



# COASTLEARN

## THE COASTLEARN NEWSLETTER

### Issue no. 3

### December 2005

**The CoastLearn Newsletter is a periodical electronic publication edited by the CoastLearn consortium under the leadership of EUCC – The Coastal Union 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

The CoastLearn networking project funded by the Netherlands Agency of the Leonardo da Vinci Programme is drawing to an end. The project has achieved its major goals, as an independent evaluation conducted in all countries of the project partnership has shown: two new CoastLearn modules have been developed, translated into 9 languages and are being positively assessed. Many professionals in the field of ICZM training and practice have increased their network through CoastLearn and the Europe-wide network is expected to grow with further dissemination of the training programme and this Newsletter, which has received good marks as well in the evaluation.

The evaluation has also shown, that previously developed modules, now available thanks to the Leonardo Programme in many more languages, are very well received. The overwhelming majority of our users are content or very content with the language and structure of CoastLearn. Nearly 95 percent think that the tool is relevant to their country, a result, which we are particularly proud of, as we seemed to have managed the nearly impossible task of bridging cultures, socio-political contexts and natural conditions in countries as far apart as Estonia and Turkey or Great Britain and Romania. We are also proud of the obvious versatility of our product. The tool is regarded as appropriate to our main target groups – coastal managers and NGOs – but just as well university staff and students.

One of the trademarks of CoastLearn is its emphasis on using practice examples for illustrating concepts. The evaluators confirmed that we have achieved our goal: The vast majority of respondents found them illustrative and thought there are enough of them. But still: asked for

possible improvements, the most frequent answer was “more practice examples”! The second most frequent answer was “more simulation exercises”, which proved our point that CoMPAS, the CoastLearn simulation game, was an important endeavour to embark on and a first step for meeting the need for such innovative forms of teaching in ICZM.

The overall verdict of CoastLearn is split almost exactly into two fractions: about half of CoastLearn users are of the opinion that CoastLearn is an innovative and exciting learning tool today, the other half think it should be improved but that it is already a practical tool and promising. Well, we understand CoastLearn as a process and there will always be room for improvement so we should not get complacent. With the help of our growing partnership and the support of sponsors, we are determined to continue our mission!

*Irene Lucius and Carolina Perez, EUCC*

#### 2. Coastlearn News

##### **CoastLearn becoming standard tool for consultancies**

The concept of Integrated Coastal Area (or Zone) Management is being developed and applied in most coastal countries in the world and it seems it will stay that way. The EU is stimulating Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) through its coastal policy and strategy, demonstration programmes, monitoring projects for member states, accession countries, neighbouring countries and in the framework of the technical assistance programme EuropeAid. Moreover, other international organisations such as the World Bank, GEF, UNEP, UNDP, AfDB, or AsD are supporting ICZM as well. Bilateral programmes through Trust Funds or on the basis of

Memoranda of Understanding are adding considerable funds, as in the case of Romania and Ukraine. Regional Sea Programmes like the Caspian Environmental Programme, the Black Sea Commission and the Mediterranean Action Programme play an important role in this process as well. More and more attention is being given to lessons learned and their dissemination to other projects, such as the UNEP/GPA Train-Sea-Coast initiative or the TRAIN-X Training Programme of the United Nations.

International consultancies play an important role in the execution of these programmes. They facilitate methodology development, knowledge transfer and organisational support in Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region, South-East Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, particularly aiming at coastal local authorities.

CoastLearn has been used by international consultancies active in this field for several years for example in Georgia, Ukraine, Romania, Jordan or Eritrea. It is being promoted among the Regional Sea Programmes to be included in their training initiatives as well.

As these projects are focussing on methodology development, capacity building and practical management issues, they aim at reaching out to coastal professionals and decision makers working in the coastal zone, which is not an easy task as the training infrastructure for these target groups are rarely in place. Especially in Central and Eastern Europe professional education, well developed under the Soviet system, almost fully collapsed. CoastLearn is very well developed instrument and easy for consultancies and governments to include in programmes for Integrated Coastal Management.

