



## Estonian municipality days 2014

**Time:** March 26-27, 2014

**Place:** Tallinn, Estonia, Sokos Hotel Viru

CITYWATER was present at the Estonian municipality days 26-27 March 2014 to discuss water protection with local authorities, and to promote the Baltic Sea Challenge (BSC) network. Civil servants, associations and organizations from different parts of Estonia visited the info stand. During the two day event the CITYWATER staff had the opportunity to speak to about 20 people from for example Valga and Tartu; Põide and Tornimäe in Saaremaa; as well as Pirita, Tapa and Haljala in the northern part of Estonia.



The CITYWATER project was represented by Karolin Kairo-Gasman from Tallinn City and Tina Nyfors from the City of Helsinki. During the day, a range of seminars were held, the topics included social issues, economy, local government finances, environment, and public procurement. Tina Nyfors had a presentation during the Environment forum on Thursday 27 March. The forum was linked to the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 and the theme for the Environment forum was *Water – common concerns and challenges*.

The CITYWATER presentation was entitled *What can cities and municipalities do for saving the Baltic Sea? The Baltic Sea Challenge network as a tool for concrete local action*. The presentation started by presenting some statistical facts about Estonian people's relation to the Baltic Sea; an overview of the in many cases poor state of the sea; examples of concrete local water protection measures; and that the measures can be done within the framework of the BSC. CITYWATER and the European Commission Life+ financing was brought up in the introduction and in more detail in the end of the presentation, as an example of how work done within the framework of the Baltic Sea Challenge can be linked to funding opportunities.



Other speakers in the forum included the former Prime Minister and Member of the European parliament Andres Tarand; the head of the National Audit Office Viire Viss,; and the director at the Estonian Water Works Association (EveL) Vahur Tarkmees. CITYWATER also assisted the organizers in arranging the possibility to show a video linked to the Gulf of Finland Year, “I Love Gulf of Finland”.

The Municipality days had in total 1300 participants.



*The Estonian Municipality days 2014 had in total 1300 participants representing different organizations. During the two day conference, CITYWATER had a stand promoting the Baltic Sea Challenge. In the picture to the left: Karolin Kairo-Gasman, Tallinn City; Tina Nyfors, City of Helsinki; Gennadi Gramberg, Tallinn City.*

Text: Tina Nyfors

Photo: Karolin Kairo-Gasman, Tina Nyfors