

Activity Report 2014

Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

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Brief Presentation of the Organization

The Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC is an association with 2400 members and NGO member organisations in 40 countries, incl. subscribers. Founded in 1989 with the aim of promoting a European approach to coastal conservation by bridging the gap between scientists, environmentalists, site managers, planners and policy makers, it has grown since then into the largest network of coastal practitioners and experts in Europe, with 14 National Branches and offices in seven countries. Our working area is Europe, the Mediterranean and Black Sea; we also have working relationships with NGOs outside the European Union.

EUCC's mission is to promote coastal and marine management that integrates biodiversity conservation with those forms of development that sustain the integrity of landscapes, the cultural heritage and the social fabric of our coasts taking into account the effects of climate change. EUCC advocates best practice by developing coastal and marine policies, mobilising experts and stakeholders, providing advice and information, and implementing demonstration projects.

EUCC promotes a specifically European approach to coastal and marine management and has become a European NGO network with a lead role and top expertise on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Land - Sea Interaction, coastal and marine ecosystems management and restoration, climate adaptation, Marine Strategy issues (marine litter, underwater noise), and sustainable coastal and maritime tourism. We try to provide integration to as well as a focus on aspects that are so important in nowadays EU environmental policies, notably in the field of: sustainable development, nature conservation, climate change, ocean acidification, overall water quality, and waste (marine litter).

EUCC has always tried to provide continuity as the focal point of a European NGO-platform for ICZM and sustainability in coastal regions and waters. Having been involved in numerous European programmes and projects since the 1990s, EUCC tries hard to ensure the continued availability of information, lessons learnt and best practice experience after the end of these projects. In this sense EUCC is the main “institutional memory” for the European coast and coastal waters. Maybe this explains why EUCC has developed into the centre of a network of NGOs linking with authorities at local and regional, trying to improve the implementation of EU environmental policies by 100 regional and local authorities in 11 EU member states, through the QualityCoast initiative.

Active EUCC National Branches exist in: United Kingdom, France, Portugal, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Italy, and Malta. EUCC is represented in the Mediterranean through Centro Mediterraneo EUCC (Barcelona). Neither of these have registered audited accounting, so all activities are coordinated through EUCC's International Secretariat in Leiden, the Netherlands.

Summary

2014 was a Jubilee Year for the Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC. At the EUCC’s international conference Littoral 2014, that took place on 23–26 September 2014 in Klaipeda, Lithuania, the international organisation celebrated 25 years of existence, and the EUCC Baltic Office 20 years. A few months before, 17-19 June 2014 in Merlimont (France), EUCC-France at celebrated their 15th anniversary, and the EUCC Mediterranean Centre its 10th.

Next to the Littoral scientific programme, EUCC organized six thematic workshops on topics such as maritime spatial planning or sustainable tourism that support EUCC to conceive the work programme for the coming years. Information available at www.balticlangoons.net. Coastal habitats and coastal habitat management were the main issues at the Merlimont event, information available at <https://euccmerlimont.wordpress.com>.

EUCC activity highlights include the following:

The EUCC-team actively participated in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Coordination Group and its technical groups on Marine Litter and Underwater noise (Good Environmental Status GES descriptors 10 and 11).

We promoted MSFD topics and EU ICM-principles in publications, exhibits and visitor centres.

Active provision of a Position Paper in support of the preparation of the new MSP Directive.

Active cooperation with fishermen organisations for innovation contributing to sustainability.

International exchange of experience on the restoration of North Sea tidal habitats has been supported by the further development of activities on the recovery and understanding of survival of mussel beds in the Dutch Wadden Sea.

Contributions on climate impacts in coastal and marine areas, adaptation governance, climate adaptation and mitigation, incl. on ocean acidification, geo-engineering, and offshore wind, ocean energy and offshore grid development. Some of the contributions for 2014 posted on the EUCC website and include topical blogs and news items (included Coastal and Marine E-News), consultations, book chapters, courses, conference proceedings and journal articles.

