

**PROGRESS  
OF ICZM DEVELOPMENT  
IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES:  
A PILOT STUDY**

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This is a background report to the RIKZ (ETC-MCE) report "Testing of Indicators for the Marine and Coastal Environment in Europe"

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Between May and September 1999 the EUCC International Secretariat (EUCC-IS) has carried out a pilot study into the progress in the field of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in EU Member States and Norway (to be mentioned "EEA coastal countries" in this report). The pilot study was made in conjunction with RIKZ (as partner of the European Topic Centre for the Marine & Coastal Environment, ETC-MCE), which has the task to develop indicators for the European Environment Agency (EEA). In Spring 1999 the ETC-MCE had been requested by the EEA to prepare fact sheets on the progress in ICZM for the EU Member States plus Norway and Iceland.

EUCC-IS agreed to assist RIKZ in:

- the development of a number of indicators that would enable the EEA to assess annual progress in the preparation and implementation of ICZM at a country level
- testing the validity of pilot indicators at two international workshops involving coastal planners and other coastal experts
- the collection of readily available information concerning the progress of ICZM that would enable RIKZ to draft fact sheets on EEA coastal countries.

Most of the study was carried out with internal EUCC-resources.

RIKZ provided a grant of 4765 euro.

## **2. APPROACH AND METHODS USED**

### **2.1 Phase 1: Six ICZM Progress Indicators (May-June 99)**

During the project period RIKZ, EUCC-IS and external experts have discussed ways and methods to develop indicators that could be used to assess progress of ICZM in Europe. The EEA had chosen the following indicators for the evaluation of the different aspects of ICZM development and implementation:

ICZ1 Status of developing ICZM schemes

ICZ2 Status of integrated analysis and planning for land and sea

ICZ3 Status of integrated planning reflecting horizontal co-ordination

ICZ4 Status of vertical integration of administrative bodies

ICZ5 Status of participatory planning (public participation) for ICZM

ICZ6 Status of the actual implementation of ICZM-projects.

The first request was to measure the extent to which these indicators would apply for each EEA coastal country as a percentage of their coastline length.

Further definitions or criteria were not available.

#### **Problems and limitations**

Already in the first three weeks of the study the team faced serious difficulties in making assessments of the six indicators due to the following:

- Lack of clear definitions and criteria of the indicators
- Lack of a common understanding and definition of ICZM and ICZM progress in the countries involved
- Absence of readily available information for most countries; as a result information had to be collected from a combination of literature research, the Internet, regional governments (190 regions, so too much to contact!) and official ICZM project contact persons

- Lack of any response from a majority of official contact persons (this was also true for the EU demonstration projects)
- Absence of a consistent (or one-source) dataset on the coastline length of all countries involved which was acceptable to representatives of all the countries. Coastline length may vary with more than 100% depending on the scale of the measurements; on top, some figures include islands while others don't. For countries like Norway, Sweden and Finland this may add another 20-100% difference
- Absence of information on coastline length for most of the ICZM-studies, strategies or projects; these lengths had to be assessed by our researchers in the same way as the country length had been measured

So, after the first three weeks the study team concluded the following:

- regarding % of the coastline length: if indicators are to be assessed in this way, it will only be possible to work with a few very broad categories (e.g. 0-10%, 10-25% or similar) in order to avoid major mistakes in the assessment
- for three or four of the original indicators it would be practically impossible to make proper assessments.

### **Consultation of the practitioners**

Nevertheless, provisional assessments for all countries was made as discussion papers for the NORCOAST Seminar in Aalborg (Denmark, 31 May) and the Coastlines '99 Conference in Miedzyzdroje (Poland, 7-11 June). The conclusions of these discussions were:

- there is insufficient justification for the choice of the six indicators chosen
- a proper assessment (one that can be repeated over time) requires of each indicator a very detailed definition and criteria and also a description of their mutual relationship
- the use of a set of indicators would require at least one indicator related to the success of ICZM efforts compared to sectoral efforts.

In conclusion, it was impossible to make assessments of the original set of indicators.

## **2.2. Phase 2: From six to one indicator (June-Sept. 99)**

As a result, the study team and RIKZ agreed to change to one single indicator that should be properly defined primarily according to current practice in European countries and regions but yet include the most important aspects of ICZM according to world wide definitions.

In June the following ICZM progress indicator was agreed with RIKZ and the EEA:

**"ICZ1": *Progress of establishing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in coastal regions per country.***

In this study "*coastal regions*" are the administrative bodies with principal competence in spatial and environmental planning at a regional level.

