



## PAP/RAC meetings on ICZM in the framework of the Mediterranean Coast Day 2012

September 25-26th 2012, PAP/RAC premises, Split, Croatia

### MAREMED Project Pilot Action (ICZM Component)

## MINUTES

### Summary

*In the context of MAREMED project ICZM component, the partners met in Split, Croatia, at the PAP/RAC headquarters in order to attend a two-day seminar (the 2012 official Mediterranean Coast Day ceremony took place on September 25 while the next day, September 26, was devoted to a technical seminar gathering also partners from MAREMED (MED), SHAPE (IPA), RESMAR (Marittima), PEGASO (FP7) and PERSEUS (FP7) projects). In a nutshell, the ICZM Protocol and its practical implementation highlights were presented by the directors, leaders and managers of the Mediterranean coastal programmes and projects.*

### Mediterranean Coast Day official celebration

September 25 was identified as the Mediterranean Coast Day to remember the date when the first Mediterranean country, Slovenia, ratified the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention. The ICZM Protocol is the result of great efforts made by the Mediterranean Action Plan via its Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre<sup>1</sup> (PAP/RAC) and codified in an important document. Under the patronage of Ms. Zeljka Skaricic and M. Marko Prem (respectively PAP/RAC general director and deputy director), the idea was to sensitize and gather the wider audience possible, from political representatives, decision-makers, coastal practitioners, scientific community and private sector to children and adolescents. A number of various promotional materials have been created and distributed including brochures, leaflets, CDs and video materials. Good media coverage was also secured.

This year, 25 years after the creation of the Regional action committee in 1977, the Mediterranean celebration took place in Split, the city where PAP/RAC, the MAP Centre in charge of ICZM, is located. The 2012 Coast day celebration was also embedded as a part of the EU IPA Adriatic SHAPE project, and in collaboration with UNDP's COAST project. The main event was on September 25 but activities were extended over the whole week. The Croatian Minister of Environmental and Nature Protection, M. Mihael Zmajlovic, attended the event. Among the key actors, were also present the vice-mayor of Split, the official representative of Split Province (Splitsko-Dalmatinska) and the UNDP representative in Croatia. The celebration was attended by high-level officials of Croatian authorities too, as well as a number of foreign guests, such as Ministers of Environment of various Mediterranean countries, UNEP/MAP and UNDP representatives, and members of the diplomatic corps. It has to be stressed that Croatia is about to ratify the ICZM Protocol. It will be the 8<sup>th</sup> country to ratify it (after Montenegro at the end of 2011).

#### • **General messages**

- In 2025, half the people on Earth will live in coastal areas, which will further strengthen coastal pressure problems (urbanization, tourism...). In parallel, we can observe growing threats to the sustainability of endemic species and the loss of biodiversity that increases strongly. Reducing the impact of pollution on these fragile ecosystems and improving the quality of life of the resident population should be the thread to ICZM actions.
- 568 cases of pollution have been identified since 1990, including about 100 "black spots" (approximately 25 per year).
- The promotion of green entrepreneurship/ blue economy is of crucial importance (how coastal resources can be used for ICZM actions?)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/>



- The initiatives undertaken so far have been valuable (whether in the context of the implementation of the ICZM Protocol<sup>2</sup> by signatory countries or within the European and international projects launched).
- Local authorities are major link in the implementation of the Protocol.
- It has been rightly pointed out the need to take account of both marine and terrestrial components into the management and the principles of vertical, horizontal and territorial integration. Integration always involves coordinated efforts, a collective planning at all levels (decentralized, national, supranational) and the peaceful coexistence between the sectors in which the group is composed. This is the only way through which the parties may be a whole without losing their individuality and then resolve conflicts in a participatory integrated approach.
- Adopt a high dynamic ecosystem vision in order to propose solutions to environmental problems in the Mediterranean area taking into account in the thinking complementary links/ similarities between ICZM and MSP, but also the temporal dimension.
- In February 2012 in Paris, an action plan for the protection of coastal areas<sup>3</sup>, valid until 2019, was adopted at the Conference of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention. Two main axes: the desire to strengthen the contracting parties for the effective implementation of public policies of the sea and the promotion of the Protocol in all regions. This decision was based on a finding, namely the effective implementation of the Protocol within the signatory countries (presentation of the state of implementation of the text by PAP/ RAC).
- Illustration about the "load capacity": which method is the best to define and evaluate in an optimal way? Montenegro did it through the implementation of a scheme- for the evaluation of projects initiated- based on opportunity, attractiveness and vulnerability analyses which may take the form of risk maps (incidence of climate change, seismic risks...). This in order to identify "set-back zones" in accordance with the Protocol (Art. 8). In the same vein, the General Council of Hérault in France also produced vulnerability diagnostic-analyses in order to protect the presence of "lidos" (very fragile ecosystems) on its shores.

