

Interreg



France (Channel Manche) England

European Regional Development Fund

2017

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



@Channel_Manche
#ChannelManche



Interreg France
(Channel) England



interreg5a-fce.eu

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

2017 IN FOCUS

2017 was a busy a year for the Interreg France (Channel) England programme. We kicked things off in January with the launch of our **Micro-project** initiative – a new scheme aimed at encouraging smaller organisations and charities to get involved in cross-border projects. We followed this up with a change to how organisations apply for funding from the Programme, making the application process quicker and simpler to navigate.

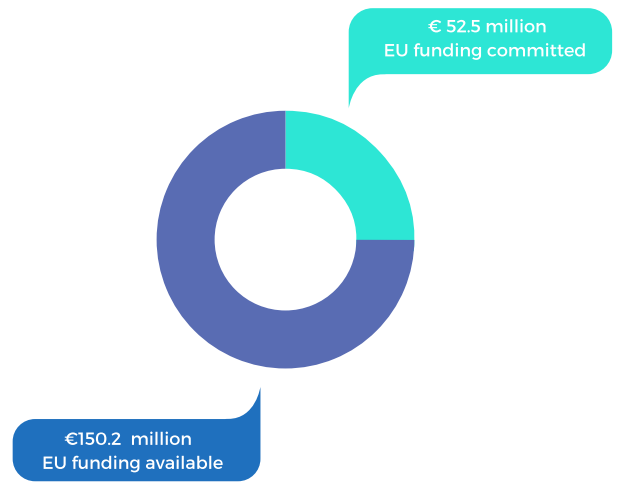
A number of **events** were organised in 2017 to raise awareness about the Programme’s funding opportunities, including the Annual Event in Saint-Malo and a cross-border event in Bournemouth looking at ways organisations could access funding through natural and cultural heritage projects.

There was also good news from **Brexit negotiations**, with EU and UK negotiators publishing a join-report at the end of the year that stated that the UK could continue to participate in the current phase of Interreg programmes. This means organisations can continue to apply for funding in 2019 and 2020 and that approved projects will be able to run until 2023.

And last but definitely not least the Programme approved **10 more projects** in 2017, bringing the total amount of EU funding invested by the Programme to 52.5 million euros. More details about some of the projects we’ve helped fund can be found on the next few pages.

2017

WHAT WE'VE FUNDED SO FAR



Innovation



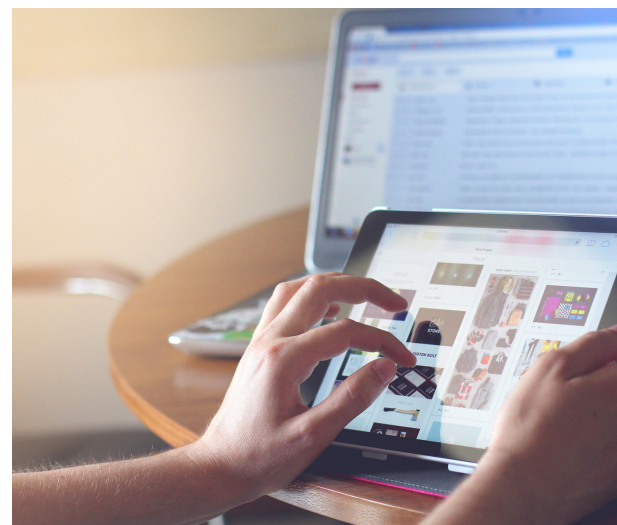
One project was approved under the Programme's innovation objective in 2017. Project **SURFAS** led by Rouen based engineering school ESIGELEC will develop two energy saving devices that can be used with smoke alarms and Wi-Fi routers to make them more energy efficient. This could lead to consumer cost savings in the Channel area of over 14 million euros.



Social Innovation



We funded two projects that aim to support socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Project **PONTOON** will support women from disadvantaged backgrounds by developing a range of digital tools and technologies that will be used to tackle the digital skills shortage. Project **Increase** will develop a new cross-border training programme to help social housing residents set up their own micro-businesses or achieve other forms of employment.



2017



Low Carbon Technologies



We'll contribute €2 million of funding to two projects that will promote the use of low carbon technologies in the Channel area. Project **SB&WRC** will develop new forms of thermal insulation, using waste materials such as rapeseed and jean fibres, helping to offer more environmentally friendly alternatives to the resource intensive insulants that are currently on the market. Project **CobBauge** will promote the construction of cob houses in the Channel area by developing, testing and creating new low carbon and energy efficient cob mixes. Cob is a historic building method that uses earth and straw to construct buildings.

Natural & Cultural Heritage



Two projects that aim to attract new visitors to the Channel region were approved in 2017, receiving a combined total of €9.3 million of EU funding. Project **Vista-AR** will revolutionise the way tourists experience cultural heritage sites by developing and implementing a range of exciting augmented and virtual reality experiences at a number of tourist attractions in the Channel area. Project **Go Trade** will help stop the decline of market towns by creating a unique brand of markets that will attract new visitors, while supporting existing and new market traders to build sustainable businesses.

Coastal & transitional water ecosystems



10.8 million euros were funded towards three projects that aim to protect the water ecosystems around the Channel. Project **S3-Eurohab** will monitor harmful algal blooms in the Channel using satellite technology. With Atlantic salmon and sea trout populations declining, **Project SAMARCH** will provide vital research to better inform the management of these populations. **Project CPES** will significantly improve the water quality in a number of rivers and lakes by offering financial incentives to farmers to encourage them to use more environmentally friendly methods of farming.



2017