



MESMA- Monitoring and Evaluation of Spatially Managed Areas

Project Details

Funding Programme:	7th Framework Programme (FP7)
Sub-Programme:	Cooperation, Theme 6: Environment (including Climate Change)
Funding Scheme:	Large Scale integrating project
Project Duration:	48 Months (2008-2012)
Total Project Value:	€8.4m
EU Grant-Aid:	€6.6m
Funding to Ireland:	€325,069
Website:	not currently available



E. Dwyer, CMRC

Project Description

The increasing pressures upon the marine realm call for a well planned approach of further spatial development of this area. An ecosystem-based approach to fisheries, the increasing demand for sustainable energy, coastal defense systems, building materials and safe transport routes and the need to protect habitats and species all compete for the same valuable space. At the same time climate change will alter the composition and functioning of marine ecosystems, calling for a robust approach of future spatial planning that also takes cross boundary developments into account.

MESMA will supply innovative methods and integrated strategies for governments, local authorities, stakeholders and other managerial bodies for planning and decision making at different local, national and European scales. This will also comprise an easy accessible information system to gain support from politicians, stakeholders and the public in general for difficult (inter)national decisions that will be needed for sustainable use and protection of this vulnerable area. This data system, containing information on the distribution of habitats and species, economic values and benefits and human uses and its effects will also be an interface between science, policy and decision makers.

MESMA will supply strategic tools for sustainable development of European seas and coastal areas. The major challenge is to combine an optimized use with a sustained ecosystem of high quality, taking into account ecological and economic differences. By studying and comparing different national situations and solutions from a selected number of sites throughout Europe and by determining common features and differences, including the socio-economic settings and requirements, an integrated toolbox that can be applied on both a European and a regional scale will be made available.

Project Partners	
Project Coordinator	Wageningen IMARES B.V. (Netherlands)
Ireland	CMRC, University College Cork
Netherlands	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek TNO Stichting Deltares Deltares
UK	Wageningen IMARES University College London Sec State for Environ, Food & Rural affairs through CEFAS Heriot-Watt University
Norway	Norsk Regnesentral Stiftelse Norsk Institutt for Vannforskning Havforskningsinstituttet IMR
Belgium	Universiteit Gent
Germany	Vlaams Gewest VlaGew Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft

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Bulgaria	Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Italy	Consiglio Nazionale Delle Recherche
Spain	Fundacion AZTI- AZTI Fundazioa
Malta	Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Denmark	Technical University of Denmark