

Integrated coastal management, maritime spatial planning and adaptation to climate change: sharing of best practices



Our project has completed its first year. We've gathered information on policies in place in the 28 Member States; discussed the topics for a guidance document on integrated coastal management (ICM), Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and adaptation to climate change with the EU expert group on ICM and MSP; and assessed options to revise OURCOAST and integrate it with other EU databases. Next year will see the publication of the results of this and further project work.

In this issue, we provide an update on two European projects, SUSCOD and Baltadapt, whose work has supported ICM and adaptation in, respectively, the North and the Baltic Seas.

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The SUSCOD project releases the *ICZM Assistant*



In November 2013, the SUSCOD (Sustainable Coastal Development) project held its final conference in Amsterdam. Key speakers included Joanna Geldhof (above right), vice-governor for Water and Wadden Sea of the Province of Noord-Holland, and Astrid Schomaker, Head of Marine Environment and Water Industry unit at DG Environment (above left). The SUSCOD project, funded by the European Union's North Sea Region Programme, brought together national, regional and local authorities from Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, UK and the Netherlands.

The conference – entitled *Practice makes perfect?* – reviewed SUSCOD's results and handed over its [ICZM Assistant](#) to the EU's OURCOAST web portal. The Assistant is a web tool to support local authorities and practitioners who are developing sustainable coastal strategies: it provides case studies and background documents as well as a 'Quick Scan' test on coastal management. Its database can be searched via an interactive map, by topic and also by the eight ICZM principles set out in the EU's 2002 Recommendation.



Help update the OURCOAST database

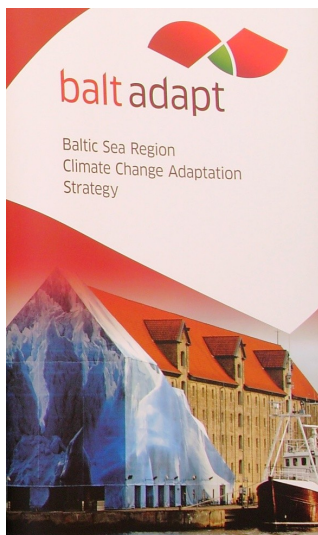


The OURCOAST database (<http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast>) provides hundreds of case studies on the successful use of ICM tools in Europe. In 2014, OURCOAST will be renewed and integrated with the *ICZM Assistant* prepared by the EU SUSCOD project (see page 1).

Please help us improve OURCOAST as a platform for information on ICM practice in Europe:

- You can **upload new case studies** by going to the following page: <http://ec.europa.eu/ourcoast/index.cfm?menuID=104>.
- And you provide **updates to existing case studies** by sending us an email at ICM-adaptation@milieu.be.

A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Baltic Sea



The Baltic Sea Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and accompanying Action Plan were presented at the final conference of the Baltadapt project, held in September 2013 in Riga, Latvia. The Strategy sets out eleven goals for the Baltic Sea region and a vision for 2020.

Baltadapt focused on the challenges for adaptation in the Baltic Sea and its coastlines. Its work connected the implementation of local, national and EU strategies and action plans across the region and linked them with the EU Strategy for Climate Adaptation. Another key output is the *Baltic Window*, an information portal on adaptation for the Baltic Sea region. The platform is being integrated into Climate-Adapt, the EU's portal on adaptation to climate change: <http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/transnational-regions/baltic-sea>.

The three-year Baltadapt project was funded by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013. Conference materials as well as project reports and other products are available on the Baltadapt web site: <http://www.baltadapt.eu/>

Upcoming events



European meetings related to ICM and adaptation in early 2014 include:

- Healthy Oceans – Productive Ecosystems: A European conference for the marine environment, 3-4 March 2014, Brussels
- MedPAN Climate Change and Mediterranean MPAs: 2014 Training Workshop, 25-28 March 2014 (dates to be confirmed), Medes Archipelago, Spain: <http://www.medpan.org/>
- ADAPTtoCLIMATE International Conference, 27-28 March 2014, Nicosia, Cyprus: <http://adapttoclimate.uest.gr/>
- Final Conference of the RADOST Project on regional adaptation strategies for the German Baltic Sea Coast, 1-2 April 2014, Rostock, Germany: <http://klimzug-radost.de/>
- European Maritime Day 2014 Conference, 19-20 May 2014, Bremen, Germany: <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/>

The partners of the EU project on *Sharing of best practices on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), in a context of adaptation to climate change in coastal areas*:

