



INTERREG IVA "2 Mers Seas Zeeën"
Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013
Application Form
1st Call for proposals
24th April 2008



Operational Programme of the European Territorial Cooperation financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Project Overview

Project title and acronym			
Project title		<i>Combining sea and coastal planning in Europe</i>	
Project acronym		<i>C-SCOPE</i>	
Timeframe			
Start date	<i>01/07/2008</i>	End date	<i>31/12/2011</i>
Duration (in months)		<i>42 Months</i>	
Partnership			
Lead Partner		<i>Province of West-Flanders</i>	<i>Belgium</i>
Partners involved		<i>Dorset County Council (for Dorset Coast Forum), UK</i>	
Budget overview (should be in line with section 2)			
Total eligible costs (total budget)		<i>1 791 188,76 EURO</i>	
Total amount of ERDF requested		<i>895 594,37 EURO</i>	
Grant rate (max. 50%)		<i>50%</i>	
Programme Priority			
Programme Priority addressed		<i>Priority 2</i>	
Operational objective addressed within the Programme Priority		<i>Operational objective 1.</i>	
Others		<i>Objectives 2, 3 and 4</i>	

Project Summary

The C-SCOPE project partners from Belgium and the United Kingdom wish to achieve a seamless, integrated approach to land and sea planning and management. The purpose of the project is to provide the foundation for strong, vibrant and sustainable coastal economies, which are in harmony with the environment.

The coastal zone is an exceptional asset, under-pinning much of Europe's socio-economic and environmental well-being. However, planning for the coast has suffered from a lack of coordinated thinking. Given the current and projected pressures facing the coast from development, climate change, and competition for space between maritime sectors there is a clear need for a more integrated approach.

C-SCOPE is a unique project which involves all maritime sectors. Delivery through a 'bottom-up' approach will inspire a sense of stewardship for the coast and ownership of the project outputs, resulting in fewer conflicts and more opportunities for the various sectors.

There are three elements of C-SCOPE, all linking together to provide a comprehensive plan and information resource to underpin sustainable coastal management.

Firstly, we will produce a framework for integrating terrestrial and marine planning by developing marine plans at different spatial scales using effective and proven stakeholder engagement. Secondly, we plan to develop an innovative and unique planning tool, which will inform decision-making and help to achieve sustainable coastal economies and environments. Finally, we will develop an Interactive information tool, which will provide open access to a wealth of coastal information, and will encourage sustainable use of the coast. We also plan to provide a series of hi-tech interactive information points along the coast.

LOCATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITY (France, England, Belgium Flanders and Dutch sides)

Please tick where the project will be carried out.

Eligible area

France

- Pas de Calais
- Nord

England

- Norfolk
- Suffolk
- Essex
- Southend-on-Sea
- Thurrock
- Medway
- Kent
- East Sussex
- Brighton and Hove
- West Sussex
- Portsmouth
- Hampshire
- Isle of Wight
- Southampton
- Bournemouth and Poole
- Dorset
- Devon
- Torbay
- Plymouth
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Belgium Flanders

- Veurne
- Oostende
- Brugge
- Gent
- Eeklo
- Sint Niklass
- Antwerpen

The Netherlands

- Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen
- Overig-Zeeland
- West-Noord-Brabant
- Groot-Rijnmond
- Delft en Westland

Adjacent area

France

- Somme
- Aisne

England

- Somerset
- Wiltshire
- Surrey
- Cambridgeshire

Belgium Flanders

- Leper
- Diksmuide
- Tielt
- Roeselare
- Kortrijk
- Oudenaarde
- Aalst
- Dendermonde
- Mechhelen
- Turnhout

The Netherlands

- Zuid-Oost Zuid Holland

Before you start

- Always remember to follow the KISS (**Keep it Short and Simple**) principle. A lot of people are involved in the selection process. Remember that not everybody has an expertise in the field you are dealing with. Explain your project therefore as simply and precisely as possible (**max 2000 characters per box – spaces excluded**)
- The Application Form has to be translated in the official languages of the project partner organisations.
- All sections have to be completed unless otherwise stated. Further guidance is given in *italics* (you should write over it).
- In the excel file: links for automatic transfer of information and formulas for the automatic calculation of financial data have been included. They are colour-coded (in blue). These fields must not be filled in or changed by applicants. Only the cells marked in blue must be filled in.

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Section 1

1. Description of Project

1.1 Justification for your project

Within its 2 Seas Programme the EC has highlighted its economic, social and environmental priorities. The economic demands have been confirmed through its Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies and are reflected in the need for effective management of our economically important coastal zones.

The coastal zone is a particularly dynamic, productive and yet vulnerable environment which is subject to many competing demands; this is clearly established in the text of the EU ICZM Recommendation (May 2002) and its Communication (2007). It is essential to implement economically equitable and environmentally sustainable coastal zone management. Much information is available about Europe's oceans and maritime activities but there is a lack of published material bringing it together in an accessible form for public use.

Planning and administrative frameworks lack integration with the land/sea divide often being reinforced through legislation and plans, which are poorly designed to deal with these complex locations. With the challenge of climate change there is an even more compelling need for well-informed coastal planning.

Fundamental to the success of ICZM is a seamless approach to planning which links the terrestrial and marine environments. The vision of C-SCOPE is to provide practical case studies of how this can be achieved to the benefit of local economies and the environment through a 'bottom-up' approach supported by cost-effective partnership working.

Through case studies involving both field mapping and new technologies, planning frameworks will be illustrated at regional, sub-regional and local scales. These will assist a wide range of users in achieving the cross-cutting principle of sustainable development as well as improving the relationship between coastal protected landscapes and their marine counterparts.

A new coastal zone planning framework is insufficient without the tools to apply it and the project will develop an innovative planning tool called 'Coastal Explorer' which will, at the touch of a button, provide planners, regulators and non-technical stakeholders with all the relevant information to make informed decisions. Finally the project will illustrate the most successful models for long-term stakeholder involvement and the effective dissemination of coastal information.

1.2 Project aims, objectives and effects

1.2.1 What are the main aims and objectives of your project and how do they contribute to the development of the Cross border area? Please also describe, if relevant, its maritime dimension or the way in which it contributes to it.

