

## Coastal Practice Network Workshop at ICCCM'05 – The Network Expansion

CoPraNet, the Coastal Practice Network is an INTERREG IIIC project which has the aim of developing a network of coastal stakeholders to exchange information and best practice on coastal management. It will run for three years until December 2006. The challenges of the network are to establish an "open source" ICZM-platform and to integrate ICZM-projects and networks so they can stimulate rather than compete, to make coastal practitioners the main drivers of ICZM community and to promote the exchange of experiences in several languages.

The current project network is formed by 21 partners in 11 countries, however the CoPraNet wants to greatly expand the current network with Associate Partners to realize the European Commission aim to have a full Coastal Practitioners Network that can be fully self-supporting by the end of the CoPraNet project.

The CoPraNet partnership is committed to share their views and discuss the needs and benefits of the network expansion. Therefore, the CoPraNet network invites coastal councils, planning agencies and coastal networks to join the workshop (free of charge).

The workshop will address topics such as:

- What are the needs for an extended network?
- What are the potential themes of it?
- Who would be interested to join as CoPraNet Associated Partners (Members?)
- How would CoPraNet Associated Partners (Members?) foreseen their participation? Would be willing to pay a fee for it?
- ...

If you participate in this expanding Coastal Practice Network as an Associate Partner, you will be able to:

- directly plug into a network of like-minded partners with similar aims,
- draw on European expertise by exchanging and applying best practices in coastal planning,
- participating in an European benchmarking programme for sustainable coastal tourism (QualityCoast),
- find partners for new projects, partnerships and exchanges,
- access European best practice information through the CoPraNet newsletter, website and Helpdesk,
- participating in testing the EU ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) Progress Indicator
- participate in the CoPraNet workshop programme 2005-2006, on a cost basis, including (UK: Sefton, Merseyside, Netherlands: Zandvoort, Poland: Oder Delta, Greece: Sifnos; Samothraki, Venice, and ...)

Joining the expanding Coastal Practice Network will enable you to be involved in the equalisation of sustainable tourism management practices in Europe, the introduction of better coastal, environmental, management practices, and the improvement of information flow to coastal stakeholders. In short, you will be in the forefront of the implementation of coastal management throughout Europe.

