



E-paper - 3.4.1. Survey of integrated holistic and ecosystemic policies to manage tourism conflicts and externalities



FORWARD NOTE

This e-paper has been produced for the scopes of dissemination of the Deliverable 3.4.1 “Survey of integrated holistic and ecosystemic policies to manage tourism conflicts and externalities”

CREDITS and DISCLAIMER

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CENTER FOR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
University of Nicosia

Edited by: CCEIA – Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs

Authors: Stephanie Christou

Contributors: Irene Elia, Georgiou E. Kyriakos

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PROJECT REFERENCE

SHAPETOURISM - *New shape and drives for the tourism sector: supporting decision, integrating plans and ensuring sustainability*

Priority Axis 3: Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources

Programme specific objective 3.1: To enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the MED area

Lead Partner

University of Venice CA FOSCARI Department of Economics

Partners

University of Algarve

Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions – Veneto Federation

University of Split, Faculty of Economics

Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

University of Malaga - Department of Economics and Management



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ABSTRACT

This e-paper has been produced for the dissemination of the Deliverable 3.4.1 “Survey of integrated holistic and ecosystemic policies to manage tourism conflicts and externalities” which consists a selected catalogue/record of Policies, EU legislation, Action Plans, Study Reports and other tools concerning integrate holistic and ecosystemic policies in the MED area, focusing on coastal areas management. It summarizes its main results and methodology used, and gives an overview of the deliverable for public dissemination.

Many Action Plans, Euro-Mediterranean projects and initiatives have been developed for an integrated approach to tourism and ICZM the last decades. The List/Catalogue developed gathers some important milestones of IZCM and Policies, EU legislation, Action Plans, Study Reports, Initiatives and other tools contributing toward an integrated and holistic approach to Tourism and ICZM which are relevant to the scopes of the Project and can form a useful record for policy makers and other stakeholders.

1. Description/Scope of 3.4.1

The Survey of integrated holistic and ecosystemic policies to manage tourism conflicts and externalities” consists a selected catalogue/record of Policies, EU legislation, Action Plans, Study Reports and other tools concerning integrate holistic and ecosystemic policies in the MED area, focusing on coastal areas management. The data where gathered through an extensive literature review through desktop research in relevance to the scopes of the Deliverable and the Project.

More specifically, the survey report is based on:

1. Desktop Research based on EU policies, Scientific articles, Projects, Action Plans, Initiatives, Operative mechanisms applied at nuts II and III level to implement those policies strategic program, action plans, business ecosystem support, benchmark tools



2. Gathering of Best Practices/ Good Initiatives developed in the MED area to counter tourism pressures on environment and on cultural assets and landscapes to manage tourism externalities on the D 3.4.1 Template

An extensive List/Catalogue was created on the findings of the above research and a Report with Recommendations for med tourism stakeholders will be prepared.

Pic. 1: D.3.4.1- List of Important milestones on policies to manage conflicts and externalities on ICZM

survey
D.3.4.1 report Rev __ month 201__

List of important milestones on policies to manage
conflicts and externalities on ICZM

PROTOCOL on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, Official Journal of the European Union, 4.2.2009		
TYPE	EU legal instrument	
TOPICS	ABSTRACT	Index/Cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sustainable tourism • ICZM o Marketing and promotion o Participatory process 	<p>It conformity with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocol, the Parties who signed the Protocol agree on the establishment of a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone and to take the necessary measures to strengthen regional cooperation for this purpose.</p> <p>The Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the Mediterranean, which is the Seventh Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, is the first legal international instrument for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account the importance of coastal ecosystems, activities and uses and their impact on the marine and coastal area. The aim is to preserve coastal natural habitats, landscapes and natural resources and ecosystems. According to the Protocol, "Integrated Coastal Zone Management" means the dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account the same time</p>	



2. Summary of findings for Public Dissemination

Between late 1950s -1970s and onwards the model of mass tourism was developed in the different coastal areas and islands in the Mediterranean. This model brought several changes in tourism practice and policy. A bit after, the idea of sustainable development arose and expanded to the tourism industry and so the idea of sustainable tourism came along with an increased concern on tourism's socioeconomic and environmental impacts.

