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*Project Partner: Isle of Wight Centre for the Coastal Environment,
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Objectives of the project

MESSINA: Managing European Shorelines and Sharing Information on Nearshore Areas (2003-2006). Ultimately, MESSINA aims at maximizing the benefits of future investments in coastline management and raise the public awareness about the need to manage the coastline in a sound and sustainable way.

Objective 1: Provide a state of the art of shoreline monitoring and modelling techniques supporting coastline management policies, with a particular attention paid to innovative techniques;

Objective 2: Review concrete examples of economic analysis methodologies applied to shoreline management policy inside and outside Europe;

Objective 3: Embed lessons learnt from existing coastal defence engineering practices - including hard and soft engineering - into coastal planning processes at the local level;

Objective 4: Assess information requirements to better integrate coastal erosion processes into spatial planning policies;

Objective 5: Design and implement a pilot GIS-based information system dedicated to shoreline management planning at the local level, to be experimented by the project partners

Partners

- Institut Géographique National (IGN)
IGN France International (*Lead Partner*)
- RIKZ National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management of the Netherlands (Netherlands)
- Municipality of Sète (France)
- Municipality of Ystad (Sweden)
- University of Messina (Italy)
- University of Naples (Italy)
- Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)
- University of Szczecin (Poland)
- Municipality of Rewal (Poland)
- Swedish Geotechnical Institute
- Centre for coastal erosion studies (Sweden)
- Province of Ragusa (Italy)
- Isle of Wight Council (UK)

Funding Stream

This initiative has been co-financed by the INTERREG III C West zone programme of the European Union and was approved on December 15, 2003 for 3 years. The overall project budget is €1.7 million, the Isle of Wight Council component of this is €280,000 over the three years.



Outcomes

In spite of major efforts invested in Europe since the mid-1980's, efforts which have contributed to assess and document the exposure of European coasts to coastal hazards, and accumulate knowledge on coastal systems, significant gaps still remain, and speak out for increased partnership among European coastal authorities.

The MESSINA initiative intends to partly bridge these gaps by breaking "knowledge isolation" of some local authorities and institutions in Europe, by raising their managerial and technical capabilities through a mutualisation of the experience accumulated by each of them, and by upgrading existing shoreline management guidelines through an integration of the latest techniques and methods available in Europe.

<http://www.interreg-messina.org/>

