

IMCORE Project

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Workshops

Previously we have reported on aspects of our role in the IMCORE Project (imcore.eu). Part of the project work carried out by the University of Aberdeen involves collaboration with Aberdeen City Council (ACC) as an Expert Couplet Node (ECN). There are nine ECNs in the IMCORE project partners. The main objectives and issues to be addressed in IMCORE by the Expert Couplet Node are (a) issues of climate change for the local population and stakeholders, and in particular addressing coastal flooding and erosion; and (b) delivering a series of educational workshops contributing to raising awareness about the problem within local companies and organizations, with the goal of encouraging integration of climate change issues into their current and future plans.

To date we have held a series of three ECN workshops with local stakeholders. The first of these addressed: raising awareness about the potential impacts of climate change on the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coastline. The workshop included an overview of the science of climate change with special reference to the UKCIP (UK Climate Impacts Programme) data for Scotland. It concluded with a discussion about the meaning of climate change to the local area. The second workshop examined a coastal flooding scenario with the aid of a number of hands-on exercises using a range of GIS and geospatial visualisation tools to investigate the physical and human effects of flooding in Aberdeen City. The workshop included a presentation on climate change and a short climate change quiz. Delegates worked in groups using the GIS visualisation tools and reported back to the workshop on their findings. A similar exercise has also been developed for teaching students based on a similar flooding scenario for Stonehaven, and this has recently been delivered to a Level 1 class in Marine and Coastal Studies, as a means of broadening awareness about the impacts of climate change. The final workshop in the series sought to use the flooding scenario part of Workshop 2 as the basis for developing a climate change adaptation strategy for the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coastline. This involved two stages (a) a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental) analysis, and (b) a Backcasting exercise designed to start the analysis from a preferred future and working backwards to identify actions that will connect the future to the present. Results of this workshop will be available in a short report, available on the Expert Couplet Node (ECN) page on the IMCORE website:

Aberdeen Climate Change Website

Another contribution to the IMCORE ECN work has been the development of the Aberdeen Climate Change website (www.aberdeenclimatchange.net) which aims to raise awareness, educate and inform the local area about the impacts of climate change, as well as stimulate involvement and participation. To aid in this an advertising campaign was conducted with the help of the First Bus Group during late December 2010 and early January 2011. Buses on 15 routes in Aberdeen carried an external advert with the website address, as well as an internal advert in a cartoon format flagging up the local work of IMCORE and the ECN.

Future Developments

Over the coming summer months we will also be conducting further climate change awareness campaigns in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by hosting a road-show that will travel from Aberdeen around the North-east coast visiting schools and local organisations to advertise the website, distribute our climate change leaflet, and to host a number of GIS and visualisation workshops. This will form part of our outreach programme.

Living North Sea (LNS) Project

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The Living North Sea (LNS) project (www.livingnorthsea.eu) is currently involved in a number of data collection and communication activities with other LNS partners. The first of these involves a data capture exercise. As result of high fish catches in fresh water and over-fishing in most coastal areas of the North Sea many fish species are going untraced and undetected, and there is no data available to track fish distribution and to study their migratory patterns. However, the LNS project identified a solution to track these catches by building "Fish Capture Declaration Forms" for fishermen to report their catches and release endangered fish species. LNS is sending message to all fishermen within the project partnership countries in an attempt to protect fish species that are nearly extinct and striving hard to recover and replenish vulnerable fish populations as a result of high catches and over-fishing

The second is an activity day – The Fish Migration Day (FMD) – which will be held simultaneously in a number of partner countries. Being keen to participate in the this activity we have offered to host a one day activity event in Aberdeen on Saturday May 14th 2011. We are currently planning a fun-packed activity day for school children and parents to help raise their awareness of the plight of fish in our rivers around the North Sea. As part of this day we hope to involve as many organisations in Scotland as possible. Amongst the many activities we have planned are: *an Online link and TV screen to other Fish Migration Day activities in Europe; an English version of the Eel Game; an Identify that Fish game; stalls and displays; boat trips; fish face painting; talk and walk sessions; fish snack stalls; and giveaways in a fish bag.*



GISflood – GIS map output from the GIS workshop



Delegates viewing a 3D visualisation of the Aberdeen coastline