

Questioning stakeholders' representations of sea-land interface in the perspective of integrated governance

Project "Dessine-moi... un système mer-terre" co-financed by the French Ministry of Ecology (MEDDE – programme Liteau IV) and the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas.



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"Dessine-moi... un système mer-terre !"

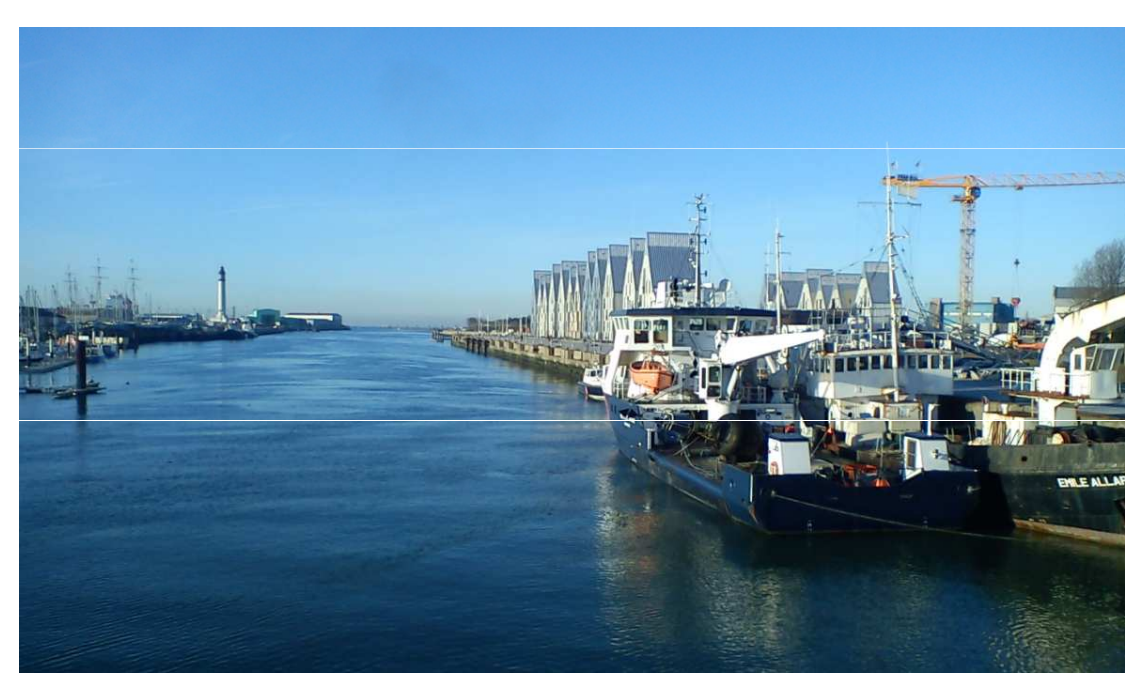
Considering emerging coastal and marine policies, the project "Draw me... a sea-land system!" argues that individual representations differing too much from one another can slow down the development of common views and strategies in interconnected marine and terrestrial areas.

The project investigates ways of creating a common understanding of these areas with the aim of improving their governance, through the implementation of a strategic foresight exercise in the Eastern English Channel – North Sea Region with French stakeholders.



« Map of issues »

Material and process



20 preliminary national interviews

28 initial interviews with a panel of French stakeholders of the Eastern English Channel area

A strategic foresight exercise

Seminar 1

Seminar 2

9 short interviews with participants

Which interface issues and current/potential answers ?

How diverse are the stakeholders' representations ?
3 tools combined: hand drawn map, free association of ideas and a "map of issues".

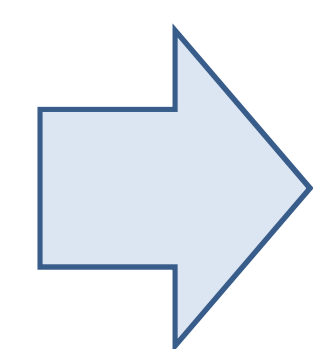
Questioning marine planning and building collective exploratory scenarios for 2050'

For a reflexive analysis of the whole process

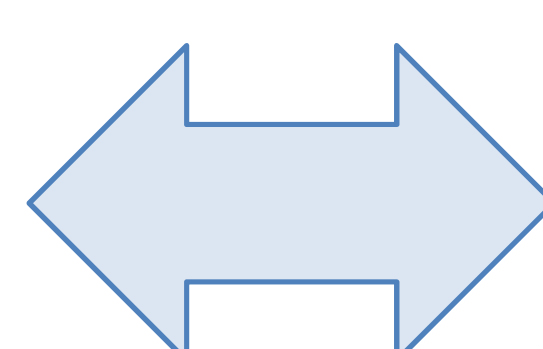
"We all agree that..." (feedbacks from 20 preliminary interviews)

