

Newsletter – Summer 2022



Welcome to the summer edition of the Interreg France (Channel) England programme newsletter.

In this newsletter, we will share with you some of the highlights of recent months with a focus on the award-winning **FLOWER** project and news of project **SUNPEOPLE** which has successfully delivered its output and has now closed.

European Week of Regions and Cities

The 20th Edition of European Week of Regions and Cities under the motto New Challenges for Europe's Cohesion is ready to take-off. On 10th -13th October 2022, a wide range of events about European Regional Development is taking place in Brussels, but also online. More information can be found [here](#).

Interreg FCE Annual Events:

Preparations are well under way for our 2022 annual event which is taking place in Cherbourg, France on 9 November, The event will highlight the aims and celebrate the achievements of many of the programme's projects.

We are also pleased to confirm that the 2023 annual event will held on 16 March 2023. It will take place in England although the location is still to be confirmed. Follow us on our website and social media for further updates.

Joint Secretariat updates

At the beginning of June, we were sad to say goodbye to our Communications Support Officer Barzin Viel-Bonyadi. We would like to wish Barzin all the very best in his new role as Communications and Media Officer at the Norwegian Embassy in Paris.

We are delighted to announce that the JS had two new starters at the beginning of July. Working with us as our new IVY reporter is Sara Pane and, in addition, Will Cafferkey joined us on a six-month internship. Both Sara and Will's main focus will be on Communications and in particular developing case studies of projects and planning our annual events for 2022 and 2023..



Project News – FLOWER continues to make excellent progress and wins prestigious award

FLOWER (Flax composites, Low weight, End of life and Recycling) is an innovative project aiming to enable the local production of **flax fibre reinforcements** for the **composite industry** at a lower cost focussing on the automotive, sailing and advertising industries. The project was launched in January 2018 and closes at the end of **June 2023**. The partnership is made up of 8 partners from across the programme areas and the Lead Partner is the Université de Bretagne Sud. The common challenge addressed by the project is the development and uptake of existing or new low-carbon technologies in the sectors that have the highest potential for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the FCE area. Developing

one prototype for each sector, FLOWER has also shown that it is possible to reduce the use of polluting materials and, in particular, reduce the need to use plastic.

Project Manager, **Lise Dugor**, (Université de Bretagne Sud) believes FLOWER's latest achievements are remarkable. With the **launch of an environmentally friendly boat prototype**, in Concarneau (France) on 21 to 22 April, project partners have proven that natural fibres which are less impacting for the environment, can also be used in the making of a foil sailboat.

In May this year, FLOWER took part in **JEC World 2022, a trade show taking place in Paris that brings together the global composite industry**. This annual event is dedicated to the promotion of the composite materials industry and of their applications.

To celebrate successful projects and cooperation between players in the composites industry the **JEC Composite Innovation Awards** Ceremony took place. This year the FLOWER project was selected as finalist in two categories, **Kairos**, in the 'Design, Furniture and Home' category and **Howa-Tramico** (for a headliner it produced for refrigerated lorry transportation and which was hung as a demonstrator at the Awards) in the 'Automotive and Road - Surface' category. Project partner **Kairos** was the winner of the Design, Furniture and Home category for the development of Kairlin. Kairlin is a recyclable and compostable biomaterial with a low environmental impact

This material, designed in collaboration with **EcoTechnilin, Université de Bretagne Sud** and the **University of Portsmouth**, is at the heart of the Flower project. It is a composite panel reinforced with Poly-(lactid) or PLA (a type of plastic that is used in building models and prototypes of solid objects and components) and flax, developed in monolithic and sandwich structures which has the advantage of being light and easy to machine.

Congratulations to the entire project team for the major steps achieved in the last few months!

Read more about FLOWER [here](#).



Project SUNPEOPLE Successfully Delivers their Project

We can also announce that project **SUNPEOPLE** has successfully delivered on the project outputs and has now closed. Consisting of two French and two English partners, this excellent microproject sought to increase the development and take up of a decarbonised heat and energy service in both the domestic and commercial sectors.

