



*Meeting with stakeholders (Public talk "Café Scientifique")
9 February 2011, Klaipeda*

Goal of the event was to discuss with stakeholders history, present and the future of Lithuanian marine culture in the light of marine spatial planning in Lithuania. This was the first even in the series of public talks about marine issues in Lithuania, maritime spatial planning, conflicts and synergies of sea uses organized by the Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania.

At the first part of the meeting **three presentations on the following topics were made:**

1. **Overview of marine culture in Lithuania, its history, international context, current trends of the development of marine culture.** Dr. Rimas Zaromskis of the Klaipeda University presented historical circumstances of the development of Lithuanian marine culture that worked against it for the most part. This includes the Soviet period when vacation at the seaside was a predominant form of experiencing the sea.
2. **Marine culture in Baltic Sea region countries: socioeconomic aspects.** Environmental economist Ms. Daiva Semeniene introduced the results of "Baltic Survey" showing that Lithuanians unlike residents of other Baltic Sea countries are not willing to make financial contributions for the improvement of Baltic Sea environment. They see it as a primary responsibility of private businessmen instead.
3. **Marine culture and tourism trends: national and international perspective.** Dr. Ausrine Armaitiene of the Klaipeda University presented the current trends of the Lithuanian tourism sector. The presenter stressed greater sense of responsibility among residents of the coastal regions. However, the problem in Lithuania is lack of historical coastal communities.

Discussions and outcomes:

After the presentations, participants of the event were invited to discuss marine culture and other sea-related issues with the experts. During an active discussion participants concluded: although marine culture in Lithuania is rather non-existent, it may develop via public and open debate about marine issues in the country that could contribute to participatory policy making and enhancing the quality of education as well.