One of the problems the distribution of CoastLearn is facing is limited access to the internet. That is the reason the CD version is so important. For the sustainability of the project it will be very important to set up regional 'ICZM training of trainers' programmes for the consolidation of the use and impact of CoastLearn.

*Rieks Bosch, Bosch Eco Consult <bosch014@wxs.nl>*

### **CoastLearn introduced in Erasmus Mundus European Joint Master in Water and Coastal Management**

In December 2005, the EUCC Mediterranean Centre delivered the module "General Tools for Coastal Management" at the *Erasmus Mundus European Joint Master in Water and Coastal Management* at Cádiz University in Spain. 22 master students from 16 different countries (5 of them European) had the opportunity to go through a full lecture devoted to CoastLearn, and carry out a practice exercise in small groups with CoMPAS, the CoastLearn simulation game.

Students evaluated CoastLearn by filling in a questionnaire. Reactions such as "I think is a very good tool for teaching and learning and also for making people, who don't work on coastal planning, realize what makes ICZM so complex and important" have been encouraging for the CoastLearn partnership. Students' suggestions for how to improve the game as for contents and interface will be taken into account for future versions.

The "Erasmus Mundus European Joint Master in Water and Coastal Management" aims to train managers for Integrated River-Basin and Coastal Zone Management. The consortium includes leading European Research institutions: the University of Algarve (coordinator); the

University of Bergen; the University of Cádiz and the University of Plymouth. This is a subset of an expanding network of European universities that already collaborate in an ERASMUS Masters network. The application of CoastLearn in this Master course fulfils part of the trans-national network objective of this distance training tool.

*Carolina Perez, e-mail: c.perez@eucc.net*  
*More information: <http://www.ualg.pt/EUMScWCM>*

### **CoastLearn CD ROM version 3 now available**

The Version 3, 2005 of CoastLearn is now available. 3000 CD ROMs have been produced with 10 languages versions of CoastLearn (English, Russian, Polish, French (partially), Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Romanian, Greek and Turkish). In order to facilitate its country base dissemination, national CD ROMs have been burnt in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Romania, Greece and Croatia. The Version 3, 2005 contains among others the latest version of the Sustainable Tourism module and CoMPAS (Coastal Management Practices to Achieve Sustainability), the CoastLearn simulation game.

For the international version contact: [med@eucc.net](mailto:med@eucc.net)  
For national versions please contact the CoastLearn national partner (see [www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org)).

*Carolina Perez, e-mail: c.perez@eucc.net*

### **Sustainable Tourism Module downloadable as hard copy in English.**

The final English version of the CoastLearn sustainable tourism module can now be downloaded as a PDF document from [www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org). This initiative intends to counteract internet access limitations as well as facilitate the study of the module. Even though the paper version limits inter-activity, some users demanded it in order to support the possibility to study the module at any place and time. The CoastLearn partnership is pleased to have been able to respond to this demand.

*Carolina Perez, e-mail: c.perez@eucc.net*

### **The CoastLearn Simulation Game – status-quo and outlook**

E-learning tools for computers open new ways of interactivity – games are a good example. They trigger the interest of the user and challenge the 'Gamer' to come up with an optimum game result. While doing so, they sub-consciously develop awareness for complex problems and ways of how these could be solved.

Within the framework of CoastLearn, a simulation game, CoMPAS, was developed, that aims to stimulate the Gamer's awareness for the complexity of ICZM. By investing money in an appropriate way for a certain area, 'the Gamer', has to gain an optimum profit in terms of income per capita, environmental quality, and human development. This touches the principles of ICZM where balance is sought amongst different disciplines that are related to the development of the coastal zone.

The Leonardo project delivered a stand-alone simulation game that can be downloaded free of charge and used in any educational setting for training ICZ managers. A typical game will take 10-15 minutes. This first version is

kept deliberately rather straightforward. The user should be able to play the game with only limited time available, so that he/she recognises the essence of ICZM ('an ongoing struggle with limited resources to gain sustainable coastal development').

Of course the possibilities of the game can be extended, and the underlying principles could be clarified more. Future projects should focus on a more complex underlying system and even the possibility of involving multiple 'Gamers' in a run. However, the essential message of the game, that Coastal Zone Management concerns a balanced decision-making amongst various sustainable alternatives, will stay the same.

