

# **EURASLIC NEWSLETTER** European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

2002, N° 26 (October) ISSN 1560-5299

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

## **Dear Members**

To begin with, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of Euraslic. Special thanks go to the Members of the Executive Board for their efforts on behalf of the Association during the last six months, and to Ian McCulloch (UK) and Jan Haspeslagh (Belgium) for compiling this issue of the *Newsletter*.

All Members should by now have received a copy of the Brest Joint Conference Proceedings. These *Proceedings* make valuable additions to our library collections and continue to provide an excellent ongoing record of progress in the development of our respective libraries and information services via the Country and Institution Reports. I am pleased to see 15 such reports from Europe included in this joint publication, along with another 15 contributions (papers, posters, workshop report) from European participants.

Congratulations go to members of the Euraslic ECET - European Countries in Economic Transition - group who were successful in a grant application to lamslic, and who have subsequently held a meeting in the Ukraine to discuss and prepare the *Scoping Study* for a *Black Sea Regional Library Co-operation Project*. Further details are included later in this *Newsletter*.

Congratulations also go to those who were successful in their applications to Euraslic for Library Equipment Grants. The Board received six applications, the total amount of which came to more than 6850 euros, well in excess of the original amount set aside for these grants in 2002 (1500 euros) and so the amount was increased to 1820 euros. On this occasion the Board awarded Grants to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oceanology, Varna Library (700 euros) and to the Library of the Georgian Marine Ecology and Fisheries Institute, Batumi (1120 euros). The Board will shortly begin discussing the total amount of funding to be allocated for Equipment Grants in 2003 and an announcement about this will be made in January. We continue to seek National Representatives from countries not yet represented. Please look at the list on the website and if you are from an unrepresented country and would like to volunteer to serve as the National Representative, please contact me.

The Euraslic Directory is being taken down from the IOC Website and will remain offline whilst the Euraslic Board discusses the transfer of data to new Directory Software, and where the Directory will be hosted in the future. Discussions are also taking place with regard to updating the entries in the Directory. At an *ad hoc* meeting of the Euraslic Board in Rome, June 2002, Jean Collins demonstrated a CDS/ISIS based directory software that is being used for the Directory of Fisheries and Aquaculture Information Resources in Africa, and Jan Haspeslagh (Belgium) has recently volunteered the use of their own in-house directory software. The Board is happy to receive suggestions from Members of any other appropriate directory software that should be considered. The Euraslic Board will shortly be reviewing these suggestions and taking this matter forward.

An announcement of the Euraslic website review was recently sent to the Discussion List. Commencement of this Review has been delayed by problems of access to the site during the summer, and many of us still seem to be experiencing problems accessing Euraslic on the web. Please report any problems over access directly to the Website Manager, Sofia Goulala (sgoulala@ncmr.gr), and please send any ideas or suggestions for a newlook website to the Discussion List.

### Finally, but very importantly...

The 10<sup>th</sup> Euraslic Conference will be held in Kiel, Germany from 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

May 2003. Details of the Conference were sent to all Members in July and the Conference Organiser, Barbara Schmidt, is waiting for you to respond with details of your contribution to this event. Further information about this Tenth Conference is included in this *Newsletter* so please don't wait, send to Barbara today details of papers you'll be presenting, country and/or institution reports you'll be giving, and any other activities you would like to suggest and/or be involved in.

I look forward to seeing you all in Kiel.

Best wishes,

Joan Baron Varley, Euraslic President.

EURASLIC Newsletter Editorial Team for number 26

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The EURASLIC Newsletter is published twice a year, in April and October. The deadline for the April issue is the 31 March, the deadline for the October issue is the 30 September.

Please send all items for inclusion to Ian McCulloch at the above address. If possible, send it as an email attachment. Most formats are acceptable, but rtf is preferred.

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The complete Euraslic Membership List is available on the web site. Any members who wish to receive a paper copy should contact Sofia Goulala: National Center for Marine Research Library Documentation and Information Center Ag. Kosmas, GR 16604 Elliniko Athina, Greece Tel: 00301 96 53 520/21 Fax: 00301 96 53 522

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## Integrated Marine Information System (IMIS) can support ICZM in Flanders

In the previous EURASLIC-newsletter, a concise description was given of the different tasks of the Flanders Marine Institute VLIZ (Moistened, Belgium). One of the main goals was described there as: '[Marine] information management [must lead to] integration of all partners and knowledge items'. The IMIS-database was developed for this purpose. Currently, the VLIZ Marine Data and Information Centre is developing version 2 of this database. It was clear that the needs of ICZM, and anything related to this activity, were to be considered in detail, while developing and enhancing the functionalities of this information tool.