A provisional country-by-country selection was made of the level of administrative bodies depending on the planning competence delegated from the national (or federal) level to a regional or provincial level (but never to the local or municipal level) using the advice of all sources used (see par. 2.3).

### **Indicator criteria**

The principal criterium for the assessment whether ICZM is "established" in a coastal region is that this is claimed by either the national or the regional government concerned, for the assessment period (mid 1998 - mid 1999), but subject to the recognition that the ICZM approach includes the following key elements:

- *Horizontal integration*: an integrated approach is applied in developing physical planning including environment and economy
- *Vertical integration*: administrative bodies are working together, both at a state and at a regional level
- *Public participation*: there exists regular public participation or consultation in cross-sectoral planning.

Although a combined planning approach covering both land and sea is usually seen as a key element of ICZM as well, this was not used as a criterium in this study.

In the assessment the regions were classified into the following four categories:

- 1. Regions with fully established ICZM.** In these regions ICZM is established and operational for the whole coastal area of the region.
- 2. Regions with partially established ICZM.** In these regions ICZM is established and operational in specific areas of the coast, but not for the region's coast as a whole.
- 3. Regions with ICZM in progress.** In these regions ICZM is in the phase of active preparation for the whole or part of the coast.
- 4. Regions with little or no progress.** In these regions some environment and spatial planning tools may exist but key elements of ICZM (as defined above) are not envisaged; this category also includes regions where no ICZM is under preparation.

### **2.3. Technical information**

#### **Data sources**

A standard questionnaire has been developed in May 1999 in order to explain the contexts to external experts and to facilitate data collection in a useful format.

Data have been collected from:

- Interviews (by telephone, fax or e-mail as well as live interviews at the EUCC's Coastlines '99 Conference) of experts in coastal planning from the countries involved, on the basis of the questionnaire. For each country at least two experts have been consulted, one of which was an expert on coastal policies at a national level.
- Literature sources.
- Internet (www).

Useful sources included the draft National Reports of the Coastal Guide, projects of the EU Demonstration Programme for ICZM (Terra, Life), Interreg projects, national initiatives and national EUCC contacts. Sources are listed per country in an internal working document (EUCC 1999b).

#### **Geographical coverage**

EU17: EU coastal states plus Norway ("EEA coastal countries").

Information on Iceland was not received in time for the report.

#### **Temporal coverage**

Progress was assessed for the period July 1998 - June 1999.

### **Data manipulation**

This assessment has been done for the main regional planning as the intermediate between the local and the national level. The assessment is semi-quantitative exercise, using qualitative information.

Progress in each regions was assessed and on that basis each region was classified into the most appropriate category (1-4). Then, the number of regions for each category was calculated (Table 4.1) and expressed as a % of the total number of coastal regions per country (Figure 4.1).

The assessment of the indicator (ICZ1) per country is summarised in chapter 3, along with a brief overview of ICZM policy development in EEA coastal countries.

## **2.4 Qualitative information**

### **Strength and weakness (at data level)**

The assessment is executed for the first time and is verifiable as the approach is mainly based on an inventory of the number of regions showing ICZM activity. The indicator is relevant at this stage of ICZM in Europe. However, it says little or nothing about the success of ICZM in a certain region nor on its arraying effects towards other regions. The existence or preparation of national ICZM plans or strategies such as for Sweden or Ireland (see chapter 3) has not been taken into account. It is clear that local and regional ICZM experts need better defined criteria for a more in depth assessment of the ICZM progress.

### **Reliability**

In spite of all difficulties (see chapter 6) we expect that the reliability and accuracy of the information is generally good, for some countries better and for some others (Norway, Sweden) less.

### **3. ICZM POLICIES AND REGIONAL PROGRESS PER COUNTRY**

This chapter provides brief overviews of ICZM policy preparation in the EEA coastal countries and summary assessments of the indicator (ICZ1) per country. A specification in country tables with national data sources is given in a 2nd internal working document (EUCC 1999b).

#### **3.1. Belgium**

**Policy development.** Belgium is a federal kingdom with three regions, only one of which, Vlaanderen (Flanders) is coastal. Vlaanderen is in charge of spatial and environmental planning, but the North Sea is under the full jurisdiction of the federal government. Vlaanderen has two coastal provinces: West-Vlaanderen (sea coast) and Antwerpen (Schelde river mouth, estuarine coast).

