

→ EU POLICIES AND THE ACTION PLAN

By the end of 2007, shortly after the publication of the EU Maritime Policy ([the Blue Book](#)), the European parliament adopted the [Marine Strategy Directive](#). These two EU policy initiatives illustrate the renewed European interest for the sea and for maritime affairs, after a period of degradation of the marine environment and decline of maritime industries. Both complementary policies aim at harmonising and optimising existing national/regional sea-related policies and exploitation practices. Implementation actions include stock-taking, regulation, target setting, surveying, reporting, cooperation, awareness raising and sharing of data and practical experience. These actions promise a more sustainable and efficient use of marine resources.

The coastal and marine environment is becoming more and more heavily used, leading to conflicts between different interests that cannot be always be solved by general policies. One may think of conflicts such as:

- Hard protection structures or harbour development vs. loss of beaches or coastal wetlands;
- Sand/gravel mining (e.g. for coastal nourishment) vs. risk of habitat destruction;
- Offshore wind farms vs. wildlife disturbance;
- Navigation channel deepening vs. risk of habitat loss;
- Reducing eutrophication vs. loss of carrying capacity for certain species;
- Reducing salt intrusion vs. loss of biotopes;
- Fish farming (avoiding overfishing) vs. water quality and biodiversity risks;
- Antifouling vs. ecosystem health;
- Tourism vs. disturbance of habitats.

Even conflicts between different policy principles are sometimes unavoidable.

Solving such conflicts asks for a sound appraisal of sustainability, risks and interests and for devising tailor-made solutions. Therefore a profound understanding is needed of relevant processes and interactions, taking into account the different social, economic and natural dimensions and related spatial and temporal dimensions.

Major weaknesses in present knowledge and understanding are identified in the [European Action Plan](#), for which the foundation was laid at the Paris Conference of 5-7 December 2007. The proposed research actions contribute to better tackle issues such as illustrated in the above examples. The Action Plan therefore is an essential supplement to the new coastal and marine EU policies. A first draft Action Plan with a detailed elaboration of the theme workshop results will be available soon and sent around for broad consultation (by mailings and through the Portal). The final Action Plan will serve for guiding research investments at the European level. It will also provide a common focus for

cooperation among research programmes at national and institute levels across Europe.

International news is in this issue

- [EU POLICIES AND THE ACTION PLAN](#)
- [What's new in the YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME](#)
- [SPICOSA PROJECT DECIDED TO MAKE BETTER USE OF COASTAL WIKI](#)
- [GO TO NATIONAL NEWS](#)



→ [What's new in the YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME](#)

In 2007 the National Networks organised 11 events offering young coastal experts nice opportunities to exchange experience and to strengthen their personal international networks. Travel subsidies for attending these events were granted to 110 young coastal and marine professionals. In several issues of [Enews](#), participants reported their impressions, which were generally very enthusiastic. The Young Professional Exchange Programme (YPEP) clearly fulfils a highly valued function. In 2008, there are again on the [YPEP menu](#) a list of events of special interest to young professionals:

- the [NCK days](#) which are also meet and greet days of the ENCORA-NL network, organised by the new coastal institute Deltares in Delft (27/28 March);
- the [Spring School on Water Management Issues in Coastal Areas](#) by the French network at Marennes d'Oleron (31 March-4 April);
- the 2nd annual I-CoNet conference <mailto:c.omahony@ucc.ie> on "Planning Challenges and Opportunities for Ireland's Coast" co-organised with the "Northern Ireland Coastal and Marine Forum" at Derry, Ireland (10-11 April);
- [Second CoastLab Course](#) by the Portuguese network PoCoast in Porto (9-11 April);
- the [1st PoCoast Seminar](#) on Coastal Research, also organised by PoCoast in Porto (26-28 May);
- the [2nd BENCORE Conference](#) on Geographic Information Systems in Coastal and Marine Research and Management, by the Belgian network in Leuven (30 May);
- [Short Course and Workshop on Applied Coastal Research](#) by the Italian network in Lecce (20-24 June);
- Seminar on the Black Sea & the Sea of Azov Coastal Zone by the Ukrainian network in July;
- Seminar on Coastal Zone Dynamics of Tideless Seas by the Russian network in Kaliningrad (1-4 July);
- Seminar on Coastal Science and Global Change by the Spanish network in July.

Young coastal professionals are particularly welcome at these events. The conditions for obtaining travel grants and application forms are on the [Coastal Portal](#)





SPICOSA PROJECT DECIDED TO MAKE BETTER USE OF COASTAL WIKI

ENCORA has started to promote the Coastal Wiki as an information management and dissemination tool among related projects. SPICOSA is among the first ones that have decided to go for it. The FP6 project [SPICOSA](#) aims to develop a self-evolving, holistic research approach and to support tools for the assessment of policy options for sustainable management through a balanced consideration of the ecological, social and economic aspects of coastal zone systems. It involves the cooperation of 54 institutions across coastal Europe and is producing vast amounts of models, handbooks, reports, surveys etc that need to be developed in a collaborative fashion and should be made available to the coastal community. The potential role of the Coastal Wiki is obvious.

At the Scientific Steering Committee in Paris on 6 and 7 March, it was decided to make much better use of the Wiki and to pave the way for closer cooperation between ENCORA and SPICOSA. Other Coastal Portal functions are also considered for use by SPICOSA. Watch out for SPICOSA traces on the ENCORA website!



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.