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Next Steps Plan

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People for Ecosystem based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast

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Acronyms

BBN	Baysian Belief Network
CASE	Collaborative Application Site
CIM	Cumulative Impact Mapping
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DG RTD	Directorate-General for Research and Development
DG REGIO	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GES	Good Environmental Status
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LEAC	Land and Ecosystem Accounting
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MEDCOAST	Mediterranean Coastal Foundation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
PAP	Priority Actions Programme
PEGASO	People for Ecosystem based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast

PSC-BS	Permanent Secretariat for the Black Sea Commission
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
SEAC	Sea Ecosystem Account
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDI	Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)
SPINCAM	Southeast Pacific data and information network in support to integrated coastal area management
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law Of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to identify the key implications of the emerging PEGASO outputs, and to create the opportunity for participants to build on the project findings, both through their own networks and across the EU and beyond.

PEGASO was successful in delivering important scientific results, but also in **strengthening existing networks in the Mediterranean and Black Sea**, as well as to create new institutional ties.

One of the main characteristics of PEGASO was to work at the **interface between science and policy** providing opportunities for scientists, practioners, and decision-makers in the field of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for dialogues and debates.

PEGASO promoted a trans-disciplinary approach by exploring different ways of knowledge production where all stakeholders were involved. This has proven to be instrumental when providing scientific and technical support, not only in the implementation of existing policies but also in the definition of new ones.

PEGASO has also developed a number of **tools**. These tools were trying to fill some of the existing gaps and in particular those related to the assessment of cumulative impacts on natural habitats deriving from multiple sources of pressures, and those related to the need of aggregated different sources of data to produce information useful to support decision-making.

Finally PEGASO has shown, through the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), the potential of data and information sharing.

All these elements should be taken into account when developing a targeted dissemination and outputs exploitation plan. Finally, the strength of the PEGASO consortium was to be made of different typologies of institutions, intergovernmental, scientific, non-governmental,international, national and local. This will have to be taken into account when identifying opportunities for the future exploitation of the project results as well as the definition of the roles to be undertaken for the future next steps.

Chapter 1 The current and future marine and coastal policy context

PEGASO has been conceived to support the countries in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. It has, therefore, developed its outcomes and products with a view of providing a support for marine and coastal policies implementation. It is for this reason crucial, when defying the next steps and future strategies, to present an overview of the current and future marine and coastal legislation landscape.

In the last decades, there has been a rise in attention to coastal and marine issues. Since the early 1970's with the Brundtland Report and following with UNCLOS, Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, JPOI), major global initiatives have advanced principles, goals, timelines and targets for managing the issues facing the ocean and coasts, and the living and non-living resources therein.

Problems, for example, include the fact that very little of the world's ocean is monitored or protected; coastal habitats continue to be lost or degraded; the majority of global fish stocks are under pressure; invasive species are expanding; hypoxic zones are increasing; the ocean is acidifying; sea level is rising. Technological advances and the impact of climate change, as well as increased intensification of human development have also driven major increases in the nature, and scale of challenges facing ocean and coastal areas.

Ocean services are being subjected to human activity that is having a measurable impact in reducing ocean productivity. A reduction can also be attributed to global climate warming that is increasing ocean stratification and reducing nutrient mixing, thereby reducing the natural productivity services that can lead to significantly diminished food security from fisheries, particularly in the warmer latitudes around the globe(IOC/UNESCO, IMO, FAO, UNDP (2011): *A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability*, IOC/UNESCO, Paris).

In the recently published report of the European Environmental Agency (EEA), Balancing the future of Europe's coast, the importance of the coast for Europe, as well as the major

challenges that European coasts will have to face in the future are reported. In particular in the report it is stated that:

Coastal regions are tremendously important for Europe's economy. Approximately 40 % of the EU's population lives within 50 km of the sea. Almost 40 % of the EU's GDP is generated in these maritime regions, and a staggering 75 % of the volume of the EU's foreign trade is conducted by sea. But this important role played by our coasts has come at a cost to the environment. Activities such as shipping, resource extraction, renewable energy and fishing are all putting pressure on marine and coastal areas. These pressures have been felt across most of Europe's coastal regions. This has resulted in habitat loss, pollution and accelerated coastal erosion. Climate change is likely to make these regions — and the societies that live in them — more vulnerable. Recent data highlight the continued poor quality of many European coastal waters, with the Baltic Sea the worst, followed by the North Sea and the Black Sea. The conservation status of Europe's coastal species and habitats is also generally bad or unknown. Only 13 % of the assessments of coastal species made under the Habitats Directive are favourable. 73 % of the coastal habitat assessments show bad or inadequate conservation status.