For a long time the sea coast has been the domain for sectoral planning mainly serving tourism and recreation. Due to the small length of the sea coast (65 km) and heavy population pressures most of the sea coast became urbanised and half of the coastal dunes disappeared. However, Vlaanderen adopted a *Duinendecreet* (Dunes Act, protecting the remaining dunes) in 1995 as well as an *Ecosysteemvisie* (ecosystem management strategy) for the dunes. The estuarine coast (Antwerpen) is under the influence of extensive harbour and industrial development.

An ICZM policy does not yet exist, but an interdepartmental steering group for ICM is active since 1996, bringing together federal, regional and provincial administrations and NGOs. A new plan for the coast (*Kust 2002 Plan*) is under preparation to fully integrate conservation objectives with economic developments. Projects are also ongoing to improve the conservation and management of coastal dunes.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Provinces (*Provincies*).

**ICZM in progress.** In West-Vlaanderen ICZM is in progress in the frame of the Terra-project "Integrated management of the Flemish coast". The project has started in early 1999.

#### **3.2. Denmark**

**Policy development.** Denmark has an elaborate spatial planning, especially in the coastal zone, with a high level of horizontal (cross-sectoral) integration and participation. The Danish Planning Act stipulates communication between the state, the counties and the municipalities. Public hearings and requests for comments and amendments are also statutory obligations in legislation and planning. Regional plans (to be renewed every 4 years) usually provide guidelines for the rational use of coastal areas including planning of recreational activities. The regional planning is followed up by action plans for nature, water quality, land use, tourism development, etc. A national ICZM policy does not exist.

The special protection of the coastal zone has recently been extended from 100 up to 300 m, while there is also a planning zone of 3 km (both cases are land zones). In this planning zone development is only permitted when it is functionally linked to the coast, while there is a complete ban on new summer houses. All natural coastal habitats are protected, incl. the Wadden Sea and the dunes. The planning system is less integrated in the marine waters.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Counties (*Amt*).

**ICZM in progress.** All coastal counties are more or less actively involved in coastal zone management and planning. Consequently, all coastal regions are considered to witness a

constant progress in ICZM. Further study would be useful to assess whether particular regions meet all ICZM criteria as used in this study.

Two specific ICZM-projects are running, a Terra-project on Storstrøm and a Life-project in the Wadden Sea area ("Integrated co-operation on the development of sustainable tourism and recreation in the Wadden Sea area").

### **3.3. Finland**

**Policy development.** Land use planning does not have a long tradition in Finland; this is probably a result of low population and land use pressures and the long coastline \*). Nevertheless, pressures on the coastal zone have considerably increased over the last decades, mainly as a result of holiday homes. As a response, legal frameworks for spatial planning have recently been strengthened. In a coastal strip of 100-200 m (land zone) there is now an obligation for the preparation of spatial planning, through which restrictions can be put to building and mining. In addition, all natural ecosystems in the coastal zone are protected by law.

There is no national ICZM policy in Finland. However, many local authorities co-operate actively in coastal matters or in coastal projects.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

Kymenlaakso, Itä-Uusimaa, and Uusimaa. These regions participate in the Life-project "Coastal Planning on the Gulf of Finland". This project encourages participation of the inhabitants in planning, and the integration of environmental impact assessment into the planning process.

(\* ) *The length of the Finnish coastline is 46,062 km including islands and archipelagos, while the straight line (without the islands) is only 1100 km.*

### **3.4. France**

**Policy development.** France has a tradition of central planning, with an important government service (*Conservatoire du Littoral*) that purchases natural coastal areas and a national Coastal Law (1986) that stipulates a narrow protected zone along the undeveloped coastlines.

A national ICZM policy does not yet exist in France, but a very interesting prototype already exists since 1983 through the *Schémas de Mise en Valeur de la Mer, SMVM* ('Sea Valorisation Schemes', elaborated in a decree in 1986). SMVM is a management tool for primarily marine use conflicts, zoning the adjacent marine environment and introducing a system of plans for enhancing and exploiting the sea. Unfortunately, until now only one SMVM (Etang de Thau) is officially running; the other initiatives did not give any concrete outcomes, because of the complexity of the instrument, lack of funding and conflicting interests between stakeholders. Since 1997 quick progress has been made, especially due to the EU Demonstration Programme.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions (*Régions*).

