

Interreg



France (Channel Manche) England

European Regional Development Fund

2018

Programme Highlights



@Channel_Manche



Interreg France
(Channel) England



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

2018 in focus

2018 was a year of firsts and challenges for the Interreg France (Channel) England Programme. On the positive side, 2018 saw the approval of the first Micro Project in January – a new scheme aimed at encouraging smaller organisations and charities to get involved in cross-border projects with a maximum budget of €500,000. This was followed by another three approvals during the year.

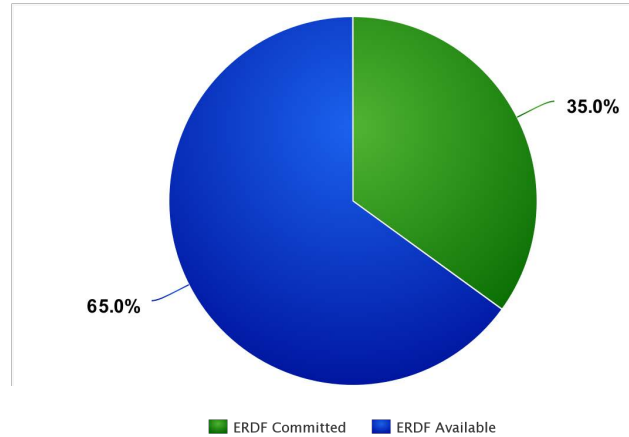
The main focus in 2018 was to continue raising awareness about the Programme’s funding opportunities and encouraging the generation of quality projects. Our high-profile events of the year were four cross-border ‘targeted labs’ on the themes of Hydrogen, Tourism, Tidal Energy and Plastics Pollution. This was a new approach - to gather experts from both sides of the Channel at events on specific topics deemed important to the Programme area. The idea was to encourage them to meet and share ideas to kick off large-scale projects, with extra support on offer from the JS throughout the application process. At the heart of the more challenging issues was the uncertainty surrounding Brexit. A funding guarantee was made by the UK Government in July for EU-funded programmes (including FCE) to all UK partners of projects approved by the end of 2020 even in a no-deal Brexit. This gave some level of reassurance, but when a deal had still not been reached by the end of the year, the looming deadline of March 29, 2019 prompted concern and questioning from potential partners about the impact of a no-deal Brexit on funding.

Nevertheless, in 2018, 11 projects were approved, with €21, 825, 372 of ERDF funding from the Programme, bringing the total number to 25 (including four micro projects). Out of the €209.7m funding pot, €74m of EU funding has been committed, leaving €135m (65%) of funding available.

WHAT WE'VE FUNDED SO FAR

25
Projects

205
Partners



Innovation



Three projects were approved under the Programme's specific objective of Innovation. Project Flower will develop new biocomposite materials made from plant fibres for use in the automotive, advertising and yachting industries. Smarthealth is going to create a model to support the development of products and services and boost cooperation between health & care providers and SMEs with digital solutions to health needs. E-Channel will provide a cross-border export e-platform to support SMEs (mainly Agro-food) to grow their businesses through cross-channel export.



Social innovation



We funded two projects that aim to support socially and economically disadvantaged groups. Project Accelerating Women's Enterprise will bring together organisations working in business creation to address the gender imbalance in business start-ups, within the context that men are currently twice as likely to start a business compared to women. The other project will be publicised after it has met its conditions of approval.





Low Carbon Technologies



Two projects were approved that will promote the use of low carbon technologies in the Channel area. Coo-L Food is developing an app that will encourage consumers to adopt more sustainable behaviours in relation to food consumption and waste management, helping them to save money and reduce their carbon footprint. This was the first micro project approved. Optiwood will create a training programme that will significantly improve the way commercial wood boiler plants are managed.

Natural & Cultural Heritage



One project that aims to attract new visitors to the Channel region was approved in 2018. Bio-Cultural Heritage Tourism will develop a new sustainable model of tourism that will aim to reduce the negative impact of high tourist numbers on the local environment and quality of life of people living near tourist hotspots.



Coastal & Transitional Water Ecosystems



Three projects that aim to protect the water ecosystems around the Channel were approved in 2018. H2O:Source2Seas will create new tools and implement evidence-based natural flood and drought management, which will reduce public money spent on managing water issues. Marineff will help reduce the negative impacts of marine infrastructures on ecosystems and turn them into objects that will help protect ecosystems and biodiversity. The other project will be publicised after it has met its conditions of approval.

