

Spatial Development of the South Primorska coast - SI

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Improving competitiveness

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Ecosystems based approach

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

A seven year Spatial Development programme outlining the main development guidelines for the region. It defines the main tasks, the priority programmes and cross-border cooperation required. The purpose is to promote balanced regional development in the fields of economy, spatial planning and social services. This should contribute to the reduction of development disparities in the region and contribute to the protection of the environment, natural and cultural heritage. It is suitable for any regional area in Europe seeking to sustainably develop its resources.

4. Overview of the case

A Conception of Spatial Development for South Primorska has been drawn up to strengthen the sustainable spatial development of the region and to provide a strategic spatial context for priority investments for the period 2007-13. It is a framework for future spatial development of the region, providing guidance for the preparation of national and municipal spatial documents

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The region has ca. 80.000 coastal inhabitants. It is characterised by significant natural and cultural features and is economically successful with 70% of GDP from the service activities of trade, transport - the Port of Koper - and tourism). It is the only Slovenian region lying by the sea and although only 46 km long, the coastal zone is of enormous national value and it is of great strategic importance from economic, natural and cultural points of view. An over-arching spatial plan is required because of the conflicting interests in such a small coastal stretch.

The region is very attractive for various spatial investments. The main economic activity is tourism which has already led to conflicts between various land users due to the location of new activities. However, there has been under-investment in existing urban centres and larger settlements resulting in a decrease in the quality of life e.g. social stratification, environmental problems: noise, increased traffic congestion. Property in South Primorska is among the most expensive in Slovenia, its price rising constantly due to the demand for holiday homes. The road network is especially congested at the coast with some sections having 30,000 vehicles/day; parking represents a major problem in urban centres on the coast. The environmental impacts of car traffic are becoming increasingly evident. Public transport is poorly developed and is not an

attractive alternative being slow, uncomfortable and unreliable. The Port of Koper does not offer enough to the rest of Slovenia and abroad regarding the establishment of overseas economic links and trade flows. Sources of drinking water are relatively scarce and integrated planning of drinking water resources management is needed. Waste management is also not fully resolved and waste represents one of the largest pollution sources. Climate change also has had to be considered with sea level rise estimated at 1 mm/year. In the next hundred years, greater risk is expected with more frequent flooding of low-lying parts of coastal towns as there is poor flood prevention in some parts of the region.

b) Objectives

The key objectives of spatial development are to (1) establish a vision and concept of spatial development in the region, (2) formulate a regional concept of the distribution of selected spatial activities, (3) prepare spatial development guidelines to form the basis for strategic national and municipal planning documents; and (4) define measures for the implementation of the regional conception, taking into consideration the possibilities of co-operation with the neighbouring regions within Slovenia, within the EU (Italy), and with the regions in non-member countries (Croatia).

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

a) Management

The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for overall co-ordination, management and supervision. A steering committee and advisory Board have been appointed and the work is carried out by a project co-ordinator within the Regional Development Centre Koper.

b) ICZM tools

The vision of spatial development for South Primorska is to support sustainable welfare, equitable distribution and high quality of life, whilst protecting and strengthening natural, spatial and cultural goods. The strategy is based on the co-operation between the municipalities, the State and other partners, and on cross-border co-operation with partnerships between public and private sectors playing a key role.

Spatial development will be based on a three-tier network of settlements designed to promote (i) intensive changes in strategically significant urban centres leading to increased competitiveness in the broader EU area, (ii) changes in more important local centres and settlements, and (iii) small-scale changes in other settlements. This will entail closer co-operation with cross-border cities e.g. Trieste. For the purposes of the development of economic activities, economic zones will be defined and adequately regulated. In addition to socio-economic conditions, spatial criteria will be taken into consideration in the development of transport and energy networks, the size of settlements, and spatial opportunities and limitations arising from the state or characteristics of the natural and cultural landscape.

In line with the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of South Primorska, the development objectives are to strengthen the sustainable character of tourism development. This will be done through integrated management of the destination and the improvement of the existing tourist products, services and investments in tourist accommodation and support infrastructure. This entails reducing the environmental impacts of tourist activities through a more even spatial distribution of (new) tourist capacities.

A transport concept has been defined which will be based on the principles of sustainable mobility. Its objective is to establish an efficient and competitive system of public transport, while at the same time improving the accessibility of transport services for a wider circle of users e.g. cyclists. The measures within the spatial plan play a crucial role as locating activities wisely reduces or prevents the growth in mobility needs.

The Plan takes into account the water needs for the region as well as the regulation of discharge and treatment of urban wastewater. Future regional spatial development will ensure that the restrictions arising from water protection requirements are adequately compensated by various development incentives and various forms of compensation. It includes flood areas in certain rivers and sea floods on a narrow coastal strip as well as those areas subject to erosion.

7. Cost and resources

No costs are available.

8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)

A vision, goals and a strategy of tourism development in the region have been defined. They have been harmonised with the principles of sustainable development and the environment carrying capacity as assessed on the basis of selected indicators. A programme of key measures has also been drawn up for the coming programming period and integrated into the Regional Development Programme for the period 2007–2013. The key expected result of the project has been a programme of coastal area management in Slovenia, serving as a basis for the implementation of priority activities and projects in the 2007-2013 programming period, in co-operation with the State, the Municipalities and other key actors in the South Primorska region.

9. Success and Fail factors

An assessment of Environmental Impacts of the Conception has been carried out. It will positively affect i.a. the sustainable use of natural resources, the improved status of surface and ground waters, improved access to social services. However, it may have a negative effect on industry through measures taken to reduce water loss, deterioration of the sea due to the foreseen increase in maritime transport and a threat of increased noise emissions resulting from the planned construction of traffic infrastructure. The work formed part of a Mediterranean Action Plan Coastal Area Management Programme.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Spatial development patterns in the Slovene coastal area are significantly more sustainable compared to the described spatial development patterns in the broader Mediterranean context. Existing conflicts are solved at a higher administrative level.

11. Prepared by

A. H. Pickaver, Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC), The Netherlands

12. Verified by

It has not been possible to have this case verified.

13. Sources

- MAP Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) Slovenia: Final Integrated Report (2008). MAP Technical Reports Series No. 171. United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), Greece.
- Regional development programme of South Primorska 2007-2013 (2007). Regional Development Centre in Koper (English summary, 18pp)
- Regionalni razvojni program Juzne Primorske 2007-2013 (2006). Regionalni Razvojni Center Koper (118pp)
- <http://www.rrc-kp.si/> (this is the site of the Regional Development Centre in Koper)



RRP-verzija (3.88 MB) 



Regional development programme - ENG (13.95 MB) 



full camp report (2.61 MB) 