*Mick van der Wegen,  
e-mail: m.vanderwegen@unesco-ihe.org*

### 3. ICZM policy context

#### **Barcelona Convention conference supports sustainable development goals for Mediterranean**

The 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention) took place in Portoroz (Slovenia), from 8 to 11 November 2005. As previously reported, this event was used to raise awareness about CoastLearn among participants and their delegations.

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was adopted during the conference. The strategy being a framework document has four main objectives:

- Enhance and build on the Mediterranean assets,
- Reduce disparities by fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals,
- Ensure sustainable management of natural resources by changing consumption and production patterns
- Improve governance at the local, national and regional level.

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and the European Commission launched a joint work programme to strengthen their mutual cooperation on a wide range of Mediterranean environmental and sustainable development issues.

For the achievement of these goals and programmes, CoastLearn will certainly have a role to play.

### 4. ICZM training news

#### **CoastLearn helps building ICZM capacity in Nador, Morocco**

EUCC – The Coastal Union and three Moroccan partner organisations (the NGO FUED, the university institute ENFI, and the municipality of Boudinar) have started implementing an Integrated Coastal Management project

in the Moroccan province of Nador. The area is rich in biodiversity, which is threatened by unsustainable forms of land use. The overall goal of the project is to promote sustainable development in the coastal area of the province through the establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Action with civil society participation. For the capacity building element of the project, the partners will make intensive use of CoastLearn, complemented by workshops and ad-hoc advice to key professionals. The project receives funding from the European SMAP III programme for the Mediterranean

*Carolina Perez, e-mail c.perez@eucc.net*

#### **PAP/RAC at SMAP workshops in Algeria and Syria**

In the framework of the Regional Euro-Mediterranean Programme for the Environment (SMAP) a series of national workshops "Environmental Policy Integration and SMAP III" are being organised in various Mediterranean countries by the APAT-Syke Consortium. The Priority Action Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan has contributed to the workshops in Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, and Damascus, Syria. The Centre promotes the integrated coastal area management (ICAM) approach and in particular the process and details related to the preparation of the ICAM Protocol for the Mediterranean and the ICAM Strategy.



The main objectives of the workshops were to discuss the mechanisms through which sustainable development goals can be promoted effectively in different policy areas at national level; to encourage cross sectoral thinking and inter-sectoral collaboration, thereby supporting SMAP Correspondents' efforts towards environmental policy integration; and to increase awareness of the SMAP III projects and programme to help in the definition and implementation of sustainable development policies at national level and in the coastal areas. The emphasis was put on the provision of environmental integration tools such as case studies and good practices for sound environmental management and the practical implementation of environmental regulations. Find more detailed information at [www.smaprms.net](http://www.smaprms.net).

*Marko Prem, PAP/RAC, e-mail: marko.prem@ppa.htnet.hr*

## EUCC MC co-operates with universities on upgrading ICZM university curricula in Russia

The EUCC Mediterranean Centre started contributing the CoastLearn partnership experience to the development process of new TEMPUS TACIS project EU-COMET2 under the lead of the University of Cadiz, Spain. The project aims to adapt the current ICZM education at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (St. Petersburg) to the two-level (bachelor/master) system common in the European Union. Other specific objectives are the upgrading of the existing education and development of new ICZM courses and the production of CD-ROM based education in order to allow a wider dissemination and ensure it reaches a larger number of users. Other consortium members are the Universities of Aveiro and Algarve in Portugal, the University of Bologna in Italy, and the Latvian University in Latvia. The project started September 2005 and will last for three years.

Carolina Perez, e-mail [c.perez@eucc.net](mailto:c.perez@eucc.net)  
Further information: <http://eu-comet2.rshu.ru>

## Integrated Coastal Management Research School in Riga planned



The Institute for Environmental Science and Management of the University of Latvia has been organizing Coastal Management Research Schools since 1999. The next Research School will be organized with support of the project "Coastal Sustainability as a Challenge", which is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union within the INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme. It will be devoted to Coastal Communication: from Theory to Partnership Practice.

Participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Russia (St. Petersburg) and other countries of the Baltic region are expected and invited to participate. The School will take place outside Riga. The organizers will cover accommodation costs and travel from Riga to the venue and back, but no transportation costs for travel to and from Riga.

The preliminary agenda for the Research School is as follows:

10<sup>th</sup> of April: arrival of participants, round table discussion;  
11<sup>th</sup> of April: team work in sections (Information, Education, Partnership, Awareness are proposed as topics for team work)

12<sup>th</sup> of April: final discussion, drafting recommendations and conclusions as well as case study visit and return to Riga by 6 p.m.

The publication of Research School Proceedings is planned. Participants are invited to submit abstracts (half page or 300 – 500 words) of their reports not later than 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2006.

For more detailed and further information please contact: Prof. Dr. Raimonds Ernsteins, Director, Institute for Environmental Science and Management, University of Latvia, phone: 7034575 or 7034579, fax: 7034572, e-mail: [raimonds.ernsteins@lu.lv](mailto:raimonds.ernsteins@lu.lv)

## Intensive Programme in European Integrated Coastal Zone Management took place in Turkey

The Intensive Programme in European Integrated Coastal Zone Management "COZIP" ([www.cozip.org](http://www.cozip.org)) took place in the Turkish city of Antalya from 14 to 29 June 2005. This short programme of study brought together students and staff from universities in different countries – two of the CoastLearn partners - in order to:

1. Encourage efficient and multinational teaching of specialist topics which might otherwise not be taught at all, or only in a very restricted number of universities;
2. Enable students and teachers to work together in multinational groups and so benefit from special learning and teaching conditions not available in a single institution, and to gain new perspectives on the topic being studied;
3. Allow members of the teaching staff to exchange views on teaching content and new curricula approaches and to test teaching methods in an international classroom environment.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management is the favoured approach for the management of coastal areas in the European Union. In 2002, the EU issued a Recommendation on the adoption of ICZM amongst European member states. This presents a particular challenge for aspiring EU member states such as Turkey, which will also have to work towards policies consistent with an ICZM approach. This is why COZIP received financial support from the European Union through the Scocrates Erasmus Programme.

There are four institutional partners in COZIP, two of them CoastLearn partners:

- ▶ Southampton Institute: School of Maritime and Coastal Studies
- ▶ Akdeniz University: Department of Environmental Engineering and Department of Landscape Architecture.
- ▶ Swansea Institute, School of Built and Natural Environment
- ▶ University College Cork, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre.

The two coordinators of COZIP, Dr. Steve Flecher from Southampton Institute-UK and Prof. Dr. Habib Muhammetoglu from Akdeniz University-Turkey came to know each other through the CoastLearn programme and they were happy to deepen their cooperation in the framework of COZIP.

COZIP 1 was held at Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey. The forty students were divided into ten research groups. Each group consists of students from the four participating institutes. The students were allocated different ICZM

topics related to Antalya, Turkey and Europe. Students and teaching staff conducted related field visits and met with governmental and nongovernmental organizations in the coastal area of Antalya to collect the necessary information. The students represented their findings in a concluding conference.

Participants in COZIP 1 used CoastLearn to acquire appropriate background knowledge of ICZM. Also, CoastLearn was presented during the intensive program by Prof. Habib Muhammetoglu. A meeting will be held in Cork, Ireland from 26 to 29 January 2006 to prepare for COZIP 2 in Southampton and Wales in June 2006. COZIP 3 is planned in Ireland in 2007.

*Habib Muhammetoglu, [muhammetoglu@usa.net](mailto:muhammetoglu@usa.net)*



## - COLOPHON -

Contributions to this issue by Rieks Bosch (Bosch Eco Consult), Raimonds Ernsteins (University of Latvia, LV), Irene Lucius (EUCC), Habib Muhammetoglu (Akdeniz University), Carolina Pérez (EUCC - The Coastal Union, NL/ES), Marko Prem, PAP/RAC), Mick van Wegen (UNESCO-IHE, Delft, NL)

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.

