



2014-2020: Where are we?

The new Programming period is fast approaching, and the preparation of the future Operational Programme (OP) is now well underway.

In the past months, a series of Programme Preparation Group (PPG) meetings has allowed for fruitful discussions between the Member States to draft the future Programme. The 2 Seas strategy is now almost finalised and focuses on 4 priority axes:

- **Axis 1: Technological and social innovation,**
- **Axis 2: Low carbon technologies,**
- **Axis 3: Adaptation to climate change,**
- **Axis 4: Resource-efficient economy.**

To fine-tune the strategy, stakeholders are being consulted. Initial workshops and an on-line survey are being undertaken with a limited number of stakeholders in the four Member States in December. The main components of the strategy should be ready in February 2014, and will be followed by the official public consultation.

And you?

Have your Say!

In parallel to these consultations, we would like to hear your views on preparations for the next INTERREG 2 Seas Programme.

You can make your voice heard and ask the Programme your questions through the contact form available in the '2014-2020' section of the 2 Seas website.



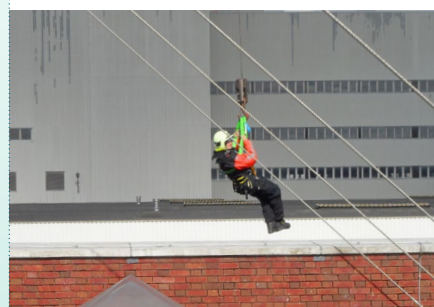
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ABOUT THE PROGRAMME ...

Programme Monitoring Committee in Middelburg

On 29th November 2013, the 10th PMC was held in the Netherlands.



Members were welcomed by the King's Commissioner of the Province of Zeeland, Mr Han POLMAN and the event was chaired by Ms. Eva REULING from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Beside the more traditional Programme states of play, a series of strategic points were considered. Among these subjects:

the 2 Seas Clusters (see below), the Programme budget implementation, the PPG decisions on the future strategy and the Programming Process calendar.

The final documents on the future Programme should be submitted to the European Commission for approval in July 2014.



The '2014-2020' essentials online!

The set up of a new Programme entails many tasks such as the definition of its geography; the key challenges of the Programme area; the strategy, the operational modalities and the architecture of the future Programme. Consultants have been recruited to facilitate the strategy development and draft the future Programme.

To better understand all the assets underpinned in this programming process, the 2 Seas website offers you a new '2014-2020' section where you can find:

- the essentials to know about the future European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

- the latest developments of the INTERREG V A 2 Seas programming process
- the key reports drafted by the external experts.

Stay tuned for more information!

The 2 Seas Cluster initiative: current state of Play

Up to now, 16 clusters have been approved by the 2 Seas Programme partners, and the JTS received 16 additional cluster bids for the last deadline of its Call for Clusters on 15th November.



*Safe-Ice cluster launch in Hastings in October 2013.
More info on the cluster [website](#).*



The Congreen Together Cluster partnership

The “2 Seas Cluster initiative” was launched during the Rotterdam annual event in March 2013 to ensure the link between the current and the forthcoming Programming period. It aims to create strategic cooperation between approved projects and potential competent organisations outside 2 Seas projects.

Once the cluster partners have consolidated their project outputs and common achievements, each cluster will have to valorise and disseminate their cluster results at a cross-border level. The partners will organise a cross-border thematic event and conceive a publication on behalf of the 2 Seas Programme. These will be produced to ensure the widest dissemination of the cluster results while preparing a phase 2 for future development.

A whole section of the 2 Seas Website will be dedicated to the Cluster activities, where you will be able to consult the provisional calendar of the events (see also

Key dates in the newsletter) and download the 2 Seas Magazines.

Thematic coverage

13 fields of interest were proposed to the stakeholders for the cluster bids, even if four main themes were focused on by the Programme Authorities, namely:

- **Applied research, Innovation and Business support,**
- **Accessibility of the area,**
- **Social inclusion,**
- **Risk management in the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.**

With the exception of Accessibility, these preferred themes have been highly addressed by cluster applications. The Culture and Tourism subjects have also generated a great interest amongst actors in the field.