### **Joint SHAPE-MAREMED-RESMAR-PEGASO-PERSEUS technical meeting**

**September 26** was dedicated to a useful joint technical workshop between the projects mentioned above. Various presentations were done throughout the day. The idea behind was to make synergies and share experiences about ICZM practices and support to the ICZM protocol. In the afternoon of the same day, a workshop on the national ICZM strategies for the Adriatic countries with a focus on the development of an outline tailored for the Adriatic countries took place. Obviously, MAREMED was (re)presented to the audience, with a focus on the different steps achieved since the beginning and the next actions to come.

At the heart of the meeting, the **SHAPE** project<sup>4</sup> (Shaping an Holistic Approach to Protect the Adriatic Environment between coast and sea) that aims at the development of a multilevel and cross-sector governance system, based on an holistic approach and on an integrated management of the natural resources, risk's prevention and conflicts resolution among uses and users of the Adriatic coast and sea. 13 partners (from six Adriatic Countries) involved are participating to this three years project. Activities under SHAPE foster the application and the successful implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean and the Roadmap for MSP in the Adriatic region. Emilia-Romagna is the lead partner of the project, co-financed under the cross-

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<sup>2</sup> The text of the ICZM Protocol can be found in the partners' language on MAREMED website (working documents/ICZM theme section. <http://www.maremed.eu/index.php?act=1,5,3,6>

<sup>3</sup> Delegates of the Mediterranean countries and the EU met in Paris and took advantage of this opportunity to renew their commitment towards the protection of the marine environment. As far as monitoring is concerned, it has to be stressed that the decision to submit a report every two years is included within the Protocol. In addition to the action plan, the participants also approved the expansion of the list of marine preserve.

This action plan will enable the development of coastal areas according to the principles of sustainable development with an integration of tools and best practices. It is in this sense that the merits of developing national ICZM strategies have been reaffirmed. Because these provide the strategic framework by which a systemic planning is possible. The definition of a strategic framework for action implies the adoption of different measures based on responsible subjects and the setting of indicators for the establishment of a local coastal management plan.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.shape-ipaproject.eu/>



border cooperation Adriatic IPA. The main outcomes are to face local and global threats in a comprehensive way, to embrace several issues on a marine basin scale, to coordinate individual actions towards joint objectives, but also to create synergies and strengthen the cooperation.

In connection with SHAPE, the **FACECOAST** initiative<sup>5</sup> (Face the challenge of climate change in the med coastal zones), created in January 2012, was depicted. It includes more than 80 partners and aims to reunite and capitalize the contributions of the European projects which dealt with the matter of the coastal defense against natural and anthropogenic risks in the frame of the adaptation policy to climate change (sea level rise, strengthening of extreme phenomena, etc...). The target is to promote and achieve an exchanging space about the Mediterranean coastal defense against erosion and flooding hazards and consequent risks, taking into account the ICZM approach. It has to be said that like MAREMED and RESMAR, PEGASO project joined FACECOAST (in May 2012)→ clusterization process.

The main cluster activities are: exchange different governance approaches and various methods to involve policymakers to go beyond territorial fragmentation ; develop synergies between sectors and public policies (eco-innovation, transports, fisheries, nautism, harbours, tourism, agriculture, urban growing, etc. ) for a better coastal adaptation to climate change according to the ICZM principles ; raise awareness on human/natural coastal risks for the Mediterranean areas at European level ; design, on the grounds of the past and ongoing experiences, a coherent package of initiatives (preparatory, planning, structural and monitoring) able to influence and address at a large scale (macro-project) issues that affect the Mediterranean area. Coastal defense is apprehended through other interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral contributions (projects) regarded as « link units » through which exchange with other interconnected problematics is possible. This principle allows other clusters specialized in different main issues (ports, urban development, tourism, rural areas, etc...) to enjoy the participation of some coastal defense projects if this topic concerns them, enhancing their framework with integrated solutions. The FACECOAST adhesion is open not only to MED programme projects but also to other cooperation programmes (ENPI CBC, IPA-Adriatic, Cross Border MARITIME Italy-France, INTERREG IVB other than MED, etc...) or sectoral ones (FP7, LIFE+, etc...).

