

26 September 2017

Interreg VA France (Channel) England Programme celebrates European Cooperation Day and 50 million euros of funded projects

Universities, local authorities, charities and SMEs have come together on Tuesday 26th of September in Saint-Malo, France, to celebrate European Cooperation Day and to learn about the funding opportunities still available through the EU funded Interreg France (Channel) England Programme.

Over 150 people from both sides of the Channel attended the event where they heard presentations from some of the Programme's approved projects and learned about the unique funding opportunities offered by the Programme.

European Cooperation Day takes place in September every year to celebrate how cooperation across borders has helped improve the lives of thousands of EU citizens in areas such as transport, health and employment. Interreg has funded people to people projects and supported institutional cooperation initiatives since 1990.

The Interreg France (Channel) England Programme is an example of a European Cooperation Programme and aims to tackle key challenges in the Programme area, such as stimulating innovation, helping groups at risk from social exclusion and protecting ecosystems in the Channel area.

The programme has so far invested over €50 million in 14 projects, which include a training programme for social housing residents that will help kick-start 1,200 micro businesses, and a project that will revolutionise the way people experience cultural heritage sites by developing a range of exciting virtual reality experiences for a number of tourist attractions in the South of England and North of France, thereby attracting more tourists and investment into the region.

Commenting on the event Programme Manager Carolyn Reid said: *"European Cooperation Day is a great way to showcase the benefits of cross-border cooperation. The Channel itself offers valuable opportunities for businesses and residents living in its proximity and its sustainable development depends on successful management of the challenges arising from natural risks and human activities.*

"We are very proud of our current projects which will have a real impact on the lives of thousands of residents in the Channel area and we look forward to developing more projects in 2018."

The Programme still has over €150 million available for new project development, with eight facilitators based in the eligible regions providing one-to-one support throughout the funding application process. The UK Government has guaranteed the funding for the lifetime of all projects approved before the UK officially leaves the EU.

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

1. The Interreg FCE Programme is a European Territorial Cooperation programme that aims to fund high quality cooperation projects in the Channel border region between France and England. It focuses on a range of specific objectives including supporting innovation, improving the attractiveness of the FCE area and developing low carbon technologies. The Programme has a total of €223 million of ERDF funds to distribute and is managed by Managing Authority Norfolk County Council.
2. The Programme operates within a clearly defined eligible area, covering the South and East Coasts of England from Cornwall to Norfolk, and the North Coast of France from Finistère to Pas-de-Calais. The programme area can be found [here](#).
3. More information about the Programme can be found at <https://interreg5a-fce.eu/>.
4. More details of the Programme's approved projects can be found here.