
Description of the coastal and sea areas in the European Union

PREFACE

Introduction

In order to provide a better and more holistic picture on the socio-economic situation in the maritime sectors at European and Member State (i.e. those with coastal areas) levels, the Commission launched a study consisting in establishing an inventory of data available in Eurostat's reference database NewCronos, the various DG databases as well as in the most important official Organisations and Institutions.

The key objectives of this research are

- to analyse the current level of the socio-economic state in all sea-related sectors, reveal trends from the past decade and forecasts for the coming ten years at Member State and EU (EU-27) levels;
- to provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the activities related to the sea or those that use maritime resources.

The scope of this research is the gathering and analysis of existing data rather than the search for new primary data. The results of this study is presented in this publication.

Structure of the publication

“Coastal and sea areas in Europe” is divided into three parts: an introduction, the main chapters and the appendix. The main chapters contain data and/or background information relating to maritime data presented at different levels of geographical detail. The first chapter presents an overview of the situation at European level. The following chapter is composed of sub-chapters presenting facts and figures at national level, including a textual introduction containing background information as well as data comparisons. The main focus of each chapter is on a set of tables and graphs that have been selected to show data available for a given topic.

Three sections are presented for each country, providing a broad picture for specific analyses. Two sections provide information of national and EU coastal zones (see definition in appendix 1) and display relevance for the total territory including inland regions. For countries having more than one sea zone (see definition in appendix 2), data are shown with this breakdown. The last section considers the impact of relevant maritime-related activities at national level (see definition in appendix 3), whether they are performed in coastal zones or not.

All chapters are structured by theme in order to present results according to a similar structure allowing comparisons easier between countries. Themes in the first two sections include Demography, Economics, Labour Market, Education, Agriculture, Tourism and Coastal pressure, with Coastal pressure only being presented in the first section. In the last section, topics include Enterprise statistics, External trade, Fisheries, Research and Development, Environment and Ports activities. One advantage of this publication is that it makes extensive use of sources covering all countries using a single methodology.

For data provided by Eurostat, more information (data sources and definition of indicators analysed) is available in appendix 4 and 5 or on the Eurostat website, either in the form of more detailed subject-specific publications or in Eurostat's online databases.

Geographical coverage of the publication

In the analysis of the maritime sector and the associated activities, the geographical breakdown is of prime importance. Regional data are required in order to build a relevant description of maritime activities. More precisely, the observed area, i.e. the delimitation of the coastal areas, oceans and seas, including islands, are needed.

The publication analyses the coastal areas, oceans and seas of the 22 EU Member States having sea coasts, namely Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Therefore, the EU aggregate presented differs from the EU-27, as Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Luxembourg are excluded. The National administrative units corresponding to NUTS 3 regions were used to define areas on or near the coast. This nomenclature allows focusing on areas influenced by maritime activities.

The EU coastal area is considered to be a strip of land which follows the EU coastline and extends 50 km inland. Although this definition is easy to envisage conceptually, it is difficult to accurately represent it when using the standard European statistical regions, known as NUTS regions. The most appropriate size of statistical region is the NUTS level 3 (corresponding to a population of several hundred thousand people). However, the geographical size of these regions varies significantly between Member States. In order to better represent the 50 km coastal strip, inland NUTS 3 regions up to the 50km limit were included. The more objective and transparent method of selection was to apply a rule that identifies the coastal regions in an automatic and consistent way across Member States. The rule considered for including an inland NUTS 3 region to represent the 50km coastal strip was if the region is mostly within the 50km coastal strip (based on population). Detailed information is available in appendix 1.

Considering this definition, coastal regions in some countries feature capital cities and consequently, the comparison of data between coastal regions should be carried out carefully taking into account this aspect. Moreover, Hamburg is not included in the definition of coastal regions although it is a major port because this is linked to the limit fixed between North Sea and Elbe river, due to the different potential extension of the estuary. Even if not included in the definition of a EU coastal zone, Hamburg and its hinterland is taken into account when referring to maritime-related activities.

Data availability and data sources

The statistical data presented in this publication were extracted at the end of March 2008 and represent data availability at that time. The accompanying text was drafted during July and August 2008.

The majority of data presented in this publication were extracted from Eurostat's reference database offering a free online access (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>). This database contains around one billion statistical figures covering several economic and social sectors. The database normally covers all EU Member States and in many cases also data for Japan, the United States of America and other EU trading partners.

