

Interreg

2 Seas Mers Zeeën
SARCC



European Regional Development Fund



Adaptation
to climate
change



SARCC

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2022



SARCC FINAL CONFERENCE

We've just completed our successful run of regional seminars across the 2 Seas region, sharing information on the SARCC project and encouraging discussion on nature-based solutions (NBS) and how best to implement them. You can see a couple of photos below from the seminars in Lille!

With the SARCC project coming to an end in early 2023, we are excited to invite you to take part in our SARCC Final Conference this December, where we will provide a forum for information sharing regarding NBS in coastal cities. The conference is free to attend in Southend on Sea, UK, however with limited spaces or opportunities for travel, the entire event will also be available as a live-stream online.

The conference will provide an overview of the SARCC project, detailing the outputs and results to disseminate results and address policy changes. It will include panel discussions with stakeholders involved in coastal management, provide opportunity to interact with our 14 project partners and learn about specifics of the pilot NBS trialled across the project countries of UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Last but not least, we will cover an essential aspect of mainstreaming NBS - mechanism to positively engage local communities that will be involved in public consultations, highlighting the value/benefits of NBS to coastal communities and supporting the approval process for the investment into NBS.

Over the next few pages you can see the agenda and speaker bios for the conference. On behalf of the SARCC partnership, we are looking forward to welcoming you this December!

THE SARCC PARTNERSHIP

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THE SARCC FINAL CONFERENCE

SARCC's final conference will be available both in person and also online via a live-stream. Consult our website for more information about tickets.

VENUE:

- Park Inn Hotel – Southend-On-Sea
- Attend in person (sign up via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/368914612537>)
- Attend online (sign up via www.sarcc.eu/sarccfinalconferencebooking)

TIMING:

- December 6th PM – December 8th PM
- Tues 6th (12pm-5pm), Weds 7th (9am-5pm), Thurs 8th (9am-12:30pm)

AIM:

- Provide a forum for information sharing regarding nature-based solutions (NBS) in coastal cities. The conference will provide an overview of the SARCC project, detailing the outputs and results and address policy changes

AGENDA:

Day 1 - 6th Dec (12pm-5pm)

- 12:00 Lunch and networking
- 13:00 Conference introduction
 - Spoken intro and welcome
 - What SARCC set out to achieve
 - SARCC overview video
- 13:15 Presentations
 - Talk 1: What are the main pressures on coastal cities?
 - Keynote: NBS policy in a European and World context
 - Talk 3: Funding for NBS, challenge or opportunity?
 - Talk 4: Quantifying success of NBS projects
- 14:40 Coffee break
- 15:00 Engaging the public, a key for NBS mainstreaming + quickfire Q&A
- 15:20 WP3 Visualisation toolkit demo and roadshow feedback
- 15:50 Coffee break
- 16:00 Policy, funding and engagement panel
- 17:00 End of day 1

Day 2 - 7th Dec (9am-5pm, including afternoon site visit to Southend pilot)

- 09:00 Coffee and networking
- 09:30 Welcome back
 - Recap day 1
- 09:45 Keynote: Innovative ways of approaching NBS in coastal and estuarine cities
- 10:10 Collaboration between Interreg projects + highlights of Marineff
- 10:25 Coffee break
- 10:35 Pilots introduction
 - Pilot videos and presentations
 - 7 SARCC pilot projects overview
- 11:40 Guided pilot panel Q&A
- 12:20 Lunch / networking
- 13:30 SARCC Southend pilot site visits
- 15:45 Coffee break
- 16:00 WP2 NBS capacity building overview and presentation of WP2 booklet
- 17:00 End of day 2

Day 3 - 8th Dec (9am-12:30pm)

- 09:00 - Coffee / networking
- 09:30 - Welcome back
 - Recap day 2
- 09:45 - WP1 NBS knowledge panel and Q&A
- 11:15 - Coffee break
- 11:30 - Future projects, Making Space for Sand
- 11:50 - Catchment to Coast, the future of NBS policy
- 12:20 - Conference closing remarks
- 12:30 - Lunch and networking
- 13:30 - End of conference

BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY:

www.sarcc.eu/sarccfinalconferencebooking

SARCC ROADSHOW

UPDATE

During the latter half of 2022 in the build up to our final conference and the SARCC project coming to a close, a number of our partners have been touring around SARCC's four resident countries as part of our public outreach program, spreading the word of the SARCC project. This is referred to as the SARCC Roadshow!