Cooperation with NGOs, local and regional authorities throughout Europe, through the QualityCoast network. With the help of NGOs, implementation and awareness of European environmental policies is assessed at local authority level, esp. re: biodiversity and Natura 2000, MSFD priority topics (e.g. marine litter and underwater noise), sustainable fisheries, ICZM, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Elements included (a) monitoring and benchmarking local and regional performance in the implementation of EU environmental policies and legislation; (b) drafting recommendations; (c) promoting and facilitating the exchange of experiences and good practices. Participating regions include app. 100 coastal regions, towns and islands, including the Azores and the Canary Isles.



Cooperation with ECNC, and also with ECOTRANS, EDEN, Alpine Pearls, and FEE on the development of a wider European network of NGOs and local authorities focusing on biodiversity and sustainability, especially in relation to tourism.

Disseminated European ICZM-practices through various EUCC-managed websites and events incl. CoastLearn and 'Climate of Coastal Cooperation', incl. the facilitation of a YPCC workshop during the Littoral Conference.

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and MSP

In 2014 the European Parliament and the European Council adopted the new European Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) – (Directive 2014/89/EU), establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management. Maritime spatial planning will contribute to the effective management of marine activities and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, by creating a framework for consistent, transparent, sustainable and evidence-based decision-making. Since 1991 EUCC has been championing ICM and we have been at the forefront of preparing the ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) principles as adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2002 as well as of shaping related environmental policy fields, especially re: coastal tourism, coastal erosion and defence. This involvement continues today since coastal policy formulation and implementation remains the *raison d'être* for EUCC.

Given the need for coherent planning of coastal and maritime areas, the new Directive will require Member States to take land-sea interactions into account. Specific consideration should be given to the Council Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of 2002 (2002/413/EC) and the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Council Decision (2010/631/EU), ratified by the EU in 2010. EUCC has been closely involved in the development of the MSP Directive – as expressed in our [Position Paper for the Integration of Integrated Coastal Management \(ICM\) and Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\)](#) in 2014. This Position Paper on ICM / MSP highlighted the positive effects of ICM and call the EU Parliament (EP) and Member States (MS) the attention and the need to keep ICM as a sustainable development vector throughout European coasts connected to the MSP process by means of a framework directive. EUCC has been closely involved in the development of the MSP Directive and has the knowledge and experience to support its effective transposition and implementation, especially in relation to the 'land-sea interactions' based on ICM principles.

At the occasion of the EUCC Littoral Conference in Klaipeda (Lithuania), September 2014 the EUCC Thematic Expert Group (TEG) "Land-Sea Interactions to support MSP" has been formed . This TEG consists of a core group of international experts from various EU member states that jointly will work on this issue and will provide advice and liaise with experts and members from the EUCC network and in the 23 coastal Member States.

EUCC intends to continue supporting the (further) development and implementation of MSP, with particular attention to the land-sea interactions (LSI) within the EU and neighbouring countries, especially at the regional seas level and to continue support the ICM / MSP Group of experts.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

COASTLEARN - LONG DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

In terms of capacity building, the EUCC and the Mediterranean Centre lead and maintain the multidisciplinary international partnership which developed the first on-line, free of use distance training programme on ICZM, CoastLearn. This self-learning tool targets primarily coastal managers and planners working at local, sub-national, and national levels and is accessible on-line free of charge.

The programme aims at making ICZM accessible to professionals in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea and Baltic Sea. Experts from educational and planning institutes in several (pre-) accession countries (including Turkey, Slovenia, Croatia) and NIS countries ensure that the package is tailored to the needs of the target audience. The training programme is presently available online, free accessible in English, Polish, Turkish, French, Russian, Latvian, Romanian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Bulgarian, Albanian and Arabic (one module available) versions.

