

Erasmus Mundus

Working with the former Research Cluster European Land Ocean Interaction Studies (ELOISE) , as well as the BALDER and CESUM-BS Centres of Excellence, has highlighted that the human impacts on semi-enclosed seas such as the Baltic and the Black Sea are much greater than on oceanic coasts, such as the Atlantic. It also underlined the importance of a river basins approach to coastal issues.

As a researcher and a university lecturer, Alice Newton has recognized the importance of linking research and training/teaching. The linking of Integrated River Basin Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management is the major objective of the ERASMUS MUNDUS Joint Master in Water and Coastal Management of which Alice Newton is the European coordinator. The European Bologna Process, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) recommendation make such a programme necessary for both scientific and societal reasons. However, it was not feasible under the aegis of a single University. Pooling the human resources of colleagues who carry out relevant research in many Universities (47 at present) allows us to develop an appropriate postgraduate programme. This pilot project for European Joint Masters was selected by the European University Association.

Working with networks such as EUCC, EUROCOAST, IGBP, IHDP, LOICZ and SPICES, should further consolidate the links between policy, research, teaching, training and society. Human activities and their effects, including the socio-economic consequences, must be considered to gain a better understanding on ecosystem function on a global scale.



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