



## THE COASTLEARN NEWSLETTER

### Issue no. 1

### February 2005

**The CoastLearn Newsletter is a periodical electronic publication edited by the CoastLearn consortium with the objective of informing Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) experts and trainers about latest developments of the CoastLearn tool, the relevant ICZM policy context, and communication related activities in Europe and neighbouring countries**

#### 1. Editorial

Many readers are already aware of what CoastLearn is - a distance Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) vocational training package available on-line, free of charge on [www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org) or on CD-ROMs. For those of you who learn for the first time about this tool, we strongly suggest that you visit the above mentioned website, where this user friendly tool is available in multiple languages! In any case, most you are not up to date on the latest CoastLearn developments. This is one of the purposes of this newsletter: to inform about project progress.

The recent evaluation procedures in the primary CoastLearn target countries (Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean) have shown that the training package although not yet fully developed, is already a powerful training tool and a starting point for the learning process. Efforts should continue to make the tool even more powerful and divers. This Newsletter provides the opportunity to all readers of getting actively involved in shaping this learning tool and increasing its application. We also hope to extend and strengthen the network of ICZM teachers, communicators and practitioners from governmental and non-governmental institutions alike.

#### 2. CoastLearn News

##### **Try out CoMPAS – the CoastLearn simulation game!**

ICZM has a strong practical component; it is about putting management ideas into practice. Therefore, during the development of CoastLearn, it became clear that an essential part of the learning objectives would have to be related to *the experience of being a coastal manager*. From this starting point the idea of developing a simulation game was born. The user of the game would have to experience in the role of a coastal manager the continuing struggle of serving different areas of interest like the coastal economy, ecology and society.

During the past two years, members of the simulation game core group have been developing such a simulation game which is now called CoMPAS (*Coastal Management Practices for Achieving Sustainability*). It is a yet basic simulation game where the user has to manage a coastal area for about 20 years. Based on budget arising from taxes the user can allocate the money to different sectors in such a way that a sustainable coastal area will develop. Whether a user is successful in this depends on wise use of funds....

The game is downloadable in English and Russian at the CoastLearn web site free of charge (and directly at the

URL below). The idea is to further develop it in future to make the allocation model more realistic, although the main idea of the game (to give insight into essential processes related to sustainable coastal development) is already fully represented in the current version. The game will be soon translated to other CoastLearn languages.

(<http://www.netcoast.nl/coastlearn/website/compas/index.htm>)

### **CoastLearn translated to Romanian language**

Recently, CoastLearn was partially translated in Romanian language for making it more easily understandable by all Romanian target groups (coastal managers, planners, coordination bodies, students, researchers, etc.). The distance vocational training package on ICZM fulfills the requirements for improving people's knowledge in the field of ICZM in order to create a common understanding of this process among the Romanian coastal practitioners and stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

CoastLearn is a unique ICZM vocational education tool in Romania and for a number of reasons there is an essential need for translation of all its modules. One of the most important reasons is that the Romanian government has created the legal basis for ICZM but the process of outlining the National Strategy for ICZM, in compliance with EU Recommendation concerning the implementation of ICZM, is still under development and most of the stakeholders at national and local level have different views and understandings of coastal management and how this process should be undertaken.

In this respect it is important to promote CoastLearn to the main actors involved in coastal zone management for sustaining their efforts to get a consensus for implementing in proper manner the ICZM process in Romania.

Moreover, CoastLearn might play an important role in the Romanian educational system by introducing CoastLearn modules in the ICZM Master course in Romanian universities. This idea will be paid specially attention in the near future with the objective of creating new expertise among the young generation of coastal managers.

The Romanian version of CoastLearn is available on the internet, free of charge at the following address: <http://www.coastlearn.ro> or via the CoastLearn website [www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org).

### **CoastLearn translated to Greek language**

Over the last few months the process of producing a Greek version of CoastLearn is under progress, lead by our Greek partner NAGREF Fisheries Research Institute. The launching of the Greek version will be timely announced by following newsletter issues. This effort responds to the great acceptance that the CoastLearn Turkish and French versions are having in the Mediterranean region, what confirms that our approach of facilitating CoastLearn in national languages is one of the strengths of this tool.

### **Development of trans-national networks**

The CoastLearn consortium includes twenty partners from 14 countries. This strong partnership is the basis of the CoastLearn network. CoastLearn partners have compiled in the CoastLearn dissemination plan an extensive list of coastal municipalities, professionals, coastal management trainers, NGOs and other stakeholders involved on coastal issues at a national level. Brochures, CD ROMs and now, the CoastLearn Newsletter will keep this network informed on CoastLearn developments as well as coastal management issues and training tendencies at different levels. The network will become operational through an internet based discussion platform. The national networks will be in the coming months linked at a regional seas level. The final step will be to link these Regional Seas networks with the support of the Regional Sea programmes (HELCOM, MAP and BSEP). This network will provide a forum for discussion, information exchange and the further development and dissemination of ICZM approaches in coastal areas all over Europe and beyond. Meanwhile, efforts are being focused on extending the partnership to other areas as e.g. the southern Mediterranean region.

