

In this issue:

Editorial

Inside OURCOAST

Topical issues

Events & Announcements

Editorial

by Luigi E. Cipriani,

*D.G. Environmental and Territorial Policies**Unit on Territorial and Coastal Protection**Region of Tuscany**Italy***Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, a regional perspective**

The Coastal Zone of a Mediterranean region like Tuscany, and in particular our alluvial plains characterized by sand and gravel beaches, is a territory of special interest for sustainable strategic development. In our region social and economic interests and the protection of natural ecosystems must meet the target of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). We have interpreted ICZM as a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of the coastal zone, taking into account the fragility of our coastal ecosystems and historical landscapes. In addition, the region of Tuscany has considered ICZM as a priority in the last decade's strategy and investment. It is a fact that the management of Mediterranean beaches is of key importance due to the threat they bear, the highly-priced uses they host and what such a value may represent for local, regional and national economies.

In Tuscany the new role acquired by the regional administration in shore protection matters, after the recent transfer of competencies from the national government, together with the collaboration with research institutes and the experience favoured by the participation in some EU-financed projects (e.g. EUROSION, BEACHMED, BEACHMED-e, CONSCIENCE, OURCOAST), resulted in a "New Phase" in ICZM. Part of this is a policy of reducing conflicts among stakeholders within littoral cells, which had in the past prevented the implementation of integrated projects suitable to face, and adapt to beach erosion. Dissemination of knowledge, participation of stakeholders in all steps of shore protection design, and supervision of independent research institutes, allowed to minimise and overcome this phase of conflicts. New shore protection projects are now well known by the communities affected; their pros and cons are discussed and accepted so that each of the different administrations involved can play its role in a participatory and shared manner.

This will allow fulfilment of our goal which is a gradual conversion of 'archaeo-structures' (hard shore protection with seawalls, detached breakwaters and groynes) into soft shore protection (beach nourishment, submerged groynes, sand bypass, dune restoration), following the "Back to the beach" strategy initiated in Tuscany in the late 1990's. In this view we are trying to work as much as possible with natural coastal processes in order to maintain a favourable sediment status also with the use of strategic sediment reservoirs in the continental shelf.

The OURCOAST project is a great opportunity to learn from others, and to share a few examples of our "Back to the beach" strategy with a target audience of coastal managers, planners and stakeholders. Please, enjoy reading our case studies in the upcoming OURCOAST database!

Inside OURCOAST

This section introduces the activities inside of OURCOAST presented by the team members.



Rob Steijn, Alan Pickaver and Bernd Heinichen from the OURCOAST project team

Work in progress...

OURCOAST moves ahead and the team has been busy with numerous activities. The collection of the case studies, development of the database and the website as well as the analysis of the cases are all under development. In the process of case study collection, 340 cases have now been prepared and 10 remain to be written. Each case study has gone through a verification process. This means that after the case study is prepared and prior to its publication, up to 4 experts verify it, validate it and approve it. Although this verification process is very time-consuming, it is required to provide the best quality and will provide you with accurate information. We would like to continue to encourage you to provide us with successful (or not) examples of implementation of ICZM in your area and from your experiences.

In terms of dissemination activities, the participation and information area of OURCOAST presented during the International Conference ICCCM'2010 in Estoril, Portugal (12-15th April 2010) has been one of the major activities. It was the first time the team presented and shared with coastal practitioners the prototype of the OURCOAST Web Portal. It has proven to be a very useful and key opportunity for the coastal community to get acquainted with the web portal and with the ICZM case studies database during the conference the participants had the possibility to access the portal and check the functionalities.

Generally, the users highlighted the user-friendliness of the system, appreciated the national languages availability and the different search options available; by theme, by country and free search. Further, and about the cases, the system worked well, there is already very good material available (note that during mid April only about 100 cases were available on the prototype!), interesting cases, and willingness to follow-up, consult and check for ICZM practices in the future. All in all, this has given positive feedback and good feeling that the tool is being developed according to the needs and aspirations of the community.

More recently, OURCOAST has been also present at the EU Green Week 2010 (1 - 4 June) in Brussels. Building with nature, has been the core message of Rob Steijn, project manager, at this occasion. In his words "Nature projects will become failures if we don't apply "Building with Nature – principles" (eco-engineering)." To illustrate this a few examples and OURCOAST cases have been presented. More information about this event is available [online!](#)

The first out of three thematic brochures has been prepared by the team, which will be distributed later this month. With examples from our database, the brochure illustrates the important role of participation in coastal vision development and decision making. In the Guest Editorial, Mr. Cipriani from Regione Toscana, points at the role of participation in minimizing and overcoming conflicts amongst various stakeholders.