More info: www.coastlearn.org

Financing agency: several, including European Union

Young Professionals Coastal Community (YPCC)

Another example dealing with academic educations is the recent Climate of Coastal Cooperation initiative with young professionals, which has followed the publication of the “Climate of Coastal Cooperation” (www.coastalcooperation.net) production by the EUCC and the workshop held in LITTORAL Conference 2012. This initiative aims to establish a Young Professionals Coastal Community (YPCC), based on the principle that innovative, resilient, no/regret adaptive options should involve young professionals at an early stage through familiarising them with the concepts and tools of ICZM. During 2013, we have produced a new website (www.yfcc.eu) and a brochure dedicated to this initiative, that can be downloaded at the website. These products aimed to promote and communicate with the schools/universities for the development and preparations needed to set-up a tailor-made capacity building programme. This programme has been developed up to a conceptual phase in 2013 and will be continued in 2014.

www.yfcc.eu

Project - OURCOAST – Putting ICZM into Practice (2009-2012)

OURCOAST is a three-year project commissioned by the Directorate General (DG) Environment of the European Commission to support and ensure the exchange of experiences and best practices in coastal planning and management. Through OURCOAST, the European Commission aims to ensure that lessons learned from the coastal management experiences and practices will be shared and made accessible to those who are seeking sustainable solutions to their coastal management

practices. OURCOAST focuses in particular on adaptation to risks and the impacts of climate change, information and communication systems, planning and land management instruments, and institutional coordination mechanisms. OURCOAST is a further step in the joint efforts of the European Commission, Member States, coastal regions and networks to support and implement sustainable coastal planning and management.

www.ec.europa.eu/ourcoast

Financing Agency: European Union

Project - SUSTAIN (2010-2013)

SUSTAIN – Assessing sustainability and strengthening operational policy – is 3-year project involving 12 partner organisations from across the EU. Its objectives are that, at the end of three years, the project should have produced a policy tool, which entails a unique set of sustainability indicators; indicators which are readily measurable and which can be applied to all 22 EU member states for the integrated management of coastal issues. These indicators are to enable development activities in coastal areas to be measured so that authorities using them will be able to know whether they are moving towards or away from sustainable development.

www.sustain-eu.net

Financing Agency: European Union (European Regional Development Fund) INTERREG IVC

Coastal & Maritime Tourism (QualityCoast)

With the QualityCoast programme, the Coastal & Marine Union - EUCC aims to establish a worldwide network of coastal communities that share similar values on sustainable development, nature and biodiversity, cultural heritage and identity, and social responsibility, at the same time maintaining high standards in the quality of their tourism. QualityCoast has been developed in the EU INTERREG IIC project Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) by 21 partners from 11 countries under the lead of the Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC. The QualityCoast programme was the result of the development of success indicators of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) at local level, in connection to the implementation of the EU Recommendation for ICZM (2002). QualityCoast provides new ways of cooperation between coastal communities. Communities join a network of like-minded communities and share their experiences and best practices in order to improve sustainability and social responsibility in tourism. Their performance in these fields is connected to international tourism marketing through certification under the supervision of an independent international jury issuing QualityCoast Awards. In the QualityCoast Award programme EUCC cooperates with approximately 100 coastal and island destinations.

In 2014, EUCC has been asked by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC), Green Destinations and TravelMole to contribute to the selection of the 2014 Sustainable Destinations Global Top 100. 50 of the selected hundred destinations are EU destinations, and generally with higher scores than destinations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This high performance at global tourism level is largely due to the support given by EUCC is QualityCoast programme to - already 150 - European destinations, since 2006, with the support of the European Commission.