The **PEGASO** project<sup>6</sup> (People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast) is co-financed under the FP7 research programme and gathers 26 partners (Mediterranean EU member states and non EU countries) with a 7 M euros budget. The lead partner is UAB, the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The main objective of this project consists in: -supporting the ICZM Protocol capitalizing on an ecosystemic approach that focuses on research and sciences -building on existing capacities in order to subsequently develop common new approaches for the promotion of integrated coastal, marine and maritime policies in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins in connection with the implementation of the ICZM Protocol (ICZM plural analysis with regard with all legislations related to the sea). PEGASO exploits the model of the existing ICZM Protocol and adjusts it to the needs of the Black Sea via three innovative actions:

- Constructing an ICZM governance platform as a bridge between scientist and end-user communities.
- Develop efficient and easy tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone (indicators: for example the Posidonia seagrasses' health, accounting methods, models and scenarios). They will be tested and validated in a multi-scale approach through a number of relevant pilot sites (10 study cases).
- Implement a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), following the INSPIRE Directive, in order to organize and standardize spatial data. The goal is to make it available to the ICZM Platform, and to disseminate all results of the project to end users and interested parties.

The EU has shown strong commitment to the protection and sustainable development of the Mediterranean coast through the co-funding of PEGASO, for the fostering and valorization of a suitable methodology regarding the implementation of the Protocol. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), one of the key partners of PEGASO, is responsible for the coordination of actions leading to one of the most important

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.facecoast.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.pegasoproject.eu/>



outcomes of the project: a regional assessment of the Mediterranean and Black Seas that includes participative scenarios, socio-economic assessments and indicators to support effective decision-making and policy development. The will is clearly to make the cooperation platform increase and continue running after the end of the project (at the end of January 2014 whereas it was launched in February 2010).

The **PERSEUS** project<sup>7</sup> (Policy-orientated marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas) is a FP7 research project under the theme "Oceans of Tomorrow" that assesses the double impact of human activity and natural pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas. It was designed to help achieve the EU goal of "clean seas by 2020" with facilitating the implementation of the Marine strategy framework directive (MSFD). To sum up, PERSEUS merges natural and socio-economic sciences to predict the long-term incidences of these peculiar pressures on marine ecosystems. The project seeks the elaboration of an efficient and innovative research governance framework, which will provide the basis for policymakers to reverse the trend on marine life degradation. PERSEUS can count on a very wide partnership, with 54 entities participating (the Hellenic Center for Marine Research is the lead partner) and has a 17 M euros budget. It was launched in January 2012 and is expected to end in December 2015. The Blue plan in Marseilles is actively participating to PERSEUS.

**RESMAR**<sup>8</sup> (Réseau pour l'environnement dans l'espace Maritime) was presented by Tuscany region. It is a strategic maritime project co-financed under the cross-border cooperation program Marittima (2007-2013) and coordinated by the Liguria region. It provides cooperation between Italy and France on coastal and marine areas of "high Tyrrhenian". It aims to develop, within the territories of the partner regions involved, common, integrated, and shared policies in the environmental, agricultural and marine sector. Partners are committed in particular to identify the best strategies for environmental protection regarding water and soil, through monitoring systems and focusing on risk prevention, management of environmental issues and emergencies, but also mitigation of pollution phenomena. The project is subdivided into three main axes ("Coasts and Coastlines", "Water and Soil", "Governance") that include 4 "system" actions and three sub-projects. It brings together six partners at regional level (a total of 19 partners if we take into consideration those associated within the sub-projects and "systems" actions).

RESMAR borrows methodology features from the previous BEACHMED-E project (2005-2008 - INTERREG IIC South), a European research project applied to the coastal area. BEACHMED associated 47 public scientific institutes from Italy, Greece, Spain and France distributed in the regions concerned. It dealt with the use of new technologies to achieve a regular monitoring of the coastline and the fostering of new methods of coastal management, considering both the natural and socio-economic dimensions of this area.

RESMAR's first axis "Coasts and Coastlines" processes of coastal erosion with the creation of a network for monitoring coastal erosion and a border Centre for the study of the dynamics of shoreline.