Improved co-ordination, planning and management at the coast is central to the C-SCOPE proposal. In support of Priority 2 of the Two Seas Programme and the EU proposals for an integrated Maritime Policy this project will assist in the preparation and implementation of integrated strategies as well as encouraging networks of best practice spanning coastal and marine management.

The C-SCOPE team recognises that coastal zones are under continuous and increasing pressure on account of population density and the wealth of coastal resources. Many activities such as fishing, dredging, shipping, tourism and marine energy are competing within this vital space. C-SCOPE will create a **'seamless coastal and marine planning framework'** to suit the demands of professional and non-professional users following a 'bottom-up' approach and will provide the necessary tools and training.

The results will allow a more holistic view to be taken of planning matters, reduce developmental conflicts and impacts between shore and sea, and allow more effective working between the natural environment, evolution and physical processes in the context of increased risks from climate change. C-SCOPE will provide the tools to support joined-up land/sea planning following two pilot Marine Management Area (MMA) investigations by the partners in Belgium and the UK. New and updated sustainability indicators, will add great value to the preparation of a new management tool **'Coastal Explorer Planning'** that will allow interrogation of maps and documents to suit the needs of a wide range of users.

Whilst these are valuable tools for the professional, coastal information maps are now required by increasing numbers of stakeholders; this will be achieved through the creation of a 'Coastal Explorer Interactive' information tool, which can be easily understood by the educated layman.

The EC has recognised the importance of dissemination of information and the need for durable partnerships, which include the full hierarchy of administrations. The C-SCOPE partners are able to demonstrate effective network and partnership models and dissemination procedures. The successful completion of this project will promote safe and healthy environments as well as allowing economic growth to take place within secured environmental limits based on better science.

1.2.2 Please describe how the project contributes to local, regional, national and European policies and strategies.

European :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
National :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
Regional :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no
Local :	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no

Other : yes no

Please give details:

The C-SCOPE project will provide data and information to inform the full hierarchy of regulatory and voluntary plans from European to local level and will help improve knowledge of the marine environment similar to that currently available on land.

At a LOCAL level studies including seabed mapping and landscape/seascape capacity studies, will provide a wealth of valuable data. Physical data will inform Shoreline Management Plans whilst environmental data will feed into Local Biodiversity Action Plans. From a planning perspective the preparation of map-based planning tools will support more informed decision-making.

At a REGIONAL level improved knowledge of coastal change, hazards and risks will support Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies in England and updates of the Provincial Spatial Structure Plan in Belgium.

Nationally the C-SCOPE work programme will support the aims and objectives of the emerging UK Marine Bill providing pilot marine plans to help shape future marine planning policy and the Environment Agency Strategic Overview for Coastal Risk Management as well as informing the national Biodiversity Action Plan, in compliance with Natura 2000. In Belgium it will support the implementation of the management plan for the Marine Protected Area and the Marine Spatial Planning process, linking with the planning on the landward side of the coast.

At a EUROPEAN level C-SCOPE supports proposals in the emerging Marine Directive including the 'Blue Book' and the requirements for National Integrated Maritime strategies. The case studies will form examples of good practice in terms of implementing the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Water Framework Directive, the Soils Thematic Strategy and the SEA Directive. Furthermore C-SCOPE will fulfil the vision set out in the 'EU Communication on ICZM' (2007) on adaptation, risk management at the land/sea interface and 'the need to increase capacity to gather information and inform decision-makers and the public', as well as the need for 'the development of common indicators and frameworks to support ICZM'.

From an economic perspective coastal tourism is an important economic driver and this work will support the EU's agenda for 'Sustainable and competitive tourism'. The proposed interactive information tool will draw on the recommendations of the INSPIRE Directive.

At an international level, the C-Scope partners will contribute to the International Coastal Atlas Network ICAN, ensuring fine-tuning with other European and international atlas or explorer developments.

Word/Character Count: 379 Words, 2176 Characters (excluding spaces)

1.2.3 Is your project part of a larger or phased project? Give details of the content and the budget of the wider project.

No

1.3 Target group

What is the target group that your project is covering?

The C-SCOPE project will involve targeting all of the organisations and stakeholders listed in Priority 2 of the Operational Programme. By its very nature a project exploring ICZM involves a large range of organisations and interest groups and the outputs from the project will be required by, or will be of interest to all those involved with managing, maintaining and enhancing coastal economies and environmental quality. For example the Dorset Coast Forum brings together 150 organisations with an interest in the coast and the proposed Belgian Coast Forum, which will be developed as part of this project will involve a similar diverse range of coastal stakeholder organisations.

Both the Lead partner, Province of West-Flanders, as a lead authority for the Belgian Co-ordination Centre on ICZM, and the Dorset Coast Forum can draw on well established arrangements for both consultation and dissemination to ensure that the results are suitably directed to serve statutory bodies, businesses, researchers and users of the coastal zone. In Belgium the Centre already benefits from the involvement of the key government departments and agencies having responsibilities on the coast as well as the Flanders Marine Institute as a scientific partner.

The main thrust of this project is improving links between terrestrial and marine planning and management and the provision of the tools to assist this process. Improved and more accessible data and information will be welcomed by developers and experts who need to support onshore and offshore proposals with the most up to date data thereby ensuring that Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Assessments are of the highest technical quality and accuracy.

Presentations of the project outputs including data, indicators, maps and Coastal Explorer Interactive will be tailored to suit various users including the local community and others who may not be technical specialists. The inclusion of Task and Finish Groups including end-users within the project structure will ensure that the requirements of the target groups are properly addressed.

1.4 Added value of European funds

1.4.1 Please describe the project history and where it originated.

The C-SCOPE project is a new proposal and does not follow on from any previously approved Interreg project. However, C-SCOPE does fall within the broad heading of ICZM and both partners were involved in the original LIFE/TERRA 'Demonstration Programme (1996-99)'. The partners wish to share their particular skills and experience

in the development and use of indicators, coastal planning and stakeholder engagement.