In November 2014 EUCC signed a Green Deal for sustainable tourism, together with the Dutch government and ten other organisations, including ECNC, TUI Benelux, Corendon.com, Booking.com affiliate BookDifferent.com, and Green Destinations. This was the result of a strategic cooperation with the tourism industry that EUCC and ECNC had initiated in 2013. As part of the Green Deal, all information on QualityCoast destinations was included in the Green Destinations Database (GSTR), along with many more data on ca. 800 European destinations. These data are since early 2014 displayed to consumers by BookDifferent (www.bookdifferent.com/en/green-travel-destinations).

www.qualitycoast.info

Main financing Agency: Participating local and regional authorities, European Union

EU Marine Strategy – MSFD

Regarding the **implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**, EUCC has been actively involved from the beginning on the issue of Marine Litter and Underwater noise, in particular. In 2014 Member States were expected to design and implement their monitoring programmes; in respect to these Descriptors 10 – Marine litter and 11- Underwater Noise they rely until a great extent on the recommendations of the technical groups, that EUCC has also been an expert member and has supported the activities of both TG Marine Litter and Underwater Noise under a specific contract (see list of ongoing projects). The main activities during 2014 were to provide technical support to the technical groups: the MSFD-Technical Group on Marine Litter (TG-ML) and MSFD Technical Group Underwater Noise (TG Noise).

During 2014, we mobilized our expert knowledge, especially on marine litter and underwater noise. In particular, EUCC has continue to support the preparation of technical documents related to these topics. One example, is our contribution to the two Guidance documents of the TG-ML. EUCC expert Joana Veiga is leading the drafting of the Guidance Report on Identification of Sources of Marine Litter and contributing to the report on the topic of “Harm of Marine Litter’ which are still under development. In addition, and as a result of several projects in this field, EUCC has become one of the expert organisations in marine litter and underwater noise and their impacts on biodiversity and provide support to the implementation of the MSFD and the process towards reaching a Good Environmental Status; and to further provide specialist advice to the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy by participating in the MSFD Working Groups GES, the TSG Marine Litter & Underwater noise.

Specific objectives of our work are:

- To contribute to the implementation of the MSFD, in respect to Descriptor 10 – Marine Litter; bridging and disseminating other relevant initiatives;
- To contribute to the design and implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Action Plans for the North East Atlantic (particularly North Sea sub-region) and the Mediterranean;
- To increase public awareness regarding the ecological, socio-economic and human health impacts of our consumption and disposal behaviour and promote a more responsible behaviour, following the hierarchy proposed by the Waste Framework Directive: prevention>re-use>recycling>disposal;
- Facilitate the bridging among stakeholders and different sectors in order to promote a more circular economy, prevent and re-value waste and its impacts;
- To contribute to the implementation of the MSFD, in respect to Descriptor 11 – Underwater Noise; bridging with other relevant initiatives.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

Project - Administrative, organisational and technical support for the Technical Sub-Groups on Marine Litter and Underwater Noise (2013-February 2015)

EUCC lead the execution of this service as part of the Framework contract ENV.D.2/FRA/2012/0025 for services related to “Emerging pressures, human activities and measures in the marine environment (including marine litter)”. The overall objective of this contract is to address the emerging pressures and emerging human activities and related measures in the marine environment with the view to informing and assisting Member States in the preparation of their national programme of measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status, as provided for by Article 13 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD: 2008/56/EC). The objective of the service contract, was to provide administrative, organisational and logistic support to the Technical Sub Groups on Marine Litter and Underwater Noise, which included:

- i) organising and providing secretarial services for the periodic meetings of the technical sub-groups on Marine Litter and Underwater Noise, throughout 2013 and 2014;
- ii) supporting the technical sub-groups in their reporting obligations to the Working Group on GES, including coordinating input from group members and editing of the Guidance Reports for MS and assisting the exchange of information on on-going activities in the TSGs;
- iii) organising a one day training workshop for Member States on the monitoring of underwater noise is and iv) maintaining a clear and effective web-based working platform for each of the two TSGs, to support communication activities within the groups.

