

Channel News - October 2019

Interreg's biggest ever project approved



We're proud to announce that France (Channel) England has approved the biggest project across all Interreg programmes, ever!

TIGER is a game-changing project for the European tidal stream energy sector that will see turbines submerged offshore to harness the energy of tidal currents which is then converted into electricity.

TIGER (The Tidal Stream Industry Energiser Project) is an ambitious €46.8m project, of which €28m (69%) is ERDF via the

programme's funding category for low carbon technologies.

TIGER will make a stronger, more cost-effective case for tidal stream to become part of the energy mix in the UK and France. Coastal communities used as ports of deployment will benefit from knock-on investment and job creation.

The project, led by the UK's Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, in Cornwall, is the largest ever to be approved not only by the France (Channel) England Programme but by any Interreg programme. There are 75 EU-funded Interreg programmes in the current programming period 2014-2020.

More information available on our website [here](#).

Major tourism project approved

FCE Programme has approved a €23.3 million project to promote off-season tourism, the largest amount we have awarded to a tourism project.

The four-year EXPERIENCE project aims to promote new tourism 'experiences' between October – March, increasing the number of visitors and overnight stays during the off-peak season.



Norfolk County Council is leading on the project, which has been awarded €16 million in ERDF funding by the programme under the category Natural & Cultural Heritage.

It stemmed from our 'targeted lab' on Tourism last year. This event brought together experts from across the UK and France to help them develop partnerships and project ideas about how to boost tourism throughout the Channel area.

EXPERIENCE aims to attract more than 20 million additional visitors to the Channel regions of France and England by the end of the project, and approximately 44 million after a further five years.

More information available on our website [here](#).



Project CobBauge scoops top European award



Project CobBauge has won a top European award for its modern twist on ancient building methods.

The project impressed the judges of the European Commission's RegioStars Awards for its work that will pave the way for 1,500 low-carbon homes to be built across the Channel area over 10 years.

Partners have developed innovative versions of 'cob' – a mixture of earth and fibres traditionally used in house-building in ancient times - that can pass modern building regulations in both the UK and France.

The walling material will be used to develop homes that are energy-efficient, comfortable, healthy to live in and inexpensive to run.

The ambitious €4m project has received €2.9m from the European Regional Development Fund via the Interreg France (Channel) England Programme.

CobBauge comprises three partners from each of the two countries and led by the University of Plymouth. Project manager Karen Hood-Cree was presented with the award for the category 'Connecting the green, blue and grey' at the ceremony at the EU week of Cities and Regions in Brussels on October 9.

Go Trade stand at European Regions and Cities Week

FCE project GO TRADE hosted a stand during the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) in early October in Brussels. The partners also introduced their project during a workshop.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the partnership to engage with local and regional stakeholders and EU and national policy makers on the importance of high street and market redevelopment.

The European Week of Regions and Cities is an annual Brussels-based four-day event during which officials from regions and cities' administrations, as well as experts and academics exchange good practices and know-how in the field of regional and urban development.



Apply for funding



A further three projects were selected for funding in September – including two that stemmed from our targeted project lab event on plastic pollution last year. PPP and Indigo projects were approved under the Low Carbon Technologies Specific Objective while Aspire was approved under the Social Innovation Specific Objective.

So, have you ever thought about applying for funding? An Interreg project can help raise your organisation's profile, open people up to new ideas, and create new markets.

With €68 million (32%) of ERDF still remaining, and €141 million ERDF committed so far, we are looking for applicants to apply for funding under one of our 5 [specific objectives](#). For more information and to get support with making an application, you can [contact](#) your local facilitator who can help you to develop your project and guide you through the application process. You can continue to apply for funding until April 2020 for micro projects and until June 2020 for regular projects, so, don't miss your chance! If you have a project idea, you can send us a few words about it on our website [here](#).

Happy Halloween!



[Trick](#) or [Treat!](#)



Contact us: interreg@norfolk.gov.uk



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