

1 Background

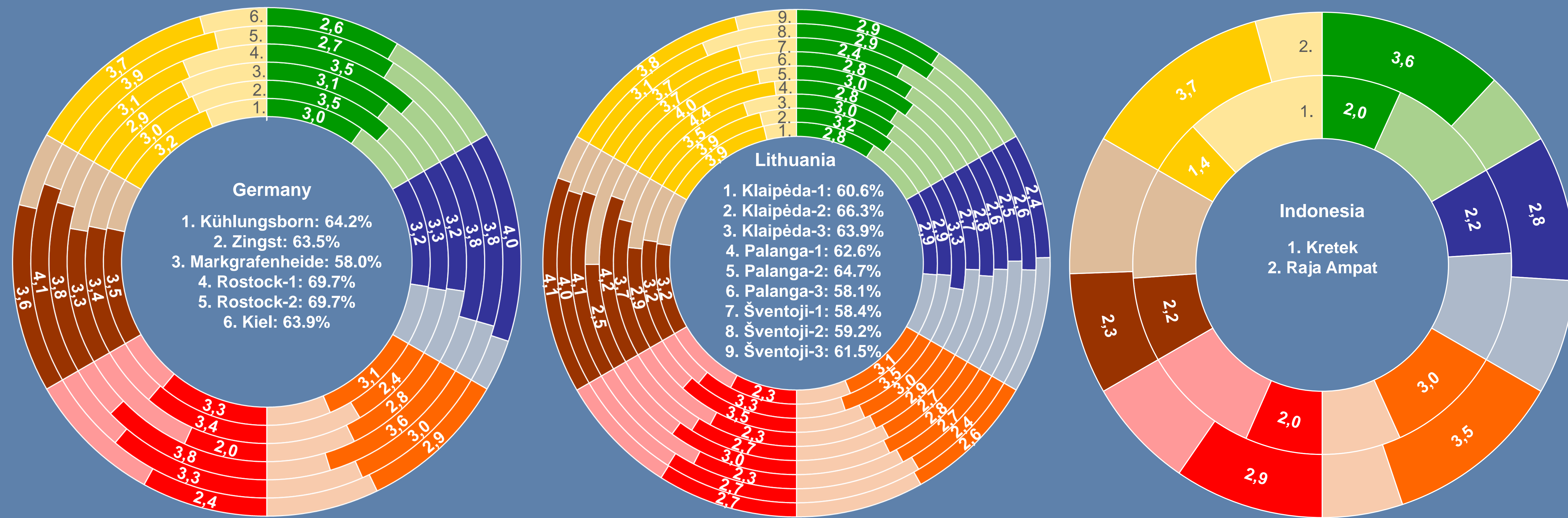
In the context of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and sustainable development indicator assessments have garnered increasing interest. Within the project **SUSTAIN** an indicator-based method was developed, tailor-made for European coastal municipalities¹. To add value and provide direct benefits the method was linked with the **QualityCoast Award** for sustainable tourism destinations.

Here, the results of seventeen **applications** for destinations in Germany, Lithuania and Indonesia are presented. They were conducted to test and further-develop the merged tool.

Detailed information on the methodology and current and future usages are shown on **Poster 58**.

3 Results

Categories: ■ Nature ■ Environment ■ Identity & Culture ■ Tourism & Business ■ Host Community & Safety ■ Governance



Figures: Reached category scores (out of 5) for all destinations within a country are shown. Percentages given for each destination reflect the 'Overall Sustainability,' an index value calculated based on the aggregation of all indicator scores. Numbers after destination names indicate repeated applications by different evaluators.

2 Approach

- Development of indicator tool in which **QualityCoast indicators** and **SUSTAIN methodology** are merged
 - It includes six categories, divided into 25 issues and supported by 117 indicators
 - Indicators are scored on a scale from 1 to 5 based on pre-defined answers (for details see **Poster 58**)
- Application to ten destinations in Germany, Lithuania and Indonesia to assess potential for measuring and comparing sustainability in coastal communities
- Repeated applications for Rostock (Germany) and Lithuanian sites to analyse degree of subjectivity and evaluator's role
- Subdivision of indicator set into '**policy**' and '**status**' indicators

4 Lessons Learned

- Reasons for strong variability in results for destinations between and within countries, and for repeated applications include:
- **Qualitative nature** of indicators and lacking benchmarks/reference values
 - Variations in data quality
 - Indicators outside sphere of local influence but **affected by higher levels** (similarities within regions)
 - Equalizations of high and low scores on aggregated levels
 - High level of evaluators' **subjectivity** for both status and policy indicators

5 Outlook

- Despite major weaknesses the indicator set and application is suitable for raising awareness about sustainability and as a support for strategic planning in coastal communities. Within the **BONUS Project BaltCoast** the indicator set will be further developed. Conducted applications have identified the needs for:
- A single evaluator to reduce subjectivity and improve quality of results
 - Inclusion of optional indicators to increase flexibility and to allow communities to assess whether their efforts and managements options improve coastal sustainability

6 BaltCoast Project

The three-year **BONUS project 'BaltCoast – A Systems Approach Framework for Coastal Research and Management in the Baltic'** aims at further-developing a Systems Approach Framework (SAF) for a coherent and systematic management approach of coastal regions. SAF shall be used as a user-friendly tool with high practical value for science policy integration. Further information can be obtained from our website: www.baltcoast.net