

European Regional Development Fund

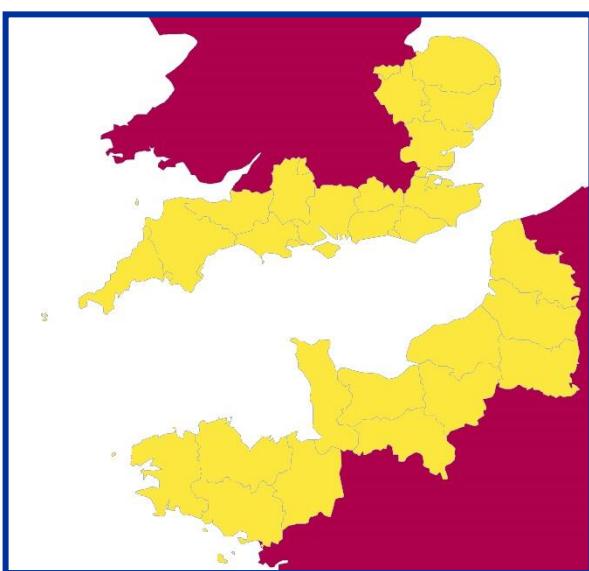
Programme Highlights 2016



About the Programme

The Interreg France (Channel) England (FCE) programme is an example of European Territorial Cooperation programme. These programmes exist all over Europe and help fund high quality economic development projects in border regions between different European countries. In the case of the France (Channel) England programme the border region is either side of the English Channel including the South of England, stretching from Norfolk to Cornwall and the north coast of France, from Finistère to Pas-de-Calais. A map of the full Programme area can be found below.

Each Interreg programme has a Managing Authority which ensures the sound financial management and implementation of the programme. The Management Authority of the FCE programme is Norfolk County Council.



France Channel England Area

The Programme between France and the UK is worth €315 million, with €223 million coming from the European Regional Development Fund.



The benefits of cross-border co-operation:

- Working together helps develop one solution to a common problem.
- Working together allows partners to learn from each other's experiences and expertise, giving organisations a wider area to search for solutions to their problems.
- It opens up new audiences for ideas and products, and new markets for SMEs to break into using the experience gained from cross border working.
- It reduces the costs normally associated with gaining this type of experience and opportunity.

What are the Programme's Priorities?

The Programme has 3 Priorities divided into 5 Specific Objectives. These highlight the areas where the Programme plans to have an impact within the Channel area.

	1.1 Innovation	Increase the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors.
	1.2 Social Innovation	Increase the quality and the effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation.
	2.1 Low Carbon Technologies	Increase 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.
	3.1 Natural and Cultural Assets	Realise the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth.
	3.2 Coastal and Transitional Water Ecosystems	Enhance and protect the coastal and transitional water ecosystems.

Projects Update

In 2016 the FCE Programme began to gather momentum with the first project signed off in June. A further 3 projects were agreed in November¹, bringing the total ERDF contribution for 2016 to €18 million euros. The partner organisations across the projects were well distributed between the two countries, with 23 represented from France and 19 from the UK. A brief overview of the projects can be found below.

ICE – 2.1 Low Carbon Technologies

The project aims to design and implement innovative smart energy solutions for isolated territories in the France Channel England area.

ADAPT - 1.1 Innovation

The project will tackle mobility problems faced by elderly and disabled people by developing a smart Electronic Powered Wheelchair. The smart wheelchair will include driving assistance technologies such as obstacle avoidance, route selection and autonomous driving.

CoRoT – 1.1 Innovation

The project will develop innovative and affordable robot software and hardware that is focused on the needs and budgets of SMEs.

LABFACT – 1.1 Innovation

The LABFACT project will unite world-class research centres in the Channel area to support and train SMEs on clean and environmentally friendly ways to manufacture fine chemicals.

How does Brexit impact the Programme?

Following a referendum held in June 2016, the British public voted to leave the European Union. In the immediate term this will not affect the Programme as the UK still remains a member of the EU and under the Lisbon Treaty rules. It is anticipated that Brexit will not happen before March 2019.

The Programme has had positive news from the UK Government who issued a statement in October 2016 guaranteeing the funding for the lifetime of all projects contracted prior to the UK leaving the EU. Potential applicants are encouraged to make the most of this great opportunity and to continue to apply for funding.



“THE FRANCE CHANNEL ENGLAND
PROGRAMME IS STILL VERY MUCH OPEN
FOR BUSINESS AND WE ENCOURAGE
APPLICANTS TO CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR
FUNDING”

[Vince Muspratt, Managing Authority, Norfolk county Council]

Key Events to look out for in 2017

[Webinar on Specific Objective 1.2 Social Innovation](#) (13 February 2017)

To encourage organisations to submit applications under this objective we will be hosting a webinar that will be a great opportunity for applicants to get a better understanding of the Programme's expectations around the topic of Social Innovation.

[Micro Projects](#) (January 2017)

In January the Programme will launch an exciting new initiative called Micro Projects, aimed at attracting new organisations to small-scale cross-border cooperation projects.

[Bid-writing workshops](#) (Throughout the year)

Each of the Programme's facilitators will help applicants with their applications by organising at least one local workshop in their area to offer tips and advice on how to write a successful application.

[Cross Border event on Specific Objective 3.1 Natural and Cultural Assets](#) (September 2017)

In order to provide high quality projects for this specific objective the Programme will be organising a cross border networking event for potential UK and French applicants.

[Annual Event](#) (26 September 2017)

The Programme will host its annual event to publicise the achievements of the Programme so far.

ⁱ The projects' approval is dependent on projects meeting a number of conditions outlined by the Selection Sub-Committee.