...Sea and land are strongly physically and socially linked

- Water flows / pollution
- Human activities and installations
- Ecosystems and natural habitat
- Hydrosedimentary dynamics



Shared awareness of the necessity for an integrated governance



... Sea-land integrated governance has not been reached yet

- Perception of sea and land as opposed
- Gap in common knowledge between sea and land
- Diverging views mainly on relevant scales and priorities for management

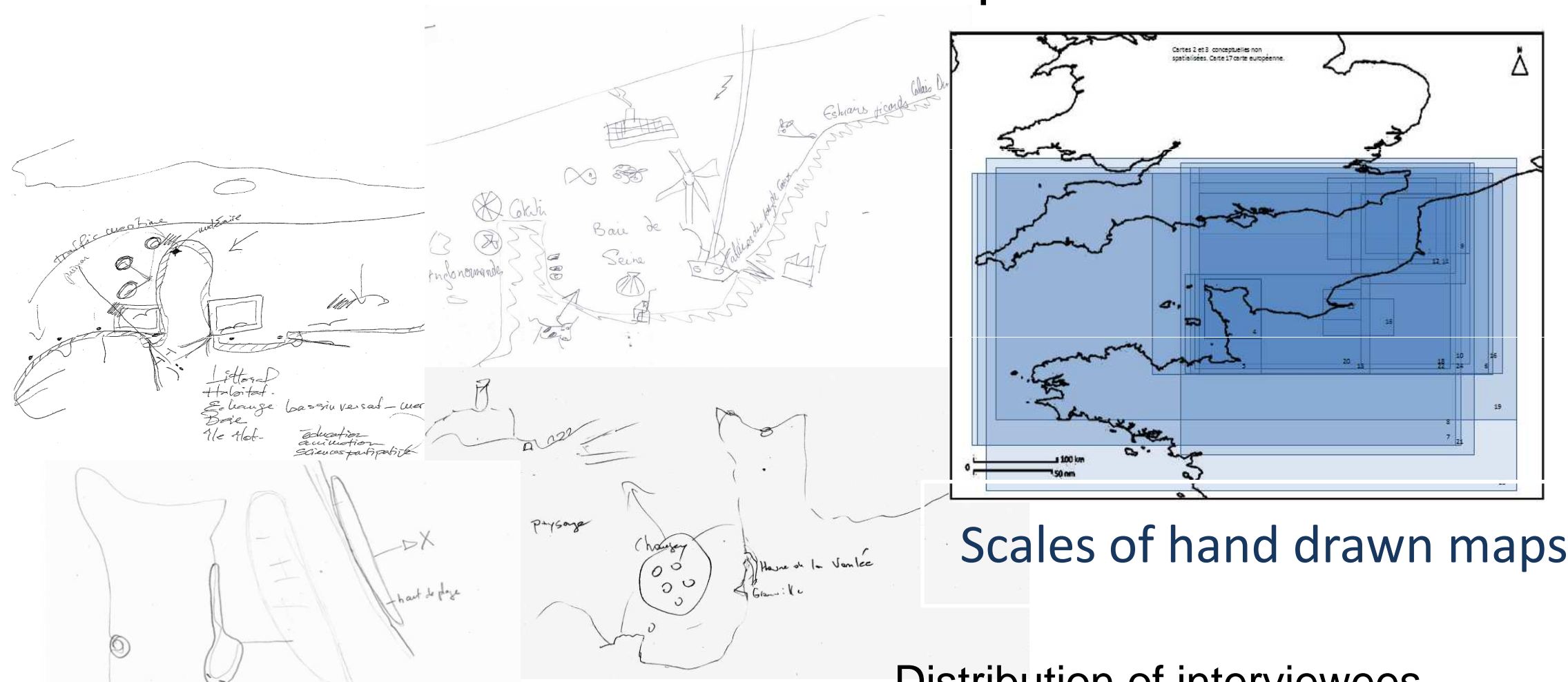


Exploring contrasting views and perspectives to grasp some limits of integrated governance (28 interviews /Eastern English Channel)