Furthermore, Low Carbon Economy, a key theme in the future O.P has seen two clusters approved!

A few figures

The Cluster call closed with great success: 16 clusters out of 44 applications received, have already been approved and the Programme authorities will meet in January to decide on the 16 remaining bids.

These approved clusters involve 115 formal partners and 46 associated partners from the 4 Members States. It is worth noting that 14% of the partners come from an adjacent area.

Check out the table below for the approved clusters list and their connected themes. The [complete list of beneficiaries](#) is also available on the 2 Seas website.

The approved 2 Seas Clusters:

Theme	Cluster	Description
<i>Applied research, innovation and business Support</i>	Biz4age	Business Opportunities for Healthy Ageing
	DigiSol	Application possibilities of digital solutions in businesses, health care and education
	Taste 2 Seas	Towards Sustainable and Tasty Food in Europe
	I-Mosyde	Intelligent Modern System Design
	AMPTEC	Advanced Materials & Pharmaceutical TEChnologies
<i>Social inclusion</i>	SNAP	Safer Neighbourhood Approach
	AC DC	Arts, Crafts & Dignity in Care
	YES !	Youth Empowered by Skills!
<i>Risks management in the context of ICZM</i>	Prime-C	Partnering for Risk Management and Engagement on the Coast
<i>Accessibility of the area</i>	Eco²Mobility	Mobility for Economy, Mobility for Environment
<i>Low Carbon Economy</i>	SAFE-ICE	Research, Innovation and Business Support for a Low Carbon Economy
	Carelands	Carbon reduction in protected nature and landscape areas
<i>Resource Management</i>	CONGREEN Together	Consolidation of green approaches for green sustainable and 'solid' communities with the focus on working together 'today' to create a green and sustainable 'tomorrow'
<i>(Sustainable) tourism</i>	Tourfish	Tourism for Inshore Fishing, Food and Sustainability
	Proximity	Supporting businesses and volunteers to attract near-by tourists in the 2 Seas Region
<i>Other</i>	CREA-Z	CREA-Zone: Towards a Creative Future

NEW! Cluster Implementation Guidance is now online!

This document was conceived to set out in detail all elements the cluster (lead) partners need to know to implement their cluster successfully, from their approval through to the administrative closure and final payment: the procedures, the necessary documents, the deadlines and the mandatory deliverables. This is available in the **3 Programme languages**.

ABOUT THE 2 SEAS PROJECTS ...

In the spotlight: SeaMe Cycle - 7 bikers on 2 Seas tour!

3 countries in 6 days: this was the challenge that 7 young bikers wanted to overcome during the first week in October. This bike tour was called "SeaMeCycle" and comes from a collaboration between the 2 Seas projects SeaMedia & Bike Friendly Cities.



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From Kortrijk to Norwich

On 4th of October, the SeaMeCycle Team was ready to roll, and left Kortrijk to reach Norwich, with different steps in Belgium, in the Netherlands and a ferry crossing to finally reach England.

Share the full adventures of the 7 courageous bikers through the videos they made: discover the people and the other INTERREG projects they met, the jour-

ney's risks they faced (flat tyre and broken wheels,...) and ... their impressions about the cycle path conditions in the 2 Seas area.

Rediscover the cities and the landscapes of the 2 Seas area throughout their 450 km bike trip: Kortrijk, Gent, Middelburg, the Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier, Zeeland, Ipswich, the hills of Suf-



How to promote bike as an ecological, healthy and cheap way of travelling from city to city and country to country? What makes a city bike-friendly? What doesn't? All these questions underpinned this initiative. The answers are now given in pictures and videos by Sea Media.



© 2013 SARAH MARKEWICH

folk and finally... the medieval City of Norwich.

A 6 episode mini series

The Seame Cycle diaries (6 videos) are now online on [SeaMe TV](#). Watch how the 2 Seas logo travelled through the 2 Seas area promoting our Programme all along the way.



Join SeaMeCycle 2 in Spring 2014!

These videos may inspire you and make you join the second SeaMeCycle trip in Spring 2014 (10-16 June) with a French step in Boulogne, this time.

