



## **Municipality of Uusikaupunki as a pilot for Coastal Management Strategy for Southwest Finland**

Mika Peippo<sup>1</sup>, Katariina Hilke-Aaramo<sup>1</sup> and Virpi Vuojärvi-Torhamo<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Finland

<sup>2</sup> Municipality of Uusikaupunki, Finland

### **Abstract**

The target of the project of coastal management strategy for Southwest Finland is to create tools to intensify planning and guiding concerning the use of the coastal and water areas. These tools can be used for benefit of the state of environment and the means of livelihood. In the second phase of the project the pilot of municipality of Uusikaupunki is in a central role. The inventory data and results of the analysis will be applied to formulating the management strategy.

The pilot of municipality of Uusikaupunki was started by the opening seminar and by meeting and formation of the workshops of local stakeholders in September 2003. In seminar was appointed four different workshops.

The working process of the workshops was started by gathering information of demands of different stakeholders and by completing the inventory data with local special features. Needs and hopes will be collected and published by map presentation, which will present the areas with several different pressures of use or contradictions.

The other target of the project is to visualize, in which way the coastal management is organized in practise at the moment and how the co-operation of different stakeholders is being intensified in the future.

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 ICZM in Europe and Finland**

European Parliament and Council gave on 30th of May 2002 a recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, ICZM (European Parliament and Council Recommendation 2002). According to that recommendation the member states have to make an evaluation of the coastal area stakeholders, their interests and tools in use, for instance of legislation. On grounds of the evaluation the national strategy is being formulated in close association with different stakeholders.

About the preparation of the strategy will be reported to the European Commission at the beginning of the year 2006. In Finland the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the ICZM strategy work. The work got started in February 2003 by the seminar for interest groups (Tihlman 2003). The phase of evaluation is in progress and in order to formulate the strategy the co-operation group is called together in spring 2004 for the purpose of steering the work.

It is also included into the Finland's national ICZM strategy included the regional and local level. In strategy it will be treated the coastal zone, which contain the water and land areas both sides of the coast-line. It is crucial that formulating the strategy every important authorities and stakeholders of the area will be participated. The objective is to find out the means for more resistant exploitation and management of the coastal areas than at the present time. Very good means are already in use, but there will still be something to improve. In the interest group seminar came out for instance the relevance of the smooth-running co-operation especially in those cases when the lines of action and

steering are widely differed. For example, the exploitation of the water and land areas is different and in those areas it is acted by different traditions and principles.

## 1.2 Life COASTRA project

In 2001, the Coastal Management Strategy for Southwest Finland (COASTRA) project was established to promote the introduction of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) into the Finnish planning tradition.

The Archipelago Sea is a unique part of the Baltic Sea. It is relatively shallow, has a low salt content, no significant tidal activity and is characterized by a land uplift of 4-5 mm/year (Mälkki 1987). It is also one of the world's most complex archipelago areas with more than 41,000 islands, half of which are within the province of Southwest Finland (Granö et al. 1999). The vitality and preservation of the natural values of these islands are very important for cultural and natural heritage. The economy is strongly dependant on the health of the environment. More and more islands are being deserted, as stable means of employment as well as basic public services are no longer abundant (Siivonen & Grönholm 2002).

In Finland, ICZM is still being developed, as there is no ICZM framework or strategy currently in place. Since 1999 the Pro Saaristomeri – ohjelma (an Archipelago Sea Co-operation programme and regional coastal forum) that established the COASTRA project, has also been working to achieve the goals of sustainable development in the coastal area (Numminen 2002).

The main goal of COASTRA is to fit together the economical and environmental needs to form a sustainable base for the development of the coastal area. COASTRA plans to achieve this through development and implementation of more modern approaches towards coastal planning and management. Some of the central themes within the coastal area and the project are the fishing industry, tourism, the quality of coastal waters, holiday- and permanent settlements and nature protection.

