



Conclusions - ICZM efforts in the European Union

From the nineties onwards, the European Union has taken a *strong leadership role* in the development, application and promotion of ICZM. Starting with the UNCED – Agenda 21 (1992) as a trigger point, the EU has developed mechanisms for long-term support through the funding of ICZM programmes such as Interreg, Cadres and Cohesion, the development of legal and institutional frameworks and anchoring ICZM principles in the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The EU efforts cover *a vast array of different ICZM activities*, involving the whole spectrum of ICZM tasks from problem recognition to evaluation. Examples of the EU ICZM initiatives and efforts include:

- The EU Resolution (1992) emphasising the need for ICZM;
- Evaluation of the ICZM Demonstration Programme (1996-1999), which showed a positive benefit - cost ratio;
- The ICZM Recommendation (2002) on the application of ICZM programmes and drafting national reports on ICZM by participating EU countries;
- Development of indicators on the progress of ICZM implementation and their application in the evaluation of national country reports (2002-2007);
- The project OURCOAST (2008-2011): mechanism for sharing lessons from coastal management experience and practice.

From a *top down* perspective, the ICZM activities aimed to strengthen *regional cooperation* among EU member states and also beyond the borders of the EU. A range of supporting projects illustrates this, including:

- EUROSION (2001-2004) investigating the social, economic and ecological impact of coastal erosion on European coasts and the need for action;
- COMCOAST (2004-2007) investigating innovative concepts of flood protection systems allowing for multifunctional land use in coastal zones of five North Sea countries;
- SAFECOAST (2005-2008) providing a stimulating framework for regional cooperation between coastal countries around the North Sea on flood risk assessment, leading towards a common approach for coastal adaptation;
- PlanCoast (2006-2008) focusing on integrated spatial planning of the terrestrial and marine parts of the coastal zone as an important instrument for ICZM implementation and exchanging experiences between EU member states bordering the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea;
- ENCORA (2006-2009) on the development of a network for communication and exchange of coastal science, policy and practice in 18 countries within and outside Europe.

From a *bottom up perspective*, the EU has offered an ICZM platform to NGOs, stimulating NGO activity in the field of awareness raising, stakeholder consultation and information dissemination. The NGO efforts have focused on the execution of ICZM measures directed at sustainable development through integrated planning of local and regional Delta areas, such as:

- The EUCC's projects Quality Coast and Coastal Practice Network (2004-2006) establishing the integration of tourism, coastal defence and environmental protection at town level and resulting into the QualityCoast Programme.
- The Nemunas Delta on the Russian-Lithuanian border (nature conservation, agriculture and agro-tourism) beneficial for other coastal areas in Latvia, Estonia, Russia and Poland;
- The Oder Delta Nature Park (2005) was established as a ten-year Dutch - Polish cooperation and its principles are carried forward in various EUCC-projects.

In these examples, the involvement of local and regional stakeholders throughout the process has been vital to their successful implementation.