Below you will find an abbreviated translation of a paper presented on this subject at an ICZM-related Symposium in Belgium earlier this year. Since the publication of this paper, new steps have already been taken in the development process of IMIS 2. For current information on this subject, you are invited to contact us at the Flanders Marine Institute.

(Original citation: Vanden Berghe, E.; Schrijvers, J.; Seys, J.; Mees, J. (2002). Integrated coastal zone management needs integrated information management: IMIS as a support tool for ICZM. Pp 1-11 in Van Lancker, V.; De Turck, K.; Mees, J.; Mostaert, F.; Seys, J.; Vandevelde, D.; Van Rooij, D. (Ed.): Symposium 'Coastal zone management from a geo-ecological and economical perspective', 16-17 May 2002, Oostende. VLIZ Special Publication, 10. Genootschap van Geologen van de Universiteit Gent (GGG)/Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ): Oostende, Belgium.)

#### Contact:

VLIZ Flanders Marine Institute Vismijn Pakhuizen 45-52 B-8400 Oostende Tel. +32-(0)59-34 21 30 http://www.vliz.be email: info@vliz.be

In Belgium, as in any other country, it is important to use data and information in the best possible way, and to target it as correctly as possible. This is the best way to give ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) a good chance to succeed in its goals. Most of all, we need to present the information in a relevant and understandable way for the policy maker(s), without bothering this audience with superfluous details. Tailoring information is nothing less than developing accessible and transparent information. Managing this kind of information process is a three-levelled operation:

- Filtering information and compiling several 'Files' (vertical hierarchy)
- Categorizing information in different 'Entities' (horizontal hierarchy)
- Quality control of information

#### 1. General context: what is needed?

To translate data sets into information, which in turn can be translated for policy purposes, we need a 'knowledge management structure'. In this section we explain which elements are mandatory in such a system.

#### 1.1. Files

Raw data can only be used if placed in a certain context. This context gives meaning and relevance to the data. The result of this (the information) can be analysed, evaluated and discussed, and is as such the first basis for understanding and insight. Eventually this insight will be coupled to coastal zone management, in itself strongly supported by administrations and the general public.

It is important that a contextual approach, already starting at the level of raw data, is used. Carefully selected aspects which have important consequences for coastal communities need to undergo a conflict-driven analysis. The results of such analyses, together with the input of all interested parties, will lead to the choice of relevant 'Files'.

#### 1.2. Entities

The horizontal approach starts from pools of data at different levels. The data are placed in strictly defined 'Entities'. Firstly, a geographical outline and a spatial and temporal scaling need to be considered. Secondly, a 'File' that has been detected by conflict analysis of data, will be characterised by several entities, which will place the 'File' in a certain context. This will make the 'File' ready for analysis and accessible for all concerned parties.

Deliberation on these files will lead to a spectrum of indicators, supported by data sets and maps. The purpose of indicators is to

present information, derived from extensive data pools, in a comprehensive, clear, and especially, a generally accepted format. Some of these indicators are selected for further use in policy-supported advice. Criteria such as availability, accessibility, equality between indicators, and the participation level are very important in these selections.

#### 1.3. Quality

A third level emphasizes on the quality of the data in the system. The main concern is the 'fitness for use' of the data. Most importantly, one needs to document the information quality, by providing a consistent description of the quality checks the data have undergone, and of the used standards.

# 2. What has the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) to offer?

Within the ICZM-context, the IMIS database will be the most interesting VLIZ-activity to consider. This database integrates information concerning expertise, organizations, projects, conferences, literature, infrastructure and datasets. IMIS is managed by the Flanders Marine Data and Information Center of VLIZ. The different information sources ('Entities') are identical to the different modules in IMIS, and each one has its own access point in the database. In this respect it is evident that IMIS, given a focused adaptation and expansion, would be an excellent 'knowledge management infrastructure' for ICZM.

#### 2.1. Files

VLIZ is able to acquire, manage and redistribute information on a coastal 'File', in an intelligent way. We refer in this respect to the implementation of a new entity 'Files' within IMIS. An automatic coupling of this new source will be made with a set of 'Descriptors' (title, abstract, location, contact person). This business-card of the 'File' will be the first level of ICZM-information within IMIS, serving as a practical access point.

