

# EUCC - Germany

## Annual Report 2021

### Strategies and projects

In 2021, EUCC-D participated in 11 national and five European projects, studies and campaigns in the field of sustainable development of seas and coastal regions. The focus was on research activities, education, networking in management and culture as well as public relations.

#### Focus Marine Litter

At the beginning of the year, EUCC-D organized the annual **litter collection on New Year's Day** on the beach of Warnemünde together with researchers from the IOW. Litter was collected using the OSPAR methodology.

In cooperation with the Rostock-Warnemünde Tourist Office, the **Baltic Sea Ash Boxes** were once again placed on the beaches of Warnemünde and Hohe Düne/Markgrafenheide. Since 2016, these have helped to reduce the amount of cigarette butts on the beach, which make up the largest component of the beach litter. They are placed at ten highly frequented locations on the beach.

In addition, QR codes on the Baltic Sea Ash Boxes, lead to the **information platform [www.meeresmuell.de](http://www.meeresmuell.de)**, which EUCC-D has been operating since 2016 with financial support from the programme for the "Promotion of measures for environmental education, information and for environmental protection-related projects" of the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection M-V. The platform was updated in 2021 and an additional platform, "LitterExplorer" was introduced.

On the occasion of the International Coastal Cleanup Day on 18.9.2021, worldwide litter collections took place on beaches and river banks. The **Rostock Round Table On Marine Litter (Rostocker Meeresmüllstammtisch)**, of which EUCC-D is a member, correspondingly organized numerous collection events - on Rostocks beaches from Warnemünde to Torfbrücke and around the Warnow.

EUCC-D supported the collection on Warnemünde beach.

EUCC-D continues to be a participant in the state-wide **drift line litter monitoring** led by the State Office for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology MV (LUNG M-V) and collects beach litter quarterly at the Kägsdorf reference station.

The State Agency for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Geology MV (LUNG), in cooperation with EUCC-D, has published a brochure on the topic of marine litter on the Baltic Sea coast. The brochure "Less Litter - More Beach" gives an overview of the origin of marine litter, results of drift-line monitoring, results of scientific studies as well as measures to reduce beach litter.

#### Focus ESD

The extracurricular education project "**Alles im Fluss?!**" (DBU, NKG Hanseatic Nature and Environment Initiative, 2018-2021) was completed in 2021. In the project, children in grades 5-13 learned about different facets of the litter problem and implemented their own actions for less litter in the (marine) environment. In June, EUCC-D participated as an exhibitor in the digital "Week of the Environment" in Bellevue Palace Park with "Alles im Fluss?!".

As part of the project, EUCC-D developed the database "LitterExplorer". On this platform, volunteers can catalogue their findings collected on the beach according to the OSPAR method and evaluate them using diagrams. In addition, a learning opportunity in the form of a digital "message in a bottle" was made available via the education portal [www.kuestenschule.de](http://www.kuestenschule.de).

In the "**SeaArt**" project, EUCC-D developed several digital learning modules for Leibniz Universität Hannover to raise public awareness about the importance, function, threat and necessary protection of seagrass beds.

#### Focus ICZM

The **SEAPLANSACE** project (EU South Baltic Programme, 2018-2021) was completed at the end of 2021. The project partners organized a summer school on the basics of marine spatial planning and implementation using case studies from the

southern Baltic Sea region. At a final conference, the project results, as well as background information and challenges of marine spatial planning as a basis for sustainable coastal and marine management, were presented.

#### Focus Water Management

In the project **CONTRA** - Conversion of a Nuisance to a Resource and Asset (EU Baltic Sea Region Programme, 2019-2021), results on the sustainable management of beach wrack in the Baltic Sea Region were generated. At the final conference in June, the "Beach Wreck Network" was launched, which will be continued by EUCC-D after the end of the project. The network serves as a forum for knowledge exchange and future interdisciplinary cooperation around the management of beach wrack.

After three years, the **LiveLagoons** project (EU South Baltic Programme, 2017-2021) was completed in 2021. With the help of the information developed in the project, communities are enabled to implement their own floating wetlands in the long term. EUCC-D published a brochure on this. In summer 2021, two more plant islands were installed in the IGA Park in Rostock. In September, the islands were the focus of educational days with school classes on ecosystems and ecosystem services of the Baltic Sea.

In the **BaMS HaFF** project (BMBF, 2020-2022) salt-tolerant plants (halophytes) are used to take up nutrients from the eutrophic Baltic Sea, marine aquaculture facilities and salty wastewater which then are removed. The project is embedded in the BMBF-funded innovation space BaMS (Bioeconomy on Marine Sites). In spring, traditional medicinal plants were spread on the floating wetland in Born and analyzed with regard to antioxidant effect and polyphenol content.

