

# YPCC Programme 2022

*“From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”  
Preparing for the LITTORAL conference 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal*

## 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 exchange information on coastal processes happening today and in the future. 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 increasing 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 of stakeholder associations with members in 40 countries. Its main aim is to promote sustainable coastal development 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 EUCC was founded in 1989. The organization has extensive experience in applying integrated coastal management programmes, based on thorough understanding of land and sea interactions. It also organises international coastal conferences; offering a podium for exchanging knowledge on natural and socioeconomic coastal processes and views on coastal management practices. EUCC has been organizing biennial international coastal conferences “LITTORAL” implementing its network’s mission, namely “bringing together the scientific community, coastal practitioners, policy makers, stakeholders and students”. This 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, YPCC initiated our 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. Students from four different international Universities prepared cases dealing with the future development of a particular coastal area. They actively presented their findings during a dedicated YPCC workshop or plenary presentation at the conference. This project was very successful and therefore repeated in 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018 during the LITTORAL conferences in Klaipeda (Lithuania), Biarritz (France), Liverpool (United Kingdom), and Leeuwarden (the Netherlands). During all conferences the programme received great enthusiasm from both students as well as visiting experts at the conference. Because of the successful student participation in all these years the aim is to continue the programme in future years and expand the pool of universities and international senior experts even further. This will culminate in the envisioned student participation during the international conference [LITTORAL Lisbon 2022](#).

## “YPCC: 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 coasts’ and consider the estimated impacts of climate change for the next 100 years. Research of the students should preferably be performed within the curriculum of the university, however, it can also be performed as an extracurricular activity. A random grab 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**
- Coastal hazards due to climate change on the Baltic coast in **Lithuania**
- Intertidal boulder biodiversity field monitoring and statistical study of extreme storm events on the Basque coast facilitating impact studies of Climate Change, **France**

## Programme in short: From Terschelling to Lisbon – 2022!

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 then be invited to the Dutch Wadden Sea island of Terschelling to attend a three-day excursion<sup>1</sup>. During the excursion several lectures and field trips related to coastal challenges will be given. During the excursion students will present a draft of their idea for their case study to present at the LITTORAL conference 2022 in Lisbon. After this the students will be appointed a mentor to assist them in creating their report a presentation for LITTORAL and a ‘third product’ (e.g. poster/video/podcast). 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. This material will be

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<sup>1</sup> Due to Covid-19 preparations have been very ad-hoc this year, resulting in only University of Applied Sciences VHL is able to participate in the three-day excursion to Terschelling.

incorporated into a YPCC Brochure 2022, which will be distributed to participating universities, LITTORAL attendees, and the EUCC and YPCC network.

## Timeline: From Terschelling to Lisbon

To successfully complete the programme the participating universities will have to commit to a timeline (Figure 1), 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 video or an interactive activity with the audience at LITTORAL.



Figure 1, YPCC programme timeline 2022

## Added value for students

The programme aims at adding value to young professionals resume by asking them to identify and solve real-world challenges. 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.
- 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 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 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 attendees, and the EUCC and YPCC network.

## Responsibilities

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

### YPCC provides

- An introductory workshop on climate change, the impacts of climate change, and adaptive measures to challenge the impacts of climate change on Terschelling<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

### University should provide:

- A group of at least 2 and a maximum of 4 students per group
- 1 or 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 to progress student case study.
- Time for students and teachers/mentors to travel to and attend the YPCC introductory workshop<sup>2</sup>.
- Time for students and teachers/mentors to travel to and attend the LITTORAL conference in Lisbon 2022 from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Financial contribution to travel, accommodation and YPCC brochure.

### Students provide:

- Attendance at the YPCC introductory workshop on the island of Terschelling<sup>2</sup>
- A case study on 'their stretch of coast' taking into account roughly 50 to 100 years of climate change, all within their own expertise. This case study includes:
  - A research report,
  - A presentation of their findings with a maximum duration of 20 minutes, and
  - A third product (poster/video/podcast/interactive activity)
- A short summary of their work for the LITTORAL brochure.
- A short summary of the student experience for the LITTORAL brochure.

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<sup>2</sup> Due to Covid-19 preparations have been very ad-hoc this year, resulting in only University of Applied Sciences VHL is able to participate in the three-day excursion to Terschelling.

## 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. An overview of the division of costs is given in Table 1.

*Table 1, Division of costs*

Description of costs	YPCC	University
Travel to Excursion Terschelling		X
Lectures	X	
Travel to LITTORAL 2022, Lisbon		X
Registration fees for LITTORAL 2022	X	
Accommodation at LITTORAL 2022		X
YPCC 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 affordable traveling and accommodation are: <http://www.skyscanner.net> and <http://www.edreams.com>.

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

## Final Note

The above describes all required information to participate in the programme “From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”.

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



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