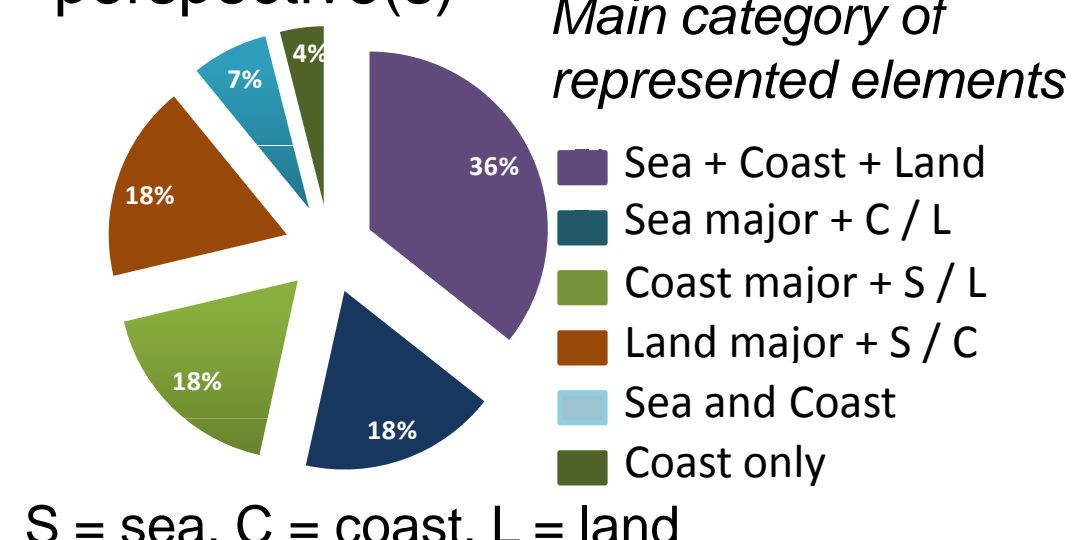
In terms of spatial scales

« Could you represent the area that correspond to your activity? »

⇒ 28 stakeholders' hand drawn maps



Distribution of interviewees, according to their major perspective(s)



S = sea, C = coast, L = land

In terms of references and knowledge

- «Objective» knowledge
- Personal and observed experience

In terms of personal perspectives

Analysis of the stakeholders' discourses

Description of 5 key relations:
time; space; sociability; knowledge; action.