The project is implemented in two phases. First, by gathering information and analyzing it the conflicts between sources of livelihood and nature, and their backgrounds caused for the water areas will be examined. As an outcome a framework will be compiled to prevent and reduce the conflicts. In the second phase the framework will be implemented and tested in practice in the municipality of Uusikaupunki, for which a comprehensive coastal management strategy will be compiled.

The main goal is to increase regional co-operation, to advance the balance between environment and industries and especially to intensify the planning concerning use of the water areas. The project produces recommendations on how the different components can be combined to form a coherent Coastal Management Strategy within Southwest Finland and the Archipelago Sea area. The partners – Regional Council of Southwest Finland, Southwest Finland Regional Environment Centre, University of Turku, Employment and Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland and Municipality of Uusikaupunki - see this project as a continuum that begins from the local pilot project and extends to the regional level.

## 1.3 The pilot project area

Coastal area faces many different usage demands and expectations. This situation brings out a lot of various questions and conflict situations, for example how different assets and viewpoints should be balanced. Conflicts in the area are usually related to the matters like economic development, human activities, conservation, preservation and reconditioning the coastal zone.

The municipality of Uusikaupunki is a versatile centre of industry, tourism, fishery and services. The pelagic environment and nature of the city is of paramount importance. It provides rich experiences not only for its residents, but also for to many summer inhabitants and boaters. Uusikaupunki has 16,851 residents and 3,665 summer cottages (Tilastokeskus 2001).

As a part of COASTRA, a pilot project that started in September 2003 in municipality of Uusikaupunki is designed to test and develop the regional ICZM proposal at a local level. Important

issues in this project are following stocktaking, conflict assessment and compiling of a draft management proposal. As a result of the pilot a regional ICZM strategy will be formed.

#### **1.4 Used methods of the pilot**

Regional planning in Finland has traditionally mainly been concentrated on land areas, although there is a clear need for similar planning in the marine areas, which are locally characterized by complex ownership conditions. The effects of shoreline land use planning for the marine area also needs to be considered more thoroughly in order to preserve natural values as well as the economic life.

The central part of the ICZM is to become aware of the fact that in the ongoing and becoming processes of the nature are included quite many uncertainties, which are indirectly impacting to the human actions and qualifications of action in coastal area. A starting-point is going to be an aspiration for to develop the democratic mechanisms, through which the organizations and individuals from all sectors of society are able to be involved in a meaningful way in this process.

ICZM presumes participation and co-operation of all those parties, which have some interests to control or the actions carried out in the area are affected. In practice this means that especially the inhabitants of the area should have a strong role in creation of the model.

There have been different authorities for different administrative tasks in Finland and little or no co-operation in this top-down system, which has led to delays and information gaps. Also, the general public has felt that they have little influence on the decision-making concerning their environment.

The aspiration of the pilot is to define and think over the rules and recommendations for the possible practical implementation. Furthermore, there is an aspiration to increase the regional co-operation, further the balance between the environment and business and especially intensify the planning connected with the use of water areas.

In practice this has been carried out by dissemination, seminars and public occasions, workshops and counseling. Essential themes of the project are for instance, the processes guiding the use of areas, transportation, fishery, water quality and pollution, tourism, leisure housing and recreation, use of natural resources, nature conservation, landscapes, cultural heritage and agriculture. There are four open workshops established to the pilot area for the stakeholders (fishery, industry, tourism and recreation and environment). Within those workshops the practical challenges, which are related to the themes of interests, are interfered.

By counseling the stakeholders will be guided into the independent data collection, for instance using the public Internet-map-server produced by the project. In pilot it will also be arranged a possibility for a sector-crossed co-operation between different authorities, which is partly new in local planning tradition.

## **2 Results**

For taking forward the Uusikaupunki pilot, workshops have to be considered as an important way of working. In those workshops the representatives of different interest groups have been able to bring up freely the conflicts considering their interest groups. As an essential part of this kind of way of working has been a conversation arisen from the grass-root level. One important factor in this process is seen to be the mobilization of grass-root level for a part of the planning process. This kind of bottom-up way of action has been a central reason for that that by means of the pilot there has been in early phases a possibility to resolve certain problems and conflicts considering the fishery.