**ICZM partially established.** Two regions where ICZM can be assessed as partially established are:

- Basse-Normandie (Integrated Management Model for the Cotentin Wetlands)
- Bretagne (Integrated Management of the Bay of Brest and its watershed basin)

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Nord-Pas-de-Calais (Life-project)



- Poitou-Charentes (Life-project)
- Provence-Alpes-Cote-d'Azur (RAMOGE-project)
- Aquitaine (Terra-project)

### **3.5. Germany**

**Policy development.** The organisational structure for decision making and planning in Germany involves three different political levels of decision making: community, state and federal government. The States (*Länder*) are the first responsible bodies for spatial planning and for coastal and water management. There are five coastal states, two of which are city-states. A national ICZM policy does not exist.

Planning in the German coastal zone has a predominantly sectoral character, with little integration of land and sea. All natural ecosystems in the coastal zone are protected.

National Parks (five in the coast) play an important role in the German coastal zone. Three National Parks cover almost the entire German Wadden Sea, while there are two others in the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern coast. More than 90 % of the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern coast has some protective designation varying from National Park and Nature reserve to Landscape reserve.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: States (*Länder*).

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the North Sea coastlines of Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen that are involved in the Life-project "Integrated co-operation on the development of sustainable tourism and recreation in the Wadden sea area".

### **3.6. Greece**

**Policy development.** Efforts are being made to improve co-ordination between ministries to further develop environmental policy. Furthermore, integration of environmental considerations into other policy areas has gradually been strengthened. Up to now management of the coastal zone is mainly implemented through physical planning and environmental policies and plans. Important aspects are the efforts on reducing the effects of water pollution. A national ICZM policy does not exist.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions.

**Partially established ICZM.** The only example of this in Greece can be found in the region of South Aegean, on the island of Rhodes. Here an integrated management programme started in 1992 under the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). In this same region a Life-project is running in the Cyclades preparing the development of ICZM in nine local communities and three municipalities of the archipelago.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Epirus (Integrated Management of the Coast of Ipiros, part of an EU Terra-project)
- Attika (different projects implemented under the Terra Programme Posidonia)
- Thessalia (Life-projects on requirements for sustainable developments of Magnesia's coastal zone)
- Central Macedonia (Life-project Actions for management of the Strymonikos coastal zone)
- East Macedonia (Terra-project Integrated Management of the Coast of Kavala)

### **3.7. Ireland**

**Policy development.** The Irish legislative framework is strongly sectoral, complex and intricate. Legislative measures serve one of two principal purposes - the administration of activities or the protection of the environment. Spatial planning is rather decentralised. As a result, the coastal zone is administered by a range of authorities, agencies and bodies. ICZM is quite a new phenomenon in Ireland. The government started to develop policies regarding this subject which resulted in an ICZM working paper in 1997. Efforts towards new ICZM policies devote much attention to resource development and conservation and to environmental protection. According to the Irish government existing and future issues in the coastal zone can best be addressed by streamlining and enhancing the arrangements for consultation and co-operation, in planning and operation, between and within the various departments, authorities and agencies responsible for the management of the coastal zone.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Counties.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Cork (Development of a consensus based ICZM strategy for Bantry Bay)
- Donegal (Implementing alternative strategies in Irish beach and dune management: Involvement in sustainable coastal development.)

### **3.8. Italy**

**Policy development.** In the past decades, the major barrier to co-ordination and integrated management in Italy, was the pulverisation of responsibility in a number of governmental authorities from municipalities, city quarters and cities to provinces, regions and state, each defining their own strategy influenced by a variety of political currents and the interests in power rather than in public services. In recent years this severe problem, has been recognised as the cause of lack of action and new solutions for co-ordination and integration are under consideration.

A national ICZM policy does not exist. Even though ICZM is in progress via specific programmes, vertical integration and public participation are not yet strongly developed.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions.

**ICZM partially established.** At the moment this is the case in Veneto, for Venice Lagoon.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Liguria (cooperates in several projects such as the MAP project: The Ligurian Region and Assessment of Integrated Coastal Area Management Initiatives in the Mediterranean)
- Campania (Terra/Posidonia Project)
- Puglia (Terra/Posidonia Project)
- Sicily (Terra/Posidonia Project)
- Abruzzo (Life-project RICAMA – “Rational for Integrated Coastal Area Management”).