Financing Agency: European Commission DG ENV

EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES FOR COST-EFFECTIVE “MARINE” MEASURES INCLUDING GUIDANCE FOR FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE EMFF 2014-2020 (REF: M36208 – CEA POMs)

This project will be carried in 2014 and is part of a Framework contract ENV.D.2/FRA/2012/0025 for services related to “Emerging pressures, human activities and measures in the marine environment (including marine litter)”. Its main objective is to provide recommendations and guidelines for the Programme of Measures (POMs) within the MSFD, which tackles all relevant issues to be considered during the design, elaboration and implementation of such programme. This will include establishing an exchange of best practices on the cost-effectiveness of measures, in particular those specific to the MSFD not addressed elsewhere and related to emerging pressures. The project will analyse and develop guidance for co-financing opportunities of measures under Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

Technical And Administrative Support For The Joint Implementation Of The Marine Strategy Framework Directive By The Mediterranean EU Member States (2013-2015)

The ultimate aim of this contract will be to support EU Mediterranean Member States in implementing the Mediterranean Sea component of the MSFD CIS WP 2014-2018. Through this support, the project will also aim at supporting regional and interregional cooperation, in line with relevant decisions of the Marine Directors (May 2013).

The specific objectives of this specific contract are, in particular to provide technical and administrative support for:

- Building the information basis for a more coherent and comparable joint implementation of the MSFD in MED EU MS
- Capacity building activities in the region with a view to strengthening the administrative and technical capabilities in MED EU MS for joint MSFD implementation, and
- Promoting coordination activities within the Mediterranean marine region and with other marine regions.

The project runs from December 2013 until March 2015.

CLEANSEA - Towards a Clean, Litter-Free European Marine Environment through Scientific Evidence, Innovative Tools and Good Governance (2013-ongoing)

CleanSea is the largest research project focused on the problem of marine litter ever funded by the European Union. The project started in January 2013. With 17 partners from 11 countries representing the four European regional seas the project aims to provide a comprehensive characterization and analysis of the marine litter problem. The CLEANSEA project will i) provide comprehensive characterization and analysis of the marine litter problem (biological, chemical, social, economic, legislative and policy-oriented) in the EU's four main marine regions, ii) propose innovative monitoring tools and standard protocols to facilitate monitoring marine litter in a harmonized way, and iii) present cost-effective management measures and policy options to meet MSFD and other international objectives regarding marine litter. CLEANSEA aims to break down interdisciplinary barriers by synthesizing data and knowledge generated across its 5 RTD work packages, and uses an integrated framework to construct a Road Map for European marine litter reduction. Advanced techniques in the fields of (eco)toxicology, analytical chemistry, satellite imaging, oceanographic modeling and materials biodegradation testing will be used to assess the distribution, fate and impacts of marine litter. Economic, institutional and policy analysis research methods, tools and participatory approaches will be applied to inform trade-offs in policy and decision-making, identify economic, social and governance barriers to GES, and recommend effective policy options and management measures to remove these barriers and incentivize sustainable use of marine resources. CLEANSEA contributes to an adaptive ecosystem approach to the management of human activities in EU marine regions. Project outcomes will benefit not only the MSFD but also

various EU directives and strategies including the Europe 2020 Strategy. Measures, strategies and policies that promote upstream sustainable production and use of plastics or recycling of waste that will be highlighted in the CLEANSEA Road Map can also contribute to the EU's policies and initiatives for a Resource Efficient Europe.

EUCC MedCentre is leading the Promotion and Dissemination WP and providing expert input into the Economical and Institutional studies.

Main Financing Agency: European Commission FP7

Marine Litter study to support the establishment of an initial quantitative headline reduction target (2014)

Study commissioned by the European Commission to Arcadis and EUCC, as part of the Framework Contract ENV.D.2/FRA/2012/0025 for services related to “Emerging pressures, human activities and measures in the marine environment (including marine litter)”, to support the establishment of a quantitative headline reduction target for marine litter in Europe.

The study assessed the impact that different waste management scenarios could have in terms of generation of marine litter, which ranged from “business as usual”, to combined options with higher recycling rates, including ones for packaging. In fact, according to the models used, the “maximum feasible scenario”, in which all Member States perform as good as the top three countries did in 2012, could lead to reductions of marine litter input of 35% but if one considers additional behavioural and more item-targeted oriented measures (e.g. deposit-refund for plastic beverage bottles, campaigns to reduce cigarette butts on the beach), this figure can actually be rather moderate.

