

Experts Group Meeting

Encora Theme 3 - Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning has had a very successful meeting on **New Ideas and Approaches on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**. The meeting, which was held in **Athens** on **5 and 6 of November 2007**, was attended by a group of experts willing to exchange knowledge from different European countries. The participants, representing organizations and universities related to coastal issues, were:

Name	Country	Institute
Agisilaos Economou	Greece	School Building Organisation S.A.
Alexandra Mexa	Greece	University of Thessaly, Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Development
Brice Trouillet	France	Nantes University
Christos Anagnostou	Greece	Hellenic Center for Marine Research, Institute of Oceanography
Christos Zambelis	Greece	Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works
Dimitra Triantafullou	Greece	University of Thessaly, Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Development
Dora Papatheochari	Greece	University of Thessaly, Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Development
Gerry Sutton	Ireland	Coastal & Marine Resources Centre (UCC)
Harry Coccossis	Greece	University of Thessaly, Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Development
Ivica Trumbic	Croatia	Priority Actions Programme/ Regional Activity Center
Jannette van Buuren	The Netherlands	Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat; Directoraat-Generaal Rijkswaterstaat; Rijksinstituut voor Kust en Zee
Jaouad Lakhdar Idrissi	Morocco	Laboratoire d'Océanographie Physique, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique (INRH)
Manos Koutrakis	Greece	Fisheries Research Institute
Rhoda Ballinger	UK	Cardiff University, School of Earth, Ocean and Planetary Sciences

Among the participants were two Young Researchers through the Young Professionals Exchange Programm, Brice Trouillet from University of Nantes (France) and Dimitra Triantafullou from University of Thessaly (Greece).

The speakers have presented topics related to new advances of research progress in respect to Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning, focusing on European research efforts and their policy relevance. The meeting also involved roundtable discussions on planning and ICZM considerations in policy development, on tools and emerging issues and research questions.



The main results derived from the meeting regarded important thoughts and experiences on the role of spatial planning in coastal zones in relation to the Marine Strategy, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, EU sectoral policies and frameworks such as Water Framework Directive, regional policies and across various levels.

The lack of tools for coastal issues and integration between policies was particularly stressed and the need for the identification of gaps and challenges for coastal and marine spatial planning has been indicated.

The participants have generally expressed their interest on the Encora project and its future actions, including the upcoming Conference in Paris and the preparation of the Theme Action Plans.