Despite the various challenges caused by the pandemic, SUNPEOPLE achieved all its output targets. This included actively engaging with over one hundred individuals and organisations to encourage the use of a combination of solar power and heat pumps to improve the way we heat space and water. The current energy crisis highlights the importance of projects such as SUNPEOPLE which seek to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels whilst also having a positive impact in the fight against climate change.

For more information about SUNPEOPLE please click [here](#).

Upcoming project events

- **Aspire** project partner, Vivons en Forme, will once again be offering free workshops which will take place in Saint-André-les-Lille, France on 6 September. The workshops will be led by professionals specialising in nutrition, physical activity and wellbeing. More information [here](#).
- Project **Marineff** is holding an Ecological Enhancement for Marine Infrastructure Workshop which take place in Bournemouth on 11-12 October. Please note the event is invite only. Discover more [here](#).
- Project **Cool Food Pro** will take part in the Cross Channel Forum, in London, on 28 September to celebrate sustainability in catering across the UK and France. More information [here](#).
- Project **Rantrans** is hosting a stakeholder workshop (focussed on Nutrient Remediation) at the University of Portsmouth on 3 November. The workshop will share the project's findings and discuss the next steps for nutrient remediation. More information [here](#).



Project recognitions

As 2022 has progressed, several projects have received recognition for their excellent work:

- Project **FLOWER** which develops new biocomposite materials for the automotive, advertising and yachting industries and its partners Kairos Jourdain and Howa Tramico were awarded the Composites Innovation Award at the JEC Composites Innovations Awards. This is a prestigious award and many congratulations should be given to the FLOWER team.
- At the 2022 ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport) Spring Conference, project **TIGER** was highly commended in the Delivering Green Growth category. The ADEPT awards are a celebration and acknowledgement of collaborative and innovative projects.
- Also recognised at the ADEPT awards was project **Increase VS** which was highly commended in the Shaping Places for People category. The project is developing a new cross border training programme designed to help social housing residents set up their own businesses or achieve other forms of employment.
- As part of its role in the **CobBauge** project, the University of Plymouth has been selected as one of the finalists in the 2022 Green Gown Awards taking place on 8 November at Loughborough University. The awards 'recognise the exceptional sustainable initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the world' and the University of Plymouth has been nominated in the Research with Impact category for its work on CobBauge.
- In addition, project **TIGER** played a key role in the awarding of revenue subsidy to four tidal stream projects in the latest round of the UK government's competitive Contract for Difference (CfD) scheme. The CfD scheme is the government's main mechanism for supporting low-carbon electricity generation and it is the first time that tidal stream energy has had a budget ring fence guaranteeing tidal stream technologies access.



Media coverage

- **EXPERIENCE**'s initiatives in Norfolk, Finistère and Cornwall were covered by [Eastern Daily Press](#), [Norwich Evening News](#), [Ouest France](#) and [Falmouth Packet](#).
- **FISH INTEL**'s tagging of bluefin tuna in the UK waters was featured in [Mirage News](#) and [European Scientist](#).
- **FLOWER**'s nomination at the JEC World Innovation Awards made news in [Innovation in Textiles](#).
- **INCREASE VS**' opening of a solidarity coworking space in Normandy was covered by [Paris Normandie](#).
- **INDIGO**, within the One Ocean Summit which took place in February, published an article outlining its mission on [The Conversation](#).
- **Preventing Plastic Pollution**'s initiatives in Brest were covered by [Le Télégramme](#) and [Côté Brest](#).
- **RanTrans** received some great coverage from BBC South regarding its latest research techniques. Click [here](#) to read the excellent BBC article.
- **REVERT** received excellent coverage of its recent progress on both the BBC and ITV. The BBC article can be found [here](#) and the ITV news report [here](#).
- **SmartT**'s development of a antibacterial plaster prototype was featured in [Paris-Normandie](#).
- **TIGER**'s operations at the Raz Blanchard in Normandy were covered by [La Presse de la Manche](#).