#### 2.2. Entities

The content analysis of a 'File' will also be translated in an extra set of 'Entities', serving as a second level within IMIS: 'basic entities' such as places, persons, organisations, publications, projects and events; 'data entities' such as indicators, maps and data sets; 'background entities' such as regulations, uses, case studies, habitats and instruments. The content scope will be much broader than the purely marine scientific context, with input from all concerned sectors and from other than environmentally related sources.

As mentioned before, a series of indicators can support a file, analyse it and discuss it. The module 'Indicators' must therefore be considered as one of the most important new entities to be added to IMIS. Each selected indicator will be presented with a set of descriptors. This set will provide an unambiguous interpretation of the indicator, preventing identification-, definition- and interpretation problems.

#### 2.3. Quality

The quality label assigned to the 'Entities', 'Indicators', 'Datasets' and 'Maps', is an essential part of the system. The quality label will focus mainly on data related to accessibility, inadequacies, restraints, availability, validity, relevance and comparability.

#### 3. Integrated Marine Information System

IMIS has been conceived to map all information relevant to marine and coastal aspects. This information is stored in separate modules. Currently, modules exist for 'Persons', 'Institutes', 'Publications', 'Projects', 'Conferences' and 'Datasets'. All modules are linked to each other. The information compiled in IMIS forms a network, comparable to a road map. The newly proposed entity 'Files' would then be the route planner, indicating which roads in the network will lead to the needed information. The extension of IMIS to a knowledge management tool for ICZM is an example of the flexibility of IMIS.

#### 3.1. Existing 'Entities' within IMIS

For an overview of the current version of IMIS and of the already implemented 'Entities', see the paper on IMIS published in the IAMSLIC/EURASLIC-Proceedings<sup>1</sup>. In this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Haspeslagh, J.; Vanden Berghe, E. (2002). IMIS: Integrated Marine Information System. Pp 37-63 in Markham, J.W.; Hyett, D.J.; Duda, A.L. (Ed.): *Managing Resources in a Sea of Change: Proc. 27th Ann.Conf. Internat.Assoc. Aquat.Mar.Sci.Libr.Inf.Cent./9th Conf.Eur.Assn Aquat.Sci.Libr.Inf.Cent., joint IAMSLIC/ EURASLIC Conference held 14-19 October, 2001 at Brest, France.* IAMSLIC: Fort Pierce, FL (USA)

paper we have used the word modules, whereas here we use the word 'Entities' to indicate the same concept.

#### 3.2. New 'Entities' to be developed

As stated already it will be necessary to adjust certain existing entities, and to create new ones, to be able to capture all relevant information for ICZM. We will discuss here the 'Entities' 'Files', 'Indicators' and 'Attributes', as being the most important and indispensable. For 'Maps', 'Locations', 'Places', 'Habitats', 'Uses', 'Instruments' and 'Regulations', new entities will be needed too. These will not be discussed here.

#### 3.2.1. Entity 'Files'

This new source of information, called 'Files' will be joined automatically to a new set of descriptors. These descriptors will be filled in by the coordination centre. The most elementary descriptors are:

- Title: name of the file
- Description: description of the file
- Location: place connected with the file
- Contact: person available for more information on the file

The new entity with its basic descriptors must be seen as a business card for the file, giving access to an underlying world of information and networking. Further information on the 'File' is added through links:

- Links with other 'Files': related files and sub- or super-files
- Links with other entities: 'Indicators', 'Persons', 'Institutes', 'Publications', 'Events', 'Projects', 'Datasets', 'Maps', 'Places', etc.

#### 3.2.2. Entity 'Indicators'

Indicators are synthetic and representative depictions of a more complex set of phenomena, which, by preference, can be measured on a quantitative scale. These figures must be interpretable, and they must have a clear meaning within the 'File' framework. Through these 'Indicators', and through the primary datasets, from which these 'Indicators' are deduced, a 'File' is substantiated with facts and findings.

The number of 'Indicators' per 'File' can increase strongly. From such a set, a selected

list of key indicators needs to be filtered out. These selected indicators will be presented by a set of descriptors. Two aspects in this descriptors set are important: an unambiguous general description, and the relations between the indicator and the underlying datasets (through means of 'Attributes').

