

**EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter
No 3
December/January 2005**

EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter is a three-monthly newsletter published by EUCC – Mediterranean Centre for EUCC members in the Mediterranean Region and other interest groups. Readers and Network Members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join EUCC – The Coastal Union as a Private or Professional Member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact m.montes@eucc.net. If you no longer wish to receive EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter, you can reply to this e-mail and mention "unsubscribe".

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- EDITORIAL -

In this issue of the Newsletter you will find an announcement of a training course on erosion management organized by the Hydraulic and Water Resources Institute/Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto with the coordination of the EUCC Mediterranean Office in September 2005. We all know that Mediterranean countries are to some extent affected by coastal erosion which is usually the result of a combination of both natural and human factors that operate on different scales. 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 EUROSION study. Continuity in this EUCC activity must be ensured. Therefore it is hoped that this English speaking training seminar organized in Portugal will be followed soon by other courses held in different countries and in various languages to ensure a wide dissemination of wise practices in coastal erosion management all around the Mediterranean.

Roland Paskoff
President EUCC Mediterranean Centre

- EUCC news –

1. Workshop of EUCC-France announced.

Keywords: coastal defence, tourism.

As already announced in the 2nd EUCC France Newsletter, EUCC-France will be holding a workshop on the Western coast of Cotentin, France, on March 30 and 31st.

The workshop will be organised by EUCC France with the help of the Regional Branch of Normandie and the Conservatoire du Littoral. It will focus on beach erosion of the Saint-Jean-le-Thomas and the Régneville sections.

The registration period is open until 15 February.

Further information: Valérie Morel,
Valerie.morel@univ-artois.fr, tel: +33
(0)321603726

2. EUCC Mediterranean Centre will coordinate an Erosion Management Course

EUCC Mediterranean Centre and the Hydraulic and Water Resources Institute/Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (IHRH/FEUP, Portugal) are organising an 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).

The course will cover the following aspects:

- General and Basic Concepts.
- Coastal hazards.
- EUROSION project.
- Beach Erosion Management.
- GIS and Data Management Systems.
- Environmental and Strategic Impact Assessment.
- Numerical and Physical Modelling.
- Survey and Monitoring.
- Integrated Management and Decision Support Systems.
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.
- Soft Coastal Engineering Techniques.
- CoastLearn: Multimedia distance training package on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

This international course, based on CoastLearn and on the EUROSION deliverables, will be followed-up by a series of Mediterranean

countries in their languages . It is under the CoPraNet umbrella.

For further information, please contact:
Francisco Taveira Pinto, fpinto@oe.up.pt

3. EUCC changes e-mail and web addresses

All EUCC employees have received a new e-mail address according to the following system:
initial.surname@eucc.net

Please mind: the old e-mail addresses are already deactivated!

The e-mail of the EUCC Mediterranean Centre staff has changed to:

Carolina Pérez: c.perez@eucc.net

Mireia Montes Puig: m.montes@eucc.net

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General matters: med@eucc.net

- EU policies –

4. EU 2005 fish quotas aim at reduction of southern hake fishing effort

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries

Last December the European Commission tabled a proposal on fishing possibilities and attendant measures for 2005. The objective is to rebuild severely depleted stocks and protect those in sound biological state while maintaining, as far as possible, the economic activities of the fleets concerned.

To reduce fishing effort on southern hake, the vessels concerned and which caught more than 5 tonnes in any of the years 2001, 2002 or 2003 will be allocated 22 days at sea. The Portuguese fleets will receive 24 days per month for 11 months with a complete month's closure.

The proposal takes account of the latest scientific advice from the independent International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Commission's own Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF), as well as input from stakeholders. The Commission facilitated greater involvement of stakeholders by consulting the industry and other interested Parties at an early stage. Essentially, the Commission proposes more stable total allowable catches (TACs), as called for by stakeholders, through the application of multi-annual recovery plans, in line with the

long-term approach adopted under the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Thus, the Commission does not systematically follow scientific advice to the letter in terms of TACs, but it builds in additional measures that should deliver the long term sustainability of fish stocks. For depleted cod stocks, the Commission proposes further restrictions on fishing effort mostly through closed areas.

