

RESULTS

OURCOAST will support the implementation process of ICZM in Europe with the following means:

- ✓ A comprehensive review of more than 350 ICZM case studies based on the **OURCOAST** themes and key approaches
- ✓ A comparative analysis of ICZM experiences leading to an overview of the state-of-the-art by theme, key approach and typical success and fail factors
- ✓ A review of most relevant EU policies and legislation and their effects for the implementation of coastal zone management and marine planning
- ✓ A validated guidance document for authorities for future integrated coastal and marine planning and for the design of policies and tools.
- ✓ Recommendations for the implementation agenda of ICZM of the next decade
- ✓ A contact list of EU, national, regional, and local coastal and marine stakeholders and other parties interested in ICZM implementation
- ✓ A final stakeholders event in Latvia (Autumn 2011).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

PARTNERS

The **OURCOAST** project is implemented by a consortium led by ARCADIS and its sub-contractor the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC).



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OURCOAST

ICZM in Europe

TOWARDS EUROPEAN WIDE EXCHANGE

OF EXPERIENCES AND BEST PRACTICES OF

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

A European initiative
to support ICZM

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/ourcoast.htm>



OURCOAST is a three-year project commissioned by the Directorate-General (DG) Environment of the European Commission to support and ensure the exchange of experiences and best practices in integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). This initiative was made possible thanks to the European Parliament that voted a dedicated resource for this purpose into the EU budget in 2008.

The overall objective of **OURCOAST** is to create an information base and groundwork that will further support implementation of ICZM in coastal areas by the establishment of long-lasting information mechanisms.

From around Europe, 350 case study summaries will be presented which all deal with certain aspects of ICZM. These cases will show that an integrated approach to the management of coastal issues is beneficial, achievable and that it has added value over a purely sectoral approach.

Through **OURCOAST**, the European Commission aims to ensure that lessons learned on ICZM can be shared and are made accessible to those who are seeking sustainable solutions to their coastal management issues.

THEMATIC APPROACH

OURCOAST will focus in particular on three strategic policy objectives: adaptation to risks and the impacts of climate change, sustainable use of resources and sustainable economic growth.

Within each of these strategic objectives, eight themes have been selected which are representative of overall European Commission policy objectives. These embrace many of the Key Approaches required for 'good territorial governance' (i.e integration, participation, knowledge-based, eco-system based, socio-economic and technical processes).

OURCOAST THEMES

ADAPTATION TO RISK

1. Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems
2. Preparing for, preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human-made) hazards
3. Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension (prevention to response) into planning and investment

SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

4. Preserving the coastal and marine environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
5. Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

6. Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably
7. Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment and managing impacts from coastal activities
8. Improving competitiveness



The most important output of **OURCOAST** is a multi-lingual searchable Europe-wide ICZM database freely accessible to the broad coastal and marine communities through the EUROPA website at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/ourcoast.htm>.

Here, experiences and best practices in ICZM are presented in the form of case studies that can be searched by:

- ✓ Geographical Selection
- ✓ Themes
- ✓ Key Approaches, and
- ✓ Free Search.

Each case study is described in a two page English summary. The source documents are referenced and, whenever possible, are downloadable in their original language. The information content of each case study summary is quality checked by an expert or competent person associated with the case.

The ICZM database will be officially launched during spring 2010!

