Swedish Transport Agency, Port of Gothenburg, Environmental Administration in Gothenburg City (Lead partner), County Administrative Board Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg University,
Further partners being sought: What type of partner, which roles in the project?	**Ports** **National, regional and local authorities** **Municipalities** **SME with hull cleaning techniques** **Universities/researchers** **We are looking for partners that are engaged in the project not following partners.**
What are the financial conditions of participation ?	Life contributes with 60% of total project budget
Foreseen project duration	2016-2020 (approximately 4 year)
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