The biggest cuts in quotas and fishing effort relate to fragile deep-sea species.

Many species from the depths of the oceans have come to represent a target for commercial fisheries. Oceana, an international NGO dedicated to research for the protection and recovery of the seas, warns that in just 15 years of fishing, many populations of deep-sea fish have been overexploited or even depleted. In 2003, the fleets of France and Spain were among the five leading fleets in terms of number caught, according to preliminary data from ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Seas).

More information on:

http://europe.oceana.org/downloads/tacs_2005_deep_sea_species_eng.pdf

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf04_52_en.htm

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf04_56_en.htm

5. River Basin Management 2005

Keywords: EU policies.

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires progressive protection and enhancement of rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and wetlands by the year 2015. In this sense, an international conference supported by the Directorate-General Environment of the EC, will be held in Budapest (Hungary) on May 19th & 20th 2005. It will focus on the fresh water components of the Directive and will give delegates the ideal opportunity to share experiences, and identify any possible issues, with those already engaged in the process.

More information on:

<http://www.riverbasinmanagement2005.com/>

6. EU refuses to maintain fleet renewal aids

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries.

At the November 2004 Fisheries Council, the European Commission and the majority of countries refused an extension of fleet renewal aids because they consider that the final decision was taken in 2002, when it was decided that 31st December 2004 would be the closing date for European aids to fleet renewal. The continuity of these aids was supported by Spain, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Portugal and France.

This Council meeting was the debut for the new commissioner of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, the Maltese Joe Borg.

More information on:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf04_47_en.htm

7. MEDA: over €700 million in 2004 to support the EU's Mediterranean partners

Keywords: EU policies.

In 2004, the EC provided under the MEDA Programme €709 million for co-operation and external aid operations with its Mediterranean partners to support development in the region focused on reforms based on common values.

€125.5 million were spent on Regional co-operation. In the economical and infrastructure area, the programmes supported were: New approaches to Telecommunication Policy II (NATP II) (€4 million), Third Regional Euro-Mediterranean Environment Programme (€15 million), Programme to improve the energy efficiency in the Mediterranean construction sector (€4 million), Enhancing Energy Co-operation within the Mediterranean countries (€14 million), Euro-Mediterranean Satellite Navigation Programme (€4.5 million), Euro-Mediterranean co-operation on Maritime Safety and prevention of pollution from ships (€4.5 million) and EIB risk capital (€28 million).

More information on:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/news/memo04_276.htm

- Mediterranean Organisation Profile –

Each issue of EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter presents one Mediterranean Organisation, its activities, and its contribution to coastline management.

For this issue the spotlight is on OPMed (Fishing Observatory in the Mediterranean Sea), located in Barcelona.

OPMED ACTIVITIES

OPMed is an association created in 2003 and registered in Catalunya under the Catalan and Spanish law. As reflected in its bylaws, its objective is "to promote responsible fishing activities, which contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of the marine environment – including associated ecosystems, biodiversity and the capacity to sustain fishing and other ecosystem services in a sustainable way – as much as other activities with the same goal, especially in the Mediterranean Sea".

OPMED STRATEGIC PLAN

The OPMed Strategic Plan is compiled in the "Iniciativa per la Custòdia del Mar i la Pesca" (ICMP = Initiative for Marine and Fisheries Stewardship). It aims to build a multi-dimensional meeting place – including an assessment board, a web page and a newsletter, as well as a series of co-ordinated meetings, seminars and workshops – to promote exchanges about and to divulgate, communicate, discuss and apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management among the fishermen's *cofradías*, unions and professional organisations, administrations, fisheries scientists, environmental NGOs, consumer organisations and the public in general.

