

Crossborder cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Annual Report 2012 INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme

Managing Authority: Nord-Pas de Calais Regional Council



**Approved by the PMC on
24/06/2013**

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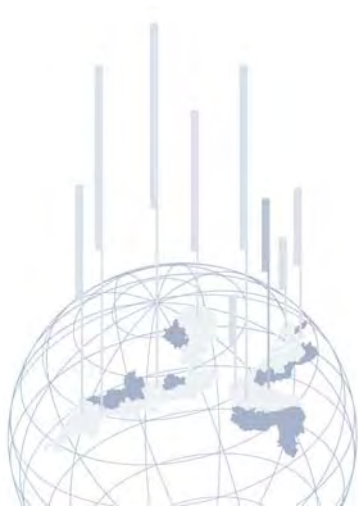


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1. Identification

Operational programme

Operational Programme	Objective concerned	Territorial cooperation	
	Eligible concerned area	Areas bordering the English Channel and North Sea – from: England, Belgium (Flanders), France, the Netherlands	BELGIUM (Flanders): Arr. Antwerpen, Arr. Eeklo, Arr. Gent, Arr. Sint-Niklaas, Arr. Brugge, Arr. Oostende, Arr. Veurne ENGLAND : Norfolk, Suffolk, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Essex CC, Brighton and Hove, East Sussex CC, West Sussex, Portsmouth, Southampton, Hampshire CC, Isle of Wight, Medway, Kent CC, Bournemouth and Poole, Dorset CC, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay, Devon CC. FRANCE : Nord, Pas-de-Calais THE NETHERLANDS : Delft en Westland, Groot-Rijnmond, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Overig Zeeland, West-Noord-Brabant.
	Programming period	2007-2013	
	Programme number (CCI No)	CCI: 2007 CB 163 PO 038	
	Programme title	INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Crossborder Cooperation Programme	
	Reporting year	2012	
Annual implementation report	Date of approval of the annual report by the Monitoring Committee		

The INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Crossborder Cooperation Programme is a new programme for the 2007-2013 programming period. It is not a follow-on Programme and has no previous history. The Programme area is large and covers regions in four Member States, some with no past European Crossborder Cooperation experience. The Managing Authority of the Programme is the "Region Nord-Pas de Calais". The Joint Technical Secretariat is based in Lille.

The INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Crossborder Cooperation Programme was approved by the European Commission on 19 September 2008. The first Monitoring Committee and the first Steering Committee meetings took place on 12 November 2008 in Lille.

2. Overview of the implementation of the Operational Programme

2.1 Achievement and analysis of the progress

2.1.1. Information on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

The table below shows the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme's progress towards the overall indicators stated in the Operational Programme. In 2012 1 Call for Proposals was concluded relating to Priority 4, the Common Priority with the France (Channel) – England Programme; **5 projects** were evaluated resulting in **3 projects approved** by the Steering Committee (*Annex 1 – Projects Supported under Call 9*). The Programme budget for all priorities is fully committed. A full list of beneficiaries for Calls 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 can be found on the programme website under the following address: <http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/projects/list-of-beneficiaries/en>.

All projects were evaluated on the cross border dimension of the project which entails the following: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing and joint financing. The achieved figures stated in the table below relates to the projects that were approved concerning the degree of cooperation as ascertained from the project application submitted by the partnership. The source for Horizontal issues has been gained through the project final reports as outlined in the Operational Programme. In 2012, 14 projects closed in the 2 Seas programme. These were the first project closures for the 2 Seas Programme. Their contribution to the overall indicators – Horizontal issues, can also be found below. The OP indicators were revised in light of conclusions from the Programme evaluation in 2011.

In 2012, 114 progress reports were certified by the Programme. 3 payment claims were submitted to the European Commission representing a **total expenditure of 48 185 106,16 €** and **ERDF amount of 27 277 187,66 €** (including Technical Assistance). No de-commitment has been encountered in 2012.

The baseline value for all indicators is zero.

