

A Comprehensive Regional Effort to Enhance Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea Countries: The PEGASO Project of EU FP7

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The start of regional cooperation among the riparian states for managing the Mediterranean (Mediterranean Action Plan - MAP) dates back to 1975. After 15 years of operation, MAP included integrated coastal management (ICM) into its sphere of activities and in the second phase of MAP starting with 1995, ICM became a priority target for the program. A milestone for the Mediterranean ICM was the approval of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol for the Mediterranean in early 2008. The Protocol, which is the first international legislation worldwide promoting ICM, has recently concluded the ratification process and will soon be in force. Despite this pioneering regional development, perhaps all Mediterranean states are still at certain distances from successful ICM implementation.

Regional cooperation for managing the Black Sea and its coastal areas is more recent compared to the Mediterranean. The seeds for this effort were put in place by the four-year long (1993-96) GEF funded project (Black Sea Environmental Program) that produced the approval of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Black Sea (31 October 1996) by the riparian states. Integrated coastal zone management was one of the issues addressed by the SAP.

The European Union started significant initiatives in ICM most notably after the mid 1990s. Experience gained from several projects carried out in the European states produced the ICM Recommendations in early 2000s. Since then, ICM has been a major area for exploration by various EU programs.

At the preparatory phase of the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) of EU, a special project was envisaged for promoting ICM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea states with special emphasis to the non-EU member countries. The PEGASO project was selected at the start of 2010 after an open call for proposals.

The four-year long PEGASO project is a concerted effort by 25 prominent Mediterranean, Black Sea and European institutions that have wide experience in ICM. The PEGASO consortium includes intergovernmental and EU institutions, international and national NGOs, universities and research centers. The project commenced with 01 February 2010.

This paper describes the goals and the work packages of the PEGASO project.

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