

YPCC programme: *“From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”*

Preparing for the LITTORAL conference 2016 in Biarritz, France

Young Professionals Coastal Community: background

The Young Professionals Coastal Community (YPCC) initiative started in 2011 by the Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC and is aimed towards uniting students, their teachers and directors, and a core group of international senior experts to the exchange of information on coastal processes.

The YPCC is based on the principles of:

Working together and sharing knowledge on impacts and solutions between experts and students by developing challenging training programmes with appealing field work guided by experts, for academia with academia!

There are two main ways to address this challenge : i) by analysing the impacts of e.g. strong economic development and climate change, and ii) by identifying sets of sustainable, adaptive coastal measures.

Since 2011 we have created opportunities for students to participate in events that promote the sharing of knowledge between key experts and participate at international conferences. Now the YPCC is looking to further increase its network by adding more experts and universities, thereby increase the exchange of information and insights on the impacts of global change in coastal zones.

EUCC’s International LITTORAL Series of Conferences

The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) is a network and stakeholder with the aim of promoting a European approach to coastal conservation by bridging the gap between scientists, environmentalists, planners and policy makers. It is a platform for sharing good practices between EU Member States on coastal and marine management. The organisation is very experienced in integrated coastal management - land and sea interactions - beginning its work in 1998 with the first all European ICM workshop for the CEE and Newly Independent States in Croatia in June 2000. Since then EUCC has been organizing biennial conferences implementing its network’s mission, namely “bringing together the scientific community, coastal practitioners and policy makers”. Until 1999 the conference was organized uniquely by EUCC under the name “Coastlines”, later on it joined forces with other network partners and EUCC national branches giving birth to the “LITTORAL” series conferences.

EUCC seeks to bring scientists, policymakers, students, and stakeholders together by organizing international conferences, such as LITTORAL. This in order to gain a fresh perspective and to discuss how they can work together to shape coasts in such a way that social, economic and ecological goals are achievable and balanced.

YPCC programme at LITTORAL conferences

In 2012, we initiated a programme “*From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses*” in which groups of students from different universities participated at the international conference LITTORAL in Ostend, Belgium. The students actively presented their work during a dedicated workshop at the conference. This project was very successful and therefore the programme was repeated in 2014 during the LITTORAL conference in Klaipeda, Lithuania. This time the Klaipeda University joined our network and presented their case study as well. In both Belgium and Lithuania the programme received great enthusiasm from both students as well as visiting experts at the conference. Because of the successful student participation in 2012 and 2014 the aim is to continue the programme in future years and expand the pool of Universities and international senior experts even further. This will be culminated in the envisioned student participation during the LITTORAL Biarritz 2016, Liverpool 2017, and 2018 conferences.

“From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”

The programme entails an assignment for students to analyse and find adaptive measures to cope with the potential impacts of global change on ‘their own stretch of coast’ and take into account the estimated impacts of climate change for the next 100 years. This research should be performed within the curriculum of the university. A number of examples of case studies that were presented during LITTORAL in the past are (digital versions can be found on <http://www.ybcc.eu>):

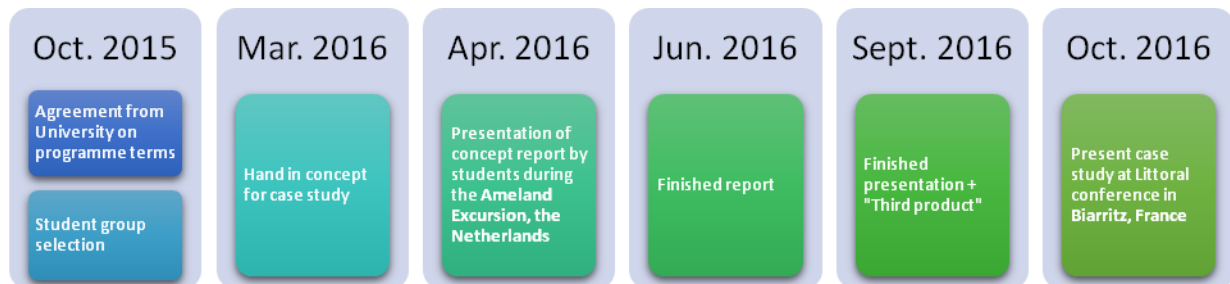
- A management plan for sustainable coastal defence in Groningen, the Netherlands, (2012)
- A technical feasibility study for the creation of a storm ‘barrier’ island in Belgium, (2012)
- Coastal hazards due to climate change on the Baltic coast in Lithuania, (2014)
- A vision for future sustainable use of an island in Zeeland, the Netherlands. (2014)

Programme in short: From Ameland to Biarritz!

The programme starts with a short introductory video to enthuse students about the programme. After this the university will have to select a group of students who will be participating in the programme. The selected students will be invited to the Dutch Waddensea isle of Ameland to attend a three day excursion where students will learn about the potential impacts of climate change. Ameland is a ‘natural’ laboratory analysing the effects of accelerated sea level rise caused by subsidence due to gas exploitation. Annual monitoring and reporting of these effects since 1986 provides a unique data base. Students will follow lectures on the effects of climate change, attend brainstorm sessions on adaptive responses, and participate in fieldwork related to the ongoing effects of subsidence on the coastal ecosystem. During the excursion the students will also present a concept for the case study they will be presenting at the LITTORAL conference 2016 at Biarritz. The student the research is finished with a report and a presentation at LITTORAL. After the LITTORAL conference the students and their mentors will be asked to write a short summary of their report and about their conference experiences (a ‘third product’). This material will be incorporated into the YPCC Brochure 2016, which will be distributed to participating universities, LITTORAL attendants, and the EUCC and YPCC networks.

