

NOSTRA project / INTERREG IVC

Workshop n°

The following document aims at detailing a Good practice which will be discussed during the workshop.

The good practice should show how the questions about biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage are taken into account when planning a new touristic activity linked with the strait.

Good practice

In the context of the INTERREG IVC programme, a good practice is defined as an initiative (e.g. methodologies, projects, processes and techniques) undertaken in one of the programme's thematic priorities which has already proved successful and which has the potential to be transferred to a different geographic area. Proved successful is where the good practice has already provided tangible and measurable results in achieving a specific objective.

Please answer the questions and send this document to the Lead partner (gessant.pauline@cq62.fr) by 15/03/2013 at the latest.

STRAIT:

NOSTRA Partners:

Contacts: Finland / Sweden

Name of the good practice: *SeaGIS - Cooperation for ecosystem based planning of the marine environment using GIS*

Organisation involved in the good practice: 7 partners in project. End-users are national and regional environmental and land&sea planning authorities, regional councils and municipalities on both sides of the Kvarken strait. General public will have access to internet based multilingual knowledge platform, in which most available data concerning the environment, infrastructure and socio-economic will be presented.

Contact for the good practice: Jens Perus & Johnny Berglund

1. Location of the good practice:

Country: Finland, Sweden (Kvarken – transboundary)

NUTS 1:

NUTS 2:

City:

2. Objectives: What are the objectives?

The overarching aim of SeaGIS is to produce an increased knowledge base and make it more accessible in order to increase the possibilities of a coordination of ecosystembased regional holistic planning of marine areas and create a common platform for knowledge storing, planning and future decision making in the Kvarken region

3. Origin of the action: Why has this action been implemented? (To answer a demand, to fill in a lack, etc...)

It has been anticipated that EU will launch a new directive on Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Management and regional environmental and planning agencies has been looking into raising the preparedness for transboundary marine spatial plans in the region. Since planning in a three-dimensional marine environment differs from terrestrial planning, there was a need to provide planners with tools and feed them with information about what the concept of ecosystem based planning requires from them (and underlying data for decision making) .

4. **Target:** Who can use and enjoy the good practice?

End-users are national and regional environmental and land&sea planning authorities, regional councils and municipalities on both sides of the Kvarken strait. General public will have access to internet based multilingual knowledge platform, in which most available data concerning the environment, infrastructure and socio-economic will be presented.

5. **Timescale:** What are the beginning and end dates of the good practice?

SeaGIS runs 1.6 2011 – 31.10 2014, but tools and products will be in operation afterwards.

6. **Bodies involved:** By which structure has the good practice been implemented? Is there any kind of cross-strait partnership or governance? All responsible environmental and planning authorities on both sides of the Kvarken strait are involved in the project. Municipalities are involved in pilot studies of planning situations and sector interests have been taken into by asking them for relevant data to be uploaded into platform. Universities on both sides of the Kvarken have looked into existing (maritime, environmental and planning) national legislation and made interviews with all municipalities in the region as well as with sectoral representatives about their views on how their current planning system works and how to approach forthcoming ecosystem based planning in the Kvarken area.

7. **Legal framework:** Has the structure been created to implement the good practice or did the structure exist before the creation of the good practice? Is the good practice implemented by a public body or by a private company? New structure implemented by public bodies in both countries.

8. **Process and detail content of the practice:** Which tools and methods are implemented? What kind of specific planning instruments are taken into use when planning a new touristic activity?

All responsible environmental and planning authorities on both sides of the Kvarken strait are involved in the project. Municipalities are involved in pilot studies of planning situations and sector interests have been taken into by asking them for relevant data to be uploaded into platform. Universities on both sides of the Kvarken have looked into existing (maritime, environmental and planning) national legislation and made interviews with all municipalities in the region as well as with sectoral representatives about their views on how their current planning system works and how to approach forthcoming ecosystem based planning in the Kvarken area.

Aim is to produce an increased knowledge base and make information more accessible in order to increase the possibilities of a coordination of ecosystembased regional holistic planning of marine areas and create a common platform for knowledge storing, planning and future decision making in the Kvarken region.

Public bodies and general public will have access to internet based multilingual knowledge platform, in which most available data concerning the environment, infrastructure and socio-economic will be presented.

- 9. Financial framework: What is the cost of the practice? How is it funded?**
SeaGIS is financed by a Interreg-programme (EU, Bothnia-Atlantica), the total budget was ~1,1M€. EU and national financing from both Finland and Sweden.
- 10. Possible demonstrated results: What are the results?**
The legal report has already been published and platform is expected to be launched in May 2014.
- 11. Have the objectives been met or are they in the process of being met? Explain why.**
The project is still running, but the tools and products are under construction and are not foreseen to meet any unexpected obstacles anymore.
- 12. Please explain why this practice is considered as good.**
This is genuine transboundary cooperation between two countries, in which information is shared and made available. The tools will have practical meaning to responsible authorities and planners. Efficient (joint) maritime spatial planning will probably have economically beneficiary outcomes for the strait in the future.
- 13. Success factors: was there any factor which makes the practice easier?**
Although still meeting obstacles, the EU INSPIRE-directive have made it easier to get information and data from authorities.
- 14. Difficulties encountered: Did you encounter some difficulties to implement the programme or to meet the objectives?**
Not all authorities financed by tax-payers money are still sharing their data for free. Many authorities have not yet transferred their paper map-based data/information to electronic GIS-format and some data is clearly outdated and need to be updated before presented on-line. Sensitive, or data with high resolution can be classified to have restricted access or not allowed to be shown due to national security.

Many responsible planners/municipalities are facing problems with carrying out duties required by them due to overload of work. Thereby it has been a challenge to make them enthusiastic about forthcoming planning of the marine environment, before it will be required by them through EU directive.