

PlanCoast Project in Bulgaria



The PlanCoast project in Bulgaria has produced some tangible results with respect to strengthening the national capacity for use of spatial planning instruments to the benefit of an effective future ICZM and maritime policy. The project team has produced an analysis of the national legislation, procedures and policies with respect to spatial planning and sea use according to ICZM. This report provided input

to the transnational comparative study on the role of spatial planning and ICZM in the Adriatic, Baltic and Black Sea.

The Bulgarian pilot project team created a GIS data base of the aquatory of Varna District comprising some geo-morphological, biological and various other data for the sea and coastal area and their uses. The sea-use plan for the 12 sm zone includes suggestions for construction of protective hydrotechnical facilities against landslides and coastal erosion, facilities for water sports and marine tourist attractions, as well as sand beach protection facilities. The sea-use plan also outlines the various uses of the sea area and various conflicts of use related to urbanization, tourism, navigation, fishing etc. Another element of the pilot project is the Specialized Use Scheme for part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coastal area envisaged in the Bulgarian Law on the Use of the Black Sea Coast of 2007. The scheme includes definition of the general structure and requirements for the development of uses of the territory and also outlines the areas designated for economic activities, technical infrastructure of national and regional significance, nature protection, conservation of biodiversity under Natura 2000. The scheme also defines the regimes of use of the forest, land and recreational resources and the areas with limitation regimes on the use of the territory and construction.

The PlanCoast Project has significantly assisted the process of capacity building on national level for an effective integrated planning in coastal zones and maritime areas. The project team has informed various stakeholders of the PlanCoast Project activities and the Bulgarian achievements. The workshops and other events open to the public have provided access to information on ICZM and spatial planning issues. They have revealed the challenges of making the most of the economic potential of the seas in a sustainable manner by avoiding conflicts and creating maximum synergies between the various interest groups.