

→ Integrated beach management plan

Country Romania

Project title Beach management plan at the Black Sea coast

Twinning Water authority Rijnland (the Netherlands)

Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate Constanta (Romania)

Project period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007

Project budget € 49,029

Project objective

Integrated beach management plan for the Mangalia area by improving co-operation on management and operations between Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate Constanta, Mangalia municipality and other local authorities.

Project summary

A beach management plan was developed and a process to establish a spatial plan was designed with involved authorities and stakeholders. Relevant staff of Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate Constanta and Mangalia were trained in enforcing by-laws and how to create and maintain the plan.

Core information

Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate Constanta is located in Constanta county in south east Romania on the Black Sea. The county has approximately 756,000 inhabitants. It has a long historical tradition as prosperous colony controlled originally by the Greeks and later the Romans. Today's economy is based on the marine industry, shipping, agriculture and tourism, the latter welcoming some 43% of Romania's tourists.

Problem analysis

Beach management is a new responsibility for Dobrogea Litoral Water Directorate Constanta. One of the problems was lack of experience in bringing authorities and stakeholders together with conflicting interests to create a plan for a joint approach. The need for communication and co-operation among stakeholders on beach management, as well as optimally benefiting from tourism development on the shores of the Black Sea were primary reasons for implementing this project.

A practice to improve internal management of local governments

Project implementation

The project started with encouraging stakeholders to ensure (and share) project ownership and to establish responsibilities of stakeholders. A strategic plan was drafted, staff trained in new essential competences and local law enforcement officials were trained. A communication plan was drawn and implemented and advertising materials were produced. Citizens and organizations were educated and Mangalia staff and relevant stakeholders were trained in spatial planning.

Process management

Key decision makers like local councilors of Mangalia city hall and responsible persons for final approval of the beach management plan were included. This was achieved through constant and constructive communication with this group over the entire project implementation period. Each of the other stakeholders (Constanta Prefecture, Environmental Protection Agency Constanta) involved participated in the working groups and project training activities.

Recommendations: dos and don'ts

- Be as open and receptive as possible to new views, ideas and perspectives;
- Ensure that key decision makers are involved in the process;
- Ensure that involved parties possess the required skills in problem solving, open discussion, conflict resolution, planning, and communication in achieving the objectives set at project start, and if not ensure training.