The results of the pilot have been and are still going to be introduced in different occasions and seminars for the local people and also for the decision-makers. Those occasions are kept as a good channel to bring up the reached results. On the basis of the results will be accomplished a coastal management strategy for Uusikaupunki area and also the conflict areas will be described by map presentations. The purpose is to exploit also wider the experiences and results achieved from the pilot, for instance in formulating the national ICZM strategy.

An essential implementation of the project's objectives is to invest in the dissemination and to the public accessibility of information. Life COASTRA includes increased regional co-operation and especially intensified planning concerning the use of water areas. One of the biggest outputs of this project thus far is the opening of the public Internet-map-server, which is an important tool in the dissemination process and for supporting sound decision-making.

The internet-map-server includes very wide range of GI-based data covering the entire area of Archipelago Sea. It can be kept as a very excellent tool for furthering interaction and supplying information between the stakeholders of the area. Also establishing the map-server has been developing the co-operation between the authorities.

### 3 Discussion

It is expected that co-operation within all levels involved and especially between regional authorities and organizations will be intensified. Improved horizontal management practice integration amongst different sectors of activity and vertically from regional to local levels together with increasing public participation and interest in coastal management are encouraged. Guidelines will be shaped for proper waste and wastewater treatment practices concerning existing and new free time settlements or summer cottages.

The key to the problems faced in Southwest Finland is integrating the special knowledge possessed by the partners of this project and a wide perspective towards the complexity of the coastal area. The use of the coastal area must be based on natural processes of the area also in the long run, since decisions made today must leave options open for the future as well. Common consensus will be achieved through comprehensive participation of authorities, organizations, groups and people. Different tools such as research, dissemination, legislation and agreements will be used in solving the conflicts of the coastal area.

Should there not be a management procedure for the project area, it is probable that the state of the environment will continue to degrade and the viability of the archipelago area will suffer greatly. The economy cannot function without an environment that is at a good state, the number of jobs will decrease and permanent residents start moving towards larger population centers. This in turn leads to desolation of the outer parts of the archipelago and to vanishing of the distinctive natural and cultural environment.

Attaining a cleaner and at the same time more appealing coastal area would have a definite employing influence, since more people create a demand for more services. As a consequence of the project the image of the area will also improve and it will preserve its viability.

### References

- European Parliament and Council Recommendation (2002): A proposal for a European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (COM/00/545 of 8 Sept. 2000). [Online] <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm> [30 March 2004].
- Granö, O., M. Roto & L. Laurila (1999): Environment and land use in the shore zone of the coast of Finland. *Publicationes Instituti Geographici Universitatis Turkuensis* 160, Turku 76p.
- Mälkki, P. (1987): The eustatic rise in ocean levels. *Geological Survey of Finland, Special Paper 2*, 27-30.
- Numminen, S. (2002): Establishing coastal zone management in Finland: the Archipelago Sea co-operation programme. *Littoral 2002: The Changing Coast*, Volume 3, 7-10.
- Siivonen, K. & B. Grönholm (2002): *Framtidsscenarier för Åboland*. Turun kauppakorkeakoulu, 102p.

Tihlman, T. (2003): EU ja Suomen kansallinen rannikkostrategia. In: Saaristomeri Life, uutislehti kesäkuu 2003. [Online] <http://www.varsinais-suomi.fi/coastra> [30 March 2004].

Tilastokeskus (2001): Suomen tilastollinen vuosikirja 2001. Statistics Finland, Helsinki, 699p.

### **Address**

Mr Mika Peippo  
Regional Council of Southwest Finland  
PL 273  
FIN-20101 Turku  
Finland

E-mail: [mika.peippo@varsinais-suomi.fi](mailto:mika.peippo@varsinais-suomi.fi)