Among the statistical data collection available in this database and used for this publication, one could mention the following domains:

- Labour Force Survey (LFS)
- Structural Business Statistics (SBS)
- Maritime Transport data (Council Directive 95/64/EC of 8.12.1995 on the statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea, OJ L320 of 30.12.1995, page 25)
- Fishery statistics
- External trade Database (COMEXT)
- Regional data (REGIO)
- Science and technology database (Patent)

Data from DG Environment (DG ENV) and data from the Corine Land cover database are also used. A detailed description of each data source is available in appendix 4.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

European Union aggregates and Member States

EU	European Union	CY	Cyprus
EU-22	Coastal area composed of BE, BG, DK, DE, EE, IE, EL, ES, FR, IT, CY, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, FI, SE, UK	LV	Latvia
BE	Belgium	LT	Lithuania
BG	Bulgaria	MT	Malta
DK	Denmark	NL	Netherlands
DE	Germany	PL	Poland
EE	Estonia	PT	Portugal
IE	Ireland	RO	Romania
EL	Greece	SI	Slovenia
ES	Spain	FI	Finland
FR	France	SE	Sweden
IT	Italy	UK	United Kingdom

Statistical symbols

Statistical data are often accompanied by additional information in the form of statistical symbols (also called “flags”) to indicate missing or in some way problematic data. In this publication, the use of statistical symbols has been restricted to a minimum. The following symbols are included where necessary:

<empty>	Not available, confidential or unreliable value
-	Not applicable or zero by default
0	Less than half of the unit used and greater than real zero

Abbreviations

%	Percent(age)
AA	Agricultural area
AWU	Annual work unit
DG	Directorate-general
EPO	European Patent Office
ESU	European Size Unit
EUR	Euro
GDP	Gross domestic product
GVA	Gross value added
ha	Hectare (1 ha = 10 000 square metres)
Inhab.	Inhabitants
km	Kilometre
km ²	Square kilometre
ISCED	International standard classification of education
LFS	Labour force survey
LSU	Livestock units
NACE	Classification of economic activities in the European Community
NSO	National Statistical Office
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
R&D	Research and development
SGM	Standard gross margin
SiF	Statistics in Focus
t	tonne

Sources

Code	Explanation
Eurostat (Regio)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "General and regional statistics"
Corine Land Cover database	Corine Land Cover database
Eurostat (Census)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Population and social conditions/Population/Census"
Eurostat (Tourism)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Population and social conditions/Tourism"
Eurostat (Structural business statistics)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Industry, trade and services/ Structural business statistics"
Eurostat (Comext)	Eurostat - External trade database
Eurostat (Agriculture and fisheries)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "General and regional statistics/Regional agriculture statistics"
Eurostat (Science and Technology (Patent))	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Science and technology /Patent statistics"
Eurostat (Environment)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Environment and energy/ Environment"
DG ENV	European Commission, Directorate General Environment
Eurostat (Transport)	"Eurostat reference database", Theme "Transport/Maritime transport"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: European Union overview	1
Chapter 2: Coastal and sea area profiles by country	17
3.1 Belgium	19
3.2 Bulgaria	29
3.3 Denmark	35
3.4 Germany	45
3.5 Estonia	55
3.6 Ireland	65
3.7 Greece	75
3.8 Spain	85
3.9 France	97
3.10 Italy	109
3.11 Cyprus	119
3.12 Latvia	129
3.13 Lithuania	139
3.14 Malta	149
3.15 Netherlands	159
3.16 Poland	169
3.17 Portugal	179
3.18 Romania	191
3.19 Slovenia	197
3.20 Finland	207
3.21 Sweden	217
3.22 United Kingdom	229
Chapter 3: Data quality	243
Appendix	257
Appendix 1 - Definition of the coastal areas, oceans and seas	259
Appendix 2 - Definition of sea regions	263
Appendix 3 - Definition of the maritime activities	265
Appendix 4 - European data sources	267
Appendix 5 - Definition of the indicators presented at the European coastal regions level ..	269
Appendix 6 - Total EU-22 external trade of goods by sea, 2005 -detailed data by destination ..	279
Appendix 7 - EU-22 ports activity, 2006-2007 – detailed data	281