The second component "Water and Soil", centered on the management of water resources, foresees planning activities related to monitoring, risk prevention and mitigation. With the help of a consolidated model that assists in numerous but complementary thematics such as water basin management, hydrological planning, improved knowledge of the phenomena of hydrogeological imbalance (particularly for weather forecasts), and monitoring hydraulic groundwaters (for the acquisition of real-time data).

The third area concerns the "Governance", in relation to the mitigation of environmental impacts of production activities on water and soil. It includes the elaboration of a seasonal waste transportation issues management model (tourism) in coastal areas, as well as innovative instruments for governance and sustainable development of agro-food clusters.

RESMAR has therefore an ambitious goal to integrate these three environmental issues by creating synergies between the sub-projects and "system" actions partners that are part of the same theme (through technical

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.res-mar.eu/fr/>



meetings and the conduct of comparative analyses). The main recipients of the project activities, including communication and prevention, are the public authorities competent in the management of water and soil ; the socio-economic operators that generate environmental impacts ; and finally citizens and "users" of the territory, whom influence the management of these two aspects by their behavior.

Another project, the **COAST** one was presented the day before. It was developed with support from the UNDP, and in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection alongside other responsible ministries, four Dalmatian counties, and numerous other associations, companies and individuals. Financially, the project is backed up by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It covers the Dalmatian coast within which 4 pilot areas have been identified due to their exceptional biological diversity and landscape.

These are: the Peljesac peninsula, Mali Ston bay, and the island of Mljet ; island of Vis and distant islands ; the wider area of the Krka River ; the northwestern part of the Zadar County, the island of Pag, and the areas surrounding the Novigrad and Karin seas. The goal of this project is to systemically and continuously influence entrepreneurial activities and practices in tourism, agriculture, fisheries and mariculture, and also within the banking sector with the aim of promoting sustainable development. The expected duration of the project is 6 years (from February 2007, when the Croatian Government signed the Project Document and thus accepted the GEF grant which indicated the start of partnership with the institutions of the Republic of Croatia, to 2012). The chief executor of the project is the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection, in cooperation with UNDP Croatia. And the local project office is located in Split.

- **General messages from all partners (7 countries represented within the 5 projects)**

- It has been recalled the importance of taking into account the "sea-land" interface as a minimum unit of coastal (territory) management. All local actors agree on the fact that they cannot separate the management of the land and the sea and that MSP and ICZM form a whole within the Integrated Maritime Policy.
- Inter-complementarity between projects is obvious. But it is very important to pay attention to avoid overlapping and duplication. There could be indeed a real risk of confusion in so far as we are now in the capitalization phase. To do this, share calendars may be helpful.
- Pay attention not to overflow stakeholders with too much material (we often have the same questionnaires for our different projects, and the same targets).
- How to better link, mutualize and rationalize our projects? Elaborate a table showing all the different projects' work packages by isolating common assessment elements has been issued, as the value of having a map, a mailing list and a shared database for a better coordination and strengthening linkages between ecosystems.
- The idea of having a common mapping of all pilot projects (of projects) was also highlighted.
- We retrieve common elements between projects, including methodological ones, as evidenced by the two pilot projects coordinated by the Emilia-Romagna in the framework of MAREMED ICZM component which are based on FACECOAST and SHAPE methodologies (A/ Comparison between local legal framework on coastal zones and ICZM Protocol provisions, B/ Testing the applicability of Protocol Art. 8 provisions concerning a coastal "set-back zone").
- Achieving a convergence of methodologies because even though the projects have different focus, the objectives, the stakeholders, as well as the area of influence (Mediterranean even though the projects focus on different basins) are often similar. This will add coherence and reinforce messages/ proposals/ recommendations aimed at policy makers.
- Integrate platforms (but in return nourish them) and share models.
- The relevance of sharing spatial data has been reasserted. Maritime regions of Europe have created geographic information systems to help refine and conduct their policies on their territories. These GIS are often developed independently of each other and without national framing. It is therefore necessary to promote the interoperability of these regional systems at a transnational level.
- Limit the gap between the scientific world and political decision makers.
- Keep in mind the next EU financial programming period when it comes to convey structural messages (towards a joint declaration?).
- How to put in common our economic concerns (in relation to the concept of blue growth)?
- The Bologna Charter (2<sup>nd</sup> version) is of high importance in order to address all these mutual issues.