

SPRING UNIVERSITY OF THE RFRC

The 2008 edition of the spring university of the RFRC took place in Marennes Oléron from March 31st to April 4th. All conferences were held in French. Its theme was “Relationships between scientists and decision makers”. 22 students, including 7 foreign trainees, attended it. Their curriculum were quite various:

- 2 of them were students of the master “Environment and littoral regions” at the University of La Rochelle;
- 6 were students of the master “Sustainable development, conflict of uses, and integrated coastal zone management” at the University of Nantes;
- 2 came from an engineer curriculum, with specialty “Fishing and coastal zone management” at the ENSAR of Rennes;
- 1 was from the master “Integrated development of littorals” at the University of Dunkerque;
- 4 came from the master “Politics and development in Africa and South countries” at the University of Bordeaux;
- 1 was a PhD student at the ENAP of Montreal (Québec, Canada) and her topic of research was “Analysis of public policies and management”;
- 3 students came from a master in sciences of sea at the University of Oran (Algeria);
- 2 were PhD students in geology applied to the environment, from the University of Tunis (Tunisia);
- 1 was a PhD student in oceanography from the University of Rabat (Marocco).

The North Africa network of Encora (Nafcoast) was a lot involved in this event, with the participation of 3 of its members, apart from the 6 students.

During this week, the students were invited to take part in a lot of conferences and events: the Liteau annual seminar (Liteau is a research program of the French ministry of ecology, which main theme is the management of littorals in all its elements), an inter-regional day of discussion dedicated to integrated coastal zone management, the steering committee of the ICZM project of the region of Marennes-Oléron and they were faced to the stakes and difficulties of the integration of scientific knowledge to the benefit of local territories through some site visits. This week was also the occasion for the participants to meet and discuss their points of view on ICZM, and everyone enjoyed the quality of the debates.

The students were asked to work in small groups (three of four persons) to make a synthesis of the week, with one main topic proposed by their supervisors. The last half day was dedicated to the presentation of their work, which was quite good. An article will be published with a synthesis of their projects in a French ICZM journal.

