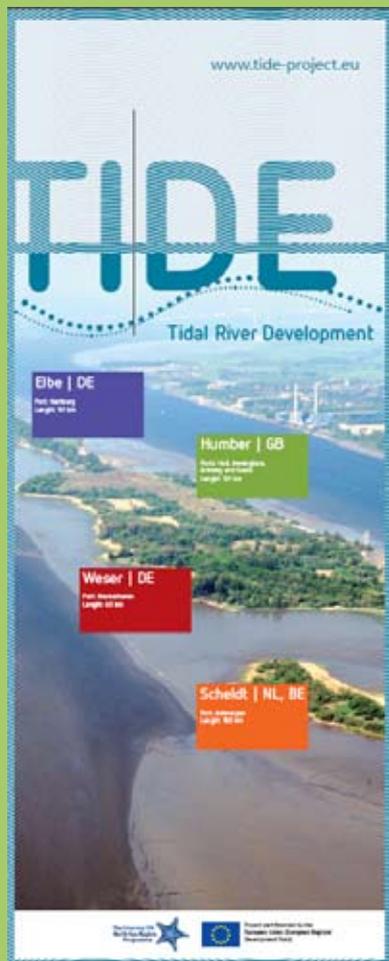


Topical Issues

Insight Ports

This section presents topical ICZM initiatives, policies, instruments and tools throughout Europe.



TIDE!

The estuaries of the Elbe (DE), Weser (DE), Scheldt (BE/NL) and Humber (UK) rivers have been chosen as case studies for the new ERDF-financed INTERREG IV B North Sea Region project "TIDE – Tidal River development".

These estuaries have many features in common: they have a strong tidal influence, they transport large quantities of sediment, and while they are all heavily used as shipping channels leading to large ports, many of the estuarine areas are designated as Natura 2000 sites. By integrating the knowledge and solutions generated in previous projects such as New!Delta, Harbasins and SedNet, and taking into account the needs for economic development of the port areas with the needs of the ecosystems, TIDE seeks to provide strategies for integrated management and planning in these estuaries.

To achieve this goal, TIDE has brought together ten partners – including port authorities, universities, and environmental and public agencies – from four countries, under the leadership of the Hamburg Port Authority. The three-year project (2010-2012) will improve knowledge on estuary functioning through resilience quantification and inter-estuarine comparisons, raise public awareness of the issues at stake, improve policy mechanisms and instruments, and gather and analyse mitigation and compensation measures. As a key to success, the project will involve stakeholders throughout the process by working with a variety of targeted regional working groups already in existence.

The TIDE experience gained throughout the project will be synthesized in a joint TIDE Toolbox documenting assessment tools (including a new resilience quantification approach), governance tools (including a roadmap to integrated estuarine management planning) and tools indicating the pre-conditions and results of various management measures and allowing for effectiveness comparisons. In an effort to share this knowledge with the planners, managers and decision-makers of other estuaries, TIDE will present this toolbox during a series of "TIDE on Tour" seminars throughout Europe.

The challenge is big: estuaries are dynamic and complex and face multiple threats, ranging from ecological pressures to sea level rise. The specificity of the estuarine systems which has made policy-making a difficult task in the past, is seen by the TIDE project as an advantage: experience and knowledge of the four tidal rivers will be exchanged and this cross-pollination will help to integrate management practices and policy strategies not only on a national scale but for the whole N.W. European region.

www.tide-project.eu
www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/home/

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