The C-SCOPE project has evolved from the active involvement of both partners in developing ICZM in their respective countries and more widely. The Belgian Co-ordination Centre for ICZM was established in 2001 following completion of the West Flanders TERRA CZM Demonstration project; since then the Centre has been involved in both the Interreg SAIL and DEDUCE projects. The Centre has fulfilled a proactive role in the development of coastal indicators and has been actively involved in the EU ICZM Indicators Expert Group. In 2007 a protocol was signed by all parties of the Co-ordination Centre to guarantee the work on ICZM for the future.

The preparation of the Federal Spatial Plans for the Belgian part of the North Sea (Interreg COREPOINT project), the preparation of a static pilot coastal atlas and the Belgian coastal stock-take in response to the EU ICZM Recommendation all shaped the ideas for this new project which shares many common interests with those of the Dorset Coastal Forum in England.

Established in 1995 and developing in parallel with the EU Demonstration Programme, the Dorset Coast Forum has recognised the vital need to establish a planning framework for the sea to match and link with terrestrial planning. The demands for coastal data are increasing to support both coastal economic development and sustainable management along Dorset's World Heritage Jurassic Coast.

The Belgian and Dorset partnerships are among few in Europe that have been active for over 10 years as well as having excellent reputations in both project delivery and effective stakeholder engagement.

The Belgian and Dorset coasts reflect the full range of European coastal environments, conditions and sectoral uses, hence the desire of the partners to pool expertise in developing a model framework for seamless planning and coastal management supported by tools providing improved and update data, land/sea indicators and the Coastal Explorer.

1.4.2 Please describe why there is a need to carry it out through **Cross Border Cooperation**.

The European policy context for the Two Seas Programme encourages developing collaboration, capacity and joint working as well as reducing the 'barrier effect' of borders. The C-SCOPE partners value the opportunity provided by Interreg IV to pursue their shared ambitions through collaboration between two partners with common interests but different expertise in the field of coastal zone management.

By working together the Province of West-Flanders (acting for the Belgian Co-ordination Centre on ICZM) and the Dorset Coast Forum can exploit the advantages of their respective skills. This will result in a 'pooling of excellence', which will not just be of advantage to West Flanders and Dorset but much more widely across the Programme area. For example the Belgian Co-ordination Centre will help the Dorset Coast Forum with implementation of indicators and Dorset will assist Belgium with experience with the Coastal Explorer and the establishment of the Belgian Coast Forum. The involvement of the Belgian Co-ordination Centre in the EU ICZM Expert Group and different cross-border coastal networks which include French and Dutch members provides the opportunity to spread the results to a wider group of ICZM experts from all European countries.

The maritime sectors are common to both parties in this project including shipping, fisheries, renewables and their

management; the cross-border co-operation provides the opportunities for exchange of experiences, for example, between partner ports and harbours.

The C-SCOPE project fits well with the Operational Programme objectives and the project outputs – tools and joint actions, can be applied across a much wider geographical area than the partners' frontages. The development of tools such as the Coastal Explorer by one partners region and the sharing of such products with the other partner is particularly beneficial in avoiding duplication of effort.

A well-established principle of coastal zone management is that an understanding of coastal evolution and natural coastal processes is fundamental to sustainable coastal management. Such large-scale processes often span regional and national boundaries. Consideration of coastal issues are, therefore, logically included within the Two Seas trans-national programme. The joined-up approach being promoted by C-SCOPE will allow the land/sea boundary to effectively 'disappear'.

1.4.3 Does the project take into account or cooperate with other EU-funded projects or European initiatives? If so, how does it represent added value?

The C-SCOPE project can clearly illustrate added value to EU member states by taking advantage of the results and experiences from previous EU funded projects. The foundation for this project was the EU Demonstration Programme on ICZM (1996-99) with both partners participating in the LIFE/TERRA programmes.

The Commission has recognised that the implementation of ICZM in Europe has been a slow process. The Co-ordination Centre for ICZM in West-Flanders is a member of the EU ICZM Expert Group of the European Commission and has been actively involved in its Working Group on Indicators and Data. It has built upon the Demonstration Programme by developing coastal indicators and a land-based coastal atlas whilst Dorset has established a Coastal Forum, which is acknowledged widely as an example of best practice. The partners acknowledge the recommendations contained in the Commission's 'Communication on ICZM' on Maritime Policy as well as in the 'Blue Book' including the improvement of coastal indicators, coastal zone mapping and the need for further joint-working and dissemination of information.

The C-SCOPE project team has been involved with or has reviewed a number of key projects that have benefited from EU funding support in recent years. These include:

EU Demonstration Programme (LIFE/TERRA)

SAIL (Interreg) – eg drawing up the list of coastal sustainability indicators

COREPOINT (Interreg) – Preparing a spatial plan for the Belgian part of the North Sea.

DEDUCE (Interreg) – eg the testing of coastal indicators

EROCIPS – (Interreg) – Developing GIS and incident management tools for emergency response to maritime

incidents.

By drawing out key research and demonstration aspects from these excellent projects the C-SCOPE study can be enhanced and, at the same time, avoiding overlap and duplication. The C-SCOPE proposals also meet the aims and objectives of the Arc Manche 'Strategic vision for the Channel area' (2006) and the 'Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions' 'Second medium-term strategic development plan' (2005-09) and its 'Promotion of the maritime dimension'.

The Dorset Coast Forum has been involved at a regional level in the development of the South-West of England River Basin Management Plan in compliance with the Water Framework Directive.

1.5. Value for Money

1.5.1 Please provide how this project demonstrates good value for money.

The particular strengths and experiences of the two partners will support the sharing of information and research allowing the C-SCOPE project outputs to be developed and tested jointly offering good value for money. As a result it will be possible to focus immediately on the proposed project work programme without the expense of extensive background research and fact-finding.

The Co-ordination Centre, through its partnership, involves all responsible authorities on the coast. The Centre is an active member of national as well as international networks such as the EUCC and ICAN (International Coastal Atlas Network). By attending ICAN meetings fine-tuning with other coastal atlas/Explorer developments can be guaranteed.