RICAMA represents the core of the strategy to reach Abruzzo’s integrated coastal area management. Its objective is to determine and improve methodological managing aspects in order to give an integrated approach to problems such as economical, social and environmental aspects connected to the use of sea-coastal resources; involvement of all different sectors in development policies, programmes and management practices; creating a synergy among the various planning instruments; etc.

### **3.9. The Netherlands**

**Policy development.** There is a long tradition of integrated planning in the Netherlands as a result of the population density and high economic development pressures. Planning frameworks for all sectors are made at a national level and they are usually tuned to each other because their development is a long process involving many stakeholders, ministries and the Parliament. Cicin-Sain and Knight (1998) consider the Netherlands the world leader in ICM for coastal defence and in harmonisation of national coastal and ocean policies.

Coastal ecosystems (Wadden Sea, all marine foreshore zones, sand dunes and salt marshes) are all given a high protection status as key elements of the *Ecologische Hoofdstructuur* (EHS, a national ecological network). This EHS is used as main guideline for coastal planning and management in which there is increasing attention for the integration of land and marine areas. Already for fifteen years, the Dutch Wadden Sea (part of three provinces) has a special status as a separate planning area with a special Council (*Waddenadviesraad*) for horizontal and vertical integration. Major planning decisions are regulated through a national planning instrument (*Planologische Kernbeslissing, PKB Waddenzee*). The planning and management of the Dutch Wadden Sea has developed as an international model of ICZM.

In 1999 an interdepartmental working group for ICM produced a discussion paper *Kust op Koers* that was actually broadly discussed in regional and national fora.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Provinces (Provincies).

**ICZM established.** Wadden Sea region: provinces of Groningen, Friesland

**ICZM partially established:** Noord-Holland (for the Wadden Sea region, for the mainland coast there is a joint project with Zuid-Holland)

**ICZM in progress:** Zuid-Holland (joint ICZM project with Noord-Holland) and Zeeland (Beleidsplan Voordelta).

### **3.10. Norway**

**Policy development.** Norway has a decentralised spatial planning, with a narrow coastal protection strip. There is a strong focus on the development of fisheries, mariculture and (locally) offshore. A national ICZM policy does not exist. The Norwegian approach has been to enable local communities and counties to extend their planning into marine waters through the planning and building act of 1985. The need for integrated planning in Norway has mainly come up because of problems in fish farming, pollution, second homes building and user conflicts. Important target in CZM is the establishing of co-operation between different sector interests and plans on the county level. First steps in this direction are already taken in the Hordaland county.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Counties.

**ICZM in progress.** It was difficult to obtain actual information on progress at the regional level. However, a first assessment indicates that ICZM is in progress in the following regions:

- Nord Trondelag ("Local management plans on the Norwegian coasts", EU Demonstration Programme)
- Hordaland (Norcoast)
- Rogaland (Seagis)
- Vest-Agder
- Aust-Agder.

### **3.11. Portugal**

**Policy development.** The whole coastal zone of Portugal is subject to the Plano de Ordenamento da Orla Costeira - POOCs (coastal zone territorial / spatial plans). Most of them are still only in a preparatory phase. Despite they do not cover all ICZM elements, these plans can be good instruments for horizontal and vertical integration. The plans are in an advanced stage in the regions of Algarve, Madeira and Porto. Public participation is not yet strongly developed.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions.

**ICZM in progress.** Besides Lisboa & Vale do Tejo and Alentejo, the whole coast of Portugal has ICZM in progress. These regions are:

- North Portugal (Terra-project Concertcost, Vale do Lima, POOC)
- Central Portugal (Life-project Maria)
- Algarve (Terra-project, POOC)
- Açores (Life-Nature-project: Integrated Management of Coastal & Marine zones in the Açores)
- Madeira (POOC).

### **3.12. Spain**

**Policy development.** Between 1960 and 1990 the coast has been the domain for strongly sectoral planning mainly serving international tourism. A national ICZM policy does not exist in Spain. However, because the Autonomous Regions are responsible for spatial and environmental planning, most coastal Regions have developed cross-sectoral land planning for coastal areas over the last 5-10 years. With respect to management of the coastal zone, there exists an overlap of jurisdiction among national, regional and local authorities. Although the bulk of resource management jurisdiction is vested in the regional government, the national government has claimed exclusive competence over the coastal strip determined as Coastal Public Domain through the Shores Act (*Ley de Costas* 1988). Local governments participate in coastal zone management through the development of land use plans in beach and foreshore areas. Vertical integration and public participation are not yet strongly developed.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Autonomous Regions (*Autonomías CC.AA*). Provinces have no competence in this matter.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Andalucía (Agenda 21 *Litoral de la Janda*, Integrated Management of the Algarve-Huelva Coast)
- Comunidad Valenciana (TERRA Concertcost Valencia)
- Cataluña (Terra project Posidonia)
- Baleares (Agenda 21 Calviá, Mallorca)
- País Vasco (Plan for Coastal Areas, Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve)

