

Action to improve the environmental quality of ports - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Improving competitiveness

2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Socio-economic
- Technical

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The protocol and measures that can be taken for port towns to improve their environmental quality.

4. Overview of the case

The region of Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur has introduced a certification system in a bid to improve the environmental quality of the port areas. It was developed as a pilot in Cavalaire - sur - mer.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The certification for the results of good environmental management of French harbours began in Cavalaire which is situated east of St Tropez on the French Mediterranean coast. In the middle of the last century, the harbour was very small with just a few boats. As tourism in the area grew, so did the popularity of Cavalaire with over 1200 places for yachts and pleasure boats. In the wider region, the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur has more than 130 marinas with, as a whole, some 50000 berths for boats. With the increased tourism, came the problems commonly associated with large visitor numbers from the sea viz. pollution. In this case, several thousands of tons of toxic waste from batteries, oils, solvents and paints. The Port of Cavalaire was the driver for this initiative and even as early as 1993, the first port cleaning in France was conducted here.

Against this backdrop, the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, the Water Agency Rhône Mediterranean and Corsica, the ADEME, the DIREN and three departments of Alpes-Maritimes, Var and Bouches-du Rhone-have teamed up to encourage all operations that contribute to improving the environmental quality of the marinas.

b) Objectives

To improve the environmental quality of the ports and marinas in the Cote d'Azur.

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

a) Management

Cavalaire is a local authority and responsible for keeping its harbour area clean and healthy.

b) ICZM tools

In order to respond to the problems of an increasingly polluted harbour, a 'think tank' was set up to determine what measures should be taken. In 2001, this led to the concept of 'Clean Ports' (Ports propres). Cavalaire was the first town to take part and became the subject of a pilot port. In the first instance, there was a baseline review carried out of the overall and total pollutant flow. A Charter was created of all the agencies and marinas that were to be affected by any measures taken. At this stage, action plans were drawn up to target the various sources of pollution which was accompanied by long-term pollution training. A series of tools were developed to mitigate the pollution. Such measures have taken in not just the sources of contamination from the boats but have considered the whole catchment basin.

Port Cavalaire is now equipped with better tools to protect its environment with a vacuum pumping station for vessel sewage; a cleaning area has been built on the water which treats hydrocarbons and other waste materials; sorting and disposal of waste in the port; remediation of storm-water flowing into the harbour; improved pollution control; acquisition of equipment to fight against pollution (e.g. booms, absorbents and cleaners against accidental pollution); and equipment placed into service for the reduction of water consumption (including flow restrictors). There is also water testing carried out regularly and an awareness raising programme among boaters.

Since 2005, there have been a total of seven trainings for port staff with over 200 personnel schooled in the measures needed to keep the Cavalaire port in a clean and uncontaminated state. These trainings are ongoing with two or three held each year. About 90% of all marine members have undergone such a training.

7. Cost and resources

The budget for the certification system was initially funded by the Water Agency (80%) and amounted to a grant aid of €120,000. €50m has now been made available to the ports of the region for their improvement.

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

The certification system has expanded and is now of a regional character. Other port towns have now also been certified.

9. Success and Fail factors

The marinas in the region have entered into a formal grouping entitled the Union of Marinas of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (UPAC). It already has 60 members. The UPAC, is a representative body of port managers and participates in the Regional Council on labelling of Clean Ports, port staff training, setting up signage and the creation of a database about the regional ports.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The original initiative has been so successful that it has spread from Cavalaire to the whole region. There is hope that it will become a Europe-wide certification system.

11. Prepared by

A H Pickaver, Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

12. Verified by

It has not been possible to verify this case.

13. Sources

- <http://www.cavalaire.fr/fr/decouverte/cadre-de-vie/environnement/port-propre.html>
- <http://www.upaca.com/>