The unambiguous interpretation of the indicator must prevent problems with identification, definition or interpretation. It can be defined by the following descriptors:

- Title: name of the indicator
- Definition: short and unambiguous description of the indicator
- Measurement unit of the indicator
- Measurement level/resolution: spatial and temporal scale
- Statistical level: ratio, intervals, ordinals, nominals
- Meaning: relation between the indicator and the 'File' where it is used for
- Evaluation: assessment of the data evolutions

In a second stage, the set of descriptors will specify the quality, availability and relevance of the indicator. This data level is also important for the entities 'Datasets' and 'Maps'.

#### 3.2.3. Entity 'Attributes'

A second part of the descriptor set will describe the data quality, the lack of data, the validity, the relevance for policy, the comparability in time and space, etc. A possible set of 'Attributes' would be:

- Indicator: what the specific indicator is related to
- Primary data source: origin of the data (linking to 'Datasets')
- Availability: which Institute provides the data (linking to 'Institutes')
- Lack of data: missing data
- Price
- Data quality
  - Reliability: level of accurate primary collection of data
  - Validity: validity problems related to use of these data
  - Comparability: to what extent are comparisons in time and space possible?

#### Black Sea Regional Library Co-operation Project - Scoping Study meeting

7-9 August 2002, Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, Sevastopol, Ukraine.

The Meeting was hosted by Olga Akimova (Ukraine) and attended by Snejina Bacheva (Bulgaria), Irakli Goradze (Georgia), and Yulia Tyutina (Russia). Kseniya Zhiryakova (Ukraine) attended as an Observer.

The aim of the project is to create an online cooperative bibliographic information system for literature on the Black Sea. The proposed system will unite the electronic catalogues and databases of the Black Sea marine libraries into an efficient information exchange system accessible through the Internet, enabling the individual libraries to not only collaborate in the lamslic Z39.50 Linking Libraries Project, but also providing high-quality, fully referenced, easily accessible information to support the needs of scientists, environmental NGOs, industry, teachers, students and the general public.

Good progress was made in discussing the details of the Scoping Study. All participants were very active and concerned with the project. Step by step they scanned all phases of the draft, and Olga Akimova has since formatted and translated the document and submitted it to the Euraslic Board for initial comments.

Currently there are representatives from four of the countries that border the Black or Azov seas, but the Project Coordinator, Olga Akimova, is hoping to involve participants from Turkey following a visit to Marine Institutes in Ankara and Erdemli in September. They are still trying to identify an appropriate Romanian partner.

> Olga Akimova Project Coordinator Black Sea Regional Library Co-operation Project – Scoping Study Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas Sevastopol, Ukraine

#### **lamslic Conference 2002**

lamslic held its annual conference earlier this month at Mazatlan, Mexico. Unfortunately, there were only two delegates from Europe amongst the 74 participants from 19 countries (plus five sponsoring publishers). According to at least one of them, it was an excellent program as well as a wonderful location and local hosts. You can see a list of the attendees at:

http://www.nefsclibrary.nmfs.gov/2002iamslic/ 2002attendees.html. The conference programme is still available at http://www.nefsclibrary.nmfs.gov/2002iamslic/ 2002program91202a.pdf and the abstracts at http://www.nefsclibrary.nmfs.gov/2002iamslic/ 2002paperabstracts91102c.pdf. Pauline Simpson presented Olga Akimova's paper, *EURASLIC ECET Group: People, Objectives, Cooperative Projects.* Perhaps someone can give us a more detailed report of the conference for the next newsletter.

#### Biaslic 2002

The Britain and Ireland Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres had its Annual Meeting at CEH Windermere on June 6<sup>th</sup>, attended by 10 library and information professionals from all around the country. The meeting was smaller than usual, but quite a productive one. The minutes are available at the Biaslic web site, at http://windermere.ceh.ac.uk/biaslic.htm

#### Publications

A PDF version of the "Fiches d'Identification des Espèces pour les besoins de la pêche Zone de Pêche 37 Revision 1, Méditerranée et Mer Noire" is available at:

#### Volume 1

<u>ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/sidp/mediter1/X01</u> 69F00.pdf

Volume 2 <u>ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/sidp/mediter2/X01</u> <u>70F00.pdf</u>

#### **New Journal**

The Data Science Journal is a peer-reviewed electronic journal publishing papers on the management of data and databases in Science and Technology. It is a freely available electronic journal, published by the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) of the International Council for Science. You can find it at http://www.datasciencejournal.org/

#### Website

#### http://www.bl.uk/gabriel/

Many of you will already have seen this, but for those who haven't, Gabriel is the World Wide Web service of Europe's National Libraries represented in the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL). Unfortunately, it doesn't offer an online union catalogue of all of the National Libraries' holdings, but there are links to each separate OPAC as well as a list of all the online services offered, sorted by country.



