Geography, geology, geomorphology, sedimentology:

## Easy To Use Tool For Iczm Progress Reporting

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Colour coded set of indicators, first proposed by the ICZM Expert Group of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/pdf/iczm guidance notes.pdf), is a popular instrument used for monitoring the progress with ICZM implementation. Attempt to apply the similar reporting methodology was made in the Black Sea region as well, with support of the EuropeAid funded ECBSea project, whereby the six coastal countries reported on progress with ICZM under the auspices of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and published in the State of Environment of the Black Sea in 2009. BSC Advisory Group on Development of ICZM Methodologies further fine-tuned the progress reporting guidelines to their needs, expanding it to include the reference system, corresponding in textual format the reasoning for upgrading or downgrading colour coded markers. Reporting in such a format is routinely applied in Georgia as well. Recognizing, that standard word processing tools are inconvenient to use for referenced entries into the progress marker fields, it was proposed to develop more user friendly means for data entry. Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 was utilised to provide the software environment for colour coded progress reporting. The MS Windows forms based tool was found as intuitive to use, with short learning curve: even novice user with basic computer familiarity can quickly master 'single click' entry workflow. Filling manual is provided as well, though self-explanatory on-screen instructions are fairly sufficient to apply the tool. It provides for colour coded cell entries in red, yellow and green colours, as well as for the possibility of indexed inputs of concise textual reasoning, reproduced as consecutively ordered endnotes, attached to the colour coded table output. The tool is simple and robust enough for interactive use by ICZM practitioners in the presence of stakeholder forum invited for scrutinising and validating the progress ratings. Toolset is believed to be of guite generic nature for application not only in the EU and Black Sea context, but with any regional seas. Apart from data entry, executable provides the user with the range of flexibilities, such as the option of editing the texts defining the ICZM progress indicators, if so desired, as well as the possibility of attaching the visual identity attributes, such as logos of the international, national, regional and/or local authorities, wishing to apply the tool. Editable attributes, respectively, include entries to names of the regional sea, the country, the sub-national and local coastal administrations, as well as the entry of their preferred reporting milestones. User can directly manipulate records in Access database, while outputs can be generated in Microsoft Excel or Adobe Portable Document Format to report the results. Both executable and source code are shared openly, so that advanced users can adapt the tool to their particular needs and circumstances.