For additional information:

OPMed, info@opmed.info

- Research initiatives -

8. Method to assess the value of beaches in tourist areas

Keywords: ICM, tourism.

The project MeVaPlaya started at the end of December of 2003 (15th December) with the aim of developing an Integrated Index to assess the quality of beaches taking into account the biophysical and socioeconomic system components in a dynamic manner. It will be complemented with a method to assess the value of beaches as a resource. This will make it possible to assess the changes in the properties and quality of the system under any scenario (natural or/and man-induced). The Index will serve as a tool for helping coastal managers/planners to take decisions, e.g. in areas with intense tourist development. As example of this kind of area, Malgrat de Mar, Blanes, Lloret de Mar and Tossa de Mar along the Catalan coast (Spanish Mediterranean) were selected to test and validate the tools to be developed.

The project is being undertaken by a consortium formed by the UPC (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya), which is the leading partner, the UdG (Universitat de Girona) and the CSIC (Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), and is sponsored by the Ministry of Education of Spain.

The project will end on the 14th December 2006.

More information on:

<http://lim050.upc.es/mevaplaya/index.html> (In Spanish)

9. Space sentinels track desertification on Mediterranean shore

Keywords: research, climate change.

The European Space Agency's (ESA) DesertWatch project involves the development of a desertification monitoring system for the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, in support of responsible regional and national authorities. As part of ESA's Data User Element, the 24-month project began in September 2004.

DesertWatch products are envisaged as a means for countries to fulfil their reporting obligations to the United Nations Convention on

Combating Desertification (UNCCD), a 191-nation agreement to fight desertification on a global basis.

Partner users for the DesertWatch project come from four Northern Mediterranean nations most affected by desertification and are in particular the Turkish Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, Italy's National Committee to Combat Drought and Desertification, the Greek National Committee for Combating Desertification, and Portugal's National Coordinating Body of the Portugal National Action Program on the UNCCD. These bodies are supplying user requirements to the project, and will also work to validate the DesertWatch information system..

Italy's Advanced Computer Systems SpA is leading DesertWatch on behalf of ESA. Additional contributors include Spain's National Research Council – Arid Zones Research Station (EEZA), Italy's Ente per le Nuove Tecnologie, L'Energia e l'Ambiente in Rome (ENEA) and University of Sassari Desertification Research Group (NRD), the Research Institute for Knowledge Systems in the Netherlands (RIKS), and the Remote Sensing Department of the University of Trier in Germany.

More information on:

www.esa.int/export/esaEO/SEMPMCWJD1E_index_0.html

www.esa.int

10. Influence of vegetation on Israel's coastal dunes morphodynamics

Keywords: research, coastal dunes.

A new study traces the morphodynamics of the coastal dunes of Israel by analysing 12 sets of aerial photographs, which were taken from 1944 to 1995.

The Mediterranean coastal dunes of Israel underwent land-use change during the second half of the 20th century. Due to intense agricultural and pastoral activity, the coastal dunes were stripped of natural vegetation until the end of the first half of the 20th century. A decrease in human activity during the second half of the 20th century brought about a renewal of natural vegetation on the dune crest – the only area with neither erosion nor deposition.

The establishment of vegetation on the crest changes the dynamics of the barchan and transverse dunes, so that not all of the sand eroded from the windward side is carried to the lee slip-face. Consequently, there is a change in the shape of the windward slope from convex to concave, and the dune gradually becomes parabolic.

More information:

Haim Tsoar, Department of Geography and Environmental Development, tsoar@bgu.ac.il

- Calls for Tenders and Proposals -

a) Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration:

'Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area' (FP6-2004-Global-3):

Proposals have been announced on June, 16, with a budget of 205 million.

Closing date: 15 March 2005.

Activity area(s): Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems.

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=133

b) Sixth Framework Programme (FP6-2003-INCO-MPC-2): Specific Support Actions (SSA) for Mediterranean Partners Countries (MPC): Proposals have been announced since December, 17, 2002, with a budget of 0.9 million.

