

Interreg 
EUROPEAN UNION

**2 Seas Mers Zeeën
SARCC**

European Regional Development Fund



**Southend-on-Sea
City Council**

Sustainable and Resilient Costal Cities (SARCC)

Talk One Closing Conference 6th December 2022



What are the main pressures on coastal cities?

Common themes exist across all four of the countries involved within the project.

1. Funding/Resources
2. Recreational Use
3. Coastal Squeeze and Hard Infrastructure
4. Legislation



Funding/resources for NBS

- UK

- Environment agency supply a larger amount of funding for coastal defence. But current funding models make the use of NBS very difficult. Although new legislation has been put into place to support NBS (FCERM Strategy).

- France

- Municipalities have been tasked with flood prevention since 2015 but can delegate this task to river basin authorities (EPTB). Municipalities or communities bear the costs of local defence operations, with the possibility of additional funding by the Regional Council. Exceptions are the coasts adjacent to the three major ports of Marseilles, Le Havre and Dunkirk, which are managed by the port authority.



- Belgium

- Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services, which falls under the Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works. Are responsible for coastal defence in Belgium. A significant sum has been spent on coastal defence since 2013. Like holland one of the main issues is the amount of sand that is available and land in order for the coastline to adapt.

- Netherlands

- As a country with three major rivers flowing through it and with 523 kilometres of coastline, the Netherlands is a frontrunner in coastal management. Because the country is a low-lying delta, they have lived with water for centuries. A delta in combination with geographic location makes it very vulnerable to inundation. Waterboards provide funding for coastal defence and have a policy of hold the line at any cost. They have been innovating for many years for example funding the technique now known as the “sand motor”.



Recreational Use



- Its very difficult to balance nature and tourism.
- As you can see from the previous slides people tend not to leave much room for NBS.

• Has Middelkerke come up with the solution?



Costal Squeeze and Hard Infrastructure

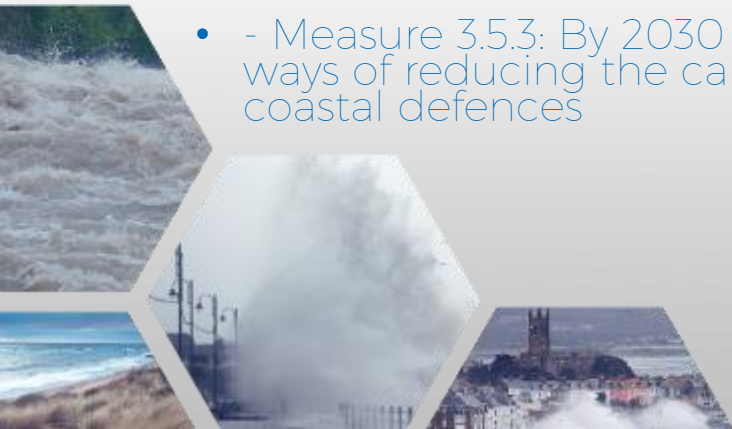
- Practically a problem in Southend as the Mean High Water Line along Southend is the sea wall now.
- Many of the NBS looked at for Southend are in the intertidal zone. Hard defences along with rising sea levels mean losing this critical habitat.
- Long durée has taught us that the coast has remained mostly stable for thousands years. Its only since human intervention that costal processes have changed.



Legislation (UK)

The FCERM Strategy works towards mainstreaming nature-based solutions (NBS) in coastal flood management where possible. Specific objectives include:

- Measure 1.4.2: From 2021, risk management authorities will work with catchment partnerships, coastal groups, land managers and communities to mainstream the use of nature based solutions.
- Measure 1.4.5: From 2021 risk management authorities will work with Natural England and other partners as they develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies that enable new and restored habitats to contribute to flood and coastal resilience.
- Measure 2.2.1: From 2021 risk management authorities will plan all flood and coastal defence projects and programmes to deliver biodiversity gain, in line with the government's mandate, and seek to encourage other environmental benefits.
- Measure 2.2.2: From 2021 risk management authorities will work with developers and planners to maximise the opportunities for flood and coastal resilience as part of contributing to environmental net gain for development proposals.
- - Measure 3.5.3: By 2030 the Environment Agency will work with its supply chain to develop world leading ways of reducing the carbon and environmental impact from the construction and operation of flood and coastal defences



EU Legislation

Our next speaker is a expert in this subject matter so I will pass over to Michal