With such a vast area to cover, touring across the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands the SARCC Roadshow had to be organized in an innovative way. Spearheaded by our team members at Maritime Archaeology Trust, the events took place using their Discovery Bus, as both transport and as an education centre at all of the Roadshow stops. This mobile exhibition featured a range of multi-sensory interactive facilities, with posters and banners depicting the pilot investment taking place at each of their locations, as well as several screens showing videos from the pilot areas explaining the nature-based solutions.

Setting off in March, the tour began its travels in Hampshire at the National Oceanography Centre with Nigel Atkinson HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. Having kicked off the tour with such a grand opening we continued on to the Isle of Wight, where we began by visiting the Queensgate Foundation Primary School which was also attended by HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Mrs Susie Sheldon. It was great to have our first visit alongside seventy-five children visiting the bus to learn about submerged landscapes and the SARCC project.

We continued on to the Cowes Enterprise College where year nine students were introduced to the SARCC initiative as well, participating in conversations, quizzes and much more. In May, the Discovery Bus team continued the tour visiting Gravelines in France, followed by the Blue Economy Science Summit at Blue Bridge Oostende, Oostende voor Anker event, stopping at the Burg Square in Bruges and finally attending the annual Blankenberge Harbour Festival. Despite not staying in each location long, the Discovery Bus was a great success, visited by fifty delegates in Oostende alone, hundreds of school children, and thousands of passers-by interested in the SARCC project.



During our time in both France and Belgium the numbers of people we were able to interact with was beyond expectations. During the four-day festival in Blankenberge, a reported eighty-thousand visitors were in attendance, whilst a staggering one-hundred and eighty-thousand people came to the Oostende voor Anker, an amazing large annual event with many historic vessels on show along with many activities and music performances taking place. Whilst enjoying all of these events, we were able to talk to many of the visitors about the project with many more making full use of the QR codes embedded in our posters and promotional materials around the bus allowing the public easy access to our website, visualization toolkit and mindscape surveys to leave us feedback on the project.

Following such a huge success in France and Belgium, the Roadshow Discovery Bus has subsequently gone on to tour the UK throughout June and August, primarily visiting events across Cornwall and the New Forest region. A particular highlight for the team when travelling around Cornwall was the Royal Cornwall Show in June, where a reported one-hundred and twenty thousand plus visitors attended throughout the three-day event. The conversations about the nature-based solutions and coastal changes, much like in France and Belgium, were spurred on particularly by those who had recognised the dramatic images of storms and flooding on the bus from their local area, which in this case was Penzance. Many people shared personal stories about their experiences with flooding, showing their passionate interest in our work. Finding such enthusiastic individuals amongst classes of local school children can frequently be challenging, particularly when talking about 'adult' issues. Thankfully this fear was immediately cast aside when talking with the children, who were overwhelmingly fascinated by the artefacts we had on display and eager to learn about sea level rise.

Continuing from here, our next stop was at Penryn Collage, where our team were fortunate enough to engage with hundreds more students, leading student discussions, presenting SARCC videos, and doing nature-based solution themed quizzes. As this trip concluded our tour of Cornwall, we were once again able to monitor the success of our presentations through feedback surveys, our interactions with the public and the many mindscape questionnaires completed on the bus whilst in Cornwall.



In August the Roadshow continued its tour around the UK, visiting the New Forest, Bucklers Hard and Lepe Country Park. Although the New Forest isn't close to either of our two UK pilot investments, it's coastline and community have been severely affected by sea level change and extreme erosion, particularly in recent years. Only a year ago a large portion of the Hurst Castle wall collapsed. This important historical tourist spot was built in 1544 on the coast and acted as a sea defence for centuries. Its destruction really showcases how the current sea and climate changes are increasing pressures on the already fragile coast. This is but one of many examples of the destruction rising sea levels is causing in the New Forest area. In both Bucklers Hard and Lepe Country Park also, visitors frequently approached us to talk about their own experiences. With the first event in the New Forest geared toward nature and conservation, people were generally very curious to learn more about nature-based solutions, particularly in context to solving issues in their towns and villages. By the end of these visits, not only had many people learnt about the values of SARCC but we had also learnt a great deal from them. As we wrapped up and travelled our separate ways back home, we began reading the bus visitor's book and the kind comments people had left behind. Quotes like, 'I'll be investigating further', 'this sounds like a very valuable resource', and 'we thought this was a brilliant display and so informative, also very child friendly, we learnt lots' were just the tip of the iceberg.