In this context a number of initiatives have been launched or are being launched at the global, regional and national level.

1.1 The proposal for a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for Ocean and Coast

The ocean was given marginal priority in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), despite significant contributions to the three dimensions of sustainable development. However, in 2012 Member States of the UN recognised the importance of sustainable development and management of the ocean and seas in order to achieve international development goals. One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs, to build upon the MDGs and converge with the post-2015 development agenda. It was decided to establish an "inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly".

Currently this stakeholders' debate has finished and a proposal for a stand-alone ocean SDG is under discussion. Major issues included in the proposals for the SDG on ocean and coast include ensuring a healthy and productive marine environment, building resilient coastal communities through mitigation and adaptation strategies, engaging in integrated and multi-level ocean governance; establish a representative network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering 20-30% of the ocean's area also in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

This final issue is in line with the so-called Aichi Target of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which states that:

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

In this context it is very relevant to mention that at the close of the Healthy Ocean Productive Ecosystem (HOPE) conference, organized by the European Commission (EC) Directorate-General (DG) Environment in early March 2014, an output document was issues. This output document states that:

The participants at the HOPE (Healthy Ocean Productive Ecosystems) marine conference, recognising that:

The Rio+20 declaration, "The future we want", stresses the main global challenges facing our oceans;

…

Call for urgent action to better protect the European marine environment and in particular;

to take the lead in implementing the Rio+20 conference chapter on oceans through the UN post-2015 framework, including through considering a Sustainable Development Goal on

Oceans and supporting the UNCLOS implementing agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction

1.2 ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean

The ICZM Protocol was signed in January 2008 after a consultation process started in 2001 by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention that had realized that no real progress could be achieved in the field of ICZM without a legally binding regional instrument. The ICZM Protocol is a unique legal instrument that has been considered an example tobefollowed also in other regions of the world to promote sustainable development in coastal areas. The ICZM Protocol entered into force on 24 March 2011 and it has been also ratified by the EU becoming part of the *acquiscommunautaire*.

The Action Plan for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol 2012-2019 was adopted on the occasion of the Conference of Parties (CoP) 17, held in Paris from 8 to 10 February 2012. The core purposes and objectives of this Action Plan are to implement the Protocol based on country-based planning and regional co-ordination, namely:

- Support the effective implementation of the ICZM Protocol at regional, national and local levels including through a Common Regional Framework for ICZM;
- Strengthen the capacities of Contracting Parties to implement the Protocol and use in an effective manner ICZM policies, instruments, tools and processes; and
- Promote the ICZM Protocol and its implementation within the region, and promote it globally by developing synergies with relevant Conventions and Agreements.

Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) is the UNEP-MAP centre in charge of coordinating the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

1.3 EU Integrated Marine Policy

The Integrated European Maritime Policy was launched in October 2007 and is the vehicle which will deliver the maritime element of the European Commission's Strategic Objectives for the period 2005-2009. This integrated and innovative policy was developed as a result of a year-long consultation exercise, following the launch of the discussion document "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: European vision for the Oceans and Sea – The EU Maritime Green Paper" in June 2006. The policy encompasses all elements of marine activity and provides for a holistic and integrated approach to address economic and sustainable development on a European Union wide basis.

The policy covers a wide spectrum of issues related to sustainable development including:

- marine transport;
- the competitiveness of marine businesses;
- employment in the marine sectors;
- scientific research; and
- protection of the marine environment.

The IMP covers the following cross-cutting policies:

- **Blue growth**
    - Blue Growth is the long term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole. It recognises that seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy with great potential for innovation and growth
- **Marine data and knowledge**
    - Marine Knowledge 2020 brings together marine data from different sources with the aim of:
        - Helping industry, public authorities and researchers find the data and make more effective use of them to develop new products and services.
        - Improving our understanding of how the seas behave.

