



Interoperable GMES services for environmental risk management in marine and coastal areas (InterRisk)

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The lack of a pan-European infrastructure for uniform access and distribution of environmental data is a severe problem in all types of risk and crisis management. The InterRisk project aims to develop a pilot system for interoperable GMES monitoring and forecasting services for environmental risk management in marine and coastal areas. The pilot system will be validated by users responsible for risk and crisis management in case of oil spills, harmful algal blooms and other marine pollution events, in Norwegian, UK, Irish, French, German, Polish and Italian coastal waters.

In particular the French Oil Spill Service that is set up within the frame of InterRisk is composed of the following main elements: (1) an array of data providers: concerning for example aerial and satellite surveillance results, in situ observations, drift monitoring buoys, meteorological forecasts, and drift model outputs, (2) a set of expertise providers offering a range of analytical analysis services: for example data analysis of oil slick behaviour and fate forecasting within the frame of the dedicated French "Slick Monitoring and Drift Prediction Committee" to derive recommendations to the end users, and (3) identified end users in charge of the oil spill response according to the Emergency Plans at different levels: regional authorities such as the Prefectures Maritimes, central authorities such as the Secretariat General for the sea.

The specificity of the French Service is that many administrations and institutes are involved, even foreign state partners, so that a reliable and efficient system is needed to have fast data transmission, efficient data analysis and synthesis for the end-users. InterRisk allowing more interoperable services based on internationally accepted standards (cf INSPIRE/GMES) should help to improve the capabilities in case of a major crisis similar to those that have been met after the accident of Erika and Prestige.