

SUSTAIN

SUSTAIN E-NEWS

Issue 1 - Winter 2010

WELCOME TO SUSTAIN E-NEWS!



Welcome to the first edition of **SUSTAIN** News, where we present the latest news and events from the 'assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy' project.

This edition contains updates from the activities so far and the progress made, as well as a look ahead to upcoming events from project partners and future workshops & interregional visits.

We will also present brief profiles of some of project partners - **VOICES** of **SUSTAIN** - who give their reasons for joining the project and what they are hoping to get out of it.

Enjoy!



European Union

European Regional Development Fund

WHAT IS SUSTAIN?

Sustainable development is a key EU strategy and is vital for the future prosperity for member states. This is of particular importance on the coast, where more than one third of Europe's population live within 50km, exerting unique environmental, social and economic pressure.

SUSTAIN - Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy - is a 3-year, €1.8m, project part-funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme*. SUSTAIN results will contribute to the delivery of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

The aim of SUSTAIN is therefore to create a new policy tool to help coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe to deliver sustainability on the coast of all 22 coastal states of the European Union. It will be based on a set of easily measurable and fully tested sustainability indicators that will be developed and assessed during the lifetime of the project. The 12 project partners from across the EU will also increase the sustainability of their own areas through interchange of experience and transfer of practice on sustainability issues in the coastal zone, during the lifetime of the project which runs until December 2012.

Supporting the Delivery of Sustainability on Europe's Coasts

Since the project launch in Kouklia, Cyprus, in February 2010, much work has been done to being to develop a robust policy tool that will enable local authorities and municipalities to begin to assess the levels of sustainability in their coastal zones. The final tool will consist of a set of indicators drawn together from across Europe that are applicable in all Europe's coastal areas.

Work began with the partners identifying the key sustainability issues in coastal areas and grouping these into themes to produce a set of headline issues. We also undertook analysis of various national sustainability indicator sets. We are now starting to look at each set of identified headline issues in turn to determine suitable and meaningful indicators. The indicators will enable authorities to assess development and management activities in coastal areas to determine whether they are moving towards or away from sustainable development.

To date we have held four workshops: in Cyprus, France, Netherlands and Germany. Most of these have taken place alongside Interregional Exchange Visits (Netherlands, Cyprus and France) where partners have been able to explore local sustainability issues in the areas visited and exchange relevant experience.

The visits have been a mixture of site visits together with presentations and discussion sessions. Topics discussed include how communities have come together to implement the Bathing Water Directive, how communities work across administrative boundaries, including national boundaries, and opportunities for new member states. The partners are also actively discussing what and how policies are likely to be improved through SUSTAIN activities in their local or regional areas.

In order to make the results of the project more accessible across Europe the SUSTAIN partners have collectively built a multi-lingual project website in ten European languages. The website facilitates communication and information in each partner's language, encouraging interest from each partner region and country and supporting the involvement of other interested stakeholders across Europe. All contacts are available so it is easy to get involved. In addition, to aid local dissemination of the project outputs, leaflets and posters have been produced by each partner in their own language setting out the aims of the project and local contact details.

The local and regional authorities involved in SUSTAIN are all making efforts to use integrated coastal zone planning approaches to lead to sustainable development, but a number of actions need to be implemented along the coast to improve sustainability. The criteria for assessing sustainability at the coast which is being developed and tested in SUSTAIN will hopefully provide the management policy tool which is much needed and currently lacking. This tool will be pursued over the next two years and we will keep you informed!



By Caroline Salthouse
North West Coastal Forum

Celebrating Coastal Excellence in North West England

In 2010 the North West Coastal Forum established a new biennial award scheme: the North West Awards for Coastal Excellence (NW ACE). The scheme is designed to recognise achievement of individuals, community groups and organisations, both commercial and public sector in contributing to the delivery of a more sustainable coast in North West England. There are 3 categories: Coastal Champion open to individuals; Coastal Community Action open to voluntary groups; and Coastal Best Practice open to commercial and public sector organisations for particular projects.

The inaugural 2010 awards were presented by the North West Coastal Forum Chairman, Graham Lymbery, during the 2010 Regional Coastal Conference at the Maritime Museum, Liverpool in December.

Coastal Champion: this award is for individuals who demonstrate leadership, being an inspiration to others, innovation and how their work has developed the skills and knowledge of others involved.

The winner was **Ian Rowlands**, who was nominated by his colleagues at the Environment Agency. Ian has worked in North West England for many years on flood and coastal defence issues and, as well as inspiring and helping colleagues, has overseen the delivery of many valuable schemes for protecting communities from flood and erosion damage.