- **Maritime spatial planning**
  - Competition for maritime space – for renewable energy equipment, aquaculture and other growth areas – has highlighted the need for efficient management, to avoid potential conflict and create synergies between different activities
- **Integrated maritime surveillance**
  - Integrated Maritime Surveillance is about providing authorities interested or active in maritime surveillance with ways to exchange information and data. Sharing data will make surveillance cheaper and more effective.
- **Sea basin strategies**
  - The Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, the Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean – each sea region is unique and merits a tailor-made strategy. The maritime policy promotes growth and development strategies that exploit the strengths and address the weaknesses of each large sea region in the EU: from the Arctic's climate change to the Atlantic's renewable energy potential, to problems of sea and ocean pollution, to maritime safety.

1.4 EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The European Union's (2008/56/EC) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) was adopted on 17 June 2008, and came into force on 15 July 2008. It was due to be transposed into national legislation by 15 July 2010 and is the environmental pillar of the European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy.

The Marine Directive aims to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe by achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) of the EU marine waters by 2020 and by protecting the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. To achieve these objectives the Directive establishes European marine

regions (the Baltic Sea, the North East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea) on the basis of geographical and environmental criteria.

The Directive defines Good Environmental Status (GES) as: "The environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive". To help Member States interpret what GES means in practice, the Directive sets eleven qualitative descriptors which describe what the environment will look like when GES has been achieved:

- Biodiversity is maintained
- Non-indigenous species do not adversely alter the ecosystem
- The population of commercial fish species is healthy
- Elements of food webs ensure long-term abundance and reproduction
- Eutrophication is minimized
- The sea floor integrity ensures functioning of the ecosystem
- Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect the ecosystem
- Concentrations of contaminants give no effects
- Contaminants in seafood are below safe levels
- Marine litter does not cause harm
- Introduction of energy (including underwater noise) does not adversely affect the ecosystem

Each Member State is required to develop a Marine Strategy for its marine waters and to use the existing Regional Sea Conventions. The Strategy is in coordination with other countries (EU and non EU Countries within a marine region or subregion). Marine Strategies shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities, ensuring that the collective pressure of such activities is kept within levels compatible with the achievement of good environmental status and that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to

human-induced changes is not compromised, while enabling the sustainable use of marine goods and services by present and future generations.

1.5 Proposal for a Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) EU Directive

In 2013 the European Commission published the text of a Proposal for a Directive establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management. The text of the Proposal Directive states that:

The main purpose of the proposed directive is to promote the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal activities and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources by establishing a framework for the effective implementation of maritime spatial planning in EU waters and integrated coastal management in the coastal areas of Member States.

Due to some issues raised by EU Member States a further consultation has started on the future of this directive. In particular a trilogue process among the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council was set up. A positive outcome of the informal trilogue on the draft for a Framework Directive for Maritime Spatial Planning was obtained at the beginning of March 2014.

Chapter 2 PEGASO main outcomes and products

The main PEGASO outcomes and products can be summarized as follows:

The ICZM Governance Platform (for further details consult the PEGASO Deliverable 2.4, Le Tellier*et al*: PEGASO ICZM Platform: Guidelines and lessons learned)

The ICZM Governance Platform (Fig. 1) was established as a network and a forum where participants share data, information, methods and tools, as well as lessons learned to enrich the initial data input and transform it into a “knowledge” box. This kind of joint effort based on collaborative work is called “adaptive management”, which is by essence:

- ✓ ecosystem-based, because seeking to take into account the integrity of the ecosystem inwhich it operates, and looking at it as a functional unit whose boundaries are highly problem and interaction-dependent;

- ✓ science-based, because management decisions are based on data coming from diversescientific disciplines, which are translated into information suitable for decision-making, where the use of tools made available by science plays an equally important role;
- ✓ participatory, because giving the opportunity to all relevant stakeholders to provide their inputall the long of the management process;
- ✓ strategic, because looking for long-term solutions while, at the same time, providing forperiodic assessments and necessary adjustments to changing conditions;

Figure 1 The components of the ICZM Governance Platform

This ICZM Governance Platform was the place where knowledge and implementation capacitieswere fostered through capacity building and participatory activities organised throughout theproject with the following objectives:

- to learn directly from the Mediterranean and Black Sea stakeholders about their needs and priorities with regard to sustainable development;
- to ensure a common understanding of ICZM tools and methods;
- to facilitate data and information sharing by building a shared knowledge base; and
- to give birth to what is expected to become a Mediterranean and Black Sea wide network of ICZM policy-makers, practitioners and scientists.

