

# Interreg

2 Seas Mers Zeeën  
SARCC



EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional Development Fund



Adaptation  
to climate  
change



SARCC

# NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

#1



# AN INTRODUCTION TO SARCC



Mean sea level rise (SLR) could increase by 1.5m-2.5m by 2100, which would see damage caused by coastal flooding in Europe increase from €1.25bn per annum currently to €961bn in just over 80 years (European Commission, 2018). Urban areas situated along the 2 Seas coastline are particularly vulnerable to extreme SLR (a combination of SLR, tide and storm surges). Coastal flood plans and policies focus predominantly on deploying traditional grey infrastructure/heavy engineering and ignore the use of nature-based solutions (NBS), despite the overwhelming evidence of their potential to reduce flood risk and provide multiple benefits.

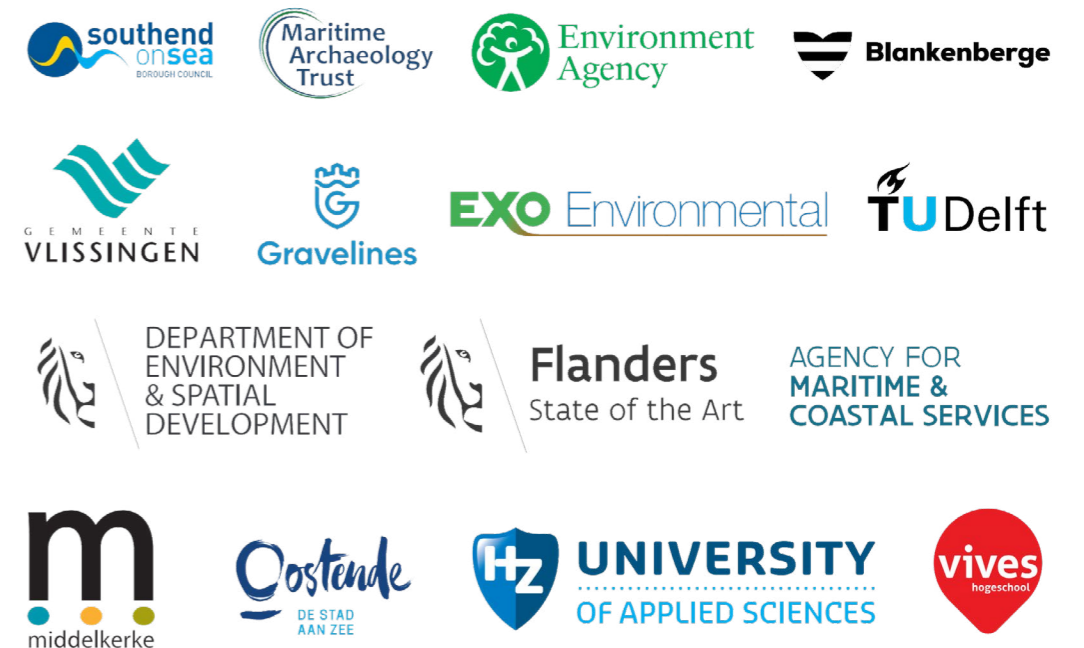
NBS are often not considered by policy-makers in detail due to the perceived risks around costs, potential for success, requirements for immediate protection / improvement and uncertainties regarding future change. A clear knowledge gap exists across coastal local authorities to deploy NBS as a means to reduce future coastal flood risk and economic damage.

Sustainable And Resilient Coastal Cities (SARCC) will mainstream nature-based solutions (NBS) into coastal management and policy making, whether that is as stand alone projects or NBS-hybrids, where they are integrated into existing grey infrastructure and flood defences. The project builds the capacity of urban leaders, decision-makers and officers involved in coastal flood defences to deploy NBS and understand the additional benefits that they offer in comparison to traditional grey infrastructure.

## THE SARCC PARTNERSHIP

### THE SARCC PARTNERS ARE BASED ACROSS THE 2SEAS REGION

Southend Borough Council (Lead Partner)  
Maritime Archaeology Trust  
Environment Agency  
City of Blenkenberge  
Municipality of Vlissingen  
City of Gravelines  
Exo Environmental Ltd  
University of Technology Delft  
Flemish Government - Department of Environment & Spatial Development  
Flemish Government - Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services  
Municipality of Middelkerke  
City of Ostend  
HZ University of Applied Sciences  
Vives University of Applied Sciences







**SAM BOTTERILL** BA. DUNELM MSC.  
LEAD PARTNER: SOUTHBEND BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CHAIR OF SARCC PROJECT

The Project is Live!

