

INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN BELGIUM, THE SOUTHERN NORTH SEA AND EUROPE

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Growing concerns about the state of the coast in Europe prompted the European Commission and the Parliament to approve the Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, (2002), calling for an integrated approach to monitor and measure the sustainable development of the coastal zone and addressing the need for relevant, credible and reliable information. DEDUCE (Développement Durable des Zones Côtières Européennes) is a transnational project supported by the INTERREG IIC-South Community Initiative Programme. Its main objective is to evaluate the utility of sustainability indicators (SI) for optimal decision making on the coast, following the principles of the EU recommendation on ICZM, at all levels: European, national, regional and local. The specific objectives include:

- Characterisation, calculation and comparison of the use and compatibility of the 28 SI (as approved by the ICZM Expert Group) in the territories represented by the partners (Poland, Latvia, France, Belgium, Spain, Malta).
- Evaluation and comparison of the current (web)GIS for the analysis and viewing of the state of the environment in Europe.
- Establishing an indicators-based model of reporting on the state of sustainability of the coastal zones in Europe.
- Guidelines for the use of SI for examining the development of the state of the coast and for decision making of the governments (European, national, regional and local) based on ICZM principles.
- Feasibility study for a European observation network specialising in information and data and information management for the coast.

The partners in the project represent European, national, regional and local entities, allowing to evaluate whether the methodology defined by the calculation of the indicators is useful and feasible for the various territorial levels and existing information systems. The Province of West-Flanders, Flanders Marine Institute, the Co-ordination centre for ICZM-Belgium, the Flemish Agency for Maritime Services and Coast and the SAIL partnership, are partners in the local network representing the Belgian partner in this project. (www.deduce.eu).