The stock take of legal, institutional and organization framework related to ICZM

One of the main tasks of the PEGASO's shared ICZM Platform was to carry out a benchmark assessment of the current state of ICZM in Mediterranean and Black Sea countries. This was performed in relation to the requirements of article 16 in the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. Then, in September 2010, the Black Sea Commission-Permanent Secretariat (BSC-PS) agreed to follow this approach for the Black Sea basin. Stocktaking for ICZM was then carried out in a comparable way for both the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, which included an analysis of current ICZM-related legislative, institutional, policy and financial frameworks. The stocktake process was based on a comprehensive and exhaustive ICZM implementation audit questionnaire, which closely reflected the structure of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. The questionnaire contained 53 questions grouped into 16 core themes.

- **Coastal zone boundaries;**
- **ICZM and/or coastal legislation;**
- **Coordination;**
- **Protection and sustainable use of the coastal zone;**
- **Economic activities;**
- **Coastal ecosystems, landscapes and cultural heritage;**
- **Participation;**

- **Awareness raising, training, education and research;**
- **Monitoring and review;**
- **National coastal strategies, plans and programmes, trans-boundary cooperation;**
- **Environmental and strategic assessments;**
- **Land policy;**
- **Economic, financial & fiscal instruments;**
- **Natural hazards and coastal erosion;**
- **Exchange of information and activities of common interest; and**
- **Transboundary cooperation.**

It is very important to mention that as after CoP17 of UNEP-MAPthe stock take will serve as a template for ICZM Protocol national reporting format.

The Spatial Data Infrastructure

A major challenge for applying the ICZM Protocol is the integration of different types of data together with the institutional fragmentation of responsibilities concerning coastal areas at regional, country and local levels (Malvárez et al, 2011).

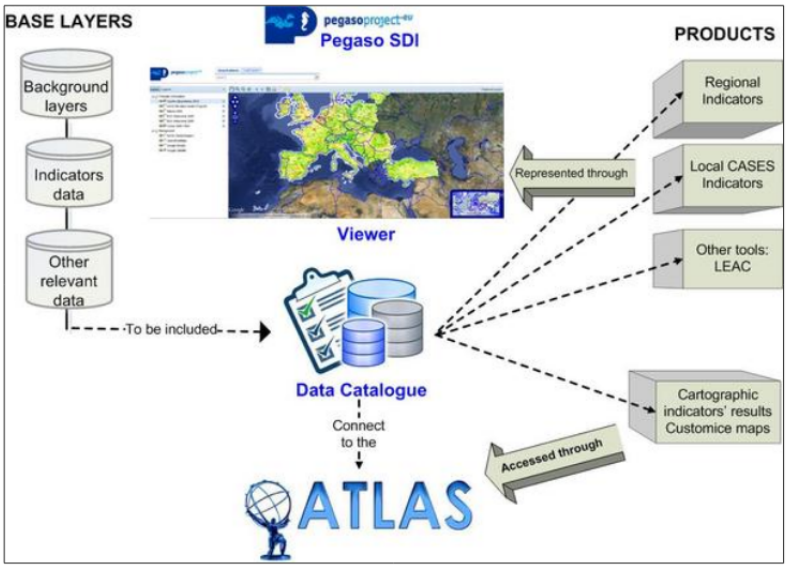

Figure 2 The components of the PEGASO SDI

The PEGASO SDI is designed to support the PEGASO shared governance platform. It is constructed by drawing on existing SDIs from project participants and others, and exetending their capacities via easy internet access to data and coastal zone management indicators. The setting up of the PEGASO SDI aggregating national portals and regional organizations portal with information on the coasts of the Mediterranean and Black Sea becomes a powerful tool allowing governments, companies and citizens to easily find, understand and re-use coastal data for information, evaluation and decision –making.

The Integrated Assessment Tools

Consistent assessments are essential for identifying major threats to the environment. Methodical monitoring of ecosystems over various temporal and spatial scales enables sound decision making and strategic policy-shaping. An assessment intrinsically aims to produce policy-relevant information by answering context-based questions that improve the understanding of interactions between the environment and society. With reference to the ICZM, socio-environmental assessments are recognized as appropriate tools in working towards sustainable coastal activities and reducing coastal and marine environmental degradation.