It is my pleasure to introduce the SARCC project, and formerly note some of the excellent work that has been done to date. SARCC is a pan European project 60% EU funded, designed to deliver a series of different and zero or low carbon innovative solutions, to combatting worst impacts of sea level rise.

SARCC will deliver around Euros 10m of investments. These will be split between physical assets and ancillary tools. The tools will outline processes and methodologies to address concerns of the individuals impacted by impending sea level change. The basic point is that communities have to be given the confidence that nature based solutions work. Capacity building is critical.

The main project focus is to engage with solutions that avoid using concrete where possible. Concrete and cement, solve short term problems only. They erode, cost a great deal to maintain, they also remove scenic beauty. If this was not enough, the production of concrete is one of the most carbon intensive processes in the industrial world. Nature based solutions often absorb carbon in contrast.

The project as a whole will also seek to show how monetary value is returned to the areas that employ such solutions. The investment has both a natural return, and a monetary return. A simple example being the potential for the coastline protection to be cheaper and more effective, because nature is doing the maintenance not the local authority.

This means that as well as delivering actual beach and coastline defences, at a pilot scale, the project will focus on the strategies that need to be deployed to engage businesses and individuals. This means working with universities that understand the study of the change in social acceptance along with successful post pilot adoption by an authority.

In addition SARCC will be using the geological record to show that nature based solutions, have precedent. Nature based solutions are not new and untried; nature has been using them for 1000's of years!

## OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of SARCC (Sustainable and Resilient Coastal Cities) is to help mainstream nature-based solutions (NBS) into coastal management and policy making, whether that is as stand-alone projects or NBS-hybrids, where they are integrated into existing grey infrastructure and flood defences. The project will build the capacity of urban leaders, decision-makers and officers involved in coastal flood defences to deploy NBS and understand the additional benefits that they offer in comparison to traditional grey infrastructure.

Essentially the project will enable the Urban Partners to embed new techniques, methodologies and practices into coastal management and planning policies and demonstrate the value of NBS and share this knowledge with other coastal urban landscapes across the 2 Seas. SARCC will develop a 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.



## SARCC TIMELINE

Nov 2017	<p>The Partners attended a targeted call event that saw Southend Borough Council agree to be Lead Partner and develop a bid that would allow nature-based solutions (NBS) to be mainstreamed as part of coastal management plans across coastal areas in the 2 Seas programme area.</p> <p>The purpose of the project would be to utilise NBS to develop a flexible coastal flood management strategy that would be reactive to the risks of sea level rise, tidal surges and storms that will be caused by climate change, in the way that traditional grey infrastructure is not.</p>
May 2018	<p>A Concept Note was submitted, which received a positive response and the Partners undertook to submit a full application in November 2018.</p>
Aug 2018	<p>Partners met face to face in London and a structured approach was agreed as to how the Partners would integrate all of the requirements and recommendations into the full application and develop the relationships between the different WPs and how they can be coordinated into delivering the NBS Pilot Investments.</p>
Oct 2018	<p>Partners met face to face in Bruges to further plan the SARCC programme.</p>
Nov 2018	<p>Full application submitted.</p>
Jan 2019	<p>Application approved.</p>

Over a year of preparation went into planning and submitting the application for SARCC with the approval in January 2019. Since then the Partners have met on 3 occasions to discuss plans and the future of the programme; Brussels in March 2019, Middelkerke in June 2019 and the work package leaders met in Brussels in July 2019. We've just completed the Initiation Phase and are now moving onto the next steps. The next Partner meeting is planned for October 2019 in Southend.

## NEXT STEPS

The partners will continue to work on the SARCC work packages, objectives and deliverables which will then be discussed in the next meeting in Southend in October 2019. Updates will continue to be posted via the website and social media channels and the next newsletter will be sent out / uploaded during December 2019.



## KEEP UPDATED

THE SARCC PROGRAMME IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING.  
KEEP UPDATED IN ONE OF THE MANY WAYS BELOW.

Website: <http://sarcc.eu>

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