By OURCOAST project team

Inside OURCOAST

This section introduces the activities inside of OURCOAST presented by the team members.

The spread of OURCOAST ICZM experiences

As you are aware the collection of ICZM cases is moving apace, but how is the spread of the case studies throughout the policy objectives, you may ask? In the previous newsletter we have provided an overview of the distribution of the cases collected so far by European countries, which presented a good coverage of all coastal states.

Now, we would like to share with you the update as well as the spread of the cases through the OURCOAST themes and the key approaches.

The spread of the ICZM cases over the eight Themes and the six Key Approaches so far is presented in the tables below. As you will notice, the sum of the given numbers is more than the total of cases available. The reason for this is that most cases can be placed under more than one theme and key Approach. Although it was the original intention that each case study would address one of the (key) approaches used, in practice, because of the cross-cutting nature of ICZM, most cases address more than one key approach and, indeed, more than one Theme. Therefore the summation of the total number of case summaries per Theme will be more than the total number of 350 case summaries to be collected in total. This is an indication that the selected cases are indeed “integrated” in the way this is meant for with ICZM.

POLICY OBJECTIVES AND THEMES	nr. cases
ADAPTATION TO RISK	
Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems;	78
Preparing for, preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human made) hazards;	94
Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension (prevention to response) into planning and investment;	74
SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES	
Preserving the coastal and marine environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space;	194
Sharing the sound use of resources and promoting their less resource intensive processes/products;	90
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH	
Developing the coastal zone of Europe’s regional seas sustainably;	39
Balancing economic, social, and cultural development whilst enhancing environment and managing impacts from coastal activities;	145
Improving competitiveness, planning and investment.	47

The tables show that there is also a good spread covering the three policy areas and eight Themes as well as the six Key Approaches.

ICZM KEY APPROACHES	nr. cases
Integration	191
Participation	185
Knowledge-based	149
Eco-system based	105
Socio-economic	166
Technical processes	138

Inside OURCOAST

GET INVOLVED!

We kindly invite you to mail m.ferreira@eucc.net about new topics, publications, project announcements and any relevant information to share with OURCOAST readers!

These cases will provide enough information about how ICZM is being organized and stakeholders are being involved, but also how this knowledge can be used by others, and which tools are being used and more importantly how to achieve benefits for society!

In terms of geographical distribution, the following table provides the update since the last newsletter issue. There has been a good spread around Europe with all coastal EU states contributing, however it is important to clarify that in the framework of this initiative emphasis has been given to the collection of experiences around the Baltic Sea region which reflects the large number of cases in this regional sea.

Distribution of the <u>total</u> cases by regional sea	nr. cases
Baltic Sea	107
Black Sea	12
North Sea	77
Mediterranean Sea	77
Atlantic	73

Distribution of <u>individual</u> cases by regions, seas and countries	nr. cases
Baltic	11
Belgium	12
Bulgaria	2
Black Sea	1
Central & Eastern Europe	1
Cyprus	12
Denmark	17
Estonia	9
Europe	11
Finland	12
France	27
Germany	34
Greece	13
Ireland	15
Italy	16
Latvia	12
Lithuania	10
Malta	3
Mediterranean	1
Netherlands	20
North West Europe	4
Poland	8
Portugal	8
Romania	4
Slovenia	3
Spain	27
Sweden	10
UK	37

Topical Issues

This section presents topical ICZM initiatives, policies, instruments and tools throughout Europe.

PEGASO in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Coastal zone management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea has recently gained strength with the start of a new initiative – People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast – PEGASO. These regions have, and continue to suffer severe environmental degradation despite many of the efforts to enhance an integrated approach to coastal management. In many areas this has led to unsustainable trends which have impacted on economic activities and human well being. An important progress has been made with the launch of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean Sea in January 2008.

The main goal of PEGASO is to build on existing capacities and develop common novel approaches to support integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins in ways that are consistent with and relevant to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. PEGASO is consistent with the frameworks of the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions which seek to achieve a coordinated approach to sustainable resource management and development, and to protect these regional seas and the quality of life of their peoples. It also continues ICZM efforts, supporting new marine and maritime policies.

