

→ **DON'T MISS LITTORAL**

The biennial [Littoral conference](#) is THE European ICZM networking event for the coastal community. This year it will take place in Venice, 25-28 November 2008. Projects on coastal issues all around Europe take advantage of the event to present and discuss recent development in coastal management and research results with colleagues involved in similar issues and to organise project meetings.

ENCORA has chosen to join Littoral for its final meeting. Achievements of and future benefit of ENCORA will be presented at the regular conference sessions. A few special sessions will also be organised where networking experience will be shared in an interactive way. These sessions are organised around the themes:

- Tools and practices for collaborating with remote partners
- How to take best advantage of networking
- Using the Coastal Wiki as a tool for sharing knowledge and experience
- Common coastal challenges (European Action Plan)
- Organising public participation

Littoral participants are most welcome to join these sessions. You are invited to make an oral contribution to these sessions. Contributions related to the above themes will be published in the [Coastal Wiki](#). We would like to receive short abstracts to prepare these sessions. Please [send us](#) your abstract before 31 May. Young professionals may request an [YPEP](#) grant for participating in LITTORAL.

On Friday 28 November the (new) European Coastal Platform on ICZM will be inaugurated. This Platform builds on the achievements of ENCORA and other networks, such as EUCC and CoastNet. It will link existing ICZM networks and provide a long-lasting frame for cooperation on ICZM issues in Europe.

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→ **ICZM : google becomes WEBSEARCH**

The Coastal Wiki is growing fast, though not all coastal and marine topics are covered yet. Therefore an additional search option is offered on the ENCORA Portal. This facility, called [Websearch](#), has recently

been renewed. It is very similar to a Google search – it uses, among others, the Google functionality – but it is based on a selection of highly relevant coastal and marine websites. This allows a substantial reduction of the redundancy of spurious hits produced by a usual Google search.

The selected websites are subdivided in several categories: ENCORA network websites, governmental websites, non-governmental websites, coastal and marine information portals, coastal and marine project portals and websites of research organisations. There is a possibility to search in each category separately or create any desired combination.

Are you familiar with a relevant website missing in the Websearch selection? You may then bring this website to our attention through the ENCORA portal, for inclusion in the websearch facility. Your colleagues will be grateful for helping with their information search.



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### → **ENCORA ambassador at work!**

Xenia I. Loizidou is working for the Greek ENCORA network as an ambassador. It is a special job:

"Non-traditional actions like Integrated Coastal Zone Management are still unfamiliar to people and frequently resisted. Locals, especially in the Mediterranean, want to have massive coastal tourism development, which gives quick profit. The coastal area is a natural resource with huge monetary value; therefore it is not easy to implement ICZM. Inappropriate policies, inappropriate management schemes and infrastructure failed to make sustainable development an effective option. Awareness raising coupled with appropriate policy decisions should be strengthened.

My work to promote the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management as ENCORA Ambassador is focused in Greece and Cyprus, since I am currently working in both countries (there isn't yet a Cyprus National ENCORA Network). We promote ICZM in Greek and Cypriot tourist coastal areas by explaining that *the degradation of the environment results in the degradation of the tourist industry itself with knock-on effects in other industries. Over-development and environmental degradation have led to the loss of the appeal of many tourist areas, resulting in a shift from economic prosperity to economic decay.*

My approach is to go on-site, get involved with local communities, talk/inform and directly engage stakeholders, participate in their events, rather than expect them to come to the "experts". In brief, I have applied the following methodology:

- Locate the NGOs who could support the effort. NGOs are the backbone of society. Their support is important. Several NGOs support our effort.
- Locate events that take place in towns, villages, Greek islands. Participate in the events, present the benefits of ICZM, of sustainable development, discuss and promote further with decision makers (mainly local authorities) and other stakeholders.
- An important task was the setting up of a team of experts, who can support this kind of campaign, who are aware of the issue of sustainable development, and can discuss, make presentations, support the locals

to find information.

The results from the first year have been encouraging. The effort for implementing ICZM is a slow, but an on-going process. Gradually society becomes more aware, decision makers become more pressured and as a result coastal development becomes more integrated and sustainable!"

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### **ECHOES FROM YPEP COASTLAB**

In April four Italian young professionals, Alberto Marini (University of Catania), Giovanni Paratore (University of Reggio Calabria), Nevio Usai (Sardegna Region) and Mouncef Sedrati (University of Ferrara) participated in the Second CoastLab School held in Porto (09-11 April 2008). These are their comments to the YPEP activity:

Alberto Marini: "I'm very happy to have the opportunity to attend the Second CoastLab Course on physical modeling of movable bed experiments. Indeed, as my research activity is focused on the study of the morphodynamics of a sand pit, it provided me many useful information for my PhD thesis, such as several scaling models that could be usefully used also in the facility of the University of Catania. The technical visit scheduled for the second day gave me the opportunity to see several coastal engineering works developed to protect the shoreline against the impact of very height energy waves, such as oceanic waves.

Finally, the interaction with PhD Students with different experiences with respect to mine were important to better develop my research activity."

Giovanni Paratore: "My participation at the Second CoastLab Course on was an intense experience. The activities, lectures and technical visit, were focused to give to the researchers a strong base on the physical modelling, which at the present day remains a valid instrument in spite of numerical models supported by unstoppable increase performance of the computer.

Moreover the ideas exchanged with the other colleagues coming from different countries and different fields of professional application help me to have a wider point of view on the way to solve the daily problems that I meet during the laboratory experiments.

The Encora financial benefit helps me to attend this Course and certainly it encourages me to take part to future activities."

Nevio Usai: "The course gave me the opportunity to focalize my attention on the issues related to the modeling of physical phenomena in coastal environment. This is one of the countless issues which a planner should analyze and understand for the implementation of integrated management of coastal areas.

During the two days of course, and during the technical visit along the Northwestern Coast of Portugal (Porto, Espinho, Aveiro and Costa Nova) I had the opportunity to see some practical cases of studies and to learn more about the utilization of physics and mathematics models to understand, represent, or forecast physics phenomena in coastal zone. During the days of the course I also had the opportunity to discuss with young researchers and professionals and to share our experiences in the field of Integrated Coastal Management.”



#### **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](http://www.encora.org). News-items for publication can be send to [encore@rikz.rws.minvenw.nl](mailto:encore@rikz.rws.minvenw.nl).