Good examples at a local level are the development of Local Agenda 21 *Litoral de la Janda* (Andalucía) and Calviá (Mallorca). These are the only two coastal projects cases in Spain of Local Agenda 21. These are also the only two cases where real public participation in coastal management and planning is taking place.

### **3.13. Sweden**

**Policy development.** Spatial planning in Sweden is organised in a decentralised way; most of the planning responsibilities are transferred to regional and local levels of government. The Planning and Building Act stipulates that all municipalities must have a structure plan covering their entire area (both land and marine areas), their use and how planned activities will influence changes and conservation of valuable parts of the municipality.

There is a protected strip of 100 m seawards and landwards, that can be extended to 200 or 300 m in areas of national importance (this is the case for 70% of the Swedish coast). The Nature Conservation Act stipulates that the aims of shore protection also include the protection of flora and fauna as well as outdoor recreation interests.

In the coast there is much attention for the development of fisheries and aquaculture. As a result, Sweden has over 10 years of experience with ICZM, and it has developed a national vision on the subject.

Sweden is running Europe's largest research programme on CZM or marine resources: Research Programme on Sustainable Coastal Zone Management of Marine Resources (SUZOZOMA). This programme aims to develop the concepts, evaluation instruments and procedures needed in order to resolve, on a basis of science and public participation, all conflicts concerning the use and conservation of the natural resources of the Swedish coastal zone. The programme also aims to create local jobs in coastal communities, in activities that are ecologically and economically sustainable.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Regions.

**ICZM in progress.** It has proved difficult to obtain actual information on the local situation from the Swedish government as well as from regions. However, a first assessment confirms ICZM progress in the following regions:

- Vestra Götaland (Lysekil, Norcoast, Archipelago project)
- Blekinge Län (Blekinge Archipelago project)
- Södermanlands Län (Archipelago project)

Government sources referred to a larger number of ICZM projects but did not provide a list. Probably this refers to Kalmar, Östergötland and Stockholm which also participate in the Archipelago Project. This project started in 1998 to give coastal counties (or regional administrations) responsibility for creating regional environmental and resource management programmes for their coastal areas and archipelagos. The programmes to be developed should include detailed action plans to achieve ecologically sustainable development. More information will be available in the next Archipelago progress report (due for December 1999).

### **3.14. United Kingdom**

**Policy development.** Sectoral national policies and regional strategies form the framework for coastal management in the UK. In England and Wales coastal management is strongly determined by instruments such as National Parks, *Heritage Coasts* and properties of national NGO's (e.g. National Trust, RSPB, local trusts). Management initiatives are locally based, non-statutory, cross-sectoral plans, implemented through voluntary partnerships. Local management initiatives often feature strong public consultation. Examples of this are the various *Estuary Management Plans*. Primarily based upon sea defence interests, also many *Shoreline Management Plans* are currently developing (in principle for all "coastal cells"). Over the last years parliamentary activity and strong spurring from the NGO community has resulted into UK government attention for ICZM and a national ICZM paper was due to be

published in 1999. Various sources conclude that effective ICZM will be hampered by the complicated and strongly sectoral legal framework. As a result of extensive EC-funding for UK-projects in the context of the EU Demonstration Programme for ICZM and the Estuary Management Plans the UK is quickly developing local experience.

**Administrative units** used for the regional assessment: Counties.

**ICZM established.** Dorset is the only region where ICZM has been assessed as fully established. The voluntary initiative "The Dorset Coast Strategy" aims to achieve integrated management of the whole of Dorset's coast and inshore waters. The initiative is promoted by the Dorset Coast Forum, which was established in 1995. The Dorset Coast Strategy principles and action plan include the key elements of horizontal and vertical integration, and public participation.

