

Newsletter – Easter 2023



Welcome to the Easter edition of the Interreg France (Channel) England programme newsletter.

The first quarter of 2023 has been a particularly busy one with many projects reaching the end of their activities, holding closing events and completing their outputs. It has also been a busy period for the programme itself as it also works towards closure.

FCE Final Annual Event

On 16 March, the FCE's final annual event took place at the Eden Project in Cornwall. Despite the train strike, well over a 100 people attended the event which provided a fitting celebration for the FCE programme and its projects. Seven projects (TIGER, PACCo, FLOWER, ReCon Soil, CobBauge, REVERT & BLUEPRINT) gave inspiring presentations detailing their journeys whilst 12 projects exhibited showcasing their fantastic achievements. We also had talks from Prof Judith Petts, VC of University of Plymouth, Cllr Carol Mould, Cornwall Council and Sam Lucas from the Dep. For Levelling, Housing & Communities.



In this newsletter, we will share with you some of the highlights of the start of the year with a focus on **TIGER obtaining consent for two turbines in Morbihan in Brittany**, the **Increase VS final report**, a review of **recent media coverage** received by our projects as well as a summary of the latest **project closure events**.

REMINDER – 2023 Regiostar Awards – Applications Accepted Until 31 May

Applications are still open for the **REGIOSTARS**, the yearly competition organised by the European Commission's Directorate General Regional and Urban Policies, and which is seen as Europe's label of excellence for EU-funded projects. If your project is interested in submitting an entry please contact the JS by Friday 14 April as we are able to support up to five applications. Only projects that have closed (or almost closed) and submitted their final report are eligible to enter. For more details, please see [here](#).



TIGER secures consent for two turbines at Morbihan site

TIGER, Interreg's largest ever project, is a game-changing project for the European tidal stream energy sector, driving collaboration and cost reduction through tidal turbine installations in **the** France and England.

In January this year, we reported that **TIGER** project had secured consent for two new experimental turbines which are to be installed in the Gulf de Morbihan.

The turbines will be installed for 3 years providing an opportunity to test the technology, monitor environmental impact and identify ways to reduce costs while exploiting local carbon-free energy.

Teo van der Kammen, Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult's Technical Manager, said: "This is fantastic news for the tidal stream industry and a result of several years of technology and project development work, engagement with local stakeholders and collaboration between MHE56 and TIGER Partners. The Morbihan site will demonstrate the game changing technology innovations developed in TIGER for the Sabella tidal turbine technology and help reduce the cost of tidal stream energy."

Read more in our article [here](#).



Increase VS – Training programme helps residents re-enter the world of work

Increase VS published its final project report which sets out five key principles to delivering a successful self-employment programme:

- **Housing associations** are well placed to offer professional support to residents seeking employment
- **Self-employment** is a more popular route for people that need flexibility
- Starting and growing a business requires **resilience** and the right support, including wellbeing and social inclusion.
- **Ambassador and peer-support** ensures higher sustainability
- **Location** and close links to mentor and community support is key

The cross-border project, led by Southern Housing (formerly Optivo), developed an aspirational self-employment support programme for social housing residents across 38 English and French coastal and rural neighbourhoods where, in recent years, there has been significant decline in employment opportunities.

The project has actively engaged with almost 8,700 residents, with more than 6,000 entering training programmes of which over 4,500 have been completed enabling the pathway into jobs and start-ups.

Read more in our article [here](#).



PACCo: Lower Otter Restoration Project gives flood-free access to local community

A newly raised road and new 30-meter span bridge across the Lower Otter Valley were recently opened at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, as part of the Promoting Adaptation to Changing Coasts project (PACCo) funded by the Interreg FCE programme.

Attended by the Environment Agency, Lord and Lady Clinton, and project staff of Clinton Devon Estates, Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust, Kier, and several local residents, the first vehicles made their way across the new road and road bridge (a major project milestone) on 4 March.

Passing over the new creek network that was created last autumn to carry water in and out of the restored estuary, the raised structure allows for improved public access by providing an all-year-round, safer, flood-free route.

The raised road embankment and span bridge required extensive engineering with work commencing in 2021 as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP). LORP is delivering significant environmental and infrastructure improvements to the area and is due to complete later this year, following work that will see the River Otter and its estuary reconnected to its floodplain for the first time in over 200 years.

Read more in our article [here](#).



Project closure events

- **H2O's** closing event entitled Nature Based Solutions from Source to Sea took place at Nausicaa in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 2 February. The event provided the opportunity to discuss the project's achievements and how to face climate changes in the future.
- **PACCo** held its final joint conference in Portsmouth from 7 to 9 February. The conference was a great success with over 200 attendees and 30 speakers.
- **EXPERIENCE** project held its closure event on 28 February. Five videos representing each theme (Residents Matter, Building Business Resilience, Sustainable Tourism Approach, Staging Low-Season Events & Promoting Regional Experiences) are now available on YouTube here: [Experience Norfolk - YouTube](#)
- **C-Care** held its closing event from 1 to 2 March in Canterbury. The two-day event included workshops, key-note speeches and detailed the project's legacy as it reaches closure.
- **BLUEPRINT** held its final event in London on 2 March. The event included reviews of the project's work packages and achievements plus breakout sessions and a panel discussion.
- **FISHINTEL's** final conference took place on 2 March at the University of Plymouth. Entitled 'Do fish have borders?', the conference focused on its achievement of tagging around 1,000 fish with the long-term aim of preserving and enhancing the habitats of some of the region's key fish species.
- **CobBauge** held an event at the Building Centre in London on Friday 10 March. One of the highlights of the event was a virtual tour of one of project's recently constructed cob buildings given by Dr Matthew Fox.
- **FLOWER's** final event took place in Lorient on 14 March. The day focussed on the evolution of biocomposites since 2018, as well as on prospects for the future.
- **BRIC** held its Social Innovation for Climate Resilience Conference in Plymouth on 15 March. The conference provided an opportunity to hear from experts from both the UK and France who discussed flood risk and BRIC's work in local communities.
- **SAMARCH's** final event took place in Southampton from 14 to 15 March. The event provided the opportunity to discuss and evaluate the project's six-year journey and show how evidence collected by the project has been used to develop tools and inform

management and policy guidance to better protect salmonids in transitional and coastal waters.

- **INdIGO** held its final event at the Cité de la voile in Lorient on 22 March. The programme included presentations by the INdIGO project partners and experts from outside the project.
 - **Water for Tomorrow** held its final event in London on 22 March which was also World Water Day. The event was a thought-provoking conference exploring innovative approaches for short-term management of drought events, and better long-term planning, as well as investment in water management at a local scale.
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Media coverage

- **EXPERIENCE** received excellent coverage on [BBC](#) online for its unique transformation of a disused telephone box into a tiny tourist hub whilst the project's final event in Lorient was covered in French regional newspaper, [le Télégramme](#).
- French regional newspaper, [Le Télégramme](#) reported on **COOLFOOD PRO's** fantastic achievement of reducing carbon emissions by 500 tonnes in the Brest metropolitan area as a result of its work with fifteen partners in the region.
- **REVERT** clinical lead, Alexis Joannides, was provided with the opportunity to highlight the project's major achievements in an interview on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in January. The project was also featured in the [Cambridge Independent](#).
- **CIRCLE** project, which has created a poured-in-place, permeable concrete pavement made from recycled seashells, was featured in [Construction Management](#) magazine

