

→ **HAPPY 2008 – WELCOME TO A NEW ERA OF SHARED KNOWLEDGE AND COMMON ACTION**

Thomas Friedman, in his bestseller book 'The World is Flat', tells us that humankind is currently living through one of the most extraordinary revolutions in history. We usually think of revolutions as sanguinary events, after which most people return to their usual life.

This is not the type of revolution Friedman is talking about. This time there is no blood shedding and we don't return to our usual life. We face a new dimension of globalisation, which is more profound than the entwining of national economies and global environmental resources: it is the empowerment of individuals, affecting everyone - from the New York citizen to the inhabitant of the most remote village of China. New technologies: Internet, the World Wide Web, personal computers and wireless data transmission, enable all of us to access almost all information and knowledge existing on earth, to exploit this resource by developing and offering new services and to enrich this resource with our own knowledge and ideas. Information and communication are no longer monopolised by institutions; they have become a shared resource of all inhabitants of our planet. We all have to rethink our own position and prospects with respect to these new degrees of freedom.

The Coordination Action ENCORA is one of the initiatives targeted to the new era we are entering. It aims at offering facilities to the community of coastal and marine professionals, to exploit the new opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience and for developing new forms of cooperation. It is a bottom-up initiative with free membership, providing its members with new powers to actively contribute to better managing coastal and marine resources, at the local, national, European and global scale.

We therefore invite you to participate in 2008 in the initiatives of ENCORA: [the national and thematic coastal networks](#), the [Coastal and Marine Wikipedia](#), the [European Action Plan](#), the coastal and marine [Contact Database](#), the European [Contact Search](#), the [FP7 Interest List](#) and the [Young Professionals Exchange Programme](#). In 2008 we want to further expand and strengthen these services. Please visit and contribute to our [forums](#); we need your ideas and we need your drive.

International news is in this issue

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→ **COASTAL WIKI STREAMLINING**

After approximately 6 months of experience, an evaluation of the Coastal Portal and Wiki in July 2007 revealed the need for further improvements and more convenience for its users. This resulted in the 'Streamlining project' in the last few months of 2007. A great effort has been spent on restyling and upgrading the Coastal Wiki content by improving the 'category' structure, accessibility, coherence and readability of many articles. Moreover the technical upgrade involved implementation of the most recent MediaWiki software and a Content Management System.

The streamlining task has been commissioned by the Dutch Directorate of Water Management to Delft Hydraulics, which subcontracted large parts of the work to several other institutions and experts (University of Plymouth, Marine Biological Association, EUCC - the Coastal Union, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Marine Life Information Network, Coastnet and Dr. Pat Doody o.a.).

The revised Coastal Wiki has been [evaluated](#) by Dr. Stephen Olsen and co-workers from the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center (US). Their report contains many valuable recommendations and suggestions for further development of the Coastal Portal and Coastal Wiki, such as:

- More articles needed on policy processes
- Possible partnership with the Wikipedia
- Translation of key articles into other major languages of the EU
- Expanding the geographic scope of the Coastal Wiki to a worldwide tool and service
- More information on current issues (such as on climate change) to attract and involve universities and ICZM centres

The future developments of the Coastal Portal and Wiki will be addressed in the coming months. You are encouraged to give your input for this through the Coastal Portal Forum (see post 'Wiki' – [Jobs suggestions](#)).

We appreciate even more if you are willing to contribute to further updating and expanding the Coastal Wiki on topics that are not yet well covered. Please stimulate your colleagues to do the same!

How to contribute? Please go to:
[Contributions to the Coastal Portal Forum](#)
[Contributions to the Coastal Wiki](#)
[Contributions to articles that need expanding](#)

Please note that you need a login code and password for contributing to the Coastal Wiki. Many members of Encora have these already but if you do not have, please contact info@encora.eu





WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

[Observing System Requirements for Managing and Mitigating the Impacts of Human Activities and Coastal Inundation in the Mediterranean Region](#) , June 9-13, 2008, Athens, Greece

The first regional workshop of the series will focus on the specific needs, challenges and capabilities in the Mediterranean region. The differences in needs and capabilities among the different countries in the Mediterranean, which is a small-scale analogue of the situation that exists at the worldwide scale, make the Mediterranean an excellent (and more manageable) test case. Coastal inundation will be the "glue" that allows treatment of all of the issues mentioned in the prospectus of the Workshop series. Socio-economic issues will remain important in this and subsequent regional workshops (perhaps most important for Africa). Human activities and their impact on susceptibility to coastal flooding is a key issue.

The Workshop aims to enlist strong participation from the countries in northern Africa. It will be held in Athens, Greece.



OTHER COASTAL AND MARINE EVENTS

[EUCC Event List](#)



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