**ICZM in progress.** This applies to the following regions:

- Kent (Terra-project Integrated management of the Kent Coast)
- Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire (NW-England).
- Devon and Cornwall (Terra-project Integrated management of a Living Atlantic coastline)
- East Sussex (Strategy for the East Sussex)
- Isle of Wight (South Wight Coastal Zone Management Plan, Integrated Management of Coastal Zones: Isle of Wight)
- Down and Derry (Northern Ireland, Integrated management of the Coast of Down; Implementing alternative strategies in Irish beach and dune management)
- Lothian (Forth Estuary Forum: A demonstration of effective integrated coastal zone management.)
- Tayside and Highland (local projects)

The existence of an Estuary Management Plan is not automatically assessed as "progress". In these plans vertical integration seems to be a weak point. A next phase should include a more detailed study of the EM plans.

## **4. SUMMARY OF ICZM REGIONAL PROGRESS IN EEA COUNTRIES**

Progress towards establishing ICZM in EEA coastal countries is summarised in Table 4.1 and in Figure 4.1. Countries like Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK with a longer tradition of integrated strategies have made most progress. The development of ICZM in most other countries has been largely stimulated through the EU Demonstration Programme on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (since 1997). In a number of countries, progress has also been stimulated by national studies or strategies. Regional exchange of experiences has also contributed towards the preparation of ICZM.

*Table 1: Progress towards establishing ICZM in coastal regions of EEA countries*

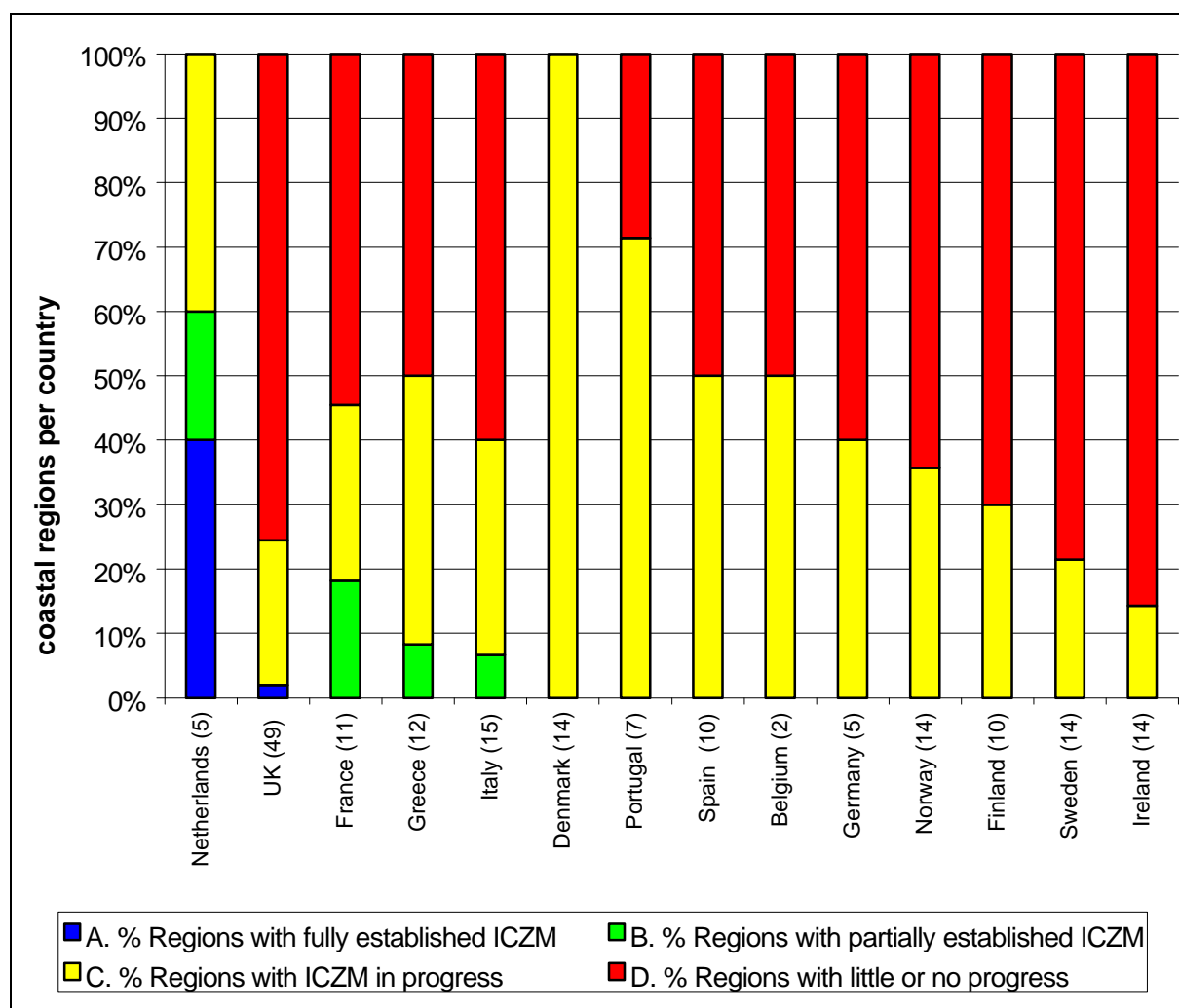
	Length of coastline (km)	Coastal regions	Status of ICZM (no. of regions)			
			Fully established	Partially established	In progress	Little/No progress
Belgium	98	2	0	0	1	1
Denmark	4488	14	0	0	14	0
Finland	1 100	10	0	0	3	7
France	7205	11	0	2	3	6
Germany	1864	5	0	0	2	3
Greece	5333	12	0	1	5	6
Ireland	5148	14	0	0	2	12
Italy	7409	15	0	1	5	9
Netherlands	861	5	2	1	2	0
Norway	21 930	14	0	0	5	9
Portugal	924	7	0	0	5	2
Spain	6567	10	0	0	5	5
Sweden	3 220	14	0	0	3	11
UK	15911	49	1	0	11	37
<b>Total</b>		<b>182</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>108</b>

