



# Coastal Communities 2150

## Shaping our future by the coast

Coastal communities across Europe face the prospect of significant change as rising sea levels and higher storm surges increase the risk of coastal erosion, flooding and salt water intrusion. Coastal change will impact all areas of life, and providing ever greater levels of traditional protection (such as flood defences) is not always a realistic option either environmentally, economically or socially.

Coastal Communities 2150 (CC2150) is a €2.9million communications project to engage vulnerable communities who are at long-term risk from coastal climate change. We want to help communities understand the long term risks of future climate change, and what they can do about them. The long term perspective will also raise awareness about consequences of decisions taken in the shorter term.

### Project outcomes

1. New communication and engagement products, chosen and developed in consultation with local communities, that bring about integrated working on coastal climate change issues at a local, regional and national level.
2. Communication and engagement products that bring about increased awareness and involvement within targeted coastal communities.
3. A coastal vision for pilot areas in a format decided by stakeholders, reflecting their needs and aspirations for their community to manage future coastal climate change.
4. A suite of engagement products that can be used and applied in other European coastal communities and a 'Community of Practice' that will be adopted and used by local communities to share ideas and learning on coastal climate change. This will include best practice guidance for other communities to use.

### Project partners

#### Kent County Council

Kent County Council will be working with coastal communities in the county who are at most risk or have the greatest scope for opportunity from climate driven coastal change. These range from residents in low-lying rural marshes to densely populated urban centres and include a number of diverse sectors and disciplines. We will work with these communities to develop locally-owned plans and community visions to build resilience for our diverse coastline.

#### Hampshire County Council (HCC)

HCC are working with a number of pilot areas in the Solent. Their project 'CCATCH- the Solent' will engage with communities to create a vision for 2150 and beyond and adaptation plans which will reflect local needs and aspirations. The target audiences in the western, central and eastern Solent include businesses, tourism, elected members, school and colleges, and residents.

#### Alterra (The Netherlands)

Since the 1953 flooding disaster, dams, dikes and storm surge barriers have brought a high degree of coastal safety to the province of Zeeland. However, awareness has grown that an important downside of these 'delta works' is the reduced ecological resilience of the modified estuarine habitats. With a view on climate-driven coastal change, Alterra wants to provide local communities in Zeeland with an evidence base that they can make use of for identifying durable coastal adaptation options for their own local area.

## **Belgium: The Province of West Vlaanderen, Coordination Centre on ICZM and the Flemish Agency for Coastal and Maritime Services**

The Flemish Agency for Coastal and Maritime Services (Coastal Division) and the province of West Vlaanderen, represented by the Coordination centre (ICZM) are working together on the project. We want to see how we can use potential changes in climate as an opportunity for the future development of the coast. Through targeted communication initiatives, we want to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on the coast. The project also focuses on the spatial implementation of measures which we want to use to protect us against the changing climate. As a final goal we are working towards an integrated vision for the coast.

### **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency will engage with coastal communities in the Seaford, Newhaven and lower Ouse areas of Sussex. We will work with them to develop a long term vision, decided by local people, reflecting their needs and aspirations to manage future coastal climate change. We held an open information evening on 16 January 2012 at Hillcrest Community Centre, Newhaven, for local people. The evening was a great success with over 50 people attending. There was plenty of encouraging discussion, and we displayed information about climate change, the project and how to can get involved. Around 20 people expressed an interest in joining our local group, which will influence how communities can prepare for coastal climate change in Newhaven/ Seaford/ Lewes. We are currently shortlisting for the ten available spaces, ready for the first engagement group meeting on 6 February 2012.

This new approach is likely to radically alter the ways in which government organisations work with communities in the future. We want the decision-making to happen at local level, by local people, who understand and accept that traditional means of protection are not always sustainable.

### **Time-scales**

The Project was approved by INTERREG in December 2010 and runs from January 2011 to Dec 2013. The INTERREG 2 SEAS programme is funding 50 per cent of the €2.9m costs.

### **Project progress**

The Project was launched in April 2011 and project partners have begun working together, producing a common 'Risk Profiling Framework' and stakeholder engagement analysis for each of their pilot areas. Examples of current best practice and case studies will be analysed to identify barriers to understanding and engagement and how they might be overcome. Partners are forming local engagement groups who will advise them on the development of new tools to explain the effects, risks and benefits of long term coastal climate change. Reports on best practice, stakeholder engagement and barriers to engagement will be published in early 2012.

Three international cross border workshops have taken place with a fourth to be held in March 2012. Representatives from Partner community engagement groups will also come to this workshop to meet each other and begin developing project engagement tools.

### **Further information**

[www.cc2150.eu](http://www.cc2150.eu)

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