The Dorset Coast Forum, through its partnership approach brings together 150 organisations providing excellent value for money and the transfer of this experience to Belgium will avoid a long learning curve. Once the Explorer equipment and technology has been introduced through this project it will be maintained thereafter by the project partners. Its availability will assist economic development by providing a wide range of data and information required in support of coastal and marine development proposals and reduce the cost of research and investigations on a project by project basis.

The C-SCOPE project will provide a model approach to marine planning avoiding many organisations developing ideas of their own in an ad hoc manner. The project's three elements are all closely linked and if not funded together they would prove much more costly to develop and require a much longer timescale.

The involvement of the partners in other EU funded projects (see 1.4.3 above) and their awareness of current coastal activities means that duplication of work can be avoided. Both the Belgian Centre and Dorset have well-established mechanisms for consultation and dissemination. This will ensure best value in terms of expenditure on

consultation and dissemination; ensuring outputs are clearly targeted to avoid waste.

1.5.2 Please describe the consequences if the project was not funded.

The pressures on the coastal zones of Europe arising from population, ongoing development and resulting environmental damage have been highlighted by the European Commission following the EU Demonstration Programme with the need for action clearly highlighted in the EU Communication on ICZM (2007). The lack of integrated planning was cited by the Commission as one of the key factors to be resolved. If this project is not funded the partners believe an important opportunity to progress improvements to the coastal zone planning framework and to exchange this experience with neighbouring councils and countries, through the 2 Seas Programme will be lost with a consequent delay in implementing key EU policy.

Furthermore, at a time when the Commission is actively promoting an integrated maritime policy and England is progressing its Marine Bill this is an ideal opportunity to re-focus the attention of regional and local authorities on ICZM, which has suffered from a slow uptake by most member states; the C-SCOPE partners are anxious that this timely opportunity is not lost.

The ERDF funds would allow the partners to develop the tools, which afterwards can be updated and maintained within their own structures.

Unfortunately funding is not available to take forward this costly and time consuming developmental work in the absence of Interreg IV.

1.6 Extent of Partnership

Please detail the project partners and their experience in Territorial Cooperation projects

The C-SCOPE project team comprise two partners: -

LEAD PARTNER: The Province of West-Flanders (for the Co-ordination Centre on ICZM), Ostend, Belgium,

PARTNER: Dorset County Council (for Dorset Coast Forum), Dorchester, England

The Province of West-Flanders and the Flemish government have had a long and active involvement in the field of ICZM since the TERRA Coastal Zone Management project within EU Demonstration Programme (1996-99); the Belgian coast being one of the 35 European study areas. As a result of the TERRA project the Province of West-Flanders and the Flemish government established the Co-ordination Centre on ICZM in 2001. The Centre has been instrumental in driving forward coastal policies and initiatives in Belgium relating to both land and sea. Since the Demonstration Programme the Centre has played a leading role in Europe in establishing coastal indicators, and was a key member of the EU ICZM Expert Group and the Working Group on Indicators and Data. In 2005 the Federal Government became partners in the Centre.

The Centre was responsible for writing the Belgian national report on ICZM (February 2006) and has developed a pilot atlas for coastal land, which will be progressed to incorporate the marine environment as part of this project.

The Province of West-Flanders was the lead partner for the Interreg SAIL I and II projects and was a partner in the DEDUCE project and is abreast of all the other key coastal-related projects in the Interreg and LIFE Environment Programmes. The Centre includes linkages within its structure to regional and national governments in Belgium, thereby ensuring an integrated Belgian approach to ICZM.

The Dorset Coast Forum was established in 1995 and is regarded as one of the most successful Fora in north-western Europe. Dorset participated in the EU Demonstration Programme as part of the COASTLINK/ TERRA network and subsequently developed a Dorset Coast Strategy. The Forum successfully prepared and guided a bid through the UNESCO World Heritage process for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. Dorset brings significant expertise in terrestrial planning tools to this project as well as an excellent history of successful stakeholder engagement.

Dorset County Council is an active, long-standing member of the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interests Group, which will assist in disseminating the C-SCOPE outputs.

2. Project Implementation

1.7 Project implementation schedule and activities

1.7.1 Please fully describe the project activities in time, how they contribute to the project outputs and partner involvement in each activity.

ACTIVITY 1 'DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE PLANNING'

DESCRIPTION:

A Marine Plan will be developed by each partner at different spatial scales within locally designated Marine Management Areas (MMAs). Each area will be described in detail in terms of the boundaries, physical and biological environment and socio-economic factors including all sectoral uses. In Dorset this information will be supplemented by three studies: the development of a comprehensive seabed map, a land and seascape assessment and an offshore renewables capacity study. In Belgium a planning /ICZM framework study will be carried out.

The process of consultation with the community on the development of the plan is regarded as particularly important. The project will utilise best practice from spatial planning and community planning to develop the plan in as inclusive a way as possible. In doing so, this will maximise consent to and compliance with the principles of the plan on completion.

ACTIVITY TASKS AND START AND END DATES: (Jul '08 – Dec '11)

1. Production of a detailed seabed map for the DORSET Marine Management Area using remote sensing and field surveys (July '08-June '10).
2. Planning/ICZM framework study for the Heist-Zeebrugge Marine Management Area (Jan '09-March '10).
3. Prepare a Dorset landscape/ seascape capacity report and offshore renewable capacity study (March '09-Dec '10).
4. Prepare maritime sector inventory reports (Jan '09- Dec '10).
5. Through extensive stakeholder engagement gather and analyse sectoral information in terms of spatial distribution, existing management agreements and current policy arrangements to complete a model Marine Plan for both MMAs (Jan '09-June '11).
6. Prepare an illustrated guide to Integrated land/sea planning and management aimed at non-technical coastal stakeholders (Jan '11-Dec '11).

PARTNERS INVOLVED:

Province of West-Flanders and Dorset Coast Forum

RESULTS:

1. Combined report/model for integrated marine/land planning (incorporating items 1,2,3,4,5,above) integrating the Belgian and Dorset tasks.
2. A series of sectoral inventory reports.
3. The establishment of two Marine Management Areas which will be exemplars in ICZM.
4. Working Coastal and Marine Plans for the Heist - Zeebrugge MMA and the Dorset MMA.
5. A Coastal planning and management non-technical guide.
6. A report detailing the best methodology for effective Stakeholder Engagement.

