

SULINA CASE STUDY EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON ICZM PROTOCOL WITHIN PEGASO PROJECT

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Abstract

This paper presents the experience in public participation approach carried out for Romanian case study in the frame of the PEGASO project funded by the European Union within FP7. The purpose of this research was to actively involve a wide range of stakeholders in a two day planning session, focused on issues and potentials of Sulina coastal area, with the aim to work out possible solutions for integrated coastal spatial planning within the context of ICZM protocol implementation for Black Sea. The possible solutions drawn by the participants during the session according to their point of view and interest were integrated into a final sketch and then transposed in GIS map

Keywords: Coastal management, Black Sea

INTRODUCTION

One of the objectives of PEGASO is to use the model of the existing ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean and adjust it to the needs of the Black Sea through innovative actions. Thus, one of the tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone pilots was participatory process. For the Romanian case study was selected Sulina town which is located in the South-East part of the country, on the Black Sea coast.

METHODS

For a good approach of the participatory process it was necessary to develop four thematic maps of the studied area (area location, infrastructure map, flood hazard map, map of elements vulnerable to floods) which were further used for sketching and drawing the ideas expressed by stakeholders during the session. For the public participatory approach was selected the "Sketch Match method" which is a workshop method developed by Netherlands Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) [1]. The interactive public participation took place in Sulina town during 2 days of work in November 2012. Participants were representatives of a wide range of stakeholders varying from local population, fishermen and NGO's to representatives of Local and County Council. The workshop consisted in forming two parallel thematic groups with following topics: spatial planning and socio-economic development.

RESULTS

The stakeholders analysed, with the help of thematic maps, the area's characteristics in two different groups. This gave them insight in the area's main problems, qualities and potentials (Fig.1):

Problems	Qualities	Potentials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land property issues and cadastre of Sulina coastal area Lack of coastal area delineation Uncontrolled development of touristic coastal activities Decreasing fish stock and lack of a fish market Institutional conflicts Poor basic infrastructure in the town and coastal area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of Sulina as fluvial and maritime port Coastal biodiversity Existence of wetlands and Natura 2000 sites Cultural diversity and heritage buildings Touristic attraction of the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the action plans and national legislation in conformity with ICZM protocol Potential for touristic development Potential for public-private investments Potential of renewable energy development

Fig. 1. Examples of area characteristics as defined by participants

Having these starting points in mind, there were defined the main possible solutions by two categories: (i) **non structural solutions** and (ii) **structural solutions**.

i) it was observed that all the issues from both groups could be tackled by same **non-structural solutions**: raise public awareness which can be achieved through education, trainings, courses among population on ICZM topic as well as institutional collaboration by organizing regularly meetings at local, regional, national level.

ii) **the structural possible solutions** were grouped in 5 categories:

1. Infrastructure category by modernisation and enhancing accessibility. Using the "thematic maps" was identified the need of an integrated infrastructure approach and infrastructure quality improving. This refers to Garlita channel reactivation that will offer perspectives for navigation by small boats.

2. Agri-economic category which involves the necessity of reopening the canning factory and shipyard rehabilitation. Development of craft construction industry and ship repair industry were mentioned as solutions for Sulina

economical revival. The reintroduction of fresh water in the southern embankment may restore opportunities for fishery in the area, enhance ecological and landscape development and offer new perspectives for local economy (developing a fish market in the area). Channel dredging was designed as a solution to improve soil quality properties of pastures for cattle breeding.

3. Within the Social category the main vital solution is to reopen the Hospital in Sulina in order to assure the medical care for the community. Further, creating jobs through new investments in tourism and establishment of small crafts workshops using the natural resources were other solutions sketched by the participants. Enhancement of the cultural and historical heritage and necessity of architectural building rehabilitation through legislation was also raised.

4. Tourism category which includes the delineation of camping and recreational areas as well as Sulina touristic beach in order to avoid conflicts between stakeholders. Change the functionality of a part of the deactivated shipyard for tourism purposes and job creation.

5. Environment category involves Integrated Waste Management solution in order to reduce the environment contamination hazard and waste overload.

These solutions build up the integrated final sketch for Sulina case study in which all the efforts and ideas of two days' hard work brought together (Fig.2).

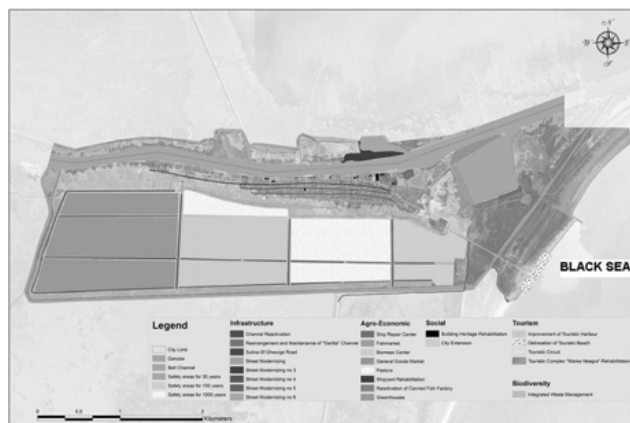


Fig. 2. The integrated final sketch with possible solutions for Sulina case study

EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The results presented above emphasize a future possibility of socio-economic development of Sulina town and coastal area in accordance with ICZM protocol. The participatory session proved to be a success for Sulina case study, assuring a good cooperation process within different stakeholders, raising awareness among them.

References

1 - Fred Voorbrood, 2007. SKETCH MATCH - Rural Design approaches in workshop publication, The Government Service for Land and Water Management