

Channel News - December 2018



Merry Christmas! Joyeux Noël!

With the festive season nearly upon us, now is a good time to reflect on the positives from the past year and look ahead to what 2019 hopefully has in store.

This year, 11 projects (including four Micro-Projects) were approved, so huge congratulations to all the partners involved in France and the UK!

Over the coming year, we're looking forward to welcoming more high-quality project applications - with nearly €135m of funding still available, we're open to new ideas across all five [specific objectives](#).

Congratulations to projects approved in 2018

Here's a summary of the aims of the projects approved this year:

- MARINEFF - Create new biomimetic marine infrastructures to improve the ecological status of coastal and transitional Channel waters.
- FLOWER - Develop new biocomposite materials made from plant fibres for use in the automotive, advertising and yachting industries.
- BCHT- develop a new sustainable model of tourism that will aim to reduce the negative impact of high tourist numbers on the local environment

and on neighbours.

- AWE - Bring together organisations working in business creation to address the gender imbalance in business start-ups, where men are currently twice as likely to start a business as women.
- COO-L FOOD - Develop an app to encourage consumers to adopt more sustainable behaviours in food consumption and waste management, helping them save money and reduce their carbon footprint.
- OPTIWOOD - Create a training programme that will significantly improve the way commercial wood boiler plants are managed.
- H2O - Implement evidence-based natural flood and drought management, which will reduce public money spent on managing water issues.
- SMARTHEALTH - Support development of new products and services in the field of E-Health to stimulate cooperation between health & care providers and SMEs that can provide digital solutions.
- E-CHannel - Provide a cross-border export e-platform to support SMEs (mainly Agro-Food) to grow their business through cross-Channel export.
- CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - Reduce the cost of providing high quality services to elderly people in isolated communities using social prescribing: treatment involving social and cultural facilities rather than medication.
- RANTRANS - Reduce nitrogen in water and increase the Good Ecological Status (GES) of the Transitional and Coastal (TAC) Waters in the Channel area by 20%





New video for French partners

We know some French partners wanted a little extra guidance on how to select a First Level Controller (FLC), so we've created a short, simple video that is now on our [website here](#), which we hope will answer any queries.

We can only check and approve payment claims after the FLC has checked them, so it's important to select one as soon as possible after your project is approved and grant offer letter signed.

For English partners the process is different – see p9 on [Guidance note 6a of our programme manual](#).

A warm welcome to new colleagues

Over the last 12 months we've welcomed a number of new colleagues who have helped restore our team to full strength, including Deputy Programme Managers Sallyann Stephen (project development) and Sara Brown (finance & appraisal).

We also have new colleagues within the finance & appraisal team, and the facilitation team, which spans the entire Programme area to support potential project applicants.

Our newly launched internship programme means we currently have four Masters graduates from France, who are doing a fantastic job of supporting the work of the Joint Secretariat.



Targeted projects

It's been a busy year with the launch of our targeted projects labs, which were created to tackle issues that are important to the economic and sustainable development of



the Channel area.

We held four extremely successful events on the major themes of Hydrogen, Tourism, Tidal energy, and Plastics Pollution.

These attracted a high level of interest from experts in their fields from both sides of the Channel, with a total of more than 150 people taking part. More importantly, we are supporting a number of projects that are now in development as a direct result of these events.

Micro-projects

We also want to hear from applicants with ideas for smaller scale projects (€ 500,000 maximum) – the Programme offers funding of 80% of your total budget.

You'll find more details about the Micro-Projects application process [here](#).



Why apply for Interreg funding?

An Interreg project can help raise your organisation's profile, open people up to new ideas, and create new markets.

So far, in total the Programme has approved 25 projects, providing €75m of EU funding across the Channel area.

You can continue to apply for funding until June 2020 (April 2020 for Micro-Projects). The UK Government announced in August that all Interreg projects approved and contracted before the end of 2020 will have their funding guaranteed in full for the lifetime of their projects, even in the case of a no-deal Brexit.

Why not get a taste for what it's like to work on an FCE project through the eyes of people who are working on funded projects right now via [our video](#), inspiring stuff!

You can submit a brief outline of your project idea on [our website](#) and we'll get in-touch.





Contact us:
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