Table 1: Selected indicators on the physical progress of the Operational Programme

Overall indicators – Degree of Cooperation (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total*	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of projects respecting four of the following criteria: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing</i>	Achievement	11	18	20	34	3	86	80
	Target							80
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of Member States represented in project partnerships (Priority 1, 2 & 3 / Common Priority)</i>	Achievement	2,64 / 0	2,69 / 3	2,81 / 0	3,38 / 4	0 / 3,33	2,97 / 3,57	2.5/3.5
	Target							2.5/3.5
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of organisations involved as partner in the projects</i>	Achievement	64	109	111	249	21	554	400
	Target							400
	Baseline	0						0



Overall indicators – Horizontal issues (Source: final reports of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total*	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of permanent jobs created (fixed contracts, full time equivalent)</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	30,1	30,1	136
	Target							136
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of temporary jobs created (having a finite nature - full time equivalent)</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	338,3	338,3	273
	Target							273
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Share of women</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	43%	43%	50%
	Target							50%
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Share of projects having a contribution to sustainable development which is neutral/positive/main aim</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	30%/ 47% / 23%	30% / 47% / 23%	30% / 40% / 30%
	Target							30% / 40% / 30%
	Baseline							0
<i>Share of projects having a contribution to equal opportunities which is neutral/positive/main aim</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	38%/ 54% / 8%	38% / 54% / 8%	50% / 40% / 10%
	Target							50% / 40% / 10%
	Baseline	0						0

2.1.2. Financial information (all financial data should be expressed in euro)

Table 2.a: Financial information on the priority axes by source of funding (cumulative)

	Expenditure paid out by the beneficiaries included in payment claims sent to the Managing Authority	Corresponding public contribution	Private expenditure (1)	Expenditure paid by the body responsible for making payments to the beneficiaries	Total payments received from the Commission
<i>Priority 1:</i> Creating an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area	56 998 378,98 €	51 056 248,39 €	5 942 130,59 €	25 031 680,29 €	25 847 949,75 €
<i>Priority 2:</i> Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment	31 239 198,87 €	29 952 017,84 €	1 287 181,03 €	13 984 151,49 €	13 034 778,16 €
<i>Priority 3:</i> Improving quality of life	34 669 981,70 €	31 564 086,14 €	3 105 895,57 €	14 714 856,60 €	15 340 595,67 €
<i>Priority 4:</i> Common priority with the France (Channel) – England programme	5 380 632,11 €	5 343 977,49 €	36 654,61 €	2 416 484,67 €	1 307 968,38 €
<i>Priority 5:</i> Technical Assistance	6 911 947,34 €	6 911 947,34 €	0,00 €	4 141 688,20 €	3 918 459,57 €
Grand total:	135 200 139,01 €	124 828 277,20 €	10 371 861,80 €	60 288 861,25 €	59 449 751,53 €
Total in transitional regions in the grand total					
Total in non-transitional regions in the grand total					
ESF type expenditure in the grand total where the operational programme is co-financed by ERDF (2)					
(1) Only applicable for operational programmes expressed in total cost					
(2) This field shall be completed where the operational programme is co-financed by the ERDF or the ESF where use is made of the option under Article 34(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006					

Table 2.b: Financial information based on already declared and certified eligible expenditure (EUR) – data from SFC2007

Priority	Total funding of the OP (Union and national)	Basis for calculating Union contribution (Public or Total cost)	Total amount of certified eligible expenditure paid by beneficiaries(1) (in EUR)	Corresponding public contribution(1) (in EUR)	Implementation rate (in %)
P01 Création d'une accessible, attractive et compétitive au niveau économique	106 687 296,00	T	54 096 368,24	48 419 304,94	50,71
P02 Promotion et développement d'un environnement sain et sûr	73 784 897,00	T	28 004 374,82	27 203 914,22	37,95
P03 Amélioration de la qualité de la vie	74 282 129,00	T	29 994 611,15	27 358 044,47	40,38
P04 Priorité commune avec le programme France (Manche) - Angleterre	22 964 417,00	T	4 833 414,91	4 829 425,96	21,05
P05 Assistance Technique	15 988 311,00	T	6 851 160,29	6 851 160,29	42,85
Total	293 707 050,00		123 779 929,41	114 661 849,88	

2.1.3. Information about the breakdown of use of the Funds

Table 3: Information about the breakdown of the use of Funds (cumulative) - Information in accordance with Part C of Annex II

Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)			
Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Dimension 5	Amount ^(**)	Budget ERDF in the OP (in € and %)	
Priority theme	Form of finance	Territory	Economic activity	Location			
Research and technological development (R&TD), innovation and entrepreneurship							
1	01	08	19	Crossborder	1 003 647 €	4 985 517 €	3%
1	01	08	22	Crossborder	1 759 873 €		
3	01	08	3	Crossborder	1 990 140 €	4 985 517 €	3%
3	01	08	4	Crossborder	1 640 001 €		
3	01	08	16	Crossborder	2 200 709 €		
3	01	08	19	Crossborder	3 786 364 €		
3	01	08	22	Crossborder	5 104 366 €		
4	01	08	16	Crossborder	1 837 702,91 €	1 661 840 €	1%
6	01	08	16	Crossborder	6 073 225,70 €	4 985 517 €	3%
Information society							

Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)			
Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Dimension 5	<i>Amount^(**)</i>	<i>Budget ERDF in the OP (in € and %)</i>	
<i>Priority theme</i>	<i>Form of finance</i>	<i>Territory</i>	<i>Economic activity</i>	<i>Location</i>			
14	01	08	16	Crossborder	1 427 453,74 €	1 661 840 €	1%
Transport							
30	01	08	11	Crossborder	13 388 070 €	6 173 023 €	4%
30	01	08	22	Crossborder	3 825 095 €		
Energy							
43	01	08	21	Crossborder	6 141 956,25 €	3 323 679 €	2%
Environmental protection and risk prevention							
44	01	08	21	Crossborder	1 121 503,00 €	830 920 €	1%
47	01	08	21	Crossborder	894 403,00 €	1 661 840 €	1%
48	01	08	21	Crossborder	1 220 078,00 €	1 661 840 €	1%
49	01	08	21	Crossborder	2 338 646,90 €	3 323 679 €	2%
51	01	08	1	Crossborder	1 242 197 €	1 578 820 €	1%
51	01	08	21	Crossborder	10 287 745 €		
53	01	08	11	Crossborder	1 854 571 €	3 323 679 €	2%

Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Code ^(*)	Amount ^(**)	Budget ERDF in the OP (in € and %)	
Dimension 1 <i>Priority theme</i>	Dimension 2 <i>Form of finance</i>	Dimension 3 <i>Territory</i>	Dimension 4 <i>Economic activity</i>	Dimension 5 <i>Location</i>			
61	01	08	20	Crossborder	1 468 047,00 €	4 985 517 €	3%
Increasing the adaptability of workers and firms, enterprises and entrepreneurs							
64	01	08	18	Crossborder	2 252 697,50 €	1 661 839 €	1%
Improving access to employment and sustainability							
68	01	08	22	Crossborder	565 646,00 €	1 661 839 €	1%
70	01	08	20	Crossborder	1 234 201,50 €	1 661 839 €	1%
Improving the social inclusion of less-favoured persons							
71	01	08	20	Crossborder	1 355 861 €	3 323 679 €	2%
71	01	08	22	Crossborder	897 995 €		
Improving human capital							
73	01	08	20	Crossborder	7 387 269,00 €	1 661 839 €	1%
Investment in social infrastructure							
76	01	08	19	Crossborder	2 041 721 €	1 661 839 €	1%
76	01	08	20	Crossborder	2 534 580 €		
Mobilisation for reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion							

Code ^(*) Dimension 1 <i>Priority theme</i>	Code ^(*) Dimension 2 <i>Form of finance</i>	Code ^(*) Dimension 3 <i>Territory</i>	Code ^(*) Dimension 4 <i>Economic activity</i>	Code ^(*) Dimension 5 <i>Location</i>	Amount ^(**)	Budget ERDF in the OP (in € and %)	
80	01	08	20	Crossborder	1 154 150,00 €	1 661 839 €	1%
Strengthening institutional capacity at national, regional and local level							
81	01	08	17	Crossborder	2 239 934,50 €	1 661 839 €	1%
Technical assistance							
85	01	08	00	Crossborder	6 782 161,06 €	6 554 757 €	4%
86	01	08	00	Crossborder	2 373 172,95 €	3 217 509 €	2%

2.1.4. Assistance by target groups

Regional seminars and 9th Call LP seminar

In 2011, the concept of Regional Seminars was rolled-out. The concept was developed to especially meet the needs of all 2 Seas project partners. As the day-to-day contact with the Programme is organised between the JTS and the Lead Partner, the Programme also wanted to create a platform where all project partners can meet. Therefore, the Regional Seminars were organised by the Programme facilitators per Member State and per group of calls for proposals in which the projects are approved allowing a certain homogeneity in the degree of advancement in the projects. 2012 saw the finalisation of the seminar roll out in the 4 member states of the Programme. 5 were undertaken at the start of the year and concluded in March.

