Coastal and marine policy, science and policy integration

Participation, Governance Platforms, And Stakeholder Dialogue

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As one of the Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP) and as a centre for decision support in the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu is involved in several projects of the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) funded by the European Union (EU). Two of those regional, collaborative, and "policy priented" projects aim at supporting the implementation of regional policies such as the 7th Additional Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol for the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol), as well as the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Within those projects Plan Bleu is in charge of activities devoted to "Stakeholder dialogue" to facilitate interactions between scientists and decision-makers. On the one hand, by building a "Shared ICZM Governance Platform", the PEGASO project (People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast http://www.pegasoproject.eu) aims at supporting the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean and at helping Black Sea countries to develop a similar instrument. On the other hand, by developing "Stakeholder Plaforms" for strenghtening exchanges between scientists and decision-makers, the PERSEUS project (Policy-orientated marine Environmental Research for the Southern European Seas - http://www.perseus-net.eu) aims at supporting the implementation of the MSFD in the Southern European Seas (SES). Those collaborative projects allow Plan Bleu to promote and disseminate lessons learned from past experiences, revisit and share tools and methods tested and consolidated, and finally strengthen its "go-between" role. Indeed Plan Bleu represents an interface aiming at bridging the gap between scientists and decision-makers to support sustainable responses to environmental issues the Mediterranean face. The paper submitted by Plan Bleu will report on such activities throught out recent experiences and case studies in the framework of the PEGASO and PERSEUS projects. Keywords: Governance, Participation, Stakeholder, Decision support, Platforms, Interface