In the ICZM policy context, one of the objectives is to develop reliable sources of comprehensible information to assist in public decision-making. To serve this objective, PEGASO developed an approach for integrated assessments based on assessment tools and sources. This 'new' resource is an integration of existing data, information, tools and approaches which have been made accessible to a wider user group. This should ultimately expedite better-informed deliberation processes by creating and supporting an integrated science–policy interface. This both serves the needs of decision makers and managers, supporting them by making use of scientific expertise, reliable data and existing information systems, and the needs of scientists, managers and stakeholders to become better informed of their roles in ICZM processes.

The components of this tool-box are the following ones:

- Indicators for ICZM, The work done in the context of PEGASO helped reviewing the current approaches related to indicators for ICZM and filling some of the gaps in terms methodologies and data collection and sharing. 15 methodological factsheets (available at www.pegasoproject.eu) were compiled and are now available not only for Pegaso partners but for a wider community interested in ICZM. Pegaso Indicators have been used at different scales and in different contexts and have proven to be a useful tool for analysis and for dissemination of results.
- Land and ecosystem accounts (LEAC), Cumulative Impact Mapping (CIM), and Sea and Ecosystem Account (SEAC), A key achievement was the production of the PEGASO land cover map for the coastal zone of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins. Another significant result was the construction of a complementary framework for sea ecosystem accounting using seascape ecology techniques. Finally, a cumulative pressure index was created for the Western Mediterranean Sea.
- Scenarios, In the context of taking ICZM thinking forward, we found that it is important for people to understand the difference between visioning methods and scenario techniques more widely. In terms of a vision for the future, it was found that the most useful starting point for discussion for both sea basins are the □ICZMprinciples□ themselves. These principles can be used to represent a normative scenario storyline for the future, which describes the set of policy and management aspirations that are needed to achieve sustainable development. If accepted ICZM principles are used in this way to create a normative scenario, participatory scenario tools can then be used effectively to look at the feasibility of achieving such a vision under different assumptions about the major drivers and pressures. The tools developed have used Causal Chain Analysis and Bayesian Belief Networks to represent and explore the interrelationships between the direct and indirect drivers of change and their impacts in the coastal zone.
- Participatory processes, an assessment an analysis of participatory methods and tools was performed and the different tools were linked to the different phases of the ICZM process

- Socio-economic Assessment, since ecosystem degradation results in losses of the value of natural capital, the cost of degradation of ecosystems is calculated. Degradation can result from overuse, misuse or mismanagement of marine ecosystems and resources. Compared to other approaches (monetary valuation), the cost approach produces minimum, but realistic values of degradation.

Network of Ten PEGASO CASEs

Implementation of ICZM principles and policies described in the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean and the methodologies included in the Pegaso Tool-Box were assessed and tested at 10 pilot sites (seven around the Mediterranean coast and three around the Black Sea coast). The experiences from these ten sites (CASEs) were brought together at several occasions during the lifetime of the Pegaso project for sharing and comparison. Work carried out at the Pegaso CASEs about ICZM implementation issues and the use of Pegaso tools are described in the Final Reports that have been prepared by the CASEs' staff.

Moreover, in the context of PEGASO project an **Integrated Regional Assessment** (IRA) for the Mediterranean and Black sea was produced. Work described in the PEGASO IRA Report has produced a policy-oriented blueprint for guiding future directions in scientific research, policy-making, and socio-economic activities related to the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean, and that can be applied to processes in Black Sea countries.

Chapter 3 Dissemination and exploitation of results

The aim of the last chapter is to present the necessary steps, in the short-term, to disseminate and exploit the PEGASO main results in support of the global, regional, and national coastal and marine policies as previously described. This next steps plan is complementary with the PEGASO Business Plan which seeks also to develop a long-term strategy.

The PEGASO outcomes and results can be further elaborated and used in different contexts and with different aims and objectives. Therefore, different activities should be undertaken at different levels, and in different contexts institutional as well scientific. First of all it will be very important to present the PEGASO results to different typologies of audiences. This will allow for the collection of feedback and for the enlargement of the potential participants to the ICZM Governance Platform. The following next steps can be envisaged.

3.1 Organize meeting at institutional level

PEGASO consortium will have to identify the institutions at different levels potentially interested in the PEGASO outcomes. Information sessions and information workshops will have to be organized in order to present the results of the project and to discuss with the potential users about exploitation of PEGASO products.

In particular potential users of the PEGASO outcomes from an institutional point of view could be the following ones:

European Commission, European Agencies, and European institutions:

For what regards the European Commission different DGs should be consulted, in particular the DG for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), the DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), the DG for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) with particular reference to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), and the DG for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO)

The European Environmental Agency should be contacted as well.

