

Transboundary Ocean Planning and Governance in the European Atlantic Space: lessons from the TPEA project

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FIGURE 1

TPEA SOUTHERN AREA: Mobile APP, Algarve – Gulf of Cádiz.

Transboundary Planning in the European Atlantic (TPEA) was co-funded by the European Commission (DG Mare), coordinated by University of Liverpool and ran from December 2012 to May 2014. The aim of the project was to demonstrate commonly-agreed approaches to transboundary maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the European Atlantic region. In this context, it explored the opportunities and challenges of carrying out cross-border MSP in Europe's regional seas, making connections with integrated coastal management. TPEA focused on two pilot areas: one involving Portugal and Spain and the other Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Major outputs of the project were:

Good Practice Guide with key lessons and principles emerging from the project. The guide is intended to assist authorities responsible for MSP, agencies and other institutions supporting the implementation of MSP, coastal and marine stakeholders and other parties with an interest in the outcomes of MSP, and the scientific MSP community.

Geoportal web-based viewer designed to facilitate all aspects of data management (e.g. spatial analysis, communication, harmonization and scenario testing). Info is available in a mobile App (fig 1).

Pilot Areas Report with comprehensive details of TPEA approach and presenting the key findings for the pilot areas of the European Atlantic.

The project was conducted during the preparation of EU legislation requiring Member States to conduct MSP (Directive 2014/89/EU). The project experience is intended to assist Member States in fulfilling their responsibilities under EU and national legislation in regard to cooperation with each other on planning and management of adjoining waters and coastal zones. TPEA will demonstrate the potential for cross-border MSP not just as a means of fulfilling regulatory requirements, but as a valuable contribution to MSP efforts with healthy and sustainable use of the seas and oceans.