The multi-fold study included also an analysis of the type of the targets put forward by Member States for marine litter within the MSFD, a review of the most up-to-date published information on the environmental and health impacts of marine litter, case-studies on campaigns and initiatives that led to behavioural change in respect to marine litter and finally an analysis of results from the Public Consultation on marine litter carried during 2013.

Final report can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/final_report.pdf

Study on economic assessment of policy measures for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework (2012-2013)

The objective of this study is to prepare the ground for the step of the MSFD consisting of preparing a programme of measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status. The outcome of this study will help discussions between Member States of the same region and between MS and the Commission on what direction to take in developing such a programme of measures. The outcome of this study should therefore consist in a toolkit helping MS to select the set of measures more suited for their own implementation of the MSFD. This toolkit would consist of an inventory of possible

measures, their assessment according to a set of criteria to be developed (taking into account cost, effectiveness, benefits, feasibility etc) and the identification of key success / limiting factors for each measure or group of measures, based on desk research and on 5 cases studies of measures already in place, in the EU or in countries where the overall setting would allow comparability with EU countries. EUC's tasks involved inventory of environmental measures throughout coastal EU member states that had an impact on the marine environment, identification of appropriate cases - good practices-, showcasing the impact of measure, assessing and elaborating a case study on the implementation of Marine Protected Area, emphasizing an MPA in Spain.

Financing Agency: European Commission DG ENV

Recovering Marine Litter

Healthy Seas a journey from waste to wear (ECNC group) (2013 - ongoing)

The Healthy Seas initiative is a joint venture of a non-governmental organization (ECNC Group) and two businesses (the Aquafil Group and Star Sock) in its journey from waste to wear. Healthy Seas recovers abandoned fishing nets that pollute our seas and coasts and regenerate the nylon into high-quality yarn which is turned into brand new sustainable textiles. Healthy Seas non-profit activities include the recovery of fishing nets by volunteer divers and their storage in special facilities, in addition to educational and prevention programs. In 2014 the fishing net recovery was done in the North Sea pilot area with 16 diving trips and the Adriatic Sea pilot area with 1 diving weektrip. In total there were 31 tons of nets recovered by 50 volunteer divers. For preventing marine litter, we collaborate with fishermen (290 fishing boats in 2014), fish farms, local communities and other stakeholders to prevent waste nets from ending up in the sea. Together we work on measures to dispose of nets in a responsible yet affordable way. We also work on raising public awareness of the environmental damage caused by ghost fishing gear and promote the ecological and economic importance of healthy seas.

<http://healthyseas.org>

Main Financing Agency: Aquafil Group, via ECNC Land & Sea Group EEIG , Adessium Foundation and partners like Star Sock, Desso, Interface and Kaufland.

Pilot project – Removal of marine litter from Europe’s four regional seas (MARELITT) (2013-2015)

The overall objective of MARELITT is to assist EU Member States in reaching the objective of achieving ‘good environmental status’ (GES) by 2020, laid out in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) (MSFD). The specific objective of MARELITT is to assist EU Member States in reducing the impact of marine litter on the coastal and marine environment. EUCC and Mediterranean Centre provide expert and technical support to the project. MARELITT will assess existing marine litter removal projects in Europe’s four regional seas from the organisational, economic and environmental angles. This assessment will allow the definition of good practices. Subsequently, organisations will be identified and invited to host a project and to continue developing the good practices after the project period. The capacity of the organisations will be strengthened through the project, via training and guidance. The results of the project will be disseminated through a web-based toolkit providing guidance to stakeholders that want to establish their own litter removal project. The project will engage the fishing community along with plastics producers, converters, recyclers, other industries, local authorities, port authorities, waste managers and NGOs.