Contacts should be also made with the national representations in Brussels of the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries members of the European Union, and with the Members of the European Parliament. For non EU Member Countries, contacts with the Delegations of the European Union in each of the country should also be made.

Institutions at Mediterranean and Black Sea level, in particular contacts should bereinforced with key institutional partners in the regionswith the UNEP-MAP through the leading role of the PAP/RAC, with the Permanent Secretariat for the Black Sea Commission, Network of the Mediterranean Coastal Foundation (MEDCOAST) and with the Union for the Mediterranean.

Institutions at global level, the UNESCO-IOC will work as facilitator the disseminate PEGASO results at global level. In particular collaboration will be strengthen where existing UNESCO-IOC programme deal with issues similar to the ones dealt in PEGASO.

The Southeast Pacific data and information network in support to integrated coastal area management (SPINCAM) project will provide an excellent example of potential exploitation of PEGASO results outside the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.

3.2 Present PEGASO results in key events at European and Mediterranean and Black sea level

PEGASO results should also be presented in key events at Mediterranean, Black Sea and European levels.

Conferences, workshops and meetings or special events such as the European Maritime Day (19-20 May 2014), the Mediterranean Coast Day (25 September 2014), the UNESCO-IOC 2nd International Ocean Research Conference (17-21 November 2014) should be used to organize special sessions for PEGASO.

The tenth and eleventh bi-annual Mediterranean and Black Sea ICZM conferences organized by MEDCOAST respectively in Rhodes (Greece) in 2011 and in Marmaris (Turkey) in 2013, have served as the main media for dissemination of information about the Pegaso, the achievements, results and products. The next MEDCOAST conferences, particularly the

twelfth event that will be organised in 2015 (likely in southern France) will continue to be the excellent medium for expanding the impact of the Pegaso project.

All the partners should contribute to identify other relevant events and workshops. It will be important to ensure the participation of at least one of the PEGASO partners in these key events.

3.3 Present PEGASO results in a special issue on peer-reviewed journal

The scientific results of PEGASO should be presented to the scientific community through the preparation of a special issue on peer-reviewed journals, such as Ocean & Coastal Management, Journal of Coastal Research, Journal of Coastal Management,Marine Policy.

In order to proceed with this activity a group of PEGASO partners, with good publication record, should be formed to define the editors of the special issues, the potential contributors. The proposal for special issue should be submitted to the editors of the journals.

3.4 Consultation with key stakeholders for PEGASO projects outcomes fine tuning

The PEGASO project had set very ambitious goals and objectives in terms of expected outputs and products. Although an important number of outcomes and products have been successfully produced during the PEGASO project, they will need to be adjusted and fine-tuned to better respond to the need of the end-users.

Relevant starting elements for this process can be already found in the consultation had with the end-user committee throughout the project.However, it has appeared clear that a stronger involvement and collaboration with coastal and maritime sectors will have to be sought in the near future. Mechanisms for consultation with key stakeholders from the coastal and maritime sectors should be set-up in order to identify their needs.

3.5 Consolidating results of consultation and preparation of a fund-raising plan

The results and the outcomes of the above mentioned activities should be analysed and consolidated for the preparation of a fund-raising strategy or plan.

This plan should be organized around:

- Major topics of interests
- Research and collaboration activities to be proposed
- Scale of the activities, this should be specified either in time (e.g. short-term or long-term projects), or in space (e.g. local, national, regional, international scale)
- Collaboration within the PEGASO consortium
- Continuation of the Network of Pegaso CASEs for experience and information sharing
- Collaboration outside the PEGASO consortium

The list of potential donors should be proposed according to the above mentioned elements, i.e. different donors adequate to different typologies of proposals.

3.6 How to put forward the next steps plan

The above mentioned list of events and activities should not be considered exhaustive or definitive. Those elements should be seen as starting elements on which to build through the contribution of all the partners.

A task force of PEGASO partners willing to contribute to the implementation and completion of these next steps plan should be defined.

The PEGASO intranet could be maintained and considered as a way for all partners to contribute with new information (e.g. on events, on calls for proposal, on institutions to be contacted etc). The forum structure could be maintained and different fora could be set-up for the previously identified activities and elements. In this way the next steps plan will become an interactive way for PEGASO partners to share ideas and information on the future common work.