

# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## France ( Channel Manche ) England

European Regional Development Fund

# 2021

## Programme Highlights



@Channel\_Manche



Interreg France  
(Channel) England



[www.channelmanche.com](http://www.channelmanche.com)

# AN OVERVIEW

A cornerstone of European integration, European Territorial Cooperation helps to ensure that borders are not barriers, and that ideas and assets are shared to resolve common problems across Europe. Interreg France (Channel) England falls under this umbrella helping to fund projects that benefit the French and English regions around the Channel.



**Programme Area**

SHARING BORDERS,  
GROWING CLOSER

## 2021 in focus

2021 was a significant year for the FCE programme as it reached and surpassed its funding commitment target (factoring in the Programme's 20% overcommitment ceiling).

The programme and projects adapted to external challenges presented by Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. In early 2021, the Programme was able to provide a tangible update to projects in relation to the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and what this would mean in terms of project delivery, data transfers and the future of the Interreg FCE programme. We were able to reassure projects that we would be operating as usual, and that programme funding would be guaranteed up until the programme completion on 31 December 2023.

Covid-19 continued to cause considerable disruption to projects and as such the Programme introduced several measures to offset this. This included taking advantage of the European Commission's Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) scheme, allowing us to offer projects 100% intervention rate for eligible expenditure up until 30 June 2021. In addition, the Programme launched its first ever call for capitalisation projects funded at 100%, which led to the funding of C-CARE project which is highlighted later in this summary.

Despite the challenges, the Programme approved 7 new projects (including 2 micro projects), bringing the total amount of EU funding committed by the Programme to €228.2 million (108% of target commitment).

In 2021, we were proud to showcase the achievements of our projects, particularly those that have made significant progress or have closed. Out of 51 projects, 4 officially closed by end of 2021 and a further 12 are in the pipeline to close early to mid-2022. We refreshed our website to focus on celebrating project success and achievements, held an online interactive event at EU Regions Week, and supported projects with their external communications through establishing an FCE Communications Network.

We also contributed blogs and our first thought leadership article to various EU publications including the Interreg Highlights blog, Interact Stories of Cooperation publication and Panorama, the European Commission's Regional and Urban Policy blog.

More details about some of the projects we've helped fund can be found on the next few pages.

# WHAT WE'VE FUNDED SO FAR



## Innovation



This specific objective is focused on increasing the delivery and uptake of innovative products, processes, systems and services in shared smart specialisation sectors.

In 2021, we approved **IMPULS** (Innovation in Manufacturers of Products Used in Life Sciences). This €500,000 micro project, led by Kent County Council, will support 100 life sciences and nutrition SMEs across the Channel area providing them with access to increased knowledge, innovation capacity, showcase opportunities and new cross-border contacts to enhance export sales potential.



## Social innovation

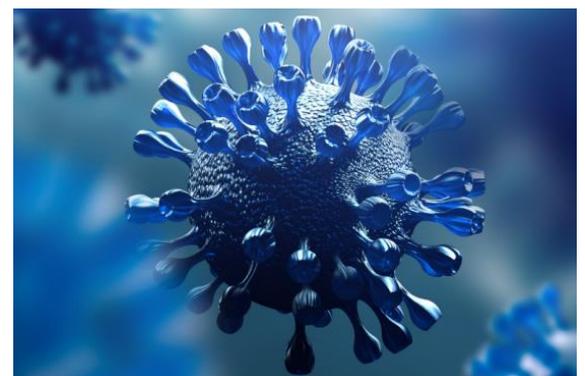


This specific objective seeks to increase the quality and effectiveness of service delivery to the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups through social innovation. Two projects were funded under this category in 2021.

**BRIC** (Building Resilience in Flood Disadvantaged Communities), led by Plymouth City Council, is a €3.4m project that aims to transform flood risk management at a neighbourhood level. The project will introduce new resilience networks and tools and technologies to access and communicate flood risk that can be replicated and upscaled in other regions.

**C-CARE** (Covid Channel Area Response Exchange), led by Kent County Council, is a €6.7m capitalisation project set up to deliver an ambitious package of support for individuals and businesses hit hard during the pandemic.

The project will deliver an in-depth review of Covid-19 responses with lessons learned and best practice examples, targeted support for 4,500 individuals at risk of exclusion from the labour market and 7 pilot initiatives providing support to more than 2,000 businesses.



## Low Carbon Technologies



This specific objective aims to increase the development and uptake of existing or new low-carbon technologies in the sector that have the highest potential for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Three projects were funded under this objective in 2021.

**ABCD** (Agriculture Bas Carbone for Dairy Farms), led by Department du Finistere, is a €500,000 micro project set up to tackle greenhouse gas emissions in the dairy industry. The project will develop an alternative form of cattle feed, helping to reduce the carbon footprint on pilot farms by 10%. The team will also produce a standardised methodology bringing long-term benefits for the UK and EU dairy industry.

**Cool Food Pro** (Low Carbon Footprint for Catering Professionals), led by Universite de Bretagne Occidentale, is a €1.2m project dedicated to supporting the public and private sector catering industry to become carbon neutral by 2050. The project, which builds upon award-winning project Cool Food, will develop a web app with customised support to help canteens in schools, hospitals and workplaces make more sustainable food choices and reduce food and plastic waste.

**ReCon Soil** (Reconstructed Soils from Waste), led by University of Plymouth, is a €2.5m project developing three new reconstructed and low carbon soils made from locally sourced construction waste and agriculture by-products. These new soils will reduce carbon emissions and improve carbon storage. The team will also create a blueprint for those wanting to reproduce or use reconstructed soils.



## Coastal & Transitional Water Ecosystems



This objective is focused on enhancing and protecting the coastal and transitional ecosystems of the Channel area. In 2021, FISH INTEL was funded under this objective.

**FISH INTEL** (Fisheries Innovation for sustainable SHared INTerchannel resources), led by University of Plymouth, is a €4.1m project that seeks to improve sustainable management of marine resources. The project will use innovative underwater tracking technology to build a comprehensive picture of fish movement and their habitats. Their data and analysis will support authorities to implement more sustainable marine management practices, enhancing conditions for marine life while enabling important economic activity such as fishing.

