



# The Oder Estuary Coastal Information System - DE

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

## 2. Key Approaches

- Knowledge-based
- Technical

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Especially in cross-border regions, multi-lingual regional information systems are important tools to provide information, to give access to data and to support co-operation. Integrated Geo-Information-Systems can increase the awareness of spatial utilisation conflicts and support integrated management processes.

## 4. Overview of the case

Between 2004 and 2006, the Regional Information System "Oder Estuary" has been developed to support regional management. In the following years new technical features have been implemented and, based on evaluations, the content has been further developed and extended.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

Integrated coastal zone planning and management requires information across all relevant policy and authority levels and across all relevant sectors. In the various management and planning processes information is essential for decision-making and stakeholder involvement. Web-based information tools can improve the flow of information in the region. They are freely accessible at any time and are, furthermore, flexible, relatively cheap and can store great quantities of information. In particular the regional level has been identified as an important level to ensure the success of ICZM. Against this background, the Regional Information System "Oder Estuary" has been developed.

### b) Objectives

The general objectives were to develop and maintain a regional internet platform which a) serves as a container for data, information, project results, publications etc. b) gives access to this data and information to a broad public c) supports integrated management and planning processes and d) serves as a transferable model for other regions. The aim was to develop a system, that is spatially expandable and transferable to other regions.

## 6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

## **a) Management**

The development has been carried out by research institutes, companies and an NGO. The development was accompanied by a board of regional authorities and administrations. Maintenance is ensured by an NGO, EUCC - The Coastal Union Germany.

## **b) ICZM tools**

Provision of a Regional Information System, an internet based Geo-Information System "GIS IKZM MV", a meta-data editor and electronic databases.

The Regional Information System is a multilingual (German, Polish, English), generally accessible regional internet platform designed to improve the information flow and information availability in the region as well as to support regional coastal management. The general internet platform e.g. stores and provides background information on major regional policy issues and management themes in the region and makes data, publications and maps easily accessible. It contains an internet based Geo-Information System "GIS IKZM MV" which provides spatial data and maps and supports spatial visualisation and planning processes. Databases give access to documents, pictures and events.

## **7. Cost and resources**

Between 2004 and 2008, the Regional Information System "Oder Estuary" received about €500,000 funding from the German National Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) provided within the project 'Research for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Oder Estuary Region' (ICZM-Oder, phases I-II).

## **8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)**

The objectives were reached within the given time-frame.

## **9. Success and Fail factors**

Close co-operation between technical developer, content provider and end-users allowed a rapid development. Most parts of the information, data and maps were easily accessible and allowed the system to grow quickly. There was strong support from several institutions. Internal evaluations allowed a demand driven development of the content. National and international co-operation ensured the use of the tools by externals. To index the content according to international meta-data standards turned out to be very time and resource consuming and was not fully completed.

## **10. Unforeseen outcomes**

Despite the good acceptance of the system, the search for a long-term funding and maintenance of this non-commercial platform remains a challenge.

## **11. Prepared by**











Gerald Schernewski, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany

## **12. Verified by**

Steffen Bock, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Germany

## **13. Sources**

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  -  Artikel15\_Thamm\_Bock\_Schernewski (456.1 KB) 
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  -  Artikel9\_Schernewski\_et al (591.3 KB)  
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  -  John (2.26 MB)  

## 14. Relevance for cross-border management of transitional waters

A bilingual coastal information system for a transitional water body should be seen as the key tool facilitating trans-boundary information exchange. Its relevance is particularly high considering the needs to support the management integration between the downstream river basin, a transitional water body and the adjacent marine nearshore.