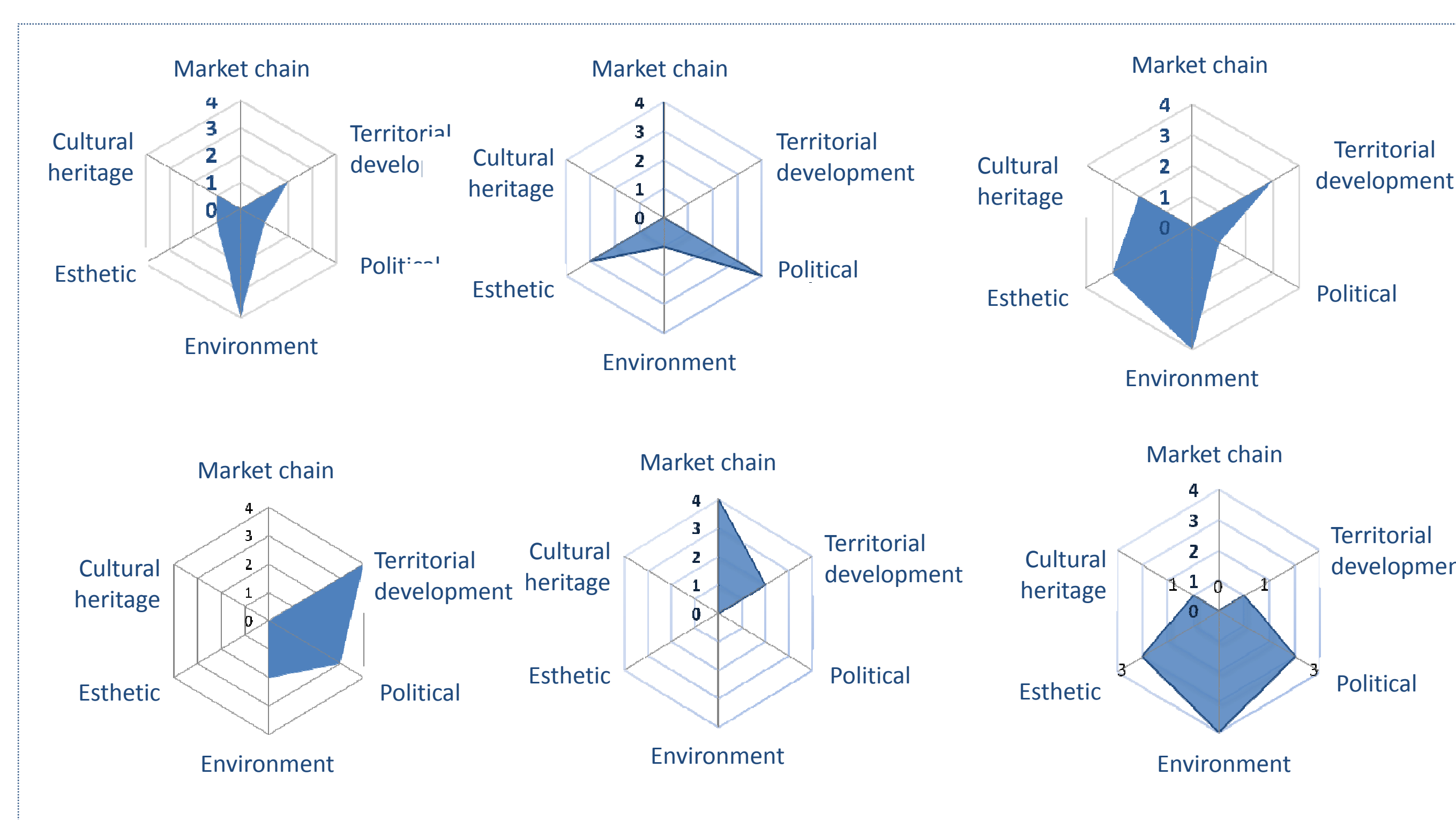
Ideal type profiles

- Market chain
- Territorial development
- Political

- Environment
- Esthetic
- Cultural heritage

28 observed profiles

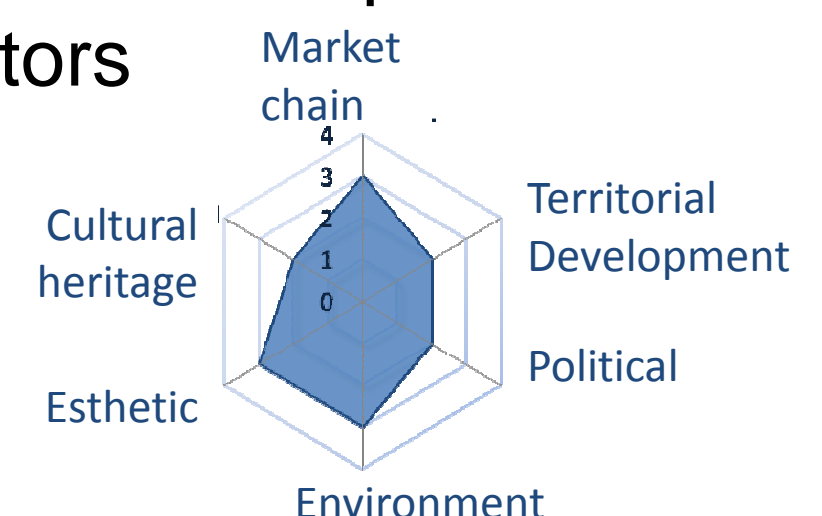
⇒ Typology of 6 complex profiles



• Most observed profiles are mixed profiles (including 3 different ideal types)

• Esthetic and cultural heritage as secondary dimensions of the profiles (env. and economic as major dimensions)

• Profiles revealing a few stakeholders as potential mediators



What lessons learned for integrated governance of sea-land interface ?

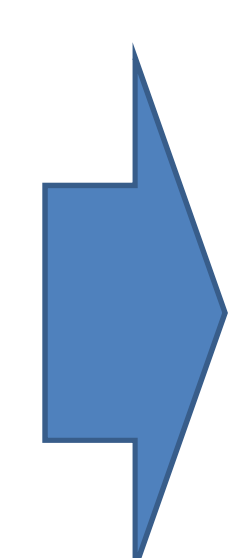
Considering that...

A few places open for discussion do exist...

⇒ Composites and potentially giving place to knowledge exchanges;

But with...

- Which effective capacity to link land and sea ?
- Which actual decision weight ? Which strategic approach ?



Next steps

⇒ Leading a reflexive analysis of the whole process (interviews + foresight exercise) to question...

- What potential evolution of the personal perspectives of participants ?
- How to explore mixed profiles and potential mediators to improve capacity for a common understanding to merge ?
- How transferable is the experience within the context of decision-making process ?