

Scientific events: PlanCoast Final Conference for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning, Ravenna, Italy, April 27-29, 2008

The Final Conference of the PLANCOAST, INTEREG III B CADSES Project, entitled “*Integrated Coastal Zone Management & Maritime Spatial Planning. Lessons learnt from Pilot Projects located in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea Regions*”, took place in Ravenna / Italy, between March 25-29, 2008.

By definition **Maritime Spatial Planning** supports the EU marine strategy and is *integral part of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, as a valuable instrument to manage the coastal and marine resources in a sustainable way for the aim of human life improvement and health.*

PlanCoast project has been developed starting December 2006, based on the collaboration of 16 partners from 12 countries throughout the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea Regions, for **Maritime Spatial Planning** (MSP) and **Integrated Coastal Zone Management** (ICZM). It's coordinator is the German Ministry for Transport, Building and Regional Development in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Area. The Romanian delegation was represented by five members, three from NIMRD “Grigore Antipa” Constantza and two from UrbanProject Bucharest.

PlanCoast project is a challenge, as a new research and development field for the Romanian coastal zone (<http://www.plancoast.eu/>), combining the requirements for nature protection on vulnerable coastal areas and effects of global climate change. The present coastal areas are facing severe pressures and their uses implicate numerous actual and potential conflicts, also at the Black Sea coast. These conflicts are not limited to the landside areas, but will affect offshore areas even more strongly in future. Based on the economic potential of the seas in a sustainable manner and well managing conflicts could be avoided and maximum synergies between the various interest groups could be created.

PlanCoast's practical efficiency is the number of pilot projects reflecting human activities from both linked terrestrial and marine areas (industry, tourism, agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, energy production, transport, etc.).

The meeting Agenda considered following aspects:

1. Work group planned discussions, experience sharing,

2. Countries result and pilot projects presentations, including Romanian pilots Constantza and Sulina level of planning,
3. International expertise in the field, present European legislation and regulations, Italian's marine spatial planning experience, examples and progresses,
4. Field application according to the subject of the project: Italian examples and lessons learnt from Po river delta trip.

Main objectives:

The PlanCoast Final Conference was attended by over 95 people, representatives from the European Commission's General Directorate for Environment, Adriatic Euroregion, CMPR General Secretariat, PlanCoast Coordination Office, Italian Ministry for Environment and different coastal divisions for Sustainable Development, ICZM, Soil and Coast Protection, research institutions, enterprises and authorities along Italian Coast (mainly from Emilia-Romagna Region), other representatives of Barcelona Convention and project partners from Baltic, Adriatic, Black Sea Regions.

The program involved national reports, results, progresses recorded during the PlanCoast Project, in marine spatial planning field. During the last general meeting, each partner has equally stressed the work's results' dissemination and institutional strengthening actions.

During the Final Meeting the freshly finalized PlanCoast-Handbook has been presented. The results of the pilot projects have been summarized in the **PlanCoast Handbook**. Joint discussions focused on the practical relevance of PlanCoast "messages" introduced by this Guide. It was improved after Ravenna Meeting, adding new information and photos to the last version.

The study tour took PlanCoast participants to the natural reserve of the Po river delta, extremely important field lesson, with connection and comparing possibilities for Danube Delta development.

In connection with the main proposed objectives, Romanian main results obtained till the Ravenna Final Meeting, were *The Assessment of Status Quo* reflected in some very important documents and actions, such as: "National report on current policy, legal basis and procedures of spatial planning in coastal and maritime areas" (<http://www.plancoast.eu>; NIMRD); ICZM Conference 2007 organised in Constantza/Eforie; "Relevance for Romania from Baltic Sea and from Adriatic Sea, PlanCoast Transnational", comparative study on current role of spatial planning in ICZM strategies and identification of opportunities/threats-strengths/weaknesses-gaps/best practice (by Irene Lucius / Black Sea Commission).

Dr. Eng. S. Nicolaev, Dr. Eng. Laura Alexandrov,
Mariana Golumbeanu