

Workshop 5:

How can atlases help to organise and promote the seas?



Report

1. Three key messages included on the reporting slide for the last plenary session

- Atlases help people to visualise intuitively and succinctly the complexity of the marine environment, and notably Europe's sea basins.
- Atlases can attract a wide and varied audience and generate interest in the many aspects of the seas and their coastal regions.
- The European Atlas of the Seas can help to translate and promote in a lively way the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy initiatives and, at the same time, support other initiatives and inter-linkages to mutual benefit.

2. Key questions and messages from the floor:

- **Atlases are very useful.** One map is worth a thousand words. The EU should also use more maps and less text to communicate. Atlases are needed for education, including in schools.
- **Paper versus web-atlases.** Paper atlases and web-atlases are complementing each other. Paper atlases are expensive and difficult to update but needed in some circumstances. Web-atlases are easier to update and more

accessible, but do not fit all the needs (schools, politicians, ...).

- **High price of producing atlases.** The issues of intellectual property of maps and payback were raised in view of the labour and cost of creating a map and the facility with which it can be copied. Producing a page with a map can be 1000 times more expensive than with text. Few atlases have been produced because of their high prices.
- **Targeted audience.** An atlas needs to be designed taking into account the targeted audience, whether children, the broad public, professionals or experts. The approach and content are totally depending on the targeted audience.
- **Involving stakeholders (public authorities, concerned parties).** Developing an atlas around a sea-basin implies long and intensive cooperation between the various countries and stakeholders, emphasising common identity and challenges, identifying priorities for action. Some issues need the involvement of stakeholders, such as drawing territorial boundaries, raising awareness of a sea-basin identity, creating cooperation with non-EU states, etc...
- **Availability of data (quality and quantity).** The quality and density of data is a real issue, as in some places data is missing, while in other places data is densely available. There is a need for better coordination and interoperability of available data in the EU.
- **International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN).** The strategic aim of the Network is to share experiences and to find common solutions to Coastal Web Atlas development while ensuring maximum relevance for the end users. In 2010, a Handbook will be published on Web Atlas Design

and Implementation. The fourth in a series of workshops will be held in Trieste, Italy from November 16 to 20 2009.

- **European Atlas of the Seas.** An informal meeting has followed workshop 5, specifically dedicated to this atlas project of the European Commission.

3. Summary of the interventions from the panel

- **Manfred LEIER**, Author 'World Atlas of the Oceans'
 - 1) Since the end of the 19th century, atlases have been used as encyclopaedias in geological and political subjects. Still today atlases are a very important instrument for schools. Their benefit is obviously that users of atlases can obtain detailed information directly, clearly organised.
 - 2) Since the 1960s, modern graphics have extended the subjects of atlases and allowed specialised sectors to be targeted. Now maps focusing on economics, environments, traffic, health, climate... are included in modern atlases.
 - 3) Atlases of the oceans still are very rare (except maps of specialised items for scientific purposes).The first general atlas of the oceans published in 2001 is a combination of painted GEBCO maps and painted map panoramas of the sea beds, with ridges and trenches and mountains and volcanoes. This combination obviously is of interest for a large group of people who want to be informed about maritime facts and sciences.
- **Juan Luis SUÁREZ DE VIVERO**, University of Seville, Author 'Atlas of Maritime Europe'

- 1) Atlases can help in the management of seas and oceans and contribute to their advancement by constructing the political dimension of maritime Europe and making it more widely known. Maps can increase maritime visibility which is one of the aims of the Blue Paper and the Action Plan.
 - 2) Atlases thus become very valuable instruments for creating an awareness of maritime issues such as maritime leadership, sustainability, connectivity through trade, and governance.
 - 3) Atlases have an important role to play by organizing and structuring the spatial frameworks in which maritime uses and activities take place. Global, European and local scales are all relevant to understand maritime affairs and the way the different institutional levels are involved in policy making.
- **Louis SHURMER-SMITH**, Co-Author 'Channel Spaces'

The first part of the dual presentation (Shurmer-Smith - Buléon) of a particular atlas case-study 'Channel Spaces', focussed primarily on providing a historico-geographical context, noting that:

 - 1) Seas are 'territorial', increasingly 'appropriated' spaces, and with intensification of their varied [often conflicting] uses there is a need, as for the land, to manage space;
 - 2) The narrow European sea represented by the English Channel, historically a long, internationally contested space, albeit alternating between 'union' and 'division', is today strategically important as the maritime 'Gateway to Europe', as well as the locus of growing cross-Channel integration around this Anglo-French "Pond"; and

- 3) The signing over the last decade of numerous inter-university and inter-regional accords in various domains, the creation of 'Arc Manche' and the launch of its successful EU INTERREG programme EMDI, underlined the need for an atlas which mapped the spatial dynamics of this maritime transfrontier zone in such a way as to underpin the development of an integrated strategy.
- **Pascal BULEON**, Research Director in the University of Caen, Co-Author 'Channel Spaces' and 'Emergences caraïbes. Eléments de géographie politique'
Complementing previous presentation, the specific approach and contributions of 'Channel Spaces' are:
 - 1) To contribute towards the strategic aim of a sea basin displaying a regional coherence in terms of historical, economic and social dimensions. This requires not only the analysis of each phenomenon but also an attempt to unravel and decode complex realities in their multiple representations.
 - 2) To articulate the interplay between different geographical scales. The atlas analyses the Channel's relationship to the world, the global scale, in terms of both the past and the present.
 - 3) To develop a strategy. On the one hand, the atlas identifies the major issues at stake at the scales where their impact is most in evidence. On the other hand, the atlas offers a mental map as well as a visual representation for different reading publics, not least for political and economic leaders, in order to provide an immediate context, a framework of ideas, to inform both their choices and policies; But also for a wider public.

- 4) In the final analysis, an atlas can offer a vision, provoke questions and reflection, and give some direction in the construction of an integrated strategy.
- **Michaela GENSHEIMER**, Cluster Coordinator/Project Expert - Project Development and Coordination, ESPON - European Observation Network on Territorial Development and Cohesion
 - 1) Maps/atlas are important tools for the communication of maritime and coastal/territorial development opportunities, challenges and related dynamics.
 - 2) Maps/atlas can help policymakers exploring alternative development paths in the future.
 - 3) In order to serve their purpose in the best possible way, the target group(s) and their specific needs and interest for information need to be known.
 - **Philippe VALLETTE**, Directeur Général NAUSICAA, Author of 'Atlas de l'Océan Mondial'

An atlas, such as the 'Atlas de l'Océan Mondial', aims to raise ocean awareness:

 - 1) By providing keys allowing an understanding of the links between man and ocean: Living resources; Pollution without borders; Coasts under pressure; Ocean and climate change; Intensive maritime transport; Energy and mineral; Ocean, source of leisure.
 - 2) By delivering a global image on ocean related issues: Essential strategic issues; International waters; One world, one ocean; The dynamic ocean; Ocean, source of life; Common heritage of human kind; A life support system.

3) By raising public awareness and inspire action:
Protecting the ocean; Everyone can act; World Ocean
Network.

**4. Links to presentations and speeches by speakers, and other
documentation relevant for the workshop**