Contact : Sarah Markewich,
(Sarah.Markewich@howest.be)

Stay tuned for more videos from the SeaMeCycle trip: a 2 Seas project related video about Bike Friendly Cities and SeaMedia; an artistic video about the 2 Seas region from a cycling perspective.

If you live near Kortrijk, you can also enjoy the **SeaMeCycle outdoor video projection** during the "end of the season celebration" at the Muziekcentrum Track on **20 December** !

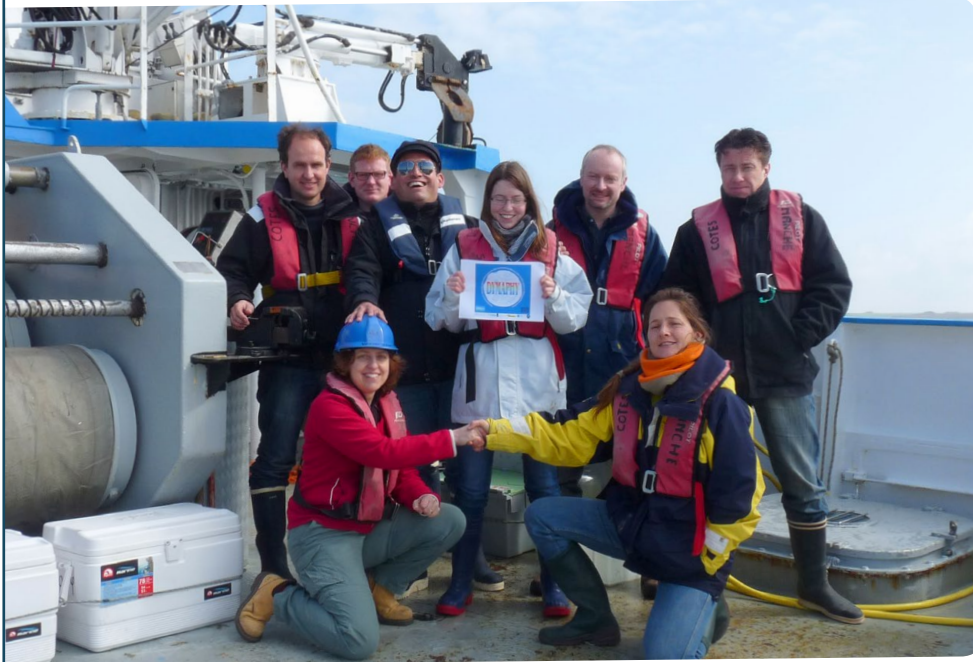
DYMAPHY: When a research project concerns the general public...

The DYMAPHY project unites marine ecosystem specialists from France, England and the Netherlands to improve assessments concerning the quality of seawater in the 2 Seas area by studying microalgae (phytoplankton).

In order to harmonise the procedures used by these different countries, this research has been conducted on the basis of a partnership using a combination of both traditional and cutting-edge methods including microscopes, satellites and, flow cytometry, a revolutionary research tool.

Studying phytoplankton not only provides information about water quality but also enables researchers to monitor this vegetable plankton that forms the basic source of nourishment for the majority of sea species and is therefore an integral part of our own food chain. This was consequently a scientific subject of interest to the general public and mass media alike!





The project partners took advantage of one of their sea trips to invite another team from the SeaMedia project to join the researchers in order to film them at work and interview them about their research project. The aim of these oceanographic trips organised by DYMAPHY is to conduct continuous measurement operations in surface water or collect samples in deep water: they perfectly showcase the purpose of this research project in a concrete manner.

This video can now be viewed on the project website and [SeaMe.tv channel](#). It has also been sub-titled in French by the Dymaphy partners thus enabling the video to be shown at all Dymaphy events and played continuously during open days. It

is also used in Dymaphy communication campaigns.

