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European Action Plan for strengthening the knowledgebase of sustainable coastal and marine management

Last week coastal and marine experts from many European countries gathered in Paris to discuss major challenges and priority topics for a European research agenda. The main objective of this conference is to promote a stronger cohesion of future coastal and marine research, practice and policy in the European countries. The conference was timed to enable also an input to the discussion of the Programme Committee on future calls of the 7th Framework programme.

FP7 Action Plan: http://www.encora.eu/doc_parisconference.php

Flanders announces the construction of a new Research Vessel, *the RV Simon Stevin*

The Flemish government announced last Monday their plans to construct a new Research Vessel. The *RV Simon Stevin* will replace the RV Zeeleeuw and will be managed by the Flanders Marine Institute and DAB Vloot. Named after the famous Flemish mathematician and engineer (°1548, *Bruges*), the *R.V. Simon Stevin* will primarily operate in the Southern Bight of the North Sea and the English Channel. For more information and Ship specifications:

Weblink: <http://www.vliz.be/NL/home&id=267>

Two new BeNCoRe Partner Institutes

BeNCoRe is happy to welcome two new Partner Institutes, the **Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO)** which has a broad expertise on biology, monitoring, fishing gear technology and product technology and the **Analytical and Environmental Chemistry Laboratory of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (ANCH)** involved in environmental research and more specifically of aquatic systems: open ocean, coastal seas, estuaries, rivers and lakes. We are very happy that these institutes express their intention to co-operate for the development and exchange of information, knowledge and experience to the Belgian Network for Coastal Research.

Weblink: <http://www.bencore.be/index.php?page=map&mid=14>

12 BeNCoRe Travel Grants attributed during the call 2006-2007

During the first call, 2006-2007 BeNCoRe provided 13 BeNCoRe Travel grants to Coastal professionals to attend ICZM and Coastal Research related events and ENCORA activities organised across Europe. Young researchers from several BeNCoRe partner institutes (University of Brussels, University of Ghent, University of Leuven, University of Liège,...) experienced thanks to BeNCoRe new approaches and could broaden their personal field of expertise in a European context. An overview of attributed grants can be found at:

Weblink: <http://www.bencore.be/index.php?contentid=35&mid=19>

Launch Second Call, 2007-2008 BeNCoRe Travel Grant

We invite all marine and coastal scientists, practitioners and policy makers from BeNCoRe partner institutes to apply for the Second call for BeNCoRe travel grants. We welcome all interested partners to submit their candidature before the 1st of February 2008.

Weblink: <http://www.bencore.be/index.php?contentid=31&mid=19>

Coastal Wiki project ongoing

The Coastal Portal and Coastal Wiki have already proven to be a successful platform for dissemination of knowledge. The supply of articles has exceeded the expectations and led to a demand for an increased level of quality control regarding coherence, completeness, structure, readability, fitness for use, and accessibility. Additionally, there are recommendations for improving the Coastal Portal resulting from the evaluation conducted earlier this year by CoastNet. RIKZ has provided additional budget for these “streamlining” activities.

Weblink: http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main_Page

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