

EDEN Project Information

Full title

Balancing Economic Development and Environmental Planning for Tourism

Area of co-operation :

«Improving the working methods and tools of local or regional authorities»
Point 1: «Establishing local or regional development strategies, particularly in preparation for enlargement»

Working language(s) : English

Project start date: 15/12/1999 **Project end date:** 15/12/2002

Total budget (ERDF + Phare + own contributions): 943,980 Euro

Project website: www.edenproject.gr

Project Objectives:

The overall aim of the project has been to develop an innovative methodology for the resolution of land use conflict based on evaluation and consensus planning in areas where the development of tourism harms or may harm the environment. The methodology developed follows a two-pronged approach. Firstly, it uses public participation to involve citizens in negotiations with local and regional authorities for the resolution of conflict. Secondly, it enables stakeholders to develop future scenarios and evaluate them against the principles of sustainable development.

Summary of project activities:

The methodology used in EDEN aimed to provide a framework for the definition and resolution of conflict between tourism development and environmental protection through public participation. The innovative project methodology was piloted in seven case-study areas, located within the participating regions of Epirus (Parga and Syvota), Vasterbotten (Storuman and Sorsele), Gyor-Moson-Sopron (Szigetkoz region) and Maramures (Sapanta and Remetea Chioaralui). The main activities carried out in these areas included:

- Research and diagnostic studies to document the conflict issues and the relevant stakeholders.

- Setting up a Local Consultative Committee (LCC) in each pilot area, comprising politicians, citizens, representatives of professional associations and NGOs, aiming to discuss local issues and decide on appropriate action.
- Setting up a Regional Support Unit (RSU) to offer expertise and professional advice to the Local Consultative Committees.
- A panel of European experts, originating from countries outside the project partnership, was formed to assist the Steering Committee with methodology and act as external evaluators of the project results.
- Holding a mid-term open workshop in each participating region, to share the information and experience of the project with the project team members, the local stakeholders and the public at large.
- Organising an end-of-project international conference to present and discuss the “best practice” achieved by the project.
- Publication of a “Good Practice Guide” in print and electronic form.

Project Results:

- 7 Diagnostic Reports were produced for the pilot areas in English and in the partners' languages.
 - 4 reports of tourism-related businesses and land use surveys were produced for the pilot areas (Parga, Syvota, Tärnaby/Hemavan and Szigetkoz).
 - A Methodology Paper was prepared to guide the project implementation.
 - Establishment and operation of 7 Local Consultative Committees (LCCs) which held about 8 meetings in each pilot area, involving 350 people in total.
 - Establishment and operation of 4 Regional Support Units (RSU), one in each project region.
 - Advice and assistance offered to local businesses through the LCCs and RSUs for training and quality assurance.
 - Dissemination of the project activities and results in order to sensitise and involve stakeholders at regional level through newsletters, regional workshops, circulation of promotional material (leaflets for hiking tourism, etc), the use of the project's website (www.edenproject.gr) and of other national web-pages.
 - Alternative development scenarios to account for zero-option, realistic and optimum situations were composed by the LCCs and RSUs in each pilot area, accomplishing action plans and development strategies for the future development of the pilot areas.
 - Exchange of experience and know-how at inter/intra-regional levels achieved through 4 regional workshops (with full attendance of the Steering Committee), 8 Transnational Steering Committee meetings and the end-of-project conference in Greece (Ioannina, 7 November 2002).
 - A Project brochure has been produced in English, Greek, Romanian and Hungarian.
 - A Good Practice Guide was produced and published in a full colour book in each of the partners' language and in a 4-language CD-Rom.
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Principal Partner No 1

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Principal Partner No 2

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MARAMURES COUNTY COUNCIL

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Principal Partner No 4

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