

## Channel News



### **Programme update**

Happy Easter to all of our projects from the Interreg FCE Programme team. We thank you for your continued hard work and hope you enjoy the long weekend. In the March edition we're pleased to share many positive updates from the past few months.

#### Commitment target

We're pleased to announce that the FCE programme has reached its commitment target, with €217.5m pledged to projects delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for the Channel area.

#### New projects approved

We approved five new projects, including two micro projects, at the Selection Sub Committee (SSC) virtual meeting on the [28 January 2021](#) and a further two projects at the SSC on the 23 March 2021. In total, we now have 51 projects as part of the Interreg FCE family. More information to follow on our website soon.

#### Call for Capitalisation

The deadline for applications to our 'call for capitalisation projects related to Covid-19 recovery' has been extended until 30 April 2021. We have €4.1m ERDF left in our funding pot and the maximum ERDF grant rate for partners is 100% of the total capitalisation project budget, unless the project/partners are State Aid relevant. More information on our [website](#).



### Project Spotlight - S-3 EUROHAB monitors harmful algal bloom from space

In February, we published our first project spotlight interview with Dr Gavin Tilstone, Merit Scientist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Lead Partner of the S-3 EUROHAB project.

The EUROHAB project are developing a web-based alert system to detect harmful algal blooms and other water quality issues in the Channel area.

Read more about the projects progress and the impact it will have for the shellfisheries industry [here](#).

If you would like your project to be featured in a Project Spotlight interview please [get in touch](#).



### RegioStars 2021

The RegioStars Awards are an annual competition, organised by the European Commission, aimed at identifying best practice in regional development and inspiring others by sharing the impact of EU funded projects.

The competition is open for projects that can **demonstrate substantial results** against one of the 5 categories: SMART Europe, GREEN Europe, FAIR Europe, URBAN Europe, TOPIC OF THE YEAR (Green Mobility).

As well as the opportunity for all finalists to get communications training, the winners of the five categories will get a paid media partnership worth EUR 5, 000! We're proud to say we've had two consecutive wins, with CobBauge in 2019 and Cool Food in 2020.

We can support the nomination of **up to 5 Interreg FCE projects**. We still have two nominations available. If you are interested in applying, please get in touch by 9 April, highlighting which category and why you should be nominated. The deadline for applications is 9 May 2021.

Visit the [RegioStars website](#) and make sure to read the [guidance for applicants](#).



## PONToon hosts innovative final showcase event

PONToon project held its final showcase event on 21 January 2021, to share the impact it's made through digital inclusion.

Over the past three years, project PONToon has promoted women's professional inclusion through digital upskilling. In total, they engaged with more than 1,460 women across the Channel area, helping them to acquire new skills and find employment.

The projects final event was a truly immersive experience, drawing on a virtual reality avatar, bringing together partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries and local representatives from adult education, employment and entrepreneurship. A huge congratulations to the project!!!

Find out more about the event on their [website](#) and be sure to visit the excellent [PONToon exhibition](#) which features video case studies and digital resources.

## Upcoming project events

- 22-23 April 2021 - FLOWER - [Biobased Composites in Marine Environment Conference](#)

*Please get in touch to have your events featured on our website and in our newsletter.*



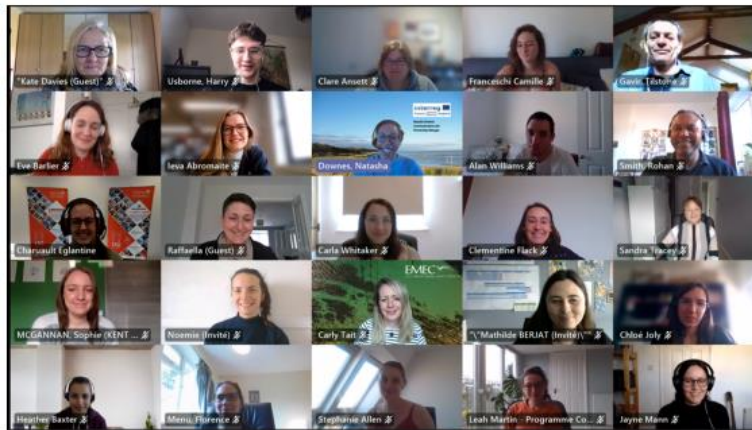
## Opportunity to apply for communications volunteers

The European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) runs an Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) scheme, offering Interreg projects the opportunity to host a reporter.

This is a great opportunity to get some additional support for your communications activities and project implementation, while also providing young people aged 18-30 the opportunity to engage in cross-border co-operation. You can host young volunteers for a period of 2 to 6 months.

You can find out more and access the application form on the [IVY website](#).





### Launch of FCE Communications Network

We launched the France (Channel) England programme Communications Network on Wednesday 24 March, with 35 communications leads from across our 51 projects in attendance. We got to know each other, agreed the guidelines for the network and discussed topics to cover in future meetings.

The goal is to network, exchange knowledge and share best practice. The first meeting demonstrated how much knowledge we have across the network – with experts in graphic design through to complex stakeholder management. The next meeting is due to take place in June.



### In the news

PACCo received a visit from the Director of the Conservatoire du Littoral. Media coverage in local eco publication [Eco Paris Normandie](#).

Fish Intel announced its funding award from the Interreg FCE programme. The news was featured in [Mirage News](#).

INDIGO was featured in [La Presse de la Manche](#) promoting its fishing survey, aimed at supporting the launch of its prototype for biodegradable fishing nets.

BLUEPRINT was featured in [Circular](#) and [Lets Recycle](#) announcing that their project will support local authorities transition to a circular economy.

*Has your project also been featured in the media? [Let us know](#) so we can share the news across our network.*