

→ **Editorial: Evaluating ENCORA progress**

The ENCORA Coordination Action has entered its second year. The first annual management and activity reports have been submitted to the Commission. The overall progress of ENCORA meets the expectations. Some activities have triggered directly an enthusiastic response (the Coastal Wiki, for instance), while others are becoming popular more slowly (such as the Contact Search service). All participating countries have established coastal networks and they have launched a national website for sharing knowledge and information among coastal professionals. Are the ENCORA services already well known and appreciated? What is needed to increase the effectiveness of these services? The ENCORA Portal has been visited over 100.000 times by more than 15000 visitors in the past four months. Were these visitors satisfied, did they find the information they were looking for? CoastNet, one of the ENCORA partners, will contact a broad group of users for an evaluation over the coming months. ENEWS will inform you later about the results.

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→ **Contact Database**

The registration forms for the ENCORA Contact Database can now be downloaded from the ENCORA portal. By registering you will be better known by your colleagues throughout Europe and they can more easily contact you. This can be helpful if you want to participate in European cooperation projects, or if you want to broaden your personal professional network. The Contact Data Base will continue growing, not only during the ENCORA project, but also afterwards. It is being hosted, maintained and updated by VLIZ, the Flanders Marine Institute.



→ Coastal Wiki

Participants of the ENCORA theme workshops are still adding their contributions to the Coastal Wiki (coastal and marine wikipedia). The Coastal Wiki is now open for visitors; by entering username: encora and password: encoravisit you may view the progress. The content list of the Coastal Wiki contains already a large number of topics. However, for many of them only a general definition is given and no article is available yet. If you are willing to contribute please contact info@encora.eu to join one of the ENCORA themes and obtain editing authorisation. We welcome your contribution!



→ FP7

Many consortia are preparing proposals for the first call of the EU Framework Programme. One of the proposals in preparation is a Support Action to extend and update the Coastal Wiki with results of recent and upcoming marine FP projects.

The FP7 interest list on the ENCORA Portal, www.encora.eu/documents/Fp7interest.pdf, has been consulted by many proposal leaders to form a well balanced consortium.

A few institutes have missed the opportunity to join the list and are still looking for partners:

- The Technical University Hamburg-Harburg seeks to establish a consortium for submitting a proposal “Insuleur Net” on Tourism and Environment at European Islands, topic ENV 2.1.4.2., contact t.albers@tuhh.de.
- The Indian NGO institute Anchorage (www.idigitalbridge.org) would like to participate as eligible non-EU partner in a proposal on environmental protection and management, contact asha@idigital.org.



→ Theme 1 Workshop The Socio-Economic Impacts on Coastal Zones and their Evaluation in a Context of ICZM

Over 50 participants from many EU countries attended the Theme 1 workshop in Venice, 12-13 March. Presentations highlighted different attempts to rationalize coastal zone management by means of valuation concepts. The proceedings are published on www.encora.corila.it/Events/Conference/News.html. Many different disciplines were represented, giving rise to interesting and sometimes passionate exchange of views. Participants also debated the Coastal Wiki, in particular questions related to the target audience and quality control. Agreements were made among the participants to produce a set of articles, which together will provide a substantial overview of the state of the art.





Theme 7 Workshop Marine Biological Evaluation

Because there is an ever increasing use of the marine environment, practitioners, stakeholders and policy makers request clear and simple baseline maps in order to allow them make well-deliberated choices: e.g. usage maps may be used to detect conflicts in spatial distribution of human activities, whereas sedimentology maps allow to deliberately identify suitable aggregate extraction zones. These maps are indispensable within the process of spatial planning. However, a protocol to develop baseline biological valuation maps, differentiating between the intrinsic values within an area, does not exist.

Consequently, when such maps are needed, one is often obliged to trust on the available best expert judgement.