## **3. ICZM policy context**

### **An ICAM Protocol for the Mediterranean: stress on capacity building**

Under the auspices of the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, the PAP/RAC of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), CoastLearn partner, organised a Forum to discuss the need and the feasibility of a Mediterranean Protocol on Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) with a wide number of stakeholders.

The meeting, held on 28 and 29 May in Cagliari, Italy, followed the recommendation of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention (12th meeting, November 2001, Monaco) to prepare a feasibility study concerning a regional legal instrument on the sustainable management of coastal areas. The ICAM Protocol would represent a further step in the actions to be taken for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention. The definition of legal provisions for Integrated Coastal Area Management for the Mediterranean could help reverting the rapid trend of loss of natural, landscape and economic values of this fragile ecosystem due mainly to the impacts of fisheries, pollution, tourism and erosion. The Forum participants, in particular the country representatives, stressed the need that such a protocol is to be accompanied by ICZM capacity building measures that will ensure its implementation. CoastLearn, available in French and Turkish, and the MedOpen programme of the PAP/RAC should be valuable tools to achieve this objective.

#### 4. ICZM training news

##### UNESCO-IHE prepares ICZM seminar

From April 11 to 21, the 15th ICZM seminar will be organized at UNESCO-IHE. The seminar aims to address the need for an integrated approach to solving problems in the coastal zone and for letting the participants experience that a multi disciplinary approach is vital for sustainable development. Core elements are the theoretical ICZM framework, a simulation game, case studies and a fieldtrip. For more information on participation contact Mick van der Wegen at [m.vanderwegen@unesco-ihe.org](mailto:m.vanderwegen@unesco-ihe.org) or see <http://www.ihe.nl/vmp/articles/Short-Courses/SHO-WE-ICZM.html>.

##### EUCC Germany organises ICZM Summer School

The summer school on "Coastal and Marine Management" in Warnemunde along the German Baltic coast from 5 to 17 September 2005 will provide the opportunity to

- deepen the understanding of the functioning and behaviour of regional sea ecosystems,
- broaden the knowledge on natural and anthropogenic influences on coastal seas,
- familiarize with recent developments, pressures and problems in coastal and marine systems,

- get an overview of administrative, legal and planning frameworks,
- receive an insight in applied research and practical coastal management.

It will introduce the course participants to the "IKZM Lernen" (<http://www.ikzm-d.de>) and CoastLearn methodology and improve their didactics skills by teaching them how to develop online information modules themselves.

##### EUCC Mediterranean Centre will coordinate an Erosion Management Course

EUCC Mediterranean Centre, lead partner of the CoastLearn consortium, and the Hydraulic and Water Resources Institute/Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (IHRH/FEUP, Portugal) are organising an international Erosion Management Course that will be held on September 5-10, 2005 at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Porto, Portugal ([www.fe.up.pt](http://www.fe.up.pt)).

The main issue is how to make coastal erosion problems and risks manageable. The course aims at providing practical, science-based training to coastal engineers, planners, and managers, trying to bridge the gap existing between practitioners and researchers. Such an initiative tailored to provide insights into best practices for coastal erosion management comes at the right moment, coinciding with the release of the conclusions -findings and recommendations- of the European Union EUROSION study. This international course will be based on CoastLearn and on the EUROSION deliverables, and will be followed-up by a series of Mediterranean countries focused ones in various languages.

#### 5. Discussion Forum

The first version of CoMPAS, the CoastLearn simulation game, has been developed and is now downloadable for free at [www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org). Initial users of the game have stated that the game " ...even provoked some eagerness to play the game to the end". At this point in time it would be nice to discuss with all of you, CoastLearn end users, the future development of the game. We will very much appreciate your active input to the discussion that will take place from 4th to 15th April at the CoastLearn discussion

platform at <http://www.coastlearn.org/platform.htm>; the discussion will be moderated by Mick van Wegen from UNESCO-IHE (UNESCO Institute for Hydraulic Engineering, Delft, NL).

More in particular, we want to put forward the following statement for discussion: *After playing the game the user is aware of the key issue in ICZM, namely the assumption that sustainable development is reached only when there is equilibrium between economy, environment and society.* This statement does not necessarily reflect our opinion but it is meant to start the discussion.

Although the game is not yet perfect (the model parameters could be adjusted to make the game more

challenging; there could be an evaluation at the end stating whether the gamer did a good job or not...) and adjustments could be made in that respect, the main goal of the game is clear.

If you want us to improve CoMPAS all you need to do is download the game, play it and join our discussion giving suggestions to make it more complete and nicer! Your suggestions will be seriously considered for the next CoMPAS version!

## - COLOPHON -

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This Newsletter has been produced with the financial support of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Commission. Sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors.