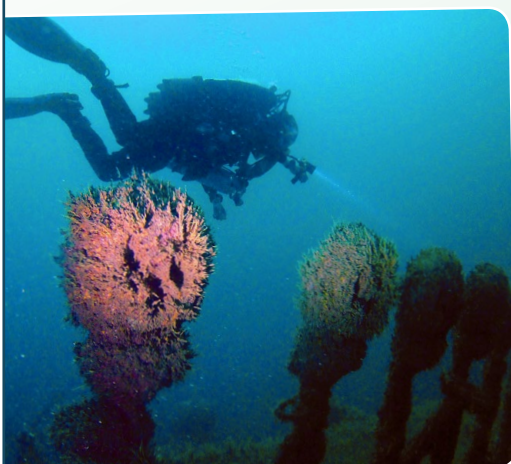
Throughout the project, and in addition to their standard scientific communications, the partners have also been involved in information campaigns aimed at the general public in the three countries concerned during visits to schools, as well as national and international events such as the "Fête de la Science" (National Science Week) in October and World Oceans Day on 8 June. Although most of these initiatives have been undertaken in France, the DYMAPHY researchers have facilitated the involvement of all their partners or other scientists involved in other projects co-funded by the 2 Seas Programme, such as MEMO.

The DYMAPHY researchers have taken steps to enable the general public to gain an understanding of their work by holding an exhibition of photos showing phytoplankton, organising a series of visits to their laboratories providing people with the opportunity to observe specimens using optical and scanning electron microscopes, watch tests using spectrofluorimeters and flow cytometry as well as running workshops designed to monitor the colour of water by satellite.

On the last World Oceans Day, the researchers invited members of the public to climb aboard SEPIA II, an oceanographic vessel enabling them to discover the sampling tools used today for sea research. And thanks to the kind offer made by Nausicaa, the National Sea Centre in Boulogne sur Mer, the DYMAPHY partners were given the opportunity to showcase their work live on TV Nausicaa, and answer questions from viewers concerning the role played by researchers and microalgae research in particular.

The DYMAPHY 2 Seas project finished recently with an international seminar held in the Boulogne area (FR), followed by scientific workshops focusing on phytoplankton organised together with RESOMAR (French network of coastal research centres).

To find out more:
www.dymaphy.eu



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A2S project at the World Underwater Picture Festival

The "Archaeological Atlas of the 2 Seas" (A2S) project took part in the World Underwater Picture Festival at the beginning of November in Marseilles (France). Another opportunity for this 2 Seas project to present the documentary they produced about their archaeological digs in the Channel and the North Sea.

Watch this inspirational film on the [2 Seas Programme channel on Youtube](#).

For more information about the project, please visit the A2S project website: www.atlas2seas.eu

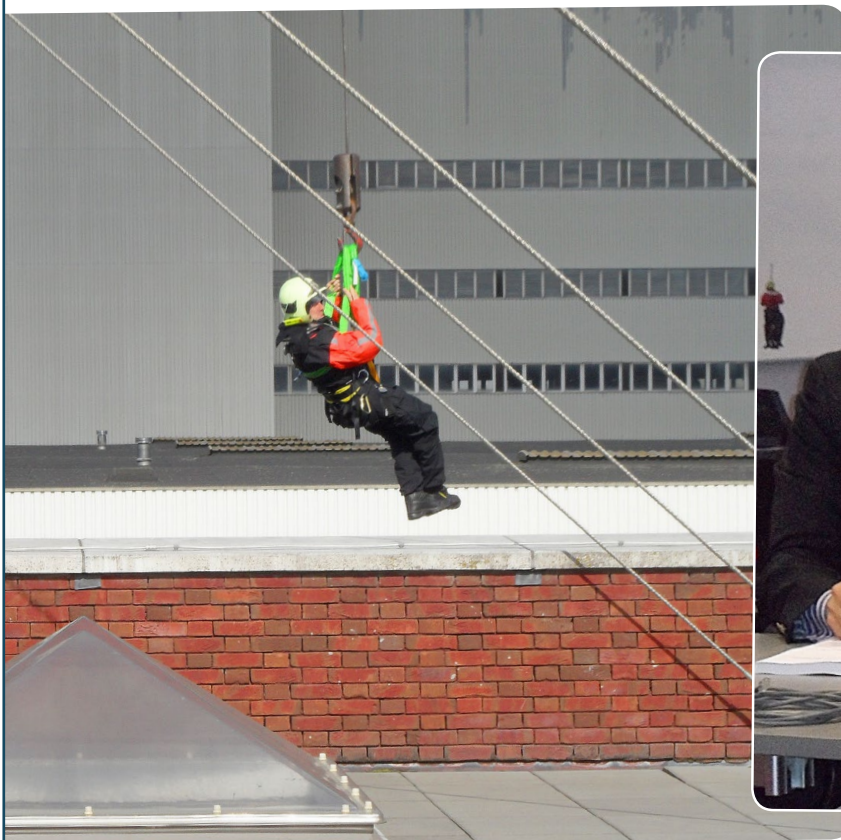
Maritime Incident Response Groups (MIRG – EU) project: Signing ceremony in Antwerp