Ian receiving his award from the Chairman of the North West Coastal Forum, Graham Lymbery of Sefton Council



Friends of the Estuary (Lytham)

Coastal Community Action: this is an award designed for community volunteers who have made a significant contribution to their local coastal community.

The winners were **Friends of the Estuary (Lytham)** who meet regularly to carry out beach litter cleans at the twin resort of Lytham and St Anns, on the Ribble Estuary. The group goes out in all weather conditions and in addition to this invaluable work they go into local schools and work with school children to help them understand some of the key issues around beach litter.

Coastal Best Practice: this award recognises large scale projects where stakeholder engagement, innovation, effective integration across socio-economic and environmental factors and capacity building and awareness are demonstrated.

The joint winners were **Wyre Borough Council and Birse Coastal** who worked together on the £26m Cleveleys Coast Protection & Promenade Enhancements Scheme - an innovative integration of much needed coastal defence works and public open space.

For more information on the awards, the 2010 winners and the highly commended (other people and projects which merited recognition) see the current projects page of the North West Coastal Forum website: www.nwcoastalforum.org.uk



The 'people's promenade' at Cleveleys, Fylde peninsula

VOICES of SUSTAIN

Municipality of Samothrace, Greece (Local Authority)

By Orestis Chatzopoulos

The island of Samothrace is widely known for its unique natural assets as well as for its rich historical and cultural wealth, pillars in which the whole economic activity is based on. But problems may emerge in the near future from the increasing intensity of human activities along the coastline, namely from the development of infrastructure, economic activities, tourism etc, problems (such as pollution and coastal degradation) that may have severe impacts on coastal communities and natural habitats.

The Municipality focuses on several theme areas, which include, for instance, the development of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, environmental protection, public health and quality of life, physical planning, etc. In other words it seeks to encourage the sustainable use of its resources towards a viable economic development.

The participation in the Project SUSTAIN, and especially through the cooperation with the other partners, the interchange of experience and transfer of good practices on sustainability issues, but also through the proper use of the policy tool which will derive by the end of the project, can provide the means in order to meet the above objectives and assist the Municipality in the design of its long-term, sustainable development planning for the local community.



Province of Teramo, Italy (Local Authority)

By Doriana Calilli



The coast of Teramo is the most important touristic reality of the Abruzzo Region: forty-five kilometres of coast unravelling itself along wide sandy beaches, protected areas and marine parks. Seven municipalities known as the *Seven Sisters* already hold a Blue Flag and have agreed on a marketing strategy centred on the promotion of the "sea product" by the constitution of the tourist Label "Costa Blu". An accommodation system of over 500 structures boasting hotels, residences, campsites and tourist resort villages. The population of c. 100,000 inhabitants swells to about 300,000 during the summer months. This splendid reality is constantly endangered by the risk of sea pollution and the erosion of the

coast. Through SUSTAIN we intend to acquire the operational tools needed to assess the sustainability of the territory and to launch the integrated management of our coastal areas.

Regional Development Centre Koper, Slovenia (Regional Authority)

By Tamara Ristić

As it hasn't been long since we've entered the EU we are lacking in all the necessary experiences for effective implementation of relevant actions, in this case in the field of a more sustainable coastal environment. We joined this project to get acquainted with experiences and good practices of other partners, which issues and problems they face in their own coastal areas and how they approach them. We expect to draw from these experiences and practices and transfer them onto our coastal area. We are looking forward to the end results of this project, which are, amongst others, two Guides (for sustainability improvement & for authorities), which we will forward to local/regional authorities and other organizations so they can use them to measure sustainability in their coastal area and to monitor sustainability.



ARH Tejo-Tagus River Basin District Administration, Portugal (Regional Authority)

By *Margarida Nunes*



The opportunity of working together with eleven other partners, coming from different regions of the European Union, focusing their activity on challenges of sustainable development of the coast is the main attraction of SUSTAIN project, as sustainable use of the coastal resources is also an important objective that drives ARH Tejo activity. Actually, looking how other regions deal with similar/ specific problems in the coastal zone may help us not only to see the differences and possible solutions, but also to realize the importance of our own potential. It is the opportunity of learning with others that is the main gain and primary motivation for ARH Tejo participation in SUSTAIN. Moreover, ARH Tejo hopes to widely disseminate and make efficient use of the policy tool resulting from SUSTAIN. That will be a significant contribution to the development of an information system focused on the coastal zone and its specific challenges such as - erosion, risk management, renewable energies, tourism pressure, nature and culture, human behaviour and awareness, among many others... Our motto is: We can only manage what we know!

The Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW), Germany (Research Institute)

By *Gerald Schernewski*

The Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research, located in Rostock, Germany is dedicated to interdisciplinary marine research with focus on the Baltic Sea ecosystem. The research programme includes the cross cutting activity "Coastal Sea and Society". Within this activity, the Coastal and Marine Management Group, lead by Gerald Schernewski, carries out applied, interdisciplinary research to support coastal management and the implementation of national and international policy. We have already a long-lasting interest in coastal indicators and e.g. supported the UNESCO-IOC marine indicator application. Recently, several sets of coastal and marine state and progress indicators have been developed and applied to the German/Polish Oder estuary region. SUSTAIN allows us to share this experience and to benefit from expertise in other parts of Europe.



Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, Ireland (Research Institute)

By *Cathal O'Mahony*



Introducing sustainability to coastal activities and uses is a key focus of work undertaken by staff within the CMRC. Ireland's coastal domain is similar to that of many other countries, in terms of the range of issues linked to human use and activity. SUSTAIN offers an opportunity to use the pan-European experiences of the partnership as a basis for identifying solutions to contemporary coastal management issues and challenges. Each partner will contribute their experience and knowledge of good practices; particular aspects of sustainability of interest and relevant to the CMRC include: data requirements; communication between scientific and policy communities; coherency between different scales of governance; models of co-management; and, methods for measuring progress on sustainable development. In addition, recent policy developments at European level, regarding maritime spatial planning and integrated approach to the management of marine resources, make participation in projects such as SUSTAIN all the more important and relevant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A series of workshops and inter-regional visits hosted by SUSTAIN partners are as follows:

28th - 30th March 2011, Teramo (Italy)

"Defining the socio-economic sustainability criteria", will be hosted by the regional authority of Teramo. Often socio-economic factors are not taken into consideration when assessing sustainability since priority is often given to nature, natural landscapes and biodiversity. Attention will be devoted to this theme by the partnership

23rd - 27th May 2011, Samothrace (Greece)

"The needs of small islands" will be the theme of this visit which will be held in the island of Samothrace and hosted by the Municipality. This is an important issue for the EU which has many small islands within its nations and also has island states.

September 2011, Down (UK)

An workshop dedicated to the "Development of a Guide to Authorities" will be held and hosted by Down County Council, UK. The results from the workshop will be used to define a definitive Guide for Authorities on how they can use the sustainability indicator set, the methodologies they will need and the way they should present their results.

Autumn 2011, Lisbon (Portugal)

"Development of a sustainability improvement guide" will lead the discussions and will be hosted by the regional partner ARH-Tejo based in Lisbon, Portugal. The results from this workshop will be used to define the content of the Guide which is being specifically developed to help Authorities to improve their record on sustainability.

Autumn 2011, Canary Islands (Spain)

"Showing that mass-tourism can be sustainable" will be held in the Canary Islands (Spain) and will feed into the Exchange of Experience report. This topic is relevant to the EU since many mass tourist destinations appear to be unsustainable as sustainability is more usually associated with small communities or specialist destinations.

Learn More about
SUSTAIN
and
Keep Up to Date on
Our Activities!

www.sustain-eu.net



THE PARTNERS

The project partnership is led by the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC), Netherlands and includes partners from 9 other EU countries including Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the UK. The project partnership includes a mix of local and regional authorities, research institutions and NGOs:

The Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) - The Netherlands
www.eucc.net

Service Observatoire Marin / SIVOM du Littoral des Maures (Marine Observatory / Public Association of 'Communes' of the Littoral of Maures - France
www.observatoire-marin.com

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council - United Kingdom
www.sefton.gov.uk

The Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW) - Germany
www.io-warnemuende.de

Samothraki Municipality - Greece
www.samothraki.gr

University College Cork (CMRC) - Ireland
www.cmrc.ucc.ie

Down District Council - United Kingdom
www.downdc.gov.uk

Instituto Canario de Ciencias Marinas (ICCM) - Gobierno de Canarias (Canary Institute of Marine Science - Canary Islands Regional Government) - Spain
www.iccm.rcanaria.es

ARH-Tejo Administração da Região Hidrográfica do Tejo (Tagus River Basin District Administration - Portugal
www.ccdr-lvt.pt

Kouklia Community Council - Cyprus
www.kouklia.org.cy

Provincia di Teramo - Italy
www.provincia.teramo.it

Regional Development Centre Koper - Slovenia
www.rrc-kp.si



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Sefton Council 

north west coastal forum 

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