



U@MARE NOSTRUM
Public Participation for water protection and management

Participation in the service of environmental democracy: U@marenostrium project

Maria Perez Ortega
GFI Benelux



u@marenostrium is a project co-financed under the 2008 eParticipation call





Introduction

- ❑ **Environmental policy:** Great deal of public support for action at a Europe-wide level.
- ❑ Public involvement can improve
 - The quality of decision-making
 - Raise citizen awareness of environmental issues
 - Increase public understanding of the decision-making process.
- ❑ **Public involvement:** Internet-based approaches as a means of enhancing current practices.
- ❑ Geographic information and Internet technologies used for eParticipation: Positive tools.



U@MareNostrum: The scope

- ❑ Use of eParticipation to involve citizens and local actors from the Mediterranean coastal zones in decision-making processes for the **adoption and implementation of water and marine environmental protection policies and legislations in the Mediterranean region.**

- ❑ ICT Participation tools + GIS =

Public Participation GIS is the use of geographic information systems to broaden public involvement in policymaking.

- ❑ Identify environmental problems, result in positive development, provide a way to solve them.



The consortium

1. GFI – Benelux
2. Government to you (Gov2u) – Greece
3. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, (HCMR) – Greece
4. Foundation Comunidad Valenciana-Región Europea – Spain
5. The Community of French Riviera – France
6. Directorate General for Modernisation of Valencia– Spain
7. The Region of Ionian Islands – Greece



The portal

- ❑ Open-source solution and methodology to help the local decision-makers to improve the quality, legitimacy and transparency of their policies in the eyes of the citizens.
- ❑ Citizens will be provided with
 - means to become familiarized and involved with the functioning of democratic decision making processes,
 - to monitor the implementation of the EU environmental law in their regions,
 - to identify environmental problems that need to be solved immediately, as well as providing a way to solve them.



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
PREFECTURE DES ALPES-MARITIMES





The portal

- ❑ Web Public Participation GIS: Customization of Gov2Demoss + GIS
- ❑ Very user friendly portal and easy to use especially by **people with limited knowledge** of the subject area and low level of IT skills.

Additional tools that will be integrated for the U@MareNostrum software solution are

- **GeoTools** - an open source (LGPL) Java code library which provides standards compliant methods for the manipulation of geospatial data, for example to implement Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- **Google Earth** –a geographic browser which combines the power of Google Search with satellite imagery, maps, terrain and 3D buildings.



Interface example

What is it.r | Help | Ethical code

Gov2demoss

Hi, lexam

Search enter a word

Home » Maps
Map:

Map Satellite Hybrid

Gov2U
20 Anavriton st
Marousi, Attica 15124

Participate!

- Home
- Agenda
- Communicate
- Petitions
- Surveys
- Forum
- News
- Archives
- Speak4yourself
- Maps
- Transportation
- Recycling
- Parks
- Environment
- Wp Description
- Pilots

User Menu

- My Profile

Calendar

April 2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			

No upcoming events
Propose an event

Forums

- Δημο... (1) by admin **new**
- Δημο... (2) by lexam

Google Maps

Workplaces
Gov2U

Users
Administrator Admin
Eleftherios Chamakiotis

Hi, lexam

Search enter a word

Calendar

April 2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30			

No upcoming events
Propose an event

Forums

- Δημο... (1) by admin **new**
- Δημο... (2) by lexam

Google Maps

Workplaces
Gov2U

Users
Administrator Admin
Eleftherios Chamakiotis

therios Chamakiotis
holeiou st
Athens, Attica 15342

Map Satellite Hybrid

Α. ΠΕΝΤΕΛΗΣ

Attiki Oda

642

64

Αγία Παρασκευή
Aghia Paraskevi

Περισσός

64

Map data ©2008 Tele Atlas



The features

The envisaged features of the U@MareNostrum platform are as follows:

User registration tool

Forums enabling online discussions

Visualization tool of the legislative process

Calendar of events

RSS feeds

Tag cloud

Interactive maps

My Agora

Letter to Officials tool

Comment form

Search engine

Automatic translation

Integration with WEB 3.0 social networking tools



Targeted users

Decision-makers from France, Greece and Spain:

- Parliamentarians from the national assemblies with EU-policy focus
- Directors and designated representatives of different Ministries
- Elected Representatives from regional and local government (prefectures, regional and local councils)
- Members of the European Parliament/Committee of the Regions linked to French Riviera, Valencia and Ionian Islands regions

Citizens and local actors from France, Greece and Spain:

- Members of NGOs specialized in sectors concerned
- Representatives of business and industry Workers associations and unions from tourism, transport, maritime, agriculture, fishing sectors.
- Individual citizens, farmers, landowners, local individual residents



Conclusion

- ❑ To obtain public input for designing long term environmental policies to be implemented in the French Riviera, Valencia and Ionian Islands regions, which are in line with the EU environmental policies.
- ❑ To make possible for citizens with limited knowledge of the subject area and low level IT skills to profit for eParticipation tools
- ❑ eParticipation can help to create more informed local, regional and national government decision-making processes by incorporating diverse opinions, values and ideas and by resulting in direct, immediate knowledge of the environmental conditions from the community and citizens

CONDITION

- Governments need to adapt their structures and processes to ensure that the results of online consultations are analysed, disseminated and used



Thank you for your attention
For more information please refer to our
website

<http://www.uatmarenostrum.eu>