



Pathways of Transforming Smaller Harbours into Inclusive “Maritime Experience Points”

MariEx Workshop | Organized by the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) |
Supported by Interreg South Baltic and the EU

Welcome & Workshop Overview

Explore how **smaller harbours** can become **vibrant and inclusive Maritime Experience Points**.

This interactive workshop will:

- Share **inspiring examples**
- Encourage **co-creation**
- Build **connections** across the Baltic Sea region



Let's get to know each other!



→ Use QR code or link on screen

Why Focus on Smaller Harbours?

- Cultural and economic anchors for communities
- Challenges: underuse, accessibility, environmental impact
- Opportunities: tourism, innovation, education, sustainability



The MariEx Project

- The MariEx Project connects people, harbours, and innovation across the Baltic Sea.
- Focus:
 - Inclusive harbour development
 - Sustainable maritime heritage
 - Cross-border collaboration



LEAD PARTNER

Name: Tourism Association Vorpommern

Country: Germany

The project involves **9 partners** from Germany (2), Denmark (1), Sweden (1), Poland (3) and Lithuania (2).

The partnership is composed of **destination management organisations**, **local and regional authorities**, a **NGO**, and **associations of local and regional authorities**.

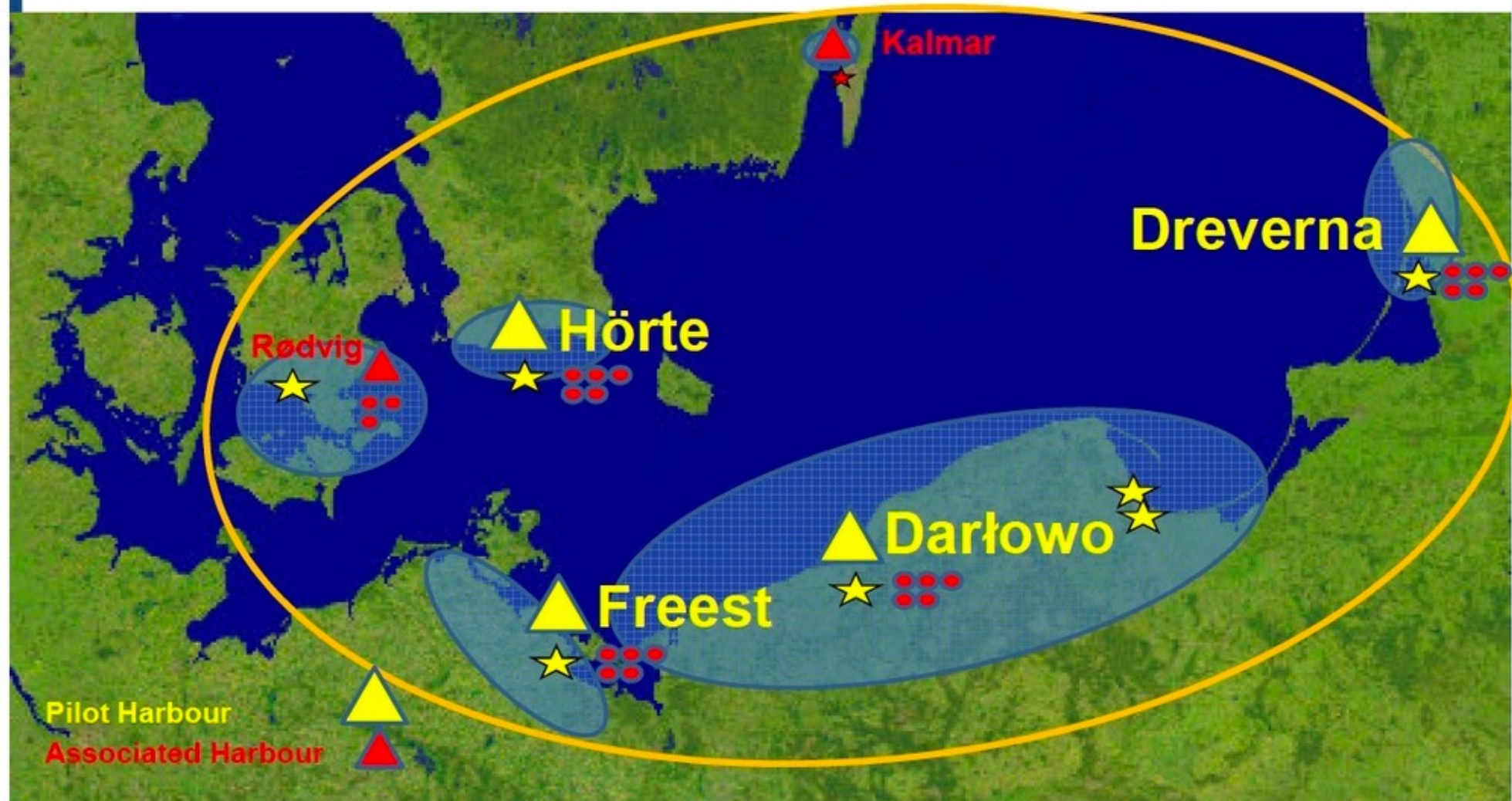
Duration: 01.05.2024- 30.09.2027

**Total budget app. 2,3 mln euro
(1,84 mln ERDF)**

**Regular project, co-funded by
South Baltic Programme**



MariEx: Pilot harbours (& associated harbours)



Case Study: Dreverna, Lithuania

- Presented by
Rasa Grubliauskytė
- **From fishing village to
maritime hub:**
 - Community-led
transformation
 - Multifunctional marina
& tourism
 - Preserving identity
while embracing
innovation



Case Study: MariEx Inspirations

- Presented by
Julia Chodorowska
- **Harbour transformations
across the Baltic Sea:**
 - Accessibility and
inclusion
 - Linking tradition with
modern design
 - Engaging diverse
stakeholders



Group Brainstorming – Let's Co-Create!

1. Form groups (4–6 people)
2. Choose a real or imagined harbour
3. Brainstorm:
 - What makes it unique?
 - How can it be more inclusive?
 - What experiences can attract people?



Sharing & Feedback

- Each group presents in 2 minutes.
- Audience shares quick feedback
- **Celebrate diversity of ideas!**



Food for Thought – AREA Methodology

AREA Framework for Responsible Innovation:

- A – Anticipate impacts
- R – Reflect on values
- E – Engage stakeholders
- A – Act responsibly

Ensures innovation
respects people, culture,
and nature.



Reflection & Online Survey

- **We'd love your input!**
- Please complete the short online survey via QR code.
- Questions:
 - What inspired you today?
 - Your key takeaway?
 - How can you apply these ideas locally?

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES

Interreg
South Baltic



Co-funded by
the European Union

MariEx

Closing & Next Steps

Small harbours are gateways to connection, culture, and creativity.

Thank you for shaping the vision of inclusive and sustainable maritime futures!

Stay connected through the MariEx Project & UBC network.





Thank you for your attention !

Contact: Marta Czarnecka-Gallas, projekt.gallas@gmail.com
UBC, MariEx Project coordinator & Tourism Specialist