# Smooth Sailing: Crossing the Boundaries in Aquatic Sciences Information Management

The Tenth Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

> 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2003 Institut für Meereskunde, Kiel, Germany

**Second Announcement and Preliminary Conference Information** 



Schleswig

"A conference is just an admission that you want somebody to join you in your troubles" [Will Rogers]

## **Conference Organiser**

Barbara Schmidt, Bibliothek, Institut für Meereskunde, Duesternbrooker Weg 20, D-24105 Kiel, Germany. Tel.: +49 (431) 600-1559; Fax: +49 (431) 600-1665; Email:<u>bschmidt@ifm.uni-kiel.de</u>

Conference Website: http://www.ifm.uni-kiel.de/ze/zb/conference/first.htm

# **Provisional Programme**

The Provisional Conference Programme will be distributed in April 2003, however it is anticipated that it will include the following sessions. Please contact the Conference Organiser, Barbara Schmidt, if you would like to suggest any alternative or additional sessions, or if you would like to volunteer to Chair a session.

## **Conference Sessions:**

Cataloguing the Internet: subject gateways; portal; vortals...

Transition from Print to Electronic Media: e-journals; e-books; e-publishing...

Information Piracy: intellectual property rights; copyright; licenses...

Networks of Excellence: National, Regional and International Aquatic Networks...

## **Special Sessions:**

**Country, Regional, Institution Reports** 

Posters

**Commercial Presentations** 

## **Discussion Sessions:**

**Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)** 

**E-Learning** 

**Environment Librarians Group** 

**Euraslic Directory** 

**European Countries in Economic Transition (ECET)** 

Freshwater Institutes

Funding Opportunities - EU Framework Programme 6

**Mediterranean Special Interest Group** 

## Workshop:

Lost in Cyberspace? Raising Your Institute's Profile on the Internet...

## Second Call for Papers and Expression of Interest in Attending

Deadline for Submission of Papers: 31 March 2003

Please complete the form below and post or fax to: Barbara Schmidt, Bibliothek, Institut für Meereskunde, Duesternbrooker Weg 20, D-24105 Kiel, Germany.

> Fax: +49 (431) 600-1665 Email: <u>bschmidt@ifm.uni-kiel.de</u>

## **Personal Details:**

First Name:	Last Name:	Title:
Country:		
Institution:		
Address:		
Tel:		
Fax:		
Email:		
Title of Presentation:		
Author(s):		
Abstract:		

## **Type of Presentation:**

Poster Paper	Panel Discussion	Workshop 🗌
Regional Report	Country Report	Institution Report

## Please indicate AV/Computer Equipment Needed:

Powerpoint 🗌	Projector (OHP/Transparencies)	Slides	
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## Field Trip: Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003:

Please indicate if you are interested in joining this excursion  $Yes \square No \square$ 



# Field Trip: Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003

The day trip will begin with a visit to the picturesque town of Schleswig, home of the famous local brewery and the historic fishing village of Holm. This will be followed by a short boat trip to the Haithabu-Museum of the Vikings, and finally tea in the seaside resort of Eckernförde.

Cost: 30 Euros

## **REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP**

Financial assistance may be available in special circumstances to participants who do not have access to funding. If you would like to be considered to receive sponsorship please complete the form below and send it to:

Joan Baron Varley, Euraslic President, 170 Moorings Way, Milton, Southsea PO4 8YN United Kingdom. Fax: +44 (0)23 9286 4093; Email: joanbaronvarley@btopenworld.com

First Name: Last Name: Title: Country: Institution: Address: Tel: Fax: Email:

**Presenting a paper, poster or report: Yes** No Title of Presentation:

## **Details of Financial Assistance Requested:**

Travel costs: Euros

Subsistence: Euros

Conference fees:

- Members: 45 Euros
- Non-Members: 80 Euros
- Field-trip: 30 Euros

Full sponsorship:

Part sponsorship

Will you be receiving any financial support from your own organisation/country? Yes: Amount: Euros