

Tasks and Responsibilities for the BACC II SSG, the BALTEX Secretariat and BACC II Lead Authors

1. BACC II Science Steering Committee (BACC II SSC) and the BALTEX Secretariat

BACC II is the Second “BALTEX Assessment of Climate Change for the Baltic Sea basin”. It is intended as an update to the first BACC report which was published in 2008 as a book by the Springer Verlag. The role of the BACC II Science Steering Committee (BACC II SSC) is to formulate a plan for the BACC II assessment¹ and the outline topics to be addressed. The SSC will also invite Lead Authors for each specific topic, and prepare and update the list of Lead Authors as required to implement the BACC II process. Furthermore, it will arrange the review process and comment on the accuracy and completeness of the scientific and technical content.

The BALTEX Secretariat acts as the focal point regarding the logistics of the review process, of meetings and technical writing aspects. Of particular importance is the full availability of information, including text material for all participants in the BACC II writing process and representatives of HELCOM. A dedicated BACC II website will be available at www.baltex-research.eu/BACC2/, including a password protected page for the exchange of internal information and documents (e.g. draft chapters).

2. BACC II Lead Authors

BACC II Lead Authors are invited by the BACC II SSC to produce chapters and sub-chapters of the BACC II report on the basis of the currently available scientific knowledge on climate change² in the Baltic Sea basin. The Lead Author will be responsible for the overall quality and content of their assigned topic. This applies even if they form a writing team. Lead Authors within each chapter should coordinate their effort. The essence of the Lead Authors’ task is the synthesis of material drawn comprehensively from the available scientifically legitimate literature (e.g. peer reviewed literature, conference proceedings, reports of scientific institutes). Studies whose results and conclusions cannot be reconciled with a consensus view but which are of a good scientific and technical standard should be taken into account. The assessment should thus encompass the knowledge about what scientists agree on but also identify cases of disagreement or knowledge gaps.

¹ The term “assessment” in this context refers to a review of the available knowledge about climate change and related issues, and not to an evaluation of climate change itself. The assessment is the synthesis of material drawn comprehensively from the available scientifically legitimate literature (e.g. peer reviewed literature, conference proceedings, reports of scientific institutes) and should encompass the knowledge about what scientists agree on but also identify cases of disagreement or knowledge gaps.

² BACC II adopts the BACC definition of the term “climate change”: “BACC has decided to essentially follow the IPCC definition and to add explicitly “anthropogenic” to the term “climate change” when human causes are attributable, and to refer to “climate variability” when referring to variations not related to anthropogenic influences” (BACC 2008, Section 1.1).