



**Norfolk** County Council

**Interreg**   
EUROPEAN UNION  
France ( Channel  
Manche ) England

European Regional Development Fund

## Channel News



### **Merry Christmas – and best wishes for 2022!**

As 2021 comes to a close, we reflect on the past year and set our sights on 2022.

This year was special for us as we reached our €223m commitment target for the programming period. A total of 51 projects and 420 partners are now part of the Interreg France (Channel) England programme.

The last quarter has been incredibly busy for the Programme. We hosted our annual event with seven of our projects showcased at our participatory lab on digital transitions held at EU Regions Week.

In October, we launched a COP26 social media campaign highlighting how our projects act on mitigating and adapting to climate change. And our two Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) Reporters published policy articles on the EU's Interreg Highlights blog covering the [green transition](#) and [sustainable tourism](#).

Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, it has been a very fruitful year and we wish all our projects a healthy and prosperous Christmas and New Year!

In this newsletter, we will share with you some of the major events of this Autumn including **additional funds for project modifications**, project **TIGER's latest achievements**, various **awards received by our projects** and **media coverage**.



### **Funds available now for project modifications**

We are pleased to announce that funds are available for project modifications.

If you wish to submit a fundamental modification the deadline to apply is **Friday 18 February 2022**. Before applying, please ensure you have read the programme rules set out in Guidance Note 6a of the [Programme Manual](#), the [eMS Modification Request guidance](#) as of the [additional principles document](#) we have prepared. The documents are available under the resources section of our website.

Please note that project modifications will be assessed by the Joint Secretariat on a 'first come, first served basis', before being submitted to the PMC for decision. If you have any questions regarding the funds or the process for applying, please speak to your project officer.



## **TIGER reaches key milestones in the development of tidal stream energy**

This Autumn **TIGER**, the biggest Interreg project ever, reached major milestones in its mission to accelerate tidal stream energy in the UK and France.

TIGER's tests at the Paimpol-Bréhat (Brittany) tidal energy site ended in September, with the disconnection of its 1MegaWatt turbine. Building on this experience, new turbines will be constructed in 2023 and installed at the Raz-Blanchard (Normandy) site in 2025.



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Institutional breakthroughs of key importance for TIGER were also achieved, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Syndicat des Energies Renouvelables (SER) and the UK Marine Energy Council.

In addition, the UK Government announced its biggest investment in a generation into tidal stream energy. This was a significant boost for project TIGER, given that one of the projects key objectives is secure buy-in for tidal energy and it has been calling for a ring-fenced amount dedicated to tidal stream energy in governmental investment plans.

Read more in our recent article [here](#) and TIGER's reaction to the UK Government announcement [here](#).



## Two Royal visits for projects BCHT and FISH INTEL

Our projects proved very popular with members of the Royal Family these past months. HRH The Prince of Wales visited **BioCultural Heritage Tourism** at the North Devon Biosphere Reserve ([read more here](#)) while HRH The Princess Royal visited **FISH INTEL** partners at the University of Plymouth ([read more here](#)).

(Photo credits: Carl Klinkenborg & University of Plymouth)

### **Upcoming project events**

- AiBle is holding a webinar on the role of Robotics in Rehabilitation on 27 January 2022. Register [here](#).
- Connected Communities is supporting the 4<sup>th</sup> International Social Prescribing Network Conference and Awards at the University of Salford on 10 & 11 March 2022. More information [here](#).



### **It's reward time for our projects!**

During the past months, we were delighted to hear about the multiple awards and recognitions received by our projects. Among these:

- **EXPERIENCE & USAC** contributed to a sensational achievement this Autumn as they helped Kent rank fourth in Lonely Planet's top 10 list of best global travel destinations. Read more [on Kent Downs' website](#) and immerse yourself in the multiple initiatives created by EXPERIENCE to prolong the tourism season in both UK and France [in our article](#).

- **Marineff**, which tests biomimetic construction materials for marine infrastructures, won the Habitat Creation: Project of the Year prize at the CIRIA (BIG) Biodiversity Challenge Awards. [Read more in our article](#).
- **Increase VS**, which helps social housing residents set up their own micro-businesses or achieve other forms of employment, received a UK Housing Award for Innovator of the Year. Congratulations!



[Increase Valorisation Sociale project](#)



[CobBauge project](#)



[SAMARCH project](#)



[VISTA-AR project](#)



[GoTrade project](#)



[TIGER project](#)

## Project videos

We have recently launched a new video section on our website. Our library, which includes videos from across our specific objectives can be accessed [here](#). Many thanks to the projects which have shared their videos with us. If you have not done so yet, reach out to us [via email](#) with your content, including links to your videos uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo – in high quality and preferably below 6 minutes.





## In the news

- **C-CARE's** Technology Resilience Voucher Scheme initiative was promoted [in KentOnline](#) as well as on [BBC Radio Kent](#).
- **VISTA AR's** activities at Château de Fougères were featured in [Ouest-France](#).
- **FLOWER's** Nature Plants study received media coverage in [Le Télégramme](#), Ouest-France and [20 Minutes](#).
- **CobBauge's** construction of its prototype in Plymouth was featured on both BBC Radio Devon and [BBC Spotlight](#).
- **RedPol** was featured in an [ECO Magazine](#) special edition on marine pollution.
- Kent's Lonely Planet achievement, mentioning projects **EXPERIENCE** and **USAC** was recorded in [Kent Online](#) & [The Independent](#).
- **Connected Communities'** activities in Département de l'Eure were covered by [France Bleu](#) and [Paris-Normandie](#).

*Has your project also been featured in the media? [Let us know](#) so we can share the news across our network.*