

The national contact point “Küsten-Kontor” (DE)

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension (prevention to response) into planning and investment
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Informal co-ordination of stakeholders from different government levels of a federal state (an example of multi-level governance) and the creation of a contact point for local constituencies and a venue for information exchange.

4. Overview of the case

In the German federal state, different federal ministries, state governments and municipal summit organisations have stakes in ICZM. Co-ordination of efforts and knowledge exchange have been improved by institutionalised regular meetings of the advisory council every 3 months. Furthermore, co-ordination and communication among stakeholders and with local constituencies will be supported by a central point of contact, the “Küsten-Kontor”. The creation of this institution, for the time being on a tentative basis, was decided in 2009.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The “Küsten-Kontor” is planned to be established at a coastal location; meetings of the advisory council have been held at 3-monthly intervals at varying locations. A range of ICZM issues, particularly issues of spatial planning, have been discussed in these meetings. A focus on climate change effects, coastal protection and coastal tourism were decided for 2010. The geographical scale of this approach is national, but is intended to coordinate regional and local efforts and also to reach out to these governance levels. It builds upon existing expertise in national, regional and local entities.

b) Objectives

The major objective is to co-ordinate efforts and to improve knowledge exchange between the different federal levels of governance as well as to create a central point of contact for stakeholder issues.

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

a) Management

The initiative started in 2008 and the creation of the "Küsten-Kontor" took place in 2009. Involved are all major ICZM-stakeholders in Germany: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; Federal Environment Agency; Federal Ministry of Education and Research; Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection; Federal Ministry of Finance; Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development; representatives from several state ministries of the coastal states Lower Saxony, Schleswig Holstein, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Hamburg and Bremen; representatives from the German Association of Towns and Municipalities, the German County Association, and the German Association of Cities and Towns

b) ICZM tools

The National German strategy towards implementation of ICZM in Germany covers the aspects a) definition of objectives and tasks of ICZM in Germany. b) stocktaking of present structures and responsibilities c) assessment of the stakeholder demands d) discussion how to organize and structure ICZM on a national level to support processes in the Federal States (Länder) in Germany and e) definition of tasks, structures and supporting technical tools of a national coastal co-ordination point. The establishment of a national coastal co-ordination point (Küsten-Kontor) in 2009. The long-term perspective of the Küsten-Kontor is still under discussion.

7. Cost and resources

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Federal Environment Agency

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

All objectives were achieved within the timescale defined. Co-ordination and exchange among the different levels of governance was achieved through advisory council meetings. An institution to serve as a central point of contact for local constituencies to improve information exchange is being created.

9. Success and Fail factors

The project management by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Federal Environment Agency ensured a high ranking commitment and ensured commitment of the various stakeholders to the co-ordination of efforts at different levels as well as the willingness of stakeholders to exchange information and transfer knowledge. However, funding ends in 2010 and financial support of partners, is lacking so far. Previous experience with multi-level governance processes; previous expertise and networks of the stakeholders involved within the field of ICZM were all important.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The continued congregation of the advisory council as such was not planned at the outset of the process but proved to be a very helpful tool for co-ordination and knowledge exchange of the different entities involved.

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13. Sources

- BT-Drucksache 16/3143; BT-Drucksache 16/2502 (decisions by the German Bundestag in 2006)
- Integriertes Küstenzonenmanagement in Deutschland: Nationale IKZM- Strategie (2006). Kabinettsbeschluss auf Vorschlag des Bundesministeriums für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Germany: National ICZM - Strategy (2006). Decision of the cabinet on recommendation of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety)

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