ACTIVITY 2 – 'TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL ECONOMIES AND ENVIRONMENTS'

DESCRIPTION:

A planning tool called Coastal Explorer Planning will be developed to provide information on prevailing policies, ecology, current uses and land/seascape features to professional planners, developers and other key stakeholders to inform planning and decision-making in the coastal zone. With this tool, it will be possible to select any point within the Marine Management Areas, and at the touch of a button view environmental, sectoral and policy information for that particular location. The integration of new and reviewed sustainability indicators with the Coastal Explorer Planning tool will add significantly to the value of this system.

The tasks carried out in Activity 1 will establish a planning policy framework that adopts a seamless approach across the land/sea divide. The goal of Activity 2 is to provide the mechanism to deliver these policies 'on the ground'. Training will then be provided to multiple maritime sectors in the use of this tool.

ACTIVITY TASKS AND START AND END DATES: (Jan '09-Dec'11)

1. Establish specialised Task and Finish Groups (utilising Belgium and Dorset stakeholders) to advise the development of the Explorer planning tool (March '09-Sept '11).
2. IT experts in Dorset and Belgium will jointly develop the new Map-Info web based planning tool called Coastal Explorer Planning (Jan '09-Sept '11).
3. Stocktake, develop and calculate a set of coastal/marine indicators to drive Coastal Explorer Planning (March '09-Dec '10).
4. Prepare link between C-SCOPE website and Coastal Explorer + related communication actions (June '09-Nov '11).
5. Populate the Explorer Planning database with maps, policy information and data from European, national, regional and local plans and strategies (April '09-Sept '10).
6. Provide training sessions for end users from all sectors for Coastal Explorer Planning (Oct '11).

PARTNERS INVOLVED:

Province of West-Flanders and Dorset Coast Forum

RESULTS:

1. The production of the Coastal Explorer web-based planning tool which will improve the integration of land and sea planning policies.
2. The development of new sustainability indicators for Europe, with special attention to indicators for the marine environment.
3. A group of fully trained Coastal Explorer Planning software users from all maritime sectors.
4. A full inventory of all European, national, regional and local plan policies relevant to the two MMAs.

ACTIVITY 3 – 'ACHIEVING COMMITMENT TO ICZM THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT'

DESCRIPTION:

This activity involves the development of a coastal information source called Coastal Explorer Interactive and the provision of this information and 'real-time' coastal data such as weather and sea conditions through a series of hi-tech interactive coastal information points, (Coastal Explorer Access Points). It is envisaged that the information provided will engender a long-term commitment to the principles of ICZM by establishing a sense of stewardship for the coast amongst the community. The development of Coastal Explorer Interactive will also benefit local maritime sector businesses and the wider community providing tangible benefits to the local economy and encouraging sustainable tourism.

Coastal Explorer Interactive will be a map-based tool allowing the general public to access downloadable coastal information via the Internet and at the new Coastal Explorer Access Points, highlighting features such as slipways, marinas, coastal walks, boating areas, wildlife watching sites and beaches as well as 'Codes of Practice' for safe and sustainable recreational use on the coast. Ten Coastal Explorer Access Points will be established and these will consist of stand alone touch screen computer terminals providing the information from Coastal Explorer Interactive.

ACTIVITY TASKS AND START AND END DATES: (Jan'09-Dec'11)

1. Establish a Belgian Coast Forum using the Dorset Coast Forum as an exemplar model (Jan '09-Oct '09).
2. Establish a communications task and finish group who will be responsible for developing Coastal Explorer Interactive and its content, and publicising the CSCOPE project (Feb '09).
3. Collation of all relevant data, information, codes of practice and set up agreements (Jan '09-June '11).
4. Development of the Coastal Explorer Interactive website (July '09-Sept '11).
5. Establishment of the interactive Coastal Explorer Access Points (June '10 – July '11).
6. Hold stakeholder workshops to feed into development of Explorer Interactive (May '09).

PARTNERS INVOLVED:

Province of West-Flanders and Dorset Coast Forum

RESULTS:

1. Establishment of the Belgian Coast Forum.
2. Production of a C-SCOPE communication strategy.
3. Provision of an innovative educational web based information source for public use – Coastal Explorer Interactive.
4. Provision of ten Coastal Explorer Interactive access points along the Dorset coast.

1.7.2 Please provide a description of any risks to the successful completion of the activities and how you will mitigate against these risks.

The assessment of risks will form a key part of the project management process. The signing of the Partnership Agreement will ensure good implementation of the action plan. The roles and responsibilities of each partner will be further clarified in a Memorandum of Understanding which is being prepared at the moment and will be signed by each partner.

A Risk Mitigation Strategy supported by a Risk Register has been discussed and will be implemented at the first project meeting in order to ensure that any potential problems are identified early and can be addressed without programme or budget implications. The partners will draw on their extensive experience in the management of coastal projects to assist C-SCOPE and will be supported by the well-tried and tested schemes of budget control and audit within the partners' parent local authorities.

The risk management process will be achieved through six monthly project management group meetings involving all partners; these will be timed to fit in with the preparation of technical and budgetary reports for the Interreg Secretariat. In addition each partner will hold monthly progress meetings to ensure all aspects of the technical activities programme and expenditure are in accordance with the proposal plan.

