

15 YEARS OF **INTERREG**  
PROGRAMMES IN POLAND



## **Institute of Oceanology in Sopot as the leader of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region Programme**

Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences is the biggest scientific centre in Poland which examines natural processes of maritime environment. Since 2011 it has participated in 5 cross-border projects and coordinated 3 of them. Scientists jointly examined, for example, dumped munitions in the Baltic Sea. They checked whether there is threat of releasing chemical warfare agents and also what possible ecological consequences are. The aim was to minimise the risk related to underwater activity in areas in which chemical weapons were sunk.

Currently the Institute participates in the Land-Sea-Act project. Partners exchange knowledge and experience concerning better management of the coastal areas. The beach in Puck, in turn, was selected as one of the pilot places of the Contra project which will be implemented simultaneously on beaches in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Sweden and Russia. Scientists look for the answer on a seemingly simple question: what to do with algae and plants lying on beaches which can effectively deter bathers? The results of the project achieved so far show that removal of algae from the beach not only does not damage the environment but also may be even helpful in removal of contaminations from the Baltic Sea.

Attention should also be drawn to the StarDust project, implemented by 35 public and private partners from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Germany. Thanks to cooperation, pollution assessment in the Baltic coastal zone was prepared. It was also estimated how much pollution can be reduced by improving sewage treatment plants as well as how to assess the state of the sea with the use of satellite images.



Photo: Kajetan Deja