Financing Agency: European Commission DG ENV

Project - “MARLISCO” - MARINE LITTER IN EUROPE’S SEAS – SOCIAL AWARENESS AND CO-RESPONSIBILITY (June 2012 – May 2015)

MARLISCO – Marine Litter in Europe’s Seas: Social Awareness and Co-Responsibility - sought to raise societal awareness of both the problems and the potential solutions relating to the issue of marine litter in the four European Seas. The project focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of mechanisms to better understand and communicate the problem in its environmental and social dimensions, encouraging society to gain a deeper understanding of the issue of marine litter and actively engaging and empowering stakeholders to act constructively and identify viable solutions, facilitate the definition of a collective vision and eventually trigger concerted actions to address this complex issue.

EUCC is part of a consortium of 20 entities that throughout 3 years have worked closely together to develop a series of tools to inform and engage society, implemented in 15 European countries. The tools and products included:

- An **exhibition** to inform the general public and raise awareness on the sources, social-economic impacts of solid waste that ends up in the marine environment and potential solutions for the general public. The exhibition has been setup and travelled in dozens of locations across Europe: <http://www.marlisco.eu/exhibition-journey-map.en.html>
- An **educational pack consisting of 17 activities**, examining the characteristics, sources, effects and possible ways to tackle the problem, addressing it from an environmental, societal, cultural and economic point of view. It has been designed to serve middle school level (10-15 years old) but can be used also by educators outside the formal schooling system (e.g. museum): www.marlisco.eu/education.en.html
- An **Video Contest for students**, which was implemented in Europe and proved to be very effective in engaging youngsters to learn about the issue. The contest engaged a total of 2.123 youngsters, from 118 schools in 14 European countries. The winning videos were used as awareness tools to a wider public in several European and National events and the winning videos reached almost 34.000 views in YouTube by the end of the project: <http://www.marlisco.eu/video-contest.en.html>
- An **online training course for teachers and educators** about the topic and how to communicate it;
- A **Serious Game**, where youngsters will learn (by doing) about responsible behaviours of characters from different sectors in a fun, attractive and engaging way;





- **National Fora** were organised in 12 countries to help defining a more sustainable vision, with discussion and prioritisation of potential measures and actions to prevent and mitigate marine litter. The Dutch Forum, organised and recorded by EUCC, can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pSwvKiv8Rc>

EUCC led the proposal preparation of MARLISCO in 2010/2011 and once the project started was responsible to coordinate the European Video Contest work package, develop and implement all the national activities in the Netherlands, adapted and promoted the tools in the Dutch context and society.

Origin of Funding: EC FP7 – *Science in Society*, Mobilization and Mutual Learning

“PROTECT A WRECK” Project (2011 – 2013)

This project is an initiative from EUCC, the North Sea Divers Association, the North Sea Foundation and Sport-fishing Netherlands. Along with all key stakeholders in the North Sea, the project intends to protect and sustainably explore the underwater shipwrecks in the area. The Project has several approaches, including: the cleaning of wrecks and removal of abandoned/lost fishing gear, nets and lines by divers; strengthening the knowledge about the importance of wrecks through ecological monitoring and scientific research; search for alternatives to conventional fishing lines used by anglers (as many lines remain on wrecks find 'ghost fishing' instead); development of legal protection of wrecks; and societal awareness, in specific fishing sector, policy makers and general public. The project activities are heavily based on dialogue with the key stakeholders, to determine the best ways to reach the project's objectives.

Pilot project – Plastic recycling cycle and marine environmental impact – Case studies on the plastic cycle and its loopholes in the four European regional seas areas (2012)

The European Commission has launched, in 2011, three study contracts to gather information, help implement the MSFD requirements on marine litter and further develop the policy framework for marine litter: 1) The Feasibility study of introducing instruments to prevent littering is identifying best practices for the prevention of littering as well as its clean-up, and assess the feasibility of options to prevent littering and increase public awareness; 2) The Study of the largest loopholes within the flow of packaging material looks at the stages of the plastic packaging cycle where waste could become litter in the marine environment; and 3) this study entitled Pilot project – plastic recycling cycle and marine environmental impact - Case studies on the plastic cycle and its loopholes in the four European regional seas areas.