Timeline: From Ameland to Biarritz!

To successfully complete the programme the participating universities will have to commit to a timeline which is presented in the figure below. Before participation at LITTORAL conference the students will be required to produce a research report, prepare a presentation and a 'third product'. This product can be anything from a poster to a small workshop with the audience at LITTORAL.



Added value for students

The programme aims at adding value to a young professionals resume by asking them to identify and solve real-life problems. Some of the added values for students that participate in the programme:

- Gain/improve knowledge on the impacts of climate change and sea level rise and gaining experience with fieldwork during an introductory weekend on **Ameland, the Netherlands**.
- Gain experience performing correct scientific research with supervision from both the university as well as a pool of international senior experts.
- Have the ability to enlarge their scope, learn about current 'hot topics' in their future field, and strengthen their (international) network by traveling to and attending the LITTORAL conference in 2016 in **Biarritz, France**.
- Gain experience with presenting scientific findings before an international audience of scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders at the LITTORAL conference.
- The ability to participate during one or more excursions with various topics during the LITTORAL conference with guidance of a local expert.
- Publicise a summary of their case study in the YPCC Brochure which will be distributed to participating universities, LITTORAL attendants, and the EUCC and YPCC network.

Responsibilities

To participate at LITTORAL, the following responsibilities will have to be committed by the three partners:

The YPCC provides:

- An introductory workshop on climate change, the impacts of climate change, and adaptive measures to compensate the impacts of climate change on Ameland.
- A network of senior experts to provide students with help and information.
- Logistical support on site of LITTORAL conference.
- Publicity for the case studies and universities at LITTORAL conference.
- A brochure of student achievements at LITTORAL dispersed amongst the Universities and the YPCC international network of senior experts.

The university provides:

- A group of at least 2 and a maximum of 4 students.
- At least 2 teachers/mentors to accompany students during their case study.
- Minimum number of hours for students to work on their case study.
- Minimum number of hours for teachers/mentors to accompany students.
- Time for teachers/mentors to attend meetings on progress student case study.
- Time for students and teachers/mentors to travel to and attend the YPCC introductory workshop.
- Time for students and teachers/mentors to travel to and attend the LITTORAL conference.
- A financial contribution (more information under division of costs).

The students provide:

- Attendance at the YPCC introductory workshop.
- A case study on 'their stretch of coast' taking into account 50 to 100 years of climate change, all within their own expertise.
 - A research report.
 - A presentation of their findings with a maximum duration of 20 minutes.
 - An additional product (poster, short workshop, activity), if agreed with mentor
- A short summary of their work for the LITTORAL brochure.
- A short summary of the student experience for the LITTORAL brochure.

Division of costs

In order to make this programme a reality, there are costs involved that will have to be shared between the YPCC programme and the participants. The YPCC programme will cover logistical services and accommodation during the Ameland excursion, through the sponsorship of NAM. Travel expenses (both to Ameland and Biarritz), accommodation at LITTORAL conference cannot be covered by the YPCC and therefore the university will have to provide the funds for this. An overview of the division of costs is given in the table below:

Description of cost	YPCC	University
Travel to Ameland		X
Accommodation on Ameland	X	
Transportation on Ameland	X	
Lectures and fieldwork guidance by experts	X	
Travel to LITTORAL 2016, Biarritz		X
Accommodation at LITTORAL 2016, Biarritz		X
Brochure (editing, printing, distributing)	X	X

Since costs can vary depending on the travel distance and the desired type of accommodation we are at this point unable to make an estimate of these costs. Popular websites for cheap travelling and accommodation are: <http://www.skyscanner.net> and <http://www.edreams.com>.

We advise participants to book and plan your trip in advance to prevent high costs of last minute arrangements.

Final Note

The above describes all required information on participation to the programme *“From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”*.

We invite the universities to contact the YPCC programme coordinator to confirm their participation and we are happy to answer questions.

Contact information:

Young Professionals Coastal Community

Address: P.O. Box 11232
2301 EE Leiden
The Netherlands

Website: <http://www.yfcc.eu>

Rob Misdorp, *YPCC Programme coordinator*

Tel. +31 (0)6 30 31 52 97

E-mail climecoast@gmail.com

André Dijkstra, *YPCC programme assistant*

Tel. +31 (0)6 27 09 03 54

E-mail ardijkstra91@gmail.com

Maria Ferreira, *Head of International Programme Coastal & Marine Union - EUCC*

Tel. +31 (0)6 11 36 44 90

E-mail m.ferreira@eucc.net

Address: Breestraat 89-A,
2311 CK Leiden
The Netherlands

Website: <http://www.eucc.net>

Tel. +31 (0)71 512 2900

E-mail admin@eucc.net