1.8 Project management and coordination

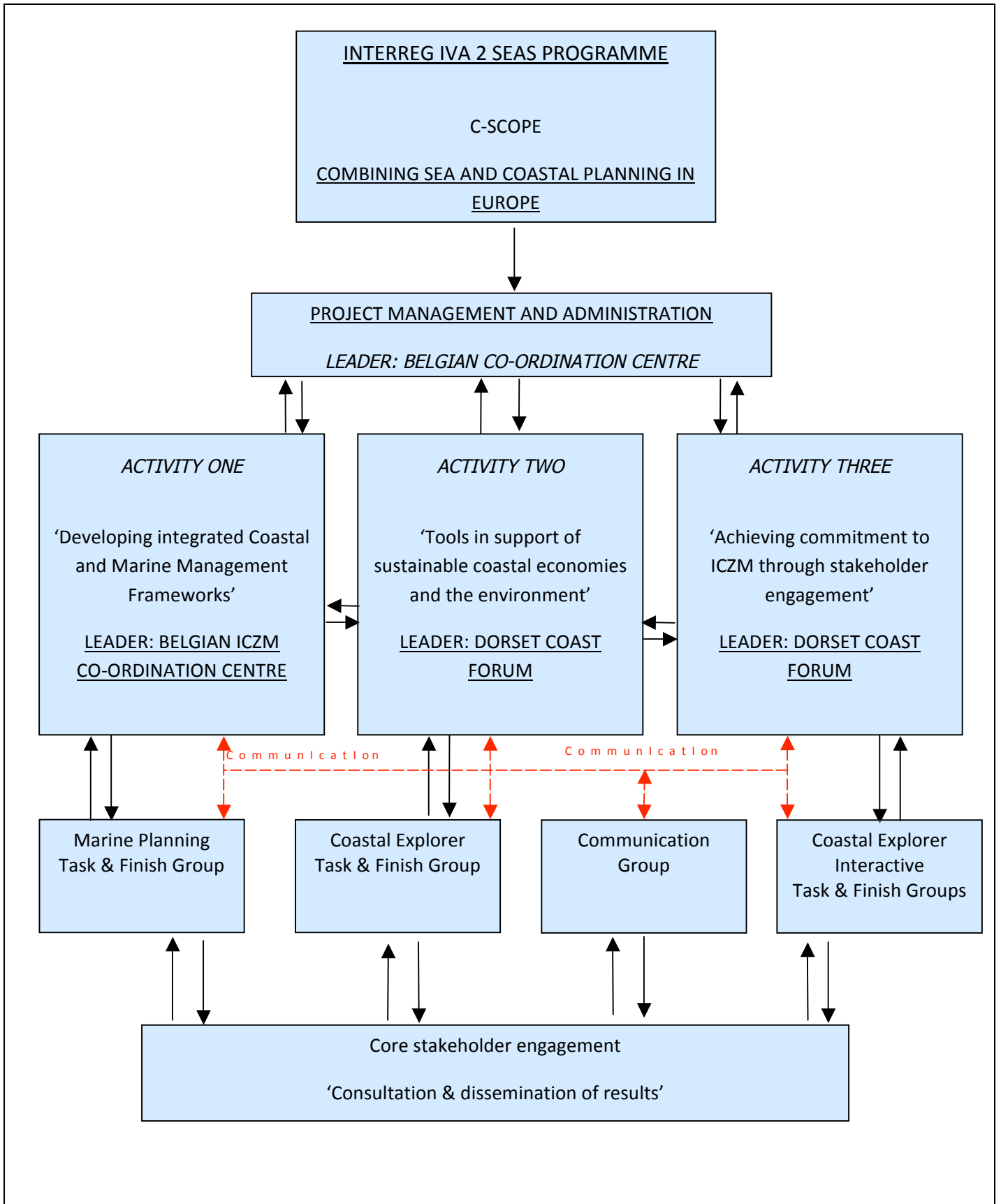
1.8.1 Please describe the management structure of your project and how decision-making, partnership cooperation/coordination, sharing of responsibility are to be organised.

The lead partner for the C-SCOPE project is the Province of West-Flanders; the second partner is the Dorset County Council. The Lead partner has considerable experience in leading and managing European projects. The project management structure is illustrated in the diagram below. Apart from the Management and Dissemination tasks there are three main activities each of which is led by one of the partners.

Each of the three Activities is comprised of a number of specific Tasks from which Outputs will be prepared. There will be close linkage between the work in the three Activities as well as the tasks. The partners will share their strengths and knowledge to the overall advantage of the project. Through the 6 monthly project and partner meetings the project will be well managed from the aspects of technical quality, work plan against programme and budget control. The project management group (PMG) will be chaired by Dorset to ensure a neutral position towards the lead partner.

The Lead Partner project manager will organise the Start-up meeting at which the consortium Memorandum of Understanding, management procedures and rules will be emphasised. The manager will also organise the reporting arrangements to the Interreg officers. The partners will use standard financial report forms and will integrate costs statements to manage the financial audits and organise payments to the partners.

The project manager within each partner organisation will be responsible for the preparation and delivery of technical progress reports, budget statements and audited accounts for transmission to the Lead Partner allowing sufficient time to address queries before each report is finally submitted to the Interreg Secretariat. Each partner project manager will be supported by an administrative officer and a financial advisor.



1.8.2 Please describe the internal reporting flow, financial management and controlling structures of your project with particular emphasis on the audit trail and the way accounting will be handled between partners.

In accordance with the agreed project Critical Path, Activities and Tasks will be undertaken by the designated partners. Progress against timescale and budget will be reviewed at the six monthly project management and the monthly team management meetings.

The Lead partner project manager will evaluate overall progress at the six monthly meetings and will define the precise actions required for the ensuing six months. There will be six audited progress reports delivered at months 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36. Each project partner is responsible for providing an Activity and audited Financial Progress Report to the Project Manager every six months. The Lead Partner's team will be responsible for overall planning, action plans, reports and forms as well as maintaining the indicators and contacts database.

The project managers for each partner are entrusted to ensure satisfactory and timely completion of the Activity and financial reports, control their quality and completeness in all respects. Networking methods including mail, video-conferencing, document sharing and face to face meetings will be used to manage and control the progress of the project on a day-to-day basis.

The Financial management and internal Financial control will be executed by the lead partner. All project expenditures will be authorised by an independent external audit cell, which works according to set administrative rules within the legal structure of the province of West-Flanders.

Within the province, every invoice needs to be signed off by the project coordinator for approval.

This invoice will then be passed on for payment to the financial department. All payment proves will be gathered in a separate C-Scope dossier. The Financial department will, every six month, provide a Financial overview and will ask again for approval by the project coordinator, whom is also responsible for writing the progress reports.

The claim, together with proofs and overview tables will, after prior internal control by the own financial department using a project specific check list, be sent to the independent external audit cell.