On 04.11.2021, EUCC-D organized a workshop on "Bioremediation in the Baltic Sea: Plants as Multi-Talents", where findings and experiences on the potential and the handling of halophytes were presented.

In 2021, EUCC-D supervised a thesis by the Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts Kiel, in which floating baskets made of plant materials were designed and created for the cultivation of brown algae.

EUCC-D also exercised the EUCC Observer status and participated in various HELCOM meetings.

#### Focus Climate Change Adaptation

In November, the final event of the **GoCoase** project (BMBF, 2018-2021) took place. Under the title "Coastal protection strategies for adaptation to climate change: institutional governance and societal interaction", the results of the interdisciplinary research project were presented online. In GoCoase, strategies for coastal protection and adaptation to climate change for the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern were examined in an inter- and transdisciplinary manner.

In close cooperation with the Rostock & Warnemünde Tourist Board, EUCC-D set up the "**Treibselzaun**", a fence made out of beach wrack for research and testing purposes on Warnemünde beach. The aim was to test local beach wrack in terms of functionality and durability as well as to analyze a sand trap fence made with natural materials in comparison to a plastic fence. For this purpose, a weekly monitoring was implemented with the support of volunteers.

#### Focus Cultural Heritage

The **DUNC** project (Development of UNESCO Natural and Cultural Assets, EU South Baltic Programme, 2017-2021), which was dedicated to the development of sustainable tourism strategies for UNESCO World Heritage sites in the southern Baltic Sea region, was completed in 2021. The UNESCO network platform "Baltic Heritage Ideas" created in the project will be continued after the end of the project as an information and exchange portal for all stakeholders and interested parties.

The **CHERISH** project (Interreg Europe, 2018-2023) aims at regional development policies for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in fishing communities and thus at strengthening the attractiveness of the regions for businesses, citizens and tourists. Based on the exchange of experiences and strategies of the project regions, the partners develop measures for their region in close coordination with their regional stakeholders. EUCC-D advises and accompanies these stakeholder processes. A cross-regional learning and exchange event was held in Mallorca at the end of 2021.

### Focus Fisheries and Aquaculture

In the project **"Combined marine aquaculture: testing of a mussel production process in combination with a fish farm for decentralised aquaculture in MV"** (client: State Research Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries MV, 2018-2022), EUCC-D is responsible for the sub-area of utilisation of mussels. In 2021, studies were carried out on possible uses of small-scale mussels and evaluated with regard to regional implementation.

### Membership and Participation

By the end of 2021, the association had 72 members. Membership information was sent to members by e-mail and can be viewed in the members' area of the homepage. The association also reports regularly on social networks, especially Facebook and Twitter. All association activities were coordinated in Warnemünde. 20 staff members were involved in the implementation. In addition, numerous volunteers, including those for a Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ), internships, and work experience, supported the association as well as a seven-member advisory board. The annual general meeting was held online on 01.06.2021.

### Newsletter & Databases

In 2021, 6 issues of the electronic Coastal Newsletter were sent out and made available for download. The databases were continuously updated.

### Exhibitions

The photo exhibition "Cultural Heritage in European Fishing Communities" developed in the CHERISH project was first hosted in Sóller, Mallorca and then moved on to Kavala, Greece. In addition, the 24 pictures will be exhibited digitally until 2022:

<https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibitions/2982590/fishing-communities-heritage>.

The travelling exhibition "Human · Litter · Sea" was a guest at the Waloseum in Norddeich in 2021.

### Publications und Articles

- **Constructed floating wetlands made of natural materials as habitats in eutrophicated coastal lagoons in the Southern Baltic Sea.** Karstens, S. et al.,

Journal of Coastal Conservation (2021) 25: 44, DOI: 10.1007/s11852-021-00826-3

- **Coastline Web 6-9/2021:** SEAPLANSPEACE Country Specific Manuals
- **Coastline Reports 27** Marine Spatial Planning Instruments for sustainable marine governance in Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. D. Pyć et al., 2021

### Board

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- Anke Vorlauf
- Jacob Hinrichs/ Vanessa Kruse/ Helene Heubner/ Justin Hazem (FÖJ)
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### How can you support us?

Become a member of the EUCC-D association.

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Your advantages:

- Member of one of the largest coastal networks in Europe

- Information and active participation in the activities of the German association
- Subscription to the international association magazine "Coastal & Marine" and the German magazine "Meer & Küste".
- Use of EUCC-D media for dissemination of own research and project results

You can also actively support the work of the EUCC-D with a donation.

31.12.2021