High concentration of population and economic activities characterize today the Mediterranean coastal zones. In simple words, coastal areas are transitional areas between the land and sea characterized by a very high biodiversity and they include some of the richest and most fragile ecosystems on earth (Yunis, 2001). Coastal zones do not have only a physical dimension, the inclusion of ecosystems, resources and human activity within the zone is also significant. Many coastal Med destinations, beyond economic development, face today several sociocultural and environmental pressures and challenges. Globalization and technological development have facilitated the movement of tourists worldwide and in the Mediterranean also.

Along with these changes, several tourism conflicts appeared concerning the different local, regional, national, as well as European and international interests in the MED area involving various stakeholders. Tourism stakeholders are not the only group of interest in coastal zones; many other different stakeholders of land and water resources, environmental groups, local communities, public bodies have conflicting interests in several cases. In these terms, coastal areas are characterized by a high conflict potential and the risk of overexploitation of still intact coastal habitats for tourism (Yunis, 2001). These conflicts can be categorized to Eco - Spatial, Infrastructural, Socio-demographic, Economic and Socio-cultural conflicts.

Some of the most important/common risks that coastal areas face are highlighted in the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Integrated Coastal Zone Management: A Strategy for Europe. These are: widespread coastal erosion, often exacerbated by inappropriate human infrastructure (including that intended for "coastal defense")



and development too close to the shoreline; habitat destruction, as a result of poorly planned building and land development, or sea exploitation; loss of biodiversity, including decline of coastal and offshore fish stocks as a result of damage to coastal spawning grounds; contamination of soil and water resources, as pollution from marine or on-land sources, including landfills, migrates to the coastline; problems of water quality and quantity as demand exceeds supply or wastewater treatment capacity; unemployment and social instability resulting from the decline of traditional or environmentally-compatible sectors, such as small scale coastal fisheries; competition between users for resources; destruction of cultural heritage and dilution of the social fabric following uncontrolled development (especially of tourism); loss of property and development options, as the coast erodes; lost opportunities for durable employment, as resources are degraded (European Commission, 2000).

Many of these risks/problems have to do with a lack of knowledge, inappropriate and uncoordinated laws, a failure to involve stakeholders, and a lack of coordination between the relevant administrative bodies (European Commission, 2000).

At an international and a European level it was acknowledged that measures had to be taken to tackle the externalities and conflicts of tourism in coastal areas following the model of sustainable development and an integrated and holistic approach that will bring together stakeholders from different sectors and disciplines with a participatory approach. The EU and international organizations in order to face the growing challenges arising from the model of mass tourism and the pressure on traditional societies and ecosystems have developed specific policies and tools in order to tackle this issue and contribute to the scope of sustainable development, expanding to sustainable tourism. Integrated Coastal Zone Management came as a response to the above challenges acknowledging the dual role of coastal resources as ecological functions and a productive socio-economic asset. This provided a perspective for reconciling conflicts of uses and



short-term/ longer-term priorities to support strategies for sustainable coastal management (Coccossis et al., 2008).

The most important milestone for ICZM in the Mediterranean is the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol) which was signed at the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management on 21 January 2008 in Madrid. This is the seventh Protocol in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and represents a crucial milestone in the history of MAP. It completes the set of Protocols for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Mediterranean Region. The Barcelona Convention was a regional convention adopted in 1976 to prevent and abate pollution from ships, aircraft and land based sources in the Mediterranean Sea. Signers agreed to cooperate and assist in dealing with pollution emergencies, monitoring and scientific research. The convention was adopted on 16 February 1976 and last amended on 10 June 1995. The Barcelona Convention and its protocols, together with the Mediterranean Action Plan, form part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme.

The area to which the Protocol applies is the Mediterranean Sea area. The Coastal zone is defined in the Protocol as “the geomorphologic area either side of the seashore in which the interaction between the marine and land parts occurs in the form of complex ecological and resource systems made up of biotic and abiotic components coexisting and interacting with human communities and relevant socioeconomic activities;; and ICZM is defined as “a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land part”. The ICZM Protocol is a unique legal instrument in the entire international community also.



Many Action Plans, Euro-Mediterranean projects and initiatives have been developed for an integrated approach to tourism and ICZM the last decades. The List/Catalogue developed gathers some important milestones of ICZM and Policies, EU legislation, Action Plans, Study Reports, Initiatives and other tools contributing toward an integrated and holistic approach to Tourism and ICZM which are relevant to the scopes of the Project and can form a useful record for policy makers and other stakeholders.

The complete 3.4.1 deliverable can be found on the Project's webpage:
<https://shapetourism.interreg-med.eu/en/what-we-achieve/deliverables/>

