

A territorial project in West Cornouaille - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably

2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The simultaneously prospective, pragmatic and experimental overall approach which was based on mediation and dialogue processes. The method of partnership with central government.

4. Overview of the case

After several unsuccessful planning experiences (Schéma de Mise en Valeur de la Mer), the elected representatives of West Cornouaille proposed to various involved partners (elected representatives, associations, State and local institutions) to think about the future of their territory and prepare a territorial plan for the area.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The West Cornouaille Territory (Brittany, northwest France) includes 4 communities of communes, which group 39 communes. It is homogeneous but rural and has suffered from a loss of population for several years, even though the density still remains high. The economy is based upon active trade and craft industries. Nevertheless, it experiences important economic fragility (e.g. food-processing industry) so that young people leave the area. In such a context, because of pressures in regard to environment and urbanisation (linked to the extension of Greater Quimper and a heavy demand of second homes or retired persons homes), the dual aspect of development and protection is a source of conflict between local stakeholders.

b) Objectives

The aim was to design a planning and sustainable development scheme and a territorial plan (SCOT) through two processes: a dialogue on priority issues and the development of experimental projects as a special application of these issues to locally shape sustainable development. Also, to exchange information and opinions on orientations and issues and to invest in practical reports to clearly show the interest of such an approach e.g. some awkward cases could be resolved thanks to mediation. To apply, where applicable, exchange of best practice.

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

a) Management

The project was led by a steering committee settled by the “intercommunal” planning syndicate of West Cornouaille (SIOCA)

and three working committees. These committees were presided over by an elected representative and an expert. They were a grouping of around forty key stakeholders with a leader appointed for each experimental project. The French State was represented by the permanent participation of a co-ordinator of the State services, appointed by the prefect, and had to give a regular account of his mission to the other services.

b) ICZM tools

The West Cornouaille SIOCA was created in 2002. At this scale and when putting into place a scheme of territorial planning (SCOT), the elected representatives wished to use this body to think about the issues of their region with all the stakeholders in terms of sustainable development. Two open seminars were organised, the first in December 2004 when the initiative was launched, the second in July 2007 to present the work done and the follow-up. Eight information and exchange meetings were held on the concerned themes. Around forty key stakeholders attended them. Before, an important work of identification and selection of stakeholders had been done, based on the inventory of qualified persons, associations and institutions, as well as the analysis of the local press to select the persons involved in public life. Pedagogic tools of communication have also contributed to the good project organization viz. a newsletter and documents and guides about the law of the "littoral", a sustainable way of moving, abandoned areas etc. The SCOT planning tool was not directly tackled during this stage although it is actually the final objective, to support and justify the whole approach.

7. Cost and resources

A grant of €60 000 from the DIACT has contributed to the appointment of the official representative who was the cornerstone of the whole project.

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

Ten experimental projects were adopted. Among them nine were seen through to completion. The approach allowed the creation of a true dynamic which takes into account sustainable development in the future planning documents, and not only the awareness of the overall issues. Nevertheless, it has favoured the landward side of coastal issues and met some difficulties as regards the marine issues.

9. Success and Fail factors

The appointment of a coordinator for the State services has allowed a better coherence of public policy in this area and at the same time helped to solve some use disputes. This initiative received in return a very satisfactory answer from participants, as it was evaluated during the final seminar. The reasons of success were:

- A true political will from the very beginning of the initiative. The involvement of elected representatives was constant during the whole process. The dual running (elected representatives and experts) favoured the good functioning of the seminars.
- A framed organisation of the process and a good articulation between the practical projects and the more prospective thoughts. The good professional qualities of the official representative (especially as regards ICZM principles).
- A rural territory exempt from a large urban area where limited issues were adapted to the selected process.
- The choice to rely on intermediary key stakeholders rather than on widely open debates which are not well adapted to French traditional practices.
- A strong and continuous involvement of the French State.
- The single marine project was not completed: the following reasons, which are not specific to this area, can be mentioned:
 - The marine-sector stakeholders (fishermen, some scientists, as well as the State specialized services) were reluctant to take part initiative the participatory processes.
 - The local coastal authorities do not have the legal mandate to manage the marine domain and so to involve themselves in these questions.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None.

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13. Sources

- Application file for the project call for proposal - SIOCA
- Questionnaires and interviews to follow through the call for proposal «Pour un développement équilibré des territoires littoraux par une GIZC» of the DIACT/SGmer - CETMEF/IFREMER- Luce Goudedranche/ Jean-Louis Gaignon
- Report on the ICZM project - March and July 2007 - SIOCA



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