Monitoring of the Curonian Lagoon and the Rivers Flowing into it – Principles of Trounsboundary and International Cooperation
Curonian Lagoon catchment area is one of the most important transboundary ecosystems. The waters of the Curonian Lagoon wash the border between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation.
Monitoring Stations

- Until 1992, hydrological and chemical monitoring in the Curonian Lagoon in Kaliningrad Region and Lithuania was being carried out by Lithuanian Agency for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control. Prior to 1992 there were nine stations in the territory of the Kaliningrad Region, 3 stations were located along the border, all in all there were 19 stations.

- In 1992, monitoring in the Kaliningrad Region was interrupted and was resumed in 2001–2002 as part of the Tacis "Monitoring and Management of the Kaliningrad Region" ENVRUS 9803 Project. The project involved 6 stations.

- Then, the monitoring was extended till 2006, it was enjoying support from the Kaliningrad Region Government. Since 2002, there have been six stations operating within the territory of the Kaliningrad Region.

- In 2006 – 2012, the state monitoring was not carried out. In 2012, it was renewed as part of the "Development of Water Management System in the Russian Federation in 2012–2020“ Federal Target Program.
Network of the Monitoring Stations in the Curonian Lagoon
Total Phosphorous Concentrations (September – November 2013)
Total Nitrogen Concentrations (September – November 2013)
Hydrochemical network has been existing in Kaliningrad region since 1946, observations being conducted at 11 rivers and 2 arms. The key water courses that are decisive for the hydrochemical status of the Russian part of the Curonian lagoon are as follows:

- The Neman river – water quality degree: «foul water»;
- Matrosovka tributary – this water course considered to be «foul water»;
- The river Sheshupe – the water is classified as “highly foul water”.
Surface Water Bodies Dynamics according to Specific Water Quality Index

Река Неман фоновый створ
УКИЗВ  2008-2012 гг.

Река Неман контрольный створ
УКИЗВ  2008-2012 гг.

Река Неман рукав Матросовка
УКИЗВ  2008-2012 гг.

Река Шешуне
УКИЗВ  2008-2012 гг
The agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency, the Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and the FSBE Kaliningrad Center for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring on Cooperation in the Field of Monitoring and Transboundary Waters Status Data Exchange

Intercalibration of quantitative methods of chemical analysis

Annual exchange of hydrological and hydrochemical information on the transboundary watercourses: Neman Nemunas Sheshupe, Skirvite, Matrosovka–Giliya
Setting up of Transborderer Monitoring

- Joint Monitoring Program for transboundary watercourses
- The basin approach to the development of the monitoring network
- Harmonization of the methods of quantitative analysis and computation of the load on the aquatic ecosystems
- Compatibility of the information resources needed for the exchange of information on the quality of transboundary watercourses
Prospects for Cooperation

The following areas of cooperation could be defined as a short-term prospect:

- Joint monitoring of the Curonian Lagoon
- Expansion and enhancement of information exchange
- Development of a common strategy for the transboundary Watercourses Basin Management, which will be consistent with the legislative instruments of the partner nations; development of integrated ecosystem management plans for the Curonian Lagoon
- Establishment of a unified communication system for early warning of emergent hydro–meteorological situations and extreme pollution, which will allow the parties to take prompt actions and develop a common strategy to eliminate the effects of natural and man-made disasters.
Thank You for Your Attention!