On 26th September, all MIRG-EU partner representatives gathered in Antwerp on the occasion of an official signing ceremony for the launch of their Operation Policy Manual.

Several figures attended the ceremony, including Mr Van Peel, Vice-Mayor of Antwerp and Mr Han Polman, the King's Commissioner of Zeeland; and the different partners representatives : Mr. Van

Kooten the Major of Noord-Beveland, Mr. Nick Chart, the Chairman of the Kent Fire and Rescue Services, and Colonel Moreau, the director of the DDSIS.

This procedure manual is designed for fire-fighting teams from England, Belgium, Netherlands and France to help them provide a coordinated response to incidents onboard ships. This aims



to streamline responses to incidents at sea, in order to improve maritime safety within the 2 Seas area.

Through this partnership, specialist teams (called Maritime Incident Response Groups) from the 4 member states will be trained to expertly solve onboard problems in case of fire or incidents involving hazardous substances.

Their fast and effective intervention

makes evacuation of crew and passengers unnecessary and limits the effects on the environment.

Each partner country still follows its own national fire-fighting protocols, uses its own equipment and complies with its own training requirements. However through this crossborder cooperation, the teams can deal with protracted incidents using the same methods, working with interchangeable materials, benefitting the same

training and using the same terminology.

After the ceremony the Antwerp Fire Department demonstrated their fire-fighting activities. Many journalists were present and offered wide media coverage to this project. [Watch coverage via this link.](#)

Walls and Gardens: Crossborder photo competition

The "Walls and Gardens" project partners have prolonged the closing date of their contest for amateur photographers till 6th January. This competition aims to encourage people from France, Flanders, the

Netherlands and England to offer their vision of the fortified heritage sites in their region.

All information regarding conditions for participation in the competition

is available on the two organisations' websites: <http://muraillesetjardins.eu/index.php/en/actu/46-concours-2013> and www.espaces-fortifies.com



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Next European Parliament elections in May 2014

Between 22 and 25 May 2014, over 350 million citizens from 28 EU Member States will be called upon, for the 8th time since 1979, to elect their EP representatives.

The European Parliament launched in September its awareness and information campaign 'ACT. REACT. IMPACT.' towards the 2014 elections. A series of interactive events will be organised in European

cities until February and will highlight five key topics - the economy, jobs, quality of life, money and the EU in the world.

More information about this campaign:

<http://www.elections2014.eu/en/top-stories/content/20130902TST18451/html/Act-React-Impact>

KEY DATES

End January 2014

23-24 April 2014

9 May 2014

12 May 2014

13-14 May 2014

16-17 May 2014

22-25 May 2014

5-6 June 2014

17 June 2014

23-24 June 2014

Capitalisation Working Group: Decision on the last Cluster bids

Safe Ice Cluster Event – Westerlo (B)

Europe Day

SNAP Cluster Event – Antwerp (B)

Yes! Cluster Event – Roubaix (F)

Congreen Together Cluster Event (residents) - Medway (UK)

European Parliament Elections

Congreen Together Cluster Event (professional) - Kortrijk (B)

Digisol Cluster event – Breda (NL)

Tourfish Cluster Event - Hastings (UK)

2 Mers Seas Zeeën

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