

Strategies for integrating the coast and sea in spatial planning procedures - DE

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension (prevention to response) into planning and investment
- 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

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

How to compile a sound nation-wide inventory of present and future uses and users of the coastal zone; Integrating experts with different spatial and sectoral responsibilities, scientists and NGOs in the process of strategy development; Evaluation of human activities and conflicts as well as defining priorities at different spatial scales; Integration of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) into spatial planning.

4. Overview of the case

Recommendations for a national strategy for ICZM were developed with a special focus on spatial planning and the marine space. The recommendations were based on an inventory of present and future uses including consideration of global trends and changes. The arising impacts and conflicts were evaluated and prioritised for national spatial planning issues. The results were presented in specific reports and partly included in the national report on ICZM for the EU in 2006.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The coastal zone is affected by global, regional and local processes. The North Sea, Baltic Sea and the adjacent Exclusive Economic Zones were considered for the study. The focus was on national policy impacts and spatial planning. Future offshore utilization trends were considered for the development of recommendations for a German ICZM strategy. The focus of future trends was on the following aspects: Increase in global sea traffic that leads to port development; development of offshore wind parks including grid connection; development of offshore mari-culture; extraction activities; marine protected areas; coastal protection, especially considering marine sea level rise. Some of the future changes increase opportunities for economy and society but they also create new conflicts with existing uses / users of the same zone.

b) Objectives

Conceived to support the development and implementation of a national ICZM strategy, the work took stock of development trends, opportunities, and challenges faced by Germany's coastal and marine areas and made practical suggestions for implementing long-term ICZM processes from the special perspective of spatial planning. The study specifically framed spatial planning in the context of ICZM and published several reports as contributions to the German ICZM strategy.

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

a) Management

The initiative was coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building, and Urban Affairs, and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. Executing partners were the Scientific Centre Berlin for social research / Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Research and Technology Centre West Coast / Forschungs- und Technologiezentrum Westküste (FTZ) Büsum, and the Geographical Institute of the University of Kiel.

b) ICZM tools

An inventory of present and future uses of marine areas, their potential for conflicts, and evaluation of priorities were the first steps in the analysis. Priority was given to highly dynamic processes (nationally and regionally), strong interactions with other uses, political weight, high conflict potential, and of high emotional value. The influence of global trends and changes were considered for the evaluation. Driver-Pressure-Status-Impact-Response analysis was used for the evaluation process and measurable aims were defined. ICZM recommendations for spatial planning on the national level were based on these studies and considerations. All levels (regional, national, EU) of spatial planning experts and scientists participated in the process. For a continuous spatial monitoring, a combination of ecological, social, and economic indicators were recommended. The project applied a process-oriented approach which combined analytical desk work with broad and open communication through two national conferences, which were widely published and created a wide participation of coastal experts from all sectors and levels. This created throughout the years 2003-2005 a "coastal community" within Germany.

An inventory of the utilisations and relevant institutions in the coastal zone was first compiled with focus on the offshore area. A thesis paper was developed from this inventory and discussed publicly in several integrated workshops at a conference in October 2003. The inventory was adjusted and recommendations developed for the ICZM implementation in spatial planning. Recommendations and experiences were discussed together with experiences from other European countries at a project conference in March 2005. Further development of recommendations and suggestions with experts of the federal and state level, regional experts, and scientists occurred in a workshop in August 2005. Adjustment of the inventory and development of strategies for continuous spatial monitoring to assess impacts of marine offshore utilisations were performed in co-operation with the BMBF funded research project "Zukunft Kueste – Coastal Futures". A final report with results and recommendations was published in November 2006 as well as a specific report summarising the inventory of coastal uses and institutional structures.

7. Cost and resources

Direct costs were about €100.000 from diverse national sources; since April 2004 the project was executed in strong cooperation with the BMBF funded research project "Zukunft Kueste – Coastal Futures" including sharing of human resources. Some ERDF funding was also used.

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

Key issues for a national ICZM and spatial development in the German EEZ have been established, and the role of spatial planning within ICZM has been defined. Structures and processes for the implementation of ICZM have been recommended. Criteria for the evaluation of utilisation trends were developed and priorities from a national perspective defined. Strategies for long-term monitoring of coast and sea were accordingly suggested. A structure for national ICZM was suggested.

9. Success and Fail factors

Trustful co-operation between co-ordinators and executing scientists stimulated the development of a process-oriented approach and successful development of a cross-sectoral “coastal community”, which did not exist before. External factors, especially the struggle between ministries about competences for the marine area and ICZM constrained further development of this community creation process.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Workshops and conferences were organized in the framework of the initiative. Thus, an exchange of expertise of different stakeholders from different administrative levels and sectors was cultivated and became an example for participation, transparent information exchange, and integration in the project process. Even though the existing competence and knowledge were incorporated into the German ICZM strategy, unfortunately this open process element was not fully employed by the responsible administrative institutions for the development of the final ICZM strategy.

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13. Sources

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