



**Norfolk** County Council

**Interreg** 

France ( Channel  
Manche ) England

European Regional Development Fund

## Channel News



### **Adapting in times of crisis**

A big thanks to our partners for their patience and support whilst we were busy putting together new on-line services and building more flexibility into our systems and processes. Project partners have adapted so well to the new ways of working

despite not being able to access the usual documents and resources. It's been a huge learning curve for everybody and we welcome feedback to make the services easier to use and more effective, as we know we won't have got everything right the first time around.

Throughout the crisis, we've remained open for business, it may be business unusual but it's still business as usual. 7 projects have been approved since the beginning of lockdown making a total of 39 projects approved over the life of the project, and there is still €19M Programme funds available. New call dates for project applications have been released with provisional submission dates up until March 2021 depending on the commitment and availability of funds as we go forward. Call dates are available [here](#).

Carolyn, FCE Programme Manager explains how the Joint Secretariat Team made a success of working remotely:

*"The team has been working really hard to support projects through these difficult times. We have adapted our training to online delivery, run a series of claims surgeries online, supported projects in development by phone and through TEAMS video conferencing. We are taking forward a proposal that could potentially support projects with cashflow issues with a request to the European Commission for an increased intervention rate for the next year. We don't under-estimate the challenges that our projects continue to face in the light of this pandemic, and we will continue to do everything that we can to help them to succeed. Like us our partners are working in very unusual circumstances, at home with babies, toddlers, teenagers, cats and partners who all make an appearance in our meetings from time to time! That's the lovely part, real life continuing around about us."*



### **Vote for our REGIOSTARS finalist - Project COO-L FOOD!**

We are delighted to announce that project COO-L FOOD has been selected as a finalist in this year's RegioStars competition, which awards EU-funded projects that demonstrate excellence and new approaches in regional development.

This year the contest received a record 206 submissions. COO-L FOOD is one of the 5 finalists for the category 'Sustainable growth - Circular economy for a green Europe'. 25 finalists have been selected across all the categories of the competition.

The winner for each category will be selected by the RegioStars Jury but all finalists automatically take part in the online voting for the public choice award, a recognition from the general public voting online for their favourite RegioStars project.

The 2-year micro-project which closed at the end of last April developed a tool to enable consumers to adopt more sustainable behaviours in relation to food consumption and food management, helping them to save money and reduce their

carbon footprint. The outcomes of this project are very positive: the objective to reduce carbon footprint has been achieved - COO-L FOOD has contributed to reducing carbon emissions linked to household food by 399T, it is the equivalent to almost 400 return journeys from Paris to New York! More than 1,500 consumers have used the dedicated website coolfood.net (which can be found [here](#)) to track each week their financial gains and carbon savings thanks to the 'commitments' they have made.

You can show your support to COO-L FOOD by clicking on the heart next to the project on this webpage: <https://regiostarsawards.eu/>



### **Our first virtual trainings**

In the context of COVID19, the JS team has been keen to find ways to adapt to the new normal.

It's business as usual, but we have had to adjust the way we are delivering trainings to partners to ensure their projects' success.

Our team has been working hard to make sure we are in a position to deliver key trainings on-line which we would normally offer face-to-face to our projects. Some

weeks ago, we successfully delivered the first ever online Partner Training, providing one session for French partners in June and another one for English partners in July.

Feedback from the team and participants was positive, the virtual partner trainings went well, partners were engaged and willing to ask questions. We are still learning from and adapting our methods for delivering on-line training, and have decided that in future the training format will be broken into chunks to make what is a rather long training session more manageable for both trainers and attendees.

We also deliver on-line claim surgeries to support partners with the submission of their payment claims and support them through the process.



### **Project PACCo approved**

Approved in 2020, €25M project PACCo (Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts) will restore 100 hectares of coastal wetland at two pilot sites – the Otter Estuary in Devon (UK) and Saane Valley in Normandy (France). The restoration of



this land will enable better management of flooding, absorb carbon, and provide benefits for people and wildlife.

At the UK site, the works will include creating mudflats and saltmarsh, moving a road to protect a disused landfill site from erosion, and relocating a cricket club. Works at the French site include increasing connectivity between the river and its floodplain, moving a campsite and building a new water treatment plant to prevent contamination and improve the water quality at two beaches.

To get to know more about the project click [here](#).



### **FOCUS on... Project MARINEFF**

Project MARINEFF is a 4 year-project which will contribute to reducing the negative impacts of marine infrastructures (MIs) on ecosystems and turning them into structures that will help protect coastal and transitional water ecosystems and

biodiversity in the Channel area. The project, which started in April 2018, will produce and immerse 2 pilot operations (PO) in the Channel.

Despite COVID19, project MARINEFF has been able to produce on time and will immerse biomimetic dyke modules (PO2) this summer in Cherbourg (FR). The marine infrastructures have been designed to maintain a structural role but also to allow marine species to live on it and to reproduce. This will foster the development of local flora and fauna.

The picture (image 4306, Credit: ESITC Caen – Project Marineff) shows the dyke modules produced by the French partner TPC. These modules allow the recruitment and development of the local and flora and fauna.

Additionally, the MARINEFF partnership worked on the production of biomimetic marine Infrastructures (PO1) with the objective to improve the development and reproduction of the oysters in the Solent (UK), where oyster beds are threatened with extinction.

This is a great example showing that despite delays and a global pandemic, our projects are striving to progress and working hard to deliver project's outputs as planned. Well done to the MARINEFF team. Have a look at their website [here](#) to get to know more about the project.

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