### Notes:

Coastal regions are taken as administrative regional bodies with principal competence in spatial and environmental planning (at a regional level). See also Figure 4.1.

Length of coastline from EU's Corine database (scale 1/100 000, CEC 1998a), except for Norway, Finland, Sweden. Coastline length for Finland, Sweden and Norway does not include small islands. Due to inconsistencies in measurements lengths are not exactly comparable.

**Figure 4.1: Progress towards establishing ICZM in coastal regions of EEA countries**  
(number of regions per category as a % of all coastal regions per country)



Notes:

For each country the number of coastal regions is given between brackets.

Data for this figure are given in Table 4.1.

**On the basis of this pilot study the preliminary conclusions are as follows:**

- ICZM activities are underway in all EEA coastal countries
- ICZM is established in complete regions in the Netherlands (Wadden Sea) and the UK (Dorset) and locally also in France, Italy and Greece
- Over half the coastal regions have made little or no progress
- Information on ICZM progress in EEA countries is not readily available.



## **5. DISCUSSION**

This study has been an extremely difficult one, especially given the restricted time span and resources. The most important difficulties the study team has been facing in making the assessments include the following:

- Absence of any experience or study (world wide) into the assessment of ICZM progress indicators as set out by the EEA
- Lack of agreed definitions and criteria of the indicators to be measured
- Lack of a common understanding and definition of ICZM and ICZM progress in all countries involved
- Lack of a national agency or contact for ICZM in most countries
- Absence of readily available information for most countries; as a result information had to be collected from a combination of literature research, the Internet, regional governments (182 regions, so too much to contact!) and official ICZM project contact persons
- Lack of any response from a majority of official national or regional contact persons (including official contacts of the EU Demonstration projects)
- Absence of a consistent (or one-source) dataset on the coastline length of all countries involved which was acceptable to representatives of all the countries. Coastline length may vary with more than 100% depending on the scale of the measurements; on top, some figures include islands while others don't. For countries like Norway, Sweden and Finland this may add another huge difference (see under 3.3. Finland)
- Absence of information on the working area or coastline length for most of the ICZM-studies, strategies or projects; in the 1st phase of the study these lengths had to be assessed by our researchers in the same way as the country length had been measured (which proved impossible)
- Lack of funding.

As a consequence, this study must in the first place be considered as a contribution to develop a proper methodology and not as a detailed and objective review of ICZM progress.

### **Monitoring ICZM progress in the future**

The above problems and limitations must be taken into account in the evaluation and understanding of this report and in any decision on a follow-up effort in 2000 and beyond. During this study experts have stressed the importance of the following aspects of ICZM:

- definitions of the “coastal zone” used by countries (if any)
- specific coastal policies and planning instruments at a national level, necessary to support and complement regional planning efforts
- combined land and sea planning approach at the regional level
- the effectiveness of a regional project, plan or process (“a plan is not enough”).

## 6. REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

**Note: This list does not include references to the situation in individual countries. These are included in EUCC (1999b).**

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