In order to achieve its objectives, PEGASO will use the model of the existing ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean and adjust it to the needs of the Black Sea through three innovative actions:

- Constructing an ICZM governance platform as a bridge between scientist and end-user communities, going far beyond a conventional bridging. The building of a shared scientific and end users platform is at the heart of our proposal linked with new models of governance;
- Refine and further develop efficient and easy to use tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone (indicators, accounting methods and models, scenarios). They will be tested and validated in a multi-scale approach for integrated regional assessment;
- Implement of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), following INSPIRE Directive, to organize and standardize spatial data to support information sharing on an interactive visor, to make it available to the ICZM Platform, and to disseminate all results of the project to the end users and interested parties.

To learn more about PEGASO activities, team and news please visit the website at: www.pegasoproject.eu

And/or contact Françoise Breton, Project coordinator from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain), Email: francoise.breton@uab.cat



Topical Issues

This section presents topical ICZM initiatives, policies, instruments and tools throughout Europe.

Guidance for coastal managers working on eroding coastlines: the CONSCIENCE legacy

There is increasing consensus among coastal practitioners and scientists that we should address the coastal erosion problem at its roots: an imbalance in the sediment budgets in the coastal zone.

The CONSCIENCE project recently reached its conclusion and has made contributions to this knowledge by addressing the need for the implementation of a scientifically based sustainable coastal erosion management in Europe. In order to achieve this, the project tested scientific concepts and tools in six pilot sites around Europe, building on the recommendations on coastal erosion management as presented by the EUROSION project in 2004.

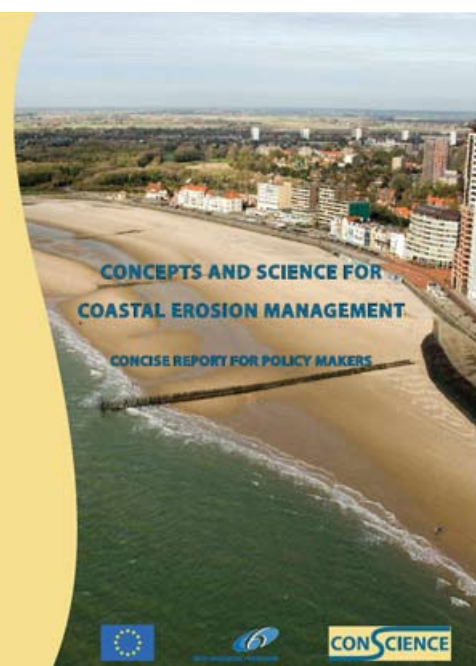
CONSCIENCE has shown that the sediment balance approach can be applied for almost any coastal type, but that this approach to achieve sustainable coastline management is often hampered by lack of a well defined and institutionalised government policy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

Sustainable solutions to coastal erosion problems should be based on a better understanding of the sediment dynamics, framed in a policy context with explicit objectives and an institutional environment in which each stakeholder has a clear role. The CONSCIENCE project has introduced the Frame of Reference as an aid to formulate this policy. Through this Frame a transparent erosion management policy becomes possible.

Based on this and to assist implementation of coastal erosion management in local and regional initiatives, CONSCIENCE has developed Guidelines for Implementation of Sustainable Coastal Erosion Management in local and regional initiatives. These entailed the definition of a decision-making framework based on the concepts formulated by EUROSION, i.e. coastal resilience, coastal sediment cells, favourable sediment status and strategic sediment reservoirs. These concepts have been given a suitable place in the management process cycle.

These and all other results are freely available on the project website through a step-by-step user-friendly guide to facilitate the application and integration of the project methodology into coastal erosion policy, planning and management.

Furthermore, a Concise Report for Policy Makers has been produced in order to bring the main messages, findings and recommendations to these stakeholders. The publication can be downloaded from the project website www.conscience-eu.net which will be online, at least, until 2013!



By Marcel Marchand

Project manager of CONSCIENCE, DELTARES (The Netherlands)

Topical Issues

This section presents topical ICZM initiatives, policies, instruments and tools throughout Europe.

