

**Proposed dissertation theme for the Doctoral degree Studies (2018-2022) in  
Ecology and Environmental Science at Klaipėda University**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Tools and Approaches for supporting Coastal and Marine Policy implementation</b>
<b>Brief description of the topic</b>	<p>Coastal and marine issues are usually complex, uncertain and interdisciplinary, with wide ranging environmental, social and economic implications. Therefore, the need for holistic and systematic approaches to environmental problem solving is increasingly being recognized and incorporated into European coastal and marine policies, such as the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) or the Recommendations on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</p> <p>Clear guidelines, tools and applicable methodologies for an efficient implementation of coastal and marine policies as well as environmental measures are partly lacking. Deficits exist, for example, with respect to appropriate monitoring, stakeholder involvement, adaptive management, or measuring sustainability and success of measures. Systems Approach Frameworks, guided stepwise processes, that start with a problem identification and end with the implementation of measures and a monitoring of the success, are hardly applied in practice and need further considerations.</p> <p>Concrete objectives are a) to identify policy and stakeholder needs for supporting tools and approaches, b) to apply and further-develop tools and approaches and c) critically evaluate in which steps the tools can be applied in implementing coastal and marine policies or in coastal management schemes.</p>
<b>Requirements for a candidate</b>	<p>The candidate needs the capability to work in an inter-disciplinary research environment, needs very good English language skills and the readiness to work in different countries.</p>
<b>Research experience in the institution</b>	<p>The supervisor, G. Schernewski, is author of 100+ publications on coastal and marine issues. He is coordinator of the BONUS-project BaltCoast and had coordination tasks in international projects like CHARM, OURCOAST, SPICOSA, AMBER, SUSTAIN or GENESIS. He is involved in several projects on marine and coastal policy development and implementation. Further, he serves as international expert for e.g. EU, EEA, UNEP, UNESCO and HELCOM and is member of the national expert groups. His working groups in Lithuania and Germany are dealing with the topic already for several years.</p>
<b>Existing research infrastructure and support</b>	<p>The research is a cooperation between Klaipėda University and the Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany. The research infrastructure as well as several methodological approaches are available.</p>
<b>Potential supervisor [contact person for the topic]</b>	<p>Prof. Dr. habil. Gerald Schernewski (gerald.schernewski@io-warnemuende.de) www.io-warnemuende.de/bio-ag-coastal-marine-management.html</p>