**Working group 1**

**Saving the Baltic Sea**

This working group discusses the environmental hazards the Baltic Sea faces today and looks for local and cross-border level solutions. There are two phases in the process:

* analyzing the main problems that exist: pollution and harmful substances from shipping, farming, fish farming… and other hazards (alien species etc.) - what is their importance in different regions of Baltic Sea, and what is the overall importance.
* What ways have NGOs in different countries found to struggle against the different problems. Sharing good practices, looking for new ways to act together.

**Method of working**

Presentations and discussion

1. Presentation on pollution: nutrition

2. Presentation on pollution: hazardous substances

3. Discussion: main problems in different countries

4. Discussion: how to participate in handling the problem:

- participation in city planning, land use planning, environmental permits, marine construction permits

- spreading information

- environmental education

5. Discussion: define ”best available practices”

6. Discussion: how to collaborate internationally, how to exchange information

**Preparatory tasks**
Participants from each country collect some examples of above points 3, 4, 5.

Questions for the above points:
3. What are the main sources of different environmental loads in to the Baltic Sea in your country?

4. Have you participated in protecting the Baltic Sea directly or indirectly by trying to influence any of the sources mentioned in question 3? Give 2-3 examples.

5. Where and with what method have you succeeded in reducing environmental load to the Baltic Sea? Share the best practices!

If you would like to have additional information or suggest a presentation, the **contact person** is:

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