Creating a tool to assist ICZM implementation in the North Sea: SUSCOD

SUSustainable COastal Development in practise (SUSCOD) aims to make a step change in the application of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). In doing so coastal potentials -economical, social and environmental- can be utilized to full advantage and broader support for coastal management measures can be secured. The project is co-financed by the INTERREG IVB North Sea Region (NSR) and will run until the end of 2013 with an 8 members partnership, ranging from Denmark, Germany, UK, Belgium and The Netherlands (lead partner). Because the NSR coastal area is an area with high value assets, where the pressure for competing user functions is being strongly felt, coastal management is about managing change. The region faces the anticipated impacts of climate change. Precautionary measures are required to guarantee safety for inhabitants and safeguard its values. The challenge is to find positive solutions that also ensure fully integrated social, economic and environmental development.

Central to SUSCOD is the development of a practical tool: the ICZM assistant and its introduction to potential users and demonstrated value at test locations. Coastal practitioners are currently lacking a practical ICZM tool to assist in the development and/or implementation of coastal plans.

Much of the challenge lies in promoting change in the behaviour of the user groups and institutions. Therefore, the ICZM assistant will focus on tools to make the SUSCOD project partners aware of their behaviour and to assist them and other participants in their project with behaviour change to successfully implement coastal projects. Also tools that provide regional and local information on specific locations or issues are necessary as part of the ICZM assistant for a better understanding of the situation and to be able to make sound decisions for implementation.

The ICZM assistant will be tested on pilot projects which are thematically organised in four work packages which focus on 1) activities to assess and to raise (further) awareness of the expected effects of climate change such as sea level rise, 2) the development of integrated strategies and concepts on regional and local level, 3) the translation to real plans that will be test-implemented on during the project life time on a small scale or that can be implemented after the project's life time and 4) involving relevant parties in the development and decision making process.

More Information can be found at: <http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/projects/list/&let=S>

The project web site [www. SUSCOD.eu](http://www.SUSCOD.eu) will be launched later this year!

*By Gertjan Nederbragt,
Project manager, Province of North-Holland, The Netherlands,
nederbragt@noord-holland.nl*

Events

&

Announcements

GET INVOLVED!

We kindly invite you to mail m.ferreira@eucc.net about new topics, publications, project announcements and any relevant information to share with OURCOAST readers!

Upcoming Events

Marine & Coastal Conservation Workshop: Natura 2000 Management Planning

September 1st –3rd Marseille, France

The 1st Eurosite MCPA Workshop will take place in Marseille.

The aim of the workshop will be to discuss issues such as : what is the role of Marine Protected areas in the implementation of the EU directives? And How are site management organisations involved in the process? A common understanding of the common drivers behind all the efforts, commitments of management organisations is necessary, it will form the basis for the further exchange of experience and good practice.

More information and draft programme at [website!](#)

LITTORAL 2010 “Adapting to global change at the coast: Leadership, Innovation, and Investment”

September 21st – 23rd London, UK

CoastNet, Eurocoast and the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) have the pleasure to invite you to participate in this LITTORAL 2010, 10th International Conference. The conference will be held at the Royal Geographical Society, London.

The aim of the conference is to develop a holistic view of the priorities for integrated management across the social, political, economic and environmental divides that uniquely characterise the coast.

Please visit the [conference website](#) for further details.

1st Annual Forum Stakeholder Conference: “Qualifying the Region for the Future - Implementing the EU Baltic Sea Strategy”

October 14th – 15th Tallinn, Estonia

The Baltic Sea States Sub regional Co-operation (BSSSC), the Association of Municipalities of Estonia (AME) and the Association of Estonian Cities (AEC) in cooperation with the European Commission will organize the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region back-to-back with the BSSSC Annual Conference.

For further information and registration for the combined conference please visit <http://www.bsssc.eu/> an/or http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/events_en.htm

OURCOAST NEWS is a newsletter produced by the OURCOAST consortium for coastal authorities, managers, decision-makers and other coastal stakeholders. It will be published every three months during the project duration. OURCOAST is implemented by a consortium led by ARCADIS and its subcontractor Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC). The Project manager is mr. Robbert Steijn from ARCADIS (rob.steijn@arcadis.nl).

For comments or contributions to OURCOAST, please contact Maria Ferreira (m.ferreira@eucc.net), the Coastal Union & Marine Union (EUCC) , P.O.Box 11232, 2301, Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.+31-71-5122900.

© Articles may be reproduced free of charge with acknowledgement and citation of OURCOAST NEWS and the URL of the OURCOAST website (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/ourcoast.htm>).

Members of the Editorial Team: Maria Ferreira, Rob Steijn, Alan Pickaver, Erik Devilee and Ellen Hofman.

