

Project title:		ECOLOGICAL NETWORK for the promotion of convergent conservation strategies in COASTAL HABITATS of COMMUNITY significance (ECONET-COHASt)						
Organization	Country	Overall project value (€)	Proportion carried out by candidate (%)	No of staff provided	Name of client	Origin of funding	Dates (start/end)	Name of partners if any
EPSILON	Greece Cyprus Malta Italy	€ 733220	20%	8	European Commission	European Commission	01/01/2006 31/12/2007	MAICH, ARI, U of Malta, IAMB, U of Catania
Description of the Project						Type of services provided		
The aim of the project is to promote convergent conservation strategies at landscape scale for coastal habitats of Community significance. An ecological network of stakeholders and a knowledge base on impact assessment for coastal habitats will be established, which will support capacity building and policy actions throughout the region. The conclusions of the current situation assessment and the case studies will be formulated into specifications and guidelines (common strategy development) that address both differences and common points in theories and practices. These will be distributed to regional and local authorities to support policy implementation for Natura 2000 coastal habitats management. The dissemination of best practices for coastal habitats management will promote harmonious territorial integration throughout ARCHIMED. Main Targets - Establish a network of research institutes and local authorities involved in coastal habitats management - Establish a common knowledge base on Environmental Impact Assessment and Decision Support for coastal habitats - Training of researchers and professionals on best practices for coastal habitats management - Support the planning process for Natura 2000 management - Establish ISO 9001: 2015 procedures on Natura-2000 sites mapping and management - Development of a GIS_INSPIRE standards database - Develop a portal service for the post-project period that will provide information to stakeholders and the public Through the 6 case studies that are designed and planned for WP3, an Impact Assessment of landscape scale processes on the habitats and biodiversity of selected NATUA 2000 sites will be researched and documented. Such case studies are planned in all partner countries (Greece, Malta, Italy and Cyprus).						Main Activities - Identify and contact main stakeholders - Identify landscape processes that influence coastal habitats - Quantify and evaluate the effects of these processes - Development of planning tools - Dissemination of the results Expected results - Collaborative network for coastal habitat conservation, - Coastal habitat monitoring system, - Portal Service, - Increased expertise, - Improved public awareness Deliverables - Training package - Workshops with stakeholders - Dissemination material - Project website - Technical and scientific publications, Monitoring indicators of change, "best practice" handbooks, - Cartographic outputs - Policy guidelines Direct beneficiaries Local authorities, management agencies of Natura 2000 sites, educational and research institutes, SMEs Information Prof. Marc Bonazountas bonazountas@epsilon.gr		