The main objective of the Pilot Project is to pinpoint the major possible sources of marine litter in four study-sites, representative for each of the four European seas. The case studies illustrate the process of litter and waste entering the marine environment. They indicate the main loopholes in the local material and waste cycles and identify which economic sectors or actors are the main sources of marine litter. Furthermore the study designs a set of feasible measures to address the loopholes. Based on multi criteria analysis four sites are selected: Riga (Latvia- Baltic Sea), Oostende (Belgium-North Sea), Barcelona (Spain-Mediterranean) and Constanta (Romania-Black Sea). These areas include river discharge, commercial ports and important coastal cities. Though the approach and methodologies used in the different sites are consistent and comparable, they have been adjusted to different cultural and economic contexts. Distinct profiles of marine litter lead to adapted sets of measures to meet the local needs.

Key results of this study include: overviews of main types of litter found in coastal and marine environment, the process and the results of identification of their main sources, pathways and loopholes in the case areas, an analysis on potential measures that could be used to avoid litter to enter the marine environment, and an evaluation of its feasibility in order to evaluate its economic, administrative and institutional implications within an adapted policy mix. The process included a participatory approach to gather local knowledge and obtain a concerted view on where, how and why (mainly plastic) litter is entering the marine environment in the four different areas. Its final scope is the design of an adequate mixture of policy measures and strategies, targeting different key sectors and material flow phases.

Financing Agency: European Commission DG ENV

Nature Conservation and Restoration

Project - Recovery of mussel beds in the Dutch Wadden Sea

In 2014 the Coastal & Marine Union with some key (research)partners continued to work on the recovery and understanding of survival of mussel beds in the Dutch Wadden Sea. In September a scientific workshop has been organized to exchange and discuss the results of the research. In November 2014 the PhD's of the projects Mosselwad and Waddensleutels discussed and exchanged the results of their research.

In the preceding year three camera poles were installed near large mussel beds. These cameras provide a day and night video stream with information on feeding birds. Because of the length of this footage we involved citizens science for counting the birds online. In this way by the end of 2014 156.000 films were counted by 100 volunteers.

In September 2013 we created 4 artificial mussel beds on Balgzand, a littoral site in the western Wadden Sea. The new beds had a total surface of 8 ha and consisted of 100ton of mussels. For our Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment this construction is one of the efforts within the Water Framework Directive. Unfortunately the mussel beds disappeared after heavy storms in December 2013. Preparations are made for a national Symposium in April 2015 to present all the results for scientists, managers and interested people (inclusive fishermen).

The above efforts will result in 2015 in the 'handbook development and sustainable management of mussel beds in the Wadden Sea' for managers of this wetland.

Main Financing Agency: Waddenfonds, the Netherlands.

Main publications in 2014

Coastal & Marine magazine

COASTAL & MARINE (formerly COASTLINE) is the illustrated magazine of the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC). The magazine aims at those professionally involved in coastal management, planning and conservation in Europe.

In 2014, three issues of our international magazine were published:

COASTAL & MARINE 14-1 [Coastal Climate Change Adaptive management of beaches and coastal waters](#)

COASTAL & MARINE 14-2 [Aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region](#)

COASTAL & MARINE 14-3 [Coastal Climate Change Biodiversity and nature conservation](#)

Meer und Küsten (Germany)

Our free annual magazine in German, published by EUCC Germany in May 2014: 36 pages, 50,000 copies, with information on a large variety of subjects for the general public.

<http://www.eucc-d.de/publications.html>

Kust&Zee Gids (the Netherlands)

Our free annual magazine in Dutch. Published in May 2014: 60 pages, 200,000 copies, with information on sustainable tourism destinations, nature, coastal protection and management for the general public. <http://www.kustenzee.nl/publicaties/kustzeegids/>