

The charter of Breton coastal areas - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

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

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The type of tool: the charter itself and the way it was put into place.

4. Overview of the case

When starting strategic steps (new territorial policy, tourism scheme), the Brittany Region, boosted by its marine identity, wished to initiate ICZM process. Because this area is rich in potential conflicts, responses cannot only be rules and regulations. The Region preferred to organise a dialogue between all the stakeholders who are involved in the Breton coastal zones, to define together the main issues, threats and concerns. This dynamic led to the development of a charter which proposes a new methodology to the stakeholders concerning the coastal area.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

With a 2,730 km long coast, the marine nature of Brittany is particularly strong. This richness together with the heavy urbanisation and concentration of human activities make the coastline a strategical geographical area for the region. From the seventies, when the regional planning scheme was set up, several processes have been conducted on this theme at a regional scale. The election of a new majority at the head of the Regional Council and a favourable national context could accelerate the discussion.

b) Objectives

Despite their lack of prerogatives and competences, the French Regions are becoming increasingly important for town and country planning. The Brittany Region wished to develop a true territorial coherence as regards coastal zone management. As it was convinced that a principle of action is more efficient than compulsory regulations, it started a process of dialogue with all the stakeholders to lead to a Charter, which could bring a real prospective and vision and serve as an example. Such a vision had to be based on common principles which could express a locally established balance between protection and conservation on one side and development on the other.

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

a) Management

The Charter was run by the Region services. It was founded on public consultation and organisation of a regional conference on sea and coast.

b) ICZM Tools

The initiative has relied on sharing debates and a web site which was open to everybody and which could receive people's opinion and remarks. Four debates have been prepared by the regional departments and the dissemination of a questionnaire about the issues which were completed by a survey. These debates were organised in the four Breton departments, with 50 to 100 participants each. Although they were open to everybody in principle, in fact they worked essentially by invitation (more than 1000 invitations were sent).

The Charter was drawn up and adopted by the Regional Council in December 2007 being presented during a seminar which received more than 200 persons in the springtime of 2008. It includes a set of principles for the Breton coastal zone, a methodology for a new way of ruling and a plan of action with ten key projects. Its ratification by the different stakeholders is currently under way. The first regional conference on sea and coast was held in the springtime of 2009.

7. Cost and resources

The Brittany Region has mobilised specific means (appointment of an official representative especially devoted to the project) to implement the initiative, added to a grant of €60 000 it received from the DIACT.

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

If the process went as expected according to the planned schedule and objectives, it is worth noting the refusal of the State services to join it: in fact they were engaged in a parallel discussion on coastal issues. However, they finally contributed to the regional conference. Important communications, with several meetings and symposiums, were given by the Region about this Charter.

9. Success and Fail factors

Implementation of a coastal charter in Brittany corresponded to a mature project following different actions, which had been led for several years before so the context was favourable. The initiative was wanted and supported by the politicians. The technical means, which were necessary for good progress, were effectively mobilised e.g. by the appointment of an official representative for this special action. The objective was clearly and simple - the achievement of a charter. While advancing dialogue, the initiative did not wear itself out with a lot of open meetings which are not common in the French way of working at the regional scale. Admittedly, the political context contributed to the lack of investment from the State services which were re-organising and which traditionally manage the marine domain. On the contrary, the strong mobilisation of the Region which wanted to advance rapidly and put in place a new way of ruling as regards the coast, must be emphasised. Nevertheless the absence of the State services has to be questioned when putting in place the Charter. Priority was given to a general approach.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The lack of financial and technical means for implementation gives some doubt about its effectiveness, especially at the local scale.

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13. Sources

- «La Charte des espaces côtiers bretons» (The charter of Breton Coastal areas) - Brittany Region - December 2007
- Application file for the project call for proposal - Brittany Region
- 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



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