1.8.3 In the case where partners are located in Member States with a decentralised first level control system, please list the first level controllers they would like to propose to the central approval body for nomination.

A separate independent control cell (onafhankelijke eerste lijns controle cel) will be established within the Province of West-Flanders which will be the centralised level control system.

In the UK the beneficiary will propose an independent controller, who is then authorised at national level – on the basis of a list of approved professional bodies - before the first expenditure is reported and certified. The controller can be internal as well as external as long as s/he is qualified and from a unit independent of the project's activities and financial management.

1.8.4 Please describe how you will undertake project evaluation

The need for on-going project evaluation and post-project evaluation is a necessity already instilled in the technical teams working for the Belgian ICZM Centre and the Dorset Coast Forum. Achievement of progress towards the outputs from the C-SCOPE project will be monitored at a technical level at the six monthly partner meetings in order to ensure the objectives will be met satisfactorily.

Within each partner region project evaluation will take place in the Steering Group. In the case of Belgium, for example, this involves the Province, the Flemish government, the Federal government and the Flanders Marine Institute. The partners will be establishing 'Task and finish' Groups for each of the project elements that will be led by a Chair-person and will have clear goals in terms of deliverables. The Project Manager will oversee the whole project. The Task and Finish Groups will be :-

1. Marine Planning
2. Coastal Explorer Planning
3. Coastal Explorer Interactive
4. Communications Group

Using these Task and Finish Groups (sometimes with necessary sub-groups), a much wider range of stakeholders, organisations and institutes will be involved in the project and will help shape the outputs. But by only having two formal partners the project will be easier to manage. DCF and the Belgian ICZM Coordination Centre will take full responsibility to deliver the outputs as set out in the project plan. The team recognises the important role of a 'bottom-up' approach and strong stakeholder involvement to look at and evaluate the project progress and emerging results. This will also guarantee that the 'end-users' needs are taken account of. A yearly seminar for all Task and Finish groups will give the opportunity for an overall evaluation of project progress, identifying gaps and advice on future progress.

The C-SCOPE partners will produce a guidance document at the end of the project incorporating experience with setting up a Coastal Explorer, using the indicators and using Explorer Planning and Interactive. Furthermore, there will be a manual for using these as a planning and management support tool.

1.9. Sustainability

How will the project be sustained beyond the period of grant assistance if appropriate?

The C-SCOPE project results are designed to be embedded within the planning system where coastal decision-making, for example in relation to the provision of flood and coast protection structures and other major coastal and marine developments, may have implications for up to 100 years. This process will be achieved through the project by the creation of the Coastal Explorer Planning which will be a valuable tool to support marine spatial planning for the medium to long-term. The various case studies for the marine environment will also support sustainable planning for the coastal and marine environments, which include extensive lengths of coast designated as of European importance.

The partners have recognised that vital to sustainability is the dissemination of knowledge to both technical and non-technical stakeholders. This will be achieved, first, by creation of a new Coastal Forum for the Belgian coast similar to that existing for Dorset; it is known that this model can be effective and sustainable since in Dorset the Forum has already existed for 13 years. The activities of the Dorset Coast Forum have been closely linked to both planning as well as stakeholder consultation processes in the County for many years and represent a tried and tested, sustainable model for addressing coastal planning and management; this approach will be implemented and tested in Belgium in order to achieve the same advantages.

Second is the question of educating and informing those many organisations and individuals who work and enjoy the coast but do not have any specialist knowledge. This will be achieved through the project outputs and tools including the Coastal Explorer Interactive and Access Points and the Guidance publication. Increased publicly-available information about the coastal and marine environments and the potential impacts of, for example, climate change, will instil interest and a greater sense of responsibility in the next generation of coastal visitors and users. The Access points will continue to exist and will be maintained after the lifetime of the project.

The Project Management Group will record and evaluate the success of each consultation event throughout the project in order that the lessons learnt can be passed on for the benefit of future Interreg and other projects. The partners will continue to collaborate after the project is completed to maximise the benefits arising from their complementary skills and experiences.

1.10. Communication and dissemination

Please describe the main communication and dissemination activity envisaged during the project.

The objective is to ensure the C-SCOPE aims, results and outputs/deliverables are disseminated to a wide range of relevant end-user organisations and stakeholders. In line with the Programme requirements a Communications Strategy will be prepared and submitted to the JTS with the second progress report at the latest; implementation of the Communications Strategy shall rest with the Communications Task and Finish Group.

An immediate objective will be to set up a website for the project by month 3 for the lifetime of the project and to be maintained for at least 3 years after completion of the project by which time the outputs and objectives will be firmly embedded in the work of the local authorities and the Coastal Fora. As part of the focus for the London 2012 Olympic Games will be on the Dorset coast this opportunity will be maximised to disseminate the project results to an extensive and wide ranging number of visitors and website users.

Target audiences will be reached at all administrative tiers from trans-national to local:-

- European stakeholder networks (eg ICZM Expert Group, European Environment Agency, EUCC, CoastNet)
- National Stakeholders (eg. Key government departments, Environment Agency)
- Regional and Sub-Regional interests (eg. Policy-makers, politicians, scientists & academics, coastal managers and planners)
- Local stakeholders (ie. Contacts through the Coastal Fora)
- Community stakeholders including coastal residents and visitors - (through Coastal Fora surgeries).

The tools for communicating the C-SCOPE project progress and results will include:-

1. The Communications Task & Finish Group
2. The Websites
3. Media and Publicity
4. The C-SCOPE Guide
5. Seminars, workshops and surgeries

The project results will be presented in a technical paper to an international conference (eg Littoral) as well as making presentations to key assemblies and events (e.g. CPMR General Assembly, Atlantic Arc, Arc Manche, Brussels Offices network and national conferences).

The project team has established a good dialogue with both the Syndicat Mixte de Cote D'Opale and the Urban Community of Dunkerque in France who support this proposal and will assist with consultations and dissemination.

The coastal provinces in the Netherlands will be involved through the RSD (Rijn-Schelde-Delta) network.

1.11 Cross Cutting principles

How does the project intend to address the cross cutting themes of sustainable development and equality of opportunities?

