

YPCC Programme 2024

*“From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”
Preparing for the LITTORAL conference 2024 in Constanta, Romania*

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!”

The present young generation of professionals will make decisive decisions in the next decades regarding the future of the our globe and its inhabitants. Sustainable, long term decision making for the vulnerable coastal zone must be based on increased knowledge of the coastal system and particularly on the integration of its socioeconomic and natural components.

The YPCC has created opportunities for students to participate in events that promote the sharing of knowledge between key experts and participate at international conferences since its founding in 2011. 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 stakeholder and network association with expert members in the European coastal Member States and beyond. 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 European Nations on coastal and marine management. The EUCC was founded in 1989 in the Netherlands. 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 socio-economic 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, costal 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 during the LITTORAL conferences in Klaipeda (Lithuania), Biarritz (France), Liverpool (United Kingdom), Leeuwarden (the Netherlands), and Lisbon (Portugal) respectively in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2022. 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 2024.

“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 the Netherlands to Romania – 2024!

The programme starts with a short introductory video to enthuse students about the programme. After this the participating university will have to select a group of students who will be participating in the programme. Selected students will then be invited to the Netherlands to attend a kick-off event. During the excursion several lectures and field trips related to coastal challenges will be given. During this event students will present a draft idea for their case study to present at the upcoming LITTORAL conference. A mentor will then be appointed to assist students in creating their report and presentation for LITTORAL and a ‘third product’ (e.g. poster/video/podcast/workshop). 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 which will be incorporated into a YPCC Brochure 2025. Afterwards this will be distributed to participating universities, LITTORAL attendees, and the EUCC and YPCC network.

Timeline: From the Netherlands to Romania

To successfully complete the programme the participating universities will have to commit to a timeline (Figure 1). Before participation at the 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.

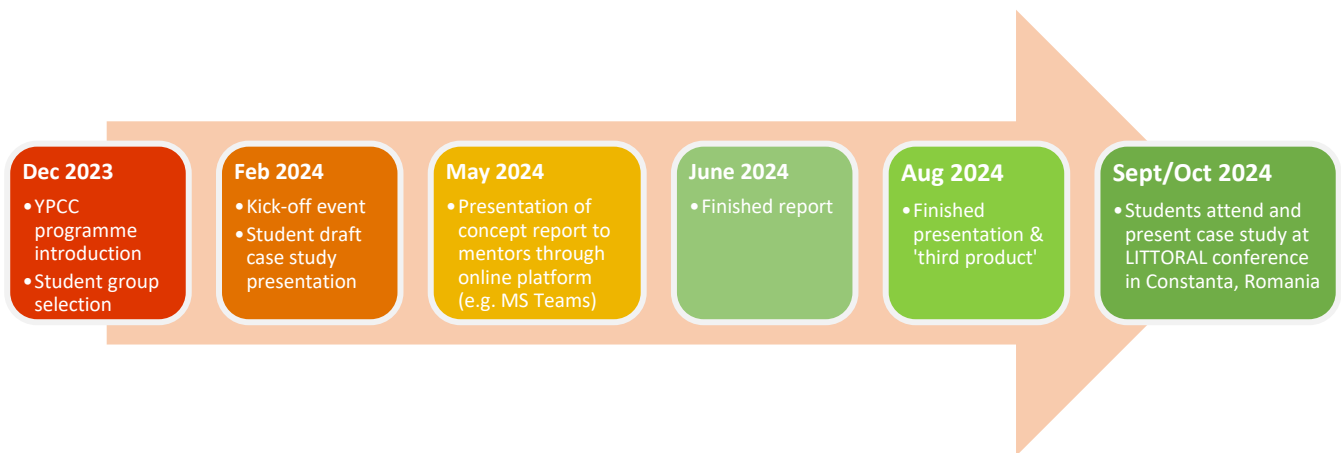


Figure 1, YPCC programme timeline 2023-2024

Added value for students

The programme aims at adding value to the 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.
- The opportunity 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.
- Gain experience with **presenting scientific findings** before an international audience of scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders at the LITTORAL conference.
- The ability to **participate during excursions** on various topics during the LITTORAL conference with guidance of a local expert.
- **Publicise their work online** as well as **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 human exploitation, habitation, and climate change, during the spring of 2024,
- 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.
- Time for students and teachers/mentors to travel to and attend the LITTORAL conference in Constanta, Romania in 2024 from the 23rd – 27th September
- Financial contribution to teacher / mentor and student travel and accommodation.

Students provide:

- Attendance at the YPCC introductory workshop in the Netherlands,
- 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.

Division of costs

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 spring Workshop and Excursion in the Netherlands | | X |
| Lectures | X | |
| Travel to LITTORAL 2024, Constanta - RO | | X |
| Registration fees for LITTORAL 2024 | X | |
| Accommodation at LITTORAL 2024 | | X |
| YPCC Brochure (editing & distributing) | 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: www.booking.com , <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 YPCC programme “From Impacts of Global Change to Adaptive Responses”.

We invite universities to contact the YPCC programme coordinator to confirm their participation before January 2024 as all the necessary arrangements require time. Thank you in advance and we are always happy to answer any questions.

Any unforeseen changes to the YPCC programme will be made public to participating parties on time about any changes in the programme.



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