

Workshop main ideas

February, 2012



European Union

European Regional
Development Fund



Session 1: PORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

This session allowed the ideas exchanging regarding the adopted European port management strategies in four different countries. The main topics related with this session were devoted to:

- Management tools for small and medium sized ports.
- Standardized quality accreditations.
- Port sustainability management systems.
- Short Sea Shipping existing connections.

Session 2

Session 2A: PORTONOVO PROJECT RESULTS

This session presented how this project has provided an excellent platform for reporting, exchanging ideas and sharing discussions on the European port management strategies. During its development, very useful searching results to strengthen the present situation in accordance with the European legal framework about water quality were obtained.

PORTONOVO has proposed a standardized methodology for the water quality management in the European Atlantic based on:

- The review of the European, State and Regional water quality normative
- The development of a hierarchical procedure which integrates administrative, social, and physical aspects for the classification of port water bodies
- The selection, development and validation of the appropriated physical, chemical, hydromorphological and social indicators regarding port management purposes
- The selection, development and validation of standardized methodological procedures for numerical modelling and spatial analyses
- The establishment of a general framework for port water bodies Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) through the implementation of procedures of different complexity and specificity
- The proposal of port water quality assessment methods
- The development of a tool which allows the processing, storage and interchange of all information related with water quality under a decision making perspective

This tool is available for free downloading at the project's website (www.portonovoproject.org) clicking at "Documents & Software" button.

Session 2B: PORT WATER MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

This session assessed four main topics regarding the port water management in Europe: i) basic studies for port design, ii) monitoring and water quality assessment and management, iii) dredging, and iv) emergency management tools. The main discussed topics are described next.

- Downscaling data at regional scale to obtain local data.
- ROM 5.1 (Recommendations for Quality of Coastal Water in Port Areas) improvement for small harbours since it is positive for major ports environmental management.
- Water pollution in harbours due to land and ship activities.
- Historical vs modern contamination in port areas.
- Pollutants controlling processes through modelling tools regarding monitoring programs (multidisciplinary approaches).
- Technological developments to support dredging and contaminated sediment management.
- Validated and financially sustainable tools based on models (statistic or deterministic) for emergencies management.

Session 2C: HMWB DUE TO PRESENCE OF PORTS

This session devoted to heavily modified water bodies due to presence of ports presented new methodologies and tools to:

- Distinguish the affected area of each of the facilities or activities within the port area.
- Carry out a proper management of the activities in order to achieve their sustainable functionality.
- Plan and design the facilities or building works based on probabilistic information obtained from validated models in the specific environment they occupy.
- Apply predictive models to the management of pollution episodes.
- Identify and follow up areas of more concern.

- Identify new problems related with emerging contaminants.
- Develop analyses based on different indicators such as: bioaccumulation, biomarkers, bacteria, amphipods, sea-urchins and benthic community, among others.

Session 3: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES RELATED WITH PORT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

This session allowed sharing discussions on the latest advances regarding the adopted European port management strategies pointing the following specific topics as the most important within a sustainable management framework.

- The study of hydromorphological and other alterations such as discharges which condition the ecological state of port water bodies.
- The application of mitigation measures and appropriated indicators regarding those alterations.
- The EU ports' responsibilities in the field of environment.
- The sustainable development of ports.
- The necessity of environmental management tools in ports (monitoring/modelling/management - adaptive systems, Decision Support Systems).
- The protection and enhancement of ecosystem services and delivery of societal benefits.
- The achievement and management of ecological and socio-economic connectivity.