Closing Dates: 07.03.2005, 07.09. 2005 and 06.03.2006, at 17.00 (Brussels local time)

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=43

c) Sixth Framework Programme (FP6-2004-SSP-4): Scientific Support to Policies.

Proposals have been announced since 30th October 2004, with a budget of 77.8 million.

Closing date: 1st February 2005.

Activity Area(s): Policy-orientated research.

Project Proposals for **MEDA Countries** entities and international organisations are welcome to participate.

http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=173

- International news in brief -

11. Croatia adopted a Decree on coastal areas

Keywords: EU policies, coastal areas.

As a consequence of a rapid and uncontrolled development in Croatian coastal areas, and taking into account the expected pressures in the future, the Government issued a Decree for the protection of coastal areas. Very specific norms and standards are prescribed for urban development and for other sectors using coastal resources.

More information on:

<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/news.html>

12. Italy: "Mediterranean Observatory", a special focus on Mediterranean Sustainable Development

Keywords: biodiversity, Mediterranean region.

The high attention of civil society on Mediterranean issues motivated Legambiente and other organisations to establish the "Mediterranean Observatory".

The Observatory will be an internet portal, a virtual "meeting point" where to find information on Mediterranean biodiversity, ecosystems, partnerships, cultures and traditions. It will be an important database where data – related to environment, natural parks, sustainable development pilot projects, active ecological organizations'activities – will be collected. It is targeted at school-classes, students, and the interested public.

More information on:

Legambiente, <http://www.legambiente.com>

13. New brochure published by Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership

Keywords: EU policies.

A new publication of the European Investment Bank 's Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) under the title "Europe and the Mediterranean Region: An enhanced financial partnership" has been released.

Satisfactory results during its first year of operations led the December 2003 European Council in Brussels to further reinforce the

Facility through closer cooperation of the 27 Euromed Partner countries (15 EU, 2 Acceding and 10 MPCs), opening of offices in Maghreb, setting up a trust fund open to Member States interested in Mediterranean issues. and promoting innovative financing instruments.

More information on:

<http://www.eib.org/site/dynamic.asp?designatio n=med&sCountChildren=1&childHeaderId=289>
<http://www.eib.org/publications/publication.asp? publ=83>

14. Turkey: Capacity Building Symposium on Integrated Water Management and Irrigation

Keywords: water management, international convention.

The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO) and the Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community (EIC) organised an International Symposium within the Strategy Plan of the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean.

This event was held at the Kadir Has University of Istanbul (Turkey), parallel to a series of other environmental events. The Global Water Partnership -Med, MIO-ECSDE (The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development) and the Marmara Group Foundation organised an inaugural thematic panel on Turkey, the 3rd Mediterranean Dialogue for the sustainable development of the region.

For more information about all these events:

<http://www.emwis.org/documents/html/istanbul/04.htm>

15. First draft of ICAM Protocol discussed

Keywords: ICM, International Convention.

The second meeting of the Working Group to prepare the text of the ICAM Protocol was held in Athens, 4-5 January 2005. After some years of initial discussions on the need for this protocol and preparatory activities, such a complex legal instrument has seen the light for the first time, in its draft shape. Legal and technical (ICAM) experts, as well as representatives of MEDU, discussed the general structure of the draft protocol and made comments and suggestions on the contents of individual articles and

provisions. The meeting was a very fruitful one, which provided the Working Group with the substantial elements for the second, improved, draft to be reviewed at the next expert meeting in the second half of February.

More information on:

<http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/news.html>

16. The first report "Environmental Profile of Spain 2004" based on indicators published

Keywords: EU policies, indicators.

An official report on Spain's environment presented on 18th January by the Environment Spanish Minister Cristina Narbona, presents an holistic situation of the environment in Spain, and for the first time is completely based on the use of indicators, following the patterns for other international reports.

