

ENCORA - Theme

Assessment of field observation techniques

initiative for a **Coordination Action** within the European coastal research **and practitioners community**

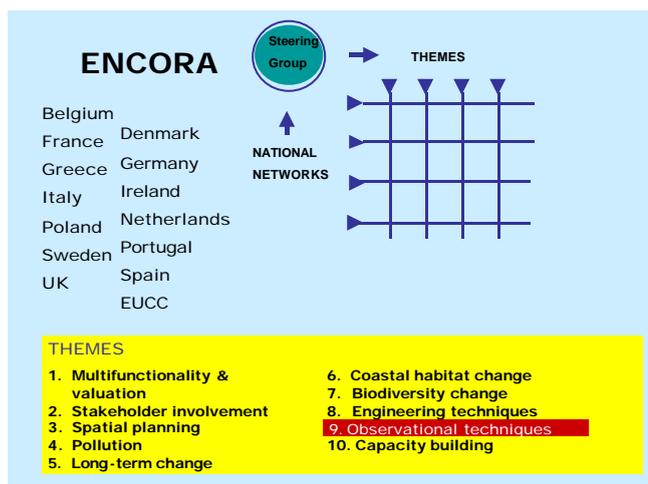
WHY ?

Collecting data representative for the state of the coastal environment is one prerequisite for successful management of the coastal zone but a costly and demanding task.

Recording hydrodynamic parameters in coastal areas is in most cases no longer a challenge; but recording parameters describing the chemical and ecological state is not yet solved in a manner that allows a routine reliable and affordable monitoring practice. The challenge is multiple - it is related to the selection of parameters to be measured; the analytical procedures to do the measurement; the technology of recording and transmitting; the conceptual approach of contextualizing the data.

WHAT ?

- ❑ **The primary objective of this theme is to spread tools and practices, useful in resolving observational problems in the coastal area, among the public and private sectors.**



The theme integrates and disseminates knowledge and experience on field observation techniques the different European countries.

HOW ?

The thematic network shall serve as a European platform for developers, engineers and users of field observation techniques, thus enhancing the scientific state of the art and offering new possibilities to commercial enterprises.

Special emphasis will be on the progress of remote-sensing techniques and remote-controlled measuring devices. This will include all aspects of construction, maintenance, calibration, and suitability for the practitioner. Other important aspects will be capacity building for sensor development and the interfacing between data from field observations and numerical models.

Proposed major co-ordinating activities

1. Survey

To conduct a survey on on-going development of new field observation techniques, the demands of the end users, and the possibilities for marketing such new techniques. The survey will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1, will consider the EU experience and Phase 2 will be oriented towards other international programs.

2. Development of comparative data-base

Based on the survey a comparative data-base on new observation techniques and institutions will be built.

3. Workshops and meetings

Workshops and meetings will be held to discuss:

- The needs for new field observation techniques and further development of existing methods with special reference to the requirements of EU directives
- Interfacing between field observation and models
- Validation and calibration of remote sensing techniques

The meetings will bring together academics, coastal managers, professionals and researchers in the field. The comparative data-base and previous experience will be the basis for discussion.

4. Establishment of a network on new field observation techniques within ENCORA including other possible international partners.

5. Establishment of an exchange program for students, scientists and practioners.

WHO ?

Theme lead

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