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Past, Present and Future - A Joint Venture



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Poster #145

Baltic Sea integrated coastal zone management – Results and conclusions of the WVU-workshop (Rostock, November 2000)

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The workshop, organised by the Wissenschaftsverbund Umwelt (WVU) at Rostock University and supported by BMB and EUCC, took place between November 20 to 23, 2000 and attracted 80 participants from all Baltic countries. Financial support was given by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt and the Ministries of Arbeit und Bau as well as Bildung in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. We will present the main goals, results and conclusions of the workshop, e. g.: The EC Water Framework Directive and the intended extension of regional planning towards coast waters in Germany are important challenges with significant impact on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).

General problems in Baltic coastal waters are still eutrophication, potential oil pollution, harmful algal blooms and the introduction of non-native species from other worldwide brackish- or fresh-waters into the Baltic Sea. There are a lot of gaps in the ecological knowledge of coastal ecosystems and large deficits of applicable basic information for decision makers.

Many utilization conflicts are known, but detailed and comprehensive overviews of the use, especially of coastal waters, are lacking. In the past, non-integrated exploitation of natural resources have caused unfavourable changes or even the destruction of natural potentials. Experiences with democratic decisions and stakeholder involvement in decision-making are rare in most Baltic countries.

Sometimes even necessary laws are missing. Besides, complicated administrative structures and spread competences are hampering the decision making process. Indispensable are regional, national and Baltic-wide socio-economical cost-/benefit-analyses. World wide, there are several positive and successful examples and methods.

Discrepancies and a lack of communication between scientists, administration, manager and decision makers are immense and hampered by language barriers. Universities can and have to play an important role as mediators. The detailed results of the workshop will be published in the Springer Series "Central and Eastern European Development Studies" (CEEDES).

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