Finally, the last location on the tour was Vlissingen in the Netherlands, the home of the final pilot. The pilot project in Vlissingen is being implemented along the seafront, protecting the buildings that have previously been threatened by the encroaching sea. Using very inventive nature-based solution, excess seawater during surge flooding events will be absorbed and redirected naturally to an urban system to limit the chance of damage to property. This is achieved by a combination of green barriers and raised dyke as well as utilising open green space within the city as a sump. With a pilot of this scale, stretching across such a vast breadth of land a great deal of locals were actively looking for answers as many had heard of the planned works. We were able to provide detailed answers, giving away hundreds of handouts containing images and text explaining the pilot scheme. When returning home and concluding the Roadshow tour, our team felt a great sense of achievement. It's sad that the SARCC project is coming to an end, but the passion, hope and fascination unanimously expressed across these four countries, from people of all ages is certainly cause for celebration.



SARCC PILOT GALLERY

Take a look at a few of the SARCC pilot sites below. Work is certainly underway!



Oostende - May 22



Southend - Sept 22



Middelkerke - May 22



Newlyn - Sept 22



Gravelines - May 22



Blankenberge - Oct 22

Make sure you attend the SARCC Final Conference in December to hear more about the SARCC pilots / outcomes.



FEATURED TWEETS

A few tweets from the past few months. Make sure to follow us @SARCCeu and tweet with #SARCC to be featured next time!



@maritimetrust

Very productive meeting in #Vlissingen with our @SARCCeu colleagues. Heading into the final stages of the project using nature based solutions for coastal management. #coastalmanagement #nbs #sarcc



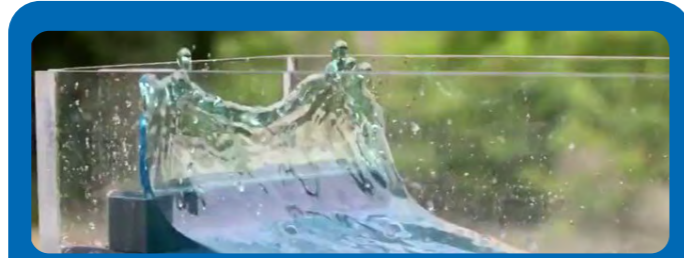
@SARCCeu

Our team in @SouthendCityC have been busy this week, laying down the foundations for their #SARCC pilot, using a #GreenTerracing method. Another #naturebasedsolution to tackle rising sea levels!



@_Gravelines

The city participates in the cross-border cooperation project Interreg 2Seas SARCC to integrate nature-based solutions into coastal management and flood defenses.



@AstroStijn

Amazing demonstration of the effectiveness of different forms of coastal defences also interesting for @SARCCeu! #nbs & #coastaldefense



@H_vandenberghe

@AstroStijn, with sarcc we just had the same thought and have already realized this with the help of Vives. It was certainly worth the effort to realize this.

SARCC PROJECT SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

The SARCC project has three main online platforms. These are the website, the SARCC twitter account (@SARCCeu) and the YouTube account. Over the last three years of the project, these have been growing in reach as you can see in the diagrams.

This is great news and we'd love to do one final push for the end of the project! So if you have any questions, photos or thoughts about the SARCC project, do make sure to tweet them with #SARCCeu.

Also if you're attending the final conference, in person or virtually, make sure you use our hashtag #SARCCevent to join the conversation and help spread the reach of the project even further!

YouTube

Videos: 62
Views: 4189
Subscribers: 25



SARCC Website

Visits: 14,330
Page views: 32,814
Newsletter subscribers: 530



Twitter

Profile Visits: 15,639
Tweet Impressions: 95,373
Followers: 130



Total Online Reach:

130,061



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