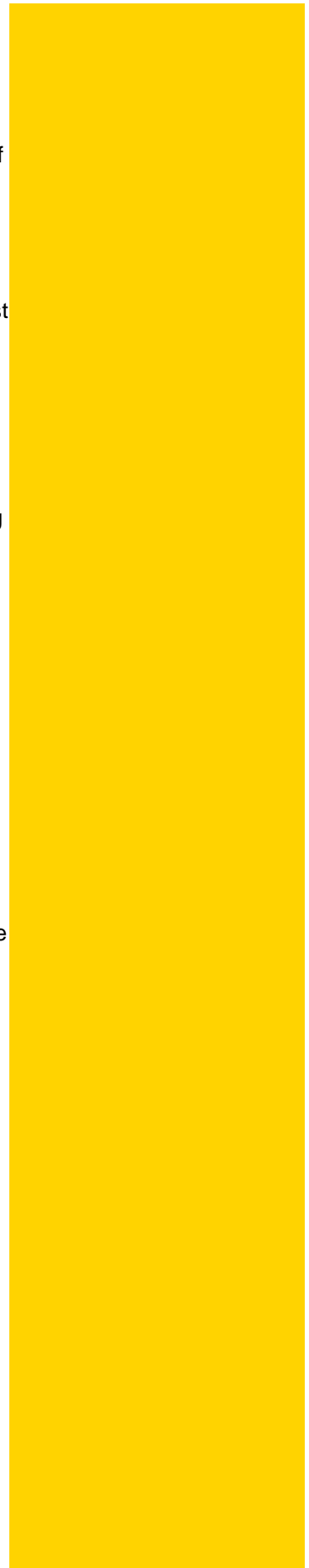
Taking the success of the terrestrial biological valuation maps of Flanders (Belgium) as an example, the MARBEF Theme III and ENCORA Theme 7 teams set the development of a widely applicable and scientifically acceptable valuation protocol for the marine and coastal environment as one of their major goals. Doing so, a prototype valuation concept and protocol was developed, making optimal use of (1) the lessons learned from the terrestrial valuation experts, (2) existing national initiatives and (3) existing international directives (e.g. Habitat Directive and European Marine Strategy).

During the workshop we wanted to make use of the expertise and thoughts on this subject of the participants. Only such wide and interactive cooperation might lead to a protocol that is widely accepted and applicable. The main objectives of the workshop were therefore:

- To have a general discussion on the prototype valuation concept and protocol, with emphasis on the applicability in marine/coastal habitats
- To come to a preliminary consensus on the biological valuation protocol
- To agree on the project outline and timing for the coming years
- To select case study areas for protocol testing and to make practical arrangements on these tests.

The workshop was very constructive and led to changes in the prototype biological valuation concept (selection of the valuation criteria and biodiversity elements which should be included in the concept) and suggestions were made for the practical application of this concept on case study areas by refining and updating the prototype valuation protocol. Also, agreements were made concerning the protocol testing on case study areas: which case study areas are already selected and which ones should be added to the list, which tests should be performed, who is responsible for the different case study areas, etc. The coastal WIKI tool which is developed in ENCORA will be used to disseminate the future developments in marine biological valuation to a wider scientific public and to show results of the biological valuation of the different case study areas. This is a very user-friendly tool which allows easy updating of a directory with new information.

Presentations and workshop report can be found on the ENCORA website in the 'Documents' section or on the [BeNCoRe website](#).





Launch of the African Marine Atlas

The Atlas for Africa (ODINAFRICA), developed by the Ocean Data and Information Network with support from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the Government of Flanders, provides substantial maps, images, data and information to coastal resource managers, planners and decision-makers from various administrative institutions and specialized agencies in Africa. It can be accessed at <http://iodeweb2.vliz.be/omap/OMAP/index.htm> . The Atlas will benefit national institutions and a variety of users such as environmentalists, local administrators, park managers, the scientific community, fishing cooperatives, tourists, hotelkeepers, teachers, NGOs, the general public, and any other interested persons. It has over 800 downloadable data products derived from the fields of marine geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere, geopolitical and the human socio-economic dimensions.



4-D Topography Evolution in Europe: Uplift, Subsidence and Sea-Level Change

Following an agreement with funding organisations in 19 countries, the European Science Foundation is launching a Call for Outline Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) to be undertaken within the EUROCORES Programme “4-D Topography Evolution in Europe: Uplift, Subsidence and Sea Level Change” (TOPO-EUROPE). The Programme will run for 3-4 years depending on national funding regulations and will include national research funding, as well as support for networking and dissemination activities provided by the ESF1. The Programme aims to support high-quality multidisciplinary research.

Information: www.esf.org/activities/eurocores/programmes/topo-europe.html



Colophon

The ENCORA objective is to facilitate and create new opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience on coastal issues in Europe. This electronic newsletter will inform you frequently about the activities and achievements of the network. Every issue will contain a section with news about your national network or ICZM related topics in your country.

This electronic newsletter may be forwarded freely to others working in the ICZM fields. If you would

like to receive the ENCORA
Newsletter directly, please contact
your national coordinator or
subscribe to www.encora.org.
News-items for publication can be
send to
encore@rikz.rws.minvenw.nl.