



The MyCOAST e-Newsletter – Issue 1

Welcome to the e-newsletter of the MyCOAST project. On this first issue, we will provide a brief description of the project (for the benefit of external readers) and an outline of the first 6 months of MyCOAST, both for project partners and external stakeholders and end-users. A new issue of this newsletter will be put on the project website and emailed to partners, stakeholders and end-users roughly every 6 months and will give you a brief summary of the most recent project activities. For those getting this by email, we hope you forgive us for assuming you will be interested in reading about MyCOAST; we take your privacy seriously so, if this is not the case at any point, please reply to the originator of the email that sent this e-newsletter and ask to be removed from the circulation list.

Brief project summary

MyCOAST is a project funded by the INTERREG Atlantic Area European transnational cooperation programme. It includes 15 partners^a from 5 Member States plus 7 associated partners^b, made up of national and regional public institutions, R&D organisations and a SME. The project duration is 32 months and started in November 2017.

The aim of MyCOAST is to enhance the capability of risk management systems in the Atlantic region by improving co-operation between national and regional observational and forecasting systems, and end users (citizens, public administrations, etc.). MyCOAST aims to build *a coordinated Atlantic Coastal Operational Observatory* in the Atlantic area, joining capabilities along the 5 Member State partners, and leveraging efforts from already existing cross-border cooperation activities, European projects (best-practices and new technologies from JERICO-NEXT; links with open ocean observations from AtlantOS) and from long-term synergies already created in the framework of the IBIROOS regional alliance. All efforts are targeted towards the improvement of coastal monitoring and forecasting tools to respond effectively to coastal risks such as pollution incidents, flooding or coastal erosion and address issues such as maritime safety and water quality.

MyCOAST will strengthen the transnational aspect of coastal observatories. Actions on data management will promote open and free information sharing and interoperability between observatories. Technical networking and specific synergies will improve effectiveness and enhance the use of downstream applications of the Copernicus Marine and Environmental Monitoring Service (CMEMS), increasing resilience to coastal risks. The integration of interoperable data into risk management tools will ensure replicability and transferability along the Atlantic Area. For effective implementation, the tools will be jointly developed and validated together with key actors involved in managing and preventing coastal risk, so end-user and stakeholder involvement is crucial!

Meetings

The Kickoff Meeting took place in Pasaia on 12-13 Dec. 2017. Since then there has been a 1st Progress Meeting in Bordeaux (24-25 Apr. 2018). The 1st Progress Meeting was preceded by the 2018 IBIROOS Annual Meeting (23-24 Apr.) and followed by an AtlantOS workshop (25 Apr.).

MyCOAST highlights so far

- You will start seeing a more obvious MyCOAST presence at various scientific and stakeholder events, buildings of project partner institutes, etc. Our “corporate image” has been agreed on and our project brochure, project banners and project website are being finalised.
- A comprehensive overview of the coastal observing system in the Atlantic Area is a pre-requisite to any further development. We are finishing inventories of models, HF radar systems and in-situ observations (CTD campaigns, drifters, moorings, etc.). The aim is to create synergies and identify best practices.
- A document with descriptions of the network of observing systems in the Atlantic Area will soon be coming out of the analysis of the inventories.
- “Best practice” documents are being compiled from various sources (EuroGOOS actions, specific projects such as JERICO-NEXT). These will be used by project partners in the first instance but will be made openly available, too.
- An abstract on data interoperability standards, critical for free information sharing and interoperability between coastal observatories and the common European data systems, has been submitted to the IMDIS2018 conference (Barcelona, 5-7 Nov. 2018).

What next?

MyCOAST has only just started. Activities on all Workpackages are only just spinning up. We are now moving from the planning and information gathering phases to the “doing” stage.

For more information and until the project website is available, please visit the project page on the INTERREG Atlantic Area website (<https://www.atlanticarea.eu/project/19>) and feel free to contact Julien Mader (MyCOAST coordinator, AZTI) at jmader@azti.es.

Until next time,

Best Wishes

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The MyCOAST partnership:

^a AZTI (Lead Partner), IEO, INTECMAR, IMI, USC, SHOM, PdE, IFREMER, CEFAS, IST, PML, MSS, DXCACC-METEOGALICIA, IH and QUALITAS

^b DAEM, APAC, Guardacostas Galicia, EuroGOOS AISBL, SEPA, GPMB and CML

