

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	ICZM Latvija
Country:	Latvia
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	PHARE Programme and support from the World Bank
Lead partner:	Ministry of the Environment and Regional Development
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Project website:	[URL]
Project area:	The administrative bodies taking part are three district councils, two municipal councils (Dome) and 11 local authorities (Pagasti). Two ports, Ventspils and Liepaja. The Latvia ICZM project covers the coast of the whole nation.
Area size (land):	260-km coastline (primarily rural and natural), a 600-metre-wide protection belt (300m of land, 300m offshore) to protect the natural and recreational resources [in hectare]
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	165 000 inhabitants
Policy background:	The ICZM initiative has been developed against a background of local government reorganisation and underdeveloped planning. ICZM is providing a means to address a prevailing lack of co-ordination between sectoral administrations as well as within the planning system. Resource issues and lack of capacity will need to be addressed in order to implement many good provisions in the existing and proposed legislative framework.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Tourism & Recreation, Transport, Ports & Marine Industry, Fishing, Pollution and Habitats & Biodiversity.
Main aim:	
Expected results:	Contribution to the implementation of the Baltic Sea environment programme to ensure the ecological restoration of the Baltic Sea and the preservation of its ecological balance; Establishment of a policy, regulatory, institutional and management framework for the management of the study area; Proposal for guidelines for planning and development in the study area; Establishment of a programme of priority action and demonstration to protect the environment and reduce pollution; Preparation of integrated coastal zone management plans at national and local level, organisation of workshops, training seminars and studies;

Recommendation of actions concerning investment and management programmes to be implemented in stages;
Identification of preventive and curative action to reduce the pollution load from the study area reaching the Baltic Sea.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Latvia has been co-ordinated by ministries though the work of projects themselves is at more local scales.

Ministries formally involved*: The ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (MEPRD) is the principal government department concerned with environmental matters, although others, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transport, are also involved. The National Board of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture manages fisheries in inland waters, the territorial sea and the EEZ under the Fishing Law 1995.

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

[names]

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:

[names]

Problems encountered: Before embarking on ICZM, the municipalities in Latvia had little experience of working together. The ICZM pilot forced them to meet and to plan together. In doing so, they discovered many shared concerns and also a new strength in tackling these problems jointly. The result is that plans presently being developed are more comprehensive and holistic.

In Latvia, temporary administrative structures were established to manage the coastal management initiatives through a period of rapidly changing national policy.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: Strategy for Investment at the Latvian Coast. The projects is designed to provide a framework for short, medium and long-term investment in the coastal zone and establish criteria for the selection and prioritisation of investment projects.

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes / no

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes / no

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes,

To stimulate the involvement of the public, Latvia used the next mechanism: Newsletters, Newspaper Articles, TV features, Draft plans in Halls, Public Meetings, Municipal Info Centre, Questionnaires.

Main achievements: Three support units will be established along the coast to assist local authorities in developing projects within the overall framework of the strategy.

PHARE is presently also supporting preparation of a Strategy for Investment in the Latvian Coast, to enable prioritisation of investments in the context of pre-accession and in line with Agenda 2000.

Problems encountered:

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements: In order to motivate public participation and to give legitimacy to the ICZM process, Slitere in Latvia, used the school curriculum to accomplish public support and participation. The pilot project provided education for local students in specialities related to those branches of economy which are typical for the coastal area, as well as an understanding and capacity to engage in the integrated management and planning of these activities.

Problems encountered:

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: Historical pollution remaining from old industries or military establishments. The restructuring of heavy industry in general and the changing socio-economic dynamics in the coastal area have left large areas of vacant but contaminated land. Examples of historical pollution can be seen in the Latvia and Lithuania (military and fuel storage) projects.

In Latvia, overextraction of groundwater for human consumption has caused intrusion problems. Water in the wells near the Baltic Sea coast tends to contain excess hydrochloric salts, sodium, potassium and sulphates. Due to unsatisfactory condition of the fresh water supply network, the demands of quality and quantity of water cannot be met. Furthermore, household pipes are severely affected by corrosion.

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Economic development:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: In Latvia, major road and rail developments are unlikely to follow the Latvian coast, but rather be East-west and based on transshipment routes. This will be positive in that it will discourage linear development along coastal routes.

Problems encountered: The cost is that this may retard co-operative development programmes between major urban centres and reduce the possibilities to link major coastal cities and for multi-centre or cross-border tourism development.

Coastal defence:

Project objectives: need for further scientific work to identify which forests are crucial in preventing coastal erosion.

Main achievements: The forests of Latvia play a significant role in the prevention of coastal erosion.

Problems encountered:

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up:

No progress since: [month, year]

Main reason for lack of progress:

7. Sources

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Co-operation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999