The report warns of an "unsustainable" pattern of economic growth leading towards environmental crisis and criticises policy failures under the previous conservative administration. The "Environmental profile of Spain" describes economic growth as chaotic – largely concentrated on the coast, heavily dependent on road transport and bringing with it huge increases in waste production and water and energy use.

Tourism, construction and transport are identified as sectors in which "a major effort" is needed to redirect development.

More information on:

http://194.224.130.163/prensa/informacion/not as_pre/2005/01/NotapresentacionerfilAmbiental 2004.pdf

17. National Workshops on Environmental Policy Integration and SMAP III

Keywords: EU policies, international convention.

The first National Workshop on Environmental Policy Integration and SMAP III in Cairo on 18-19 December was successfully completed. The event was organised as a joint event between the Ministry of State for the Environment of Egypt, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and the SMAP (Short and Medium Priority Environmental Action Programme) regional management support unit. More than 70 participants attended the event and, according

to the feedback received, the expected results were met well. The workshop documentation and presentations are posted at the RMSU web site. A workshop report is being prepared by the EEAA and the RMSU and it will be disseminated to the participants and made available at RMSU web site soon.

The Second national event will be held in Morocco on 27-28 January. It is organised jointly by SMAP RMSU with the Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (MATEE), DG EuropeAid and DG Environment.

For the draft programme see
http://www.smaprms.net/DOC/agenda_Maroc_Jan_13.doc

For more information on the workshop preparations please contact:
Ms Irene Rotilio, tel. + 39 06 5007 2237,
rotilio@apat.it, rmsu@apat.it

- Events and training -

March 8-11, 2005

ECOMED POLLUTEC: Salón Internacional de la Energía y del Medio Ambiente
Fira de Barcelona, Barcelona
For further information:
<http://www.ecomedpollutec.com>

April 11-15, 2005

COASTAL ENGINEERING 2005: Seventh International Conference on Modelling, Measurements, Engineering and Management of Seas and Coastal Regions.
Algarve, Portugal
For further information:
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/coastal2005/1.html>

April 11-15, 2005

Coastal Dynamics 2005, Multi-scale dynamics of the coastal system,
Barcelona, Spain
Organization: LIM/UPC
<http://www.coastaldynamics.org>

April 17-20, 2005

ICCCM 2005: International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean,
Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal.
Info: ICCCM2005 Secretariat
Telf: 351 966055637
Email: icccm2005_as@aeiou.pt.
<http://icccm2005.tripod.com>

July 3-7, 2005

WAVES 2005: Fifth International Conference on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis
Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain
For further information:
www.cedex.es/waves2005

September 12-18, 2005

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration
"Ecological Restoration: A Global Challenge"
Zaragoza, Spain
Contact:
Phone: +34-976-211748, Fax: -212959
secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net
<http://www.ecologicalrestoration.net>

October 13-16, 2005

12st Hellenic Congress of Ichthyologists (1st Announcement)
Drama, Greece
Paper submission deadline: 1st March 2005
Thematic areas: Fisheries, Aquaculture and Environment
Contact details:
Congress Secretariat, Ms Lidia Katsaiti
Telephone/Fax: 0030-25210-35795
Email: lidi@in.gr
www.ichthyologists.gr

October 25-29, 2005

MEDCOAST 05 International Conference
Kusadasi, Turkey.
The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2005
More information: :
www.medcoast.org.tr

October 2005-June 2006

Master y Título de Experto sobre Gestión Integrada de Áreas Litorales

Facultad de Ciencias del Mar y Ambientales
Cádiz, Spain

For further information:

<http://www.uca.es/grup-invest/coast>

- Colophon –

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Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Euro Mediterranean Newsletter No 4 2005: 28 February 2005.

Established in 1989, EUCC – The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2500 members and member organisations in 40 countries. EUCC Mediterranean Centre is an association aiming at serving the EUCC Southern European and Mediterranean membership and at developing new EUCC initiatives in the region. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>, email: info@eucc.net
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