

# Interreg



## France ( Channel Manche ) England

European Regional Development Fund

# 2022

## 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

### 2022 in focus

As of the end of 2022, out of the €209.7m funding pot, €232.8m (111%) has been committed (factoring in the Programme's 20% overcommitment ceiling).

In 2022 the FCE programme shifted its focus towards project and programme closure. Of the programme's 51 projects, 9 have closed and 10 projects were either in the process of closing or about to start the closure process.

To help ensure that projects close as smoothly as possible, the joint secretariat developed a closure training programme that was mandatory for all project partners. By the end of 2022, 109 project partners had received closure training with the remainder due to attend workshops in early 2023.

In terms of external challenges, Covid-19 restrictions eased and had a less of an impact than previous years. However, the earlier impact of Covid 19 saw several projects submit modifications. In total, 28 fundamental modifications were agreed, further enabling projects to make the necessary adaptations to reach their intended outputs and aims.

In November 2022, the programme held its penultimate Annual Event bringing together project partners to celebrate achievements and results. As a result of travel restrictions caused by industrial action, the event took place virtually, rather than in Cherbourg as originally planned, and showcased the programme's five specific objectives with sixteen project videos being created especially for the event. The sixteen videos are now available for viewing on the channel manche [website](#).

Looking ahead to 2023, the focus for the Programme is on closure with 32 projects closing in 2023. The focus now is on creating a legacy for the Programme. A final programme event will be held in March 2023 and a brochure created highlighting the 51 projects funded by FCE programme and opportunities for replicability.

More details on our projects, including those that have now closed, 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.

**FLOWER** (Flax composites, LOW weight, End of life and Recycling) is developing new bio composite materials made from plant fibres for use in the automotive, advertising and yachting industries. In May 2022, the project won the prestigious global JEC Design, Furniture and Home award for the development of Kairlin, a recyclable and compostable biomaterial with a low environmental impact. The project is led by the Université de Bretagne Sud with a budget of €5.3m.



## 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.

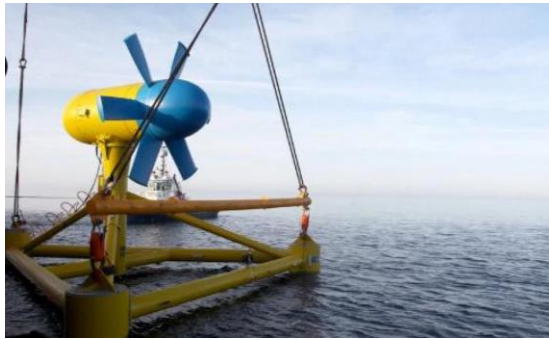
**BLUEPRINT** (BLUEPRINT to a circular economy), led by Essex County Council, is a €5.3m project focused on the creation of the first cross-border enabling model for Local Authorities to accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy. The project held its Circular Economy Roadshow in May 2022 where attendees heard from councils, social enterprises, start-ups and those leading the way in circular economy development.



**INCREASE VS** (Increase Valorisation Sociale) is a €13.1m project which started in July 2017. Led by Southern Housing (formerly Optivo), it has developed a cross-border training plan to help social housing residents set up their own micro-businesses or achieve other forms of employment. In March 2022, the project was extended by a further six months and received additional funding to deliver over 450 new outputs.







## 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.

**CobBauge** (the optimisation of Cob building material) led by the University of Plymouth, is promoting the construction of cob houses in the Channel area by developing, testing and creating new low carbon and energy efficient cob mixes. 2022 saw the completion of two of the project's cob buildings, one at the University of Plymouth and the other at Carentan in Normandy.

**TIGER** (Tidal Stream Industry Energiser Project) is Interreg's largest ever project with a budget of €48.4 million. In 2022 the project played an integral role securing funding for tidal stream energy under the UK government's Contract for Difference allocation round 4. More recently the project secured consent for two new experimental turbines in the Gulf de Morbihan in Brittany, France.

## Natural & Cultural Heritage



This objective is focused on realising the potential of the common natural and cultural assets to deliver innovative and sustainable growth.

**EXPERIENCE** (Experiential Tourism to Extend the Visitor Season), led by Norfolk County Council, is a €24.5m project developing new strategies to extend the tourism season. Project highlights include the organisation of a 'Celebration of the forest of Compiègne' in the Oise a weekend event attended by 1,500 visitors, developing a new picturesque 150-mile cycling route in Cornwall and nearing completion of its 250-mile public artworks trail in Norfolk.

## Coastal & Transitional Water Ecosystems



This objective seeks to enhance and protect coastal and transitional water ecosystems.

**PPP** (Preventing Plastic Pollution) is a €14.3m project which seeks to reduce plastic pollution in the marine environment. By May 2022, the project had recruited 1,300 volunteers who between them had taken part in 243 clean ups and removed over 49,000 items of plastic from their seven pilot sites.