1.11.1 Sustainable Development

The principle of sustainability underpins the rationale of the C-SCOPE project proposal. Nowhere more than on the coast and in the marine environment is the principle of sustainable development more necessary and obvious, particularly on account of coastal and climate change.

The C-SCOPE project will support the wider principle of sustainable development by:-

- Generating relevant, accurate information and knowledge in support of actions in coastal zones.
- Identifying hurdles to sustainability through dialogue between scientists, practitioners, policy-makers and the full range of stakeholders in both partner countries.
- Providing information through case studies to identify trends and ensure resilience in the coastal management systems to support both economic and environmental sustainability.
- Developing and utilising best available technology as a foundation for sustainable coastal management.
- Using updated indicators to measure practical progress towards achieving coastal sustainability goals.

The C-SCOPE proposal accords fully, therefore, with the cross-cutting principle of sustainable development as set out in the '2 Seas Operational Programme'. Taking note of the EU 'Strategy for sustainable development' the C-SCOPE partners have carefully appraised the proposal and confirm that there are no negative impacts associated with the project.

Each of the partner organisations already have in place sustainable development strategies and, therefore, the concept is well embedded in their current methods of working and overall approach.

The C-SCOPE results and outputs will form a significant, positive and measurable benefit to sustainable development on the coast and for the marine environment by providing both the planning framework as well as the tools to ensure its successful implementation in the coastal zones of Europe. Marine planning will be achieved through the presentation of case study examples at differing scales. Furthermore through the development and improvement of coastal indicators the success of ICZM and a truly integrated approach to management of land and sea can be readily measured.

1.11.2 Equal Opportunities

In compliance with Belgian and UK legislation both Dorset County Council and the Province of West-Flanders are committed to equality of opportunity in their employment policies and practices. They recognise that ensuring equality of opportunity is a matter of good management enabling staff to work in an environment conducive to achieving best value in service provision. The aim is to promote equality of opportunity so that no employee or potential employee will be subject to unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, marital status, colour, race, nationality or other ethnic or national origin, religion, disability, sexuality, criminal background, membership or non-membership of a

trade union or political beliefs. The project partners will seek to ensure that no applicant for employment is disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be justified.

Within the overall context of appointing on merit the partners will seek to reflect a balanced composition of staff within its workforce. The project co-ordinator for C-SCOPE is female and currently all the staff in the Belgian ICZM Centre are female.

In keeping with the commitment to the promotion of equal opportunities Dorset County Council will keep under review its policies, procedures, documentation and practices to ensure all employees are given equality of opportunity.

With regard to the development of project websites, both partners follow will web content accessibility guidelines version 1 conforming as level AA.

Section 2

1. Programme Indicators

2. Project Finances

In this section you are asked to fill in the project indicators and finance details. To ease the handling with this, an Excel spreadsheet is provided. You are asked to fill an indicator table that demonstrates how your project will contribute to the Operational Programme indicators.

Section 3

1. Confirmation, certification, signature

Please note that the Word (Section 1) and Excel files (Sections 1.7, 2.1 and 2.2) and the authorised Annexes comprise an integral part of the Application Form.

By signing the Application Form, the Lead Partner confirms,

- 3.1** that it will undertake responsibility for the project and will be the single contact point with the joint Technical Secretariat / Managing Authority, from appraisal stage until any inspection
- 3.2** that the project, if approved and co-financed by ERDF, is not receiving and will not receive assistance from any other Community financial instrument.
- 3.3** that all partners listed in the Application Form are committed to take part in the project's activities. The commitment is expressed in signed Letters of Support for each partner. The mutual financial and legal responsibilities of the project partners are defined in a Partnership Agreement. Letters of Support signed and stamped are attached to this Application Form.
- 3.4** that the project does not contravene EU and national legislation, in particular the rules applying to the eligibility of expenditure of Structural Fund support, to competition policy, to state aid, to environmental impact assessment and to equal opportunities and all other horizontal EU policies.
- 3.5** that sufficient publicity will be accorded to the implementation of this EU funded project in compliance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 and Commission Decision 94/342/EC in order to attract the attention of potential recipients of Community assistance and to increase the public's awareness of the Community's role in co-financing the project.

3.6 Signature and Stamp of the Lead Partner

Signature of Lead Partner	Stamp of Lead Partner
Name and position within Lead Partner organisation	
Date and place	

2. Additional Information

3.7 Additional information

Is there any additional information you would like to provide us with, which has not been covered in the Application Form?

The C-SCOPE partnership believes it can offer a particular strength in its wide range of contacts in the coastal fields from international to local levels; not just in Belgium, the UK and France but drawing upon its extensive contacts from other past EU projects and its involvement in European and national networks and groups. The interest and support from the adjacent French coastline will allow the value of the results to be maximised within the Channel/La Manche Regional Sea.

Checklist

CHECKLIST	
The Lead Partner must ensure that:	
	One signed original paper version and 2 paper copies of the completed Application Form (word and excel files, plus authorised Annexes) are submitted by the due date. Please ensure this is in the form of a ring binder to ease photocopying.
	The original paper version of the Application Form is signed and stamped by the Lead Partner.
	One electronic version of the completed Application Form (word and excel files, plus authorised Annexes) is submitted by email firstcall@interreg4a-2mers.eu on the due date.
	Please ensure that identical applications are submitted in the electronic and paper versions.
	The signed original paper version and copies of the Application Form are submitted by postal service to the Secretariat in one single package by 7pm of closing date of the call.
	All partners participating in the implementation and contributing financially to the project are listed in the Application Form.
	The following Annexes are complete and included with the hard copy of the Application:
Annex I	Original signed Letters of Support for each Partner contributing to the project
Annex II	Bank Guarantees ¹
Additional documents other than the officially required Annexes listed above will NOT be taken into account when assessing the project and will be returned to the Lead Partner.	

¹ Lead Partners are required to provide a document that gives sufficient guarantee regarding the ERDF amount applied for. The solvency of public bodies is assumed. However, this applies to partners in the case where partners are either private bodies (micro, small, medium enterprises) and not for profit organisations.