The seminars tackled topics such as project - and partner management, reporting procedures, changes in the project and communication and were largely supported by practical examples and best practice.

The Regional Seminars attracted 261 participants. Only 5 projects out of 82 did not send a representative to one of the Regional seminars and 13% of the projects were represented by their entire partnership. 63,5% of the projects were represented by at least half of their partnership. The Overall evaluation feedback was positive with an average score 3.03/5 with the main comments for the events being:

- Provided better comprehension of procedures
- Good to meet JTS and facilitators, appreciate assistance proposed
- Positive about best practice examples and sharing with other partners present

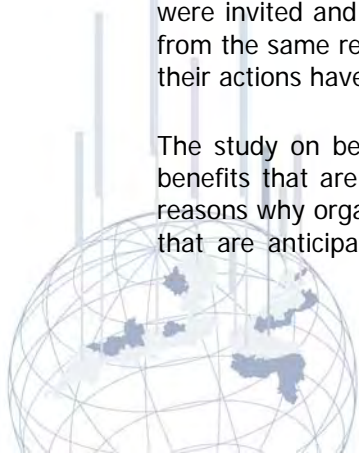
Furthermore, the 9th Call Lead Partner seminar was held on 22 May 2012. This took a slightly different form to earlier LP seminars as given the restricted amount of projects approved, and in order to improve the partnership's knowledge of the Programme rules and procedures, both Lead Partners and project partners were invited to attend this seminar. All project partners from the 9th Call approved projects attended this seminar.

Territorial exchanges

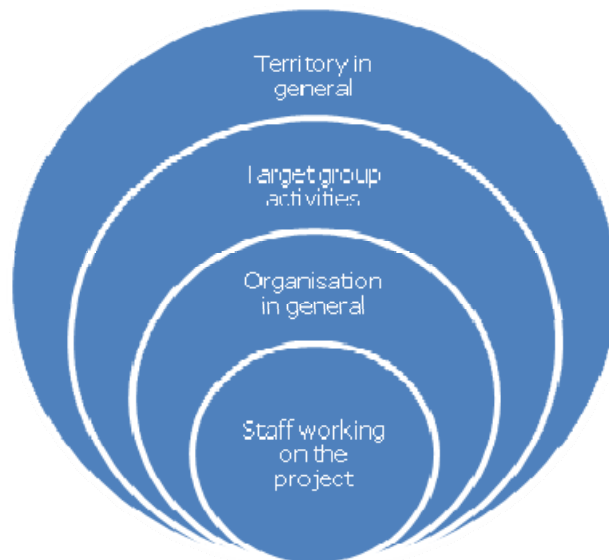
13 Territorial exchanges were held over the course of 2012. These exchanges formed the second part of the Programme's territorial capitalisation that will be described in more detail in section 2.4. In general, the aim of territorial capitalisation is to analyse how the respective territories of the 2 Seas cooperation area participate in the Programme and to evaluate how and to what extent their participation reflects the main strategic issues and policies of the territories. A first step is to undertake a territorial diagnostic for the Programme to demonstrate how the territories have participated in the Programme. Secondly, territorial benefits will be assessed in order to identify how the projects created benefits to the territories and finally the 'territorial perspective' strand will give insight in strengths and weaknesses of territorial involvement in the Programme for the future.

The territorial exchange workshops were held throughout the Programme area in order to directly involve project partners in this exercise and to assess benefits on the ground. All project partners were invited and with the discussion sessions moderated by the JTS. The goal was to allow partners from the same region to exchange, learn from each other's experiences and jointly define the benefits their actions have brought to their area.

The study on benefits was undertaken at four different levels. First of all by looking at the actual benefits that are experienced by the staff directly working on a project. Secondly, by analysing the reasons why organisations decide to take part in a 2 Seas project. This element looked at the benefits that are anticipated at the start of the project but also the unexpected benefits that organisation



experience while implementing the project. Thirdly, by analysing how project target groups concretely experience project actions and the short and long term benefits of this. Finally, by determining how the territory in general benefits from the actions undertaken. How is this concretely perceived, how the EU contribution fits into the picture and what are the sustainable elements resulting from the projects on the territory?



As a result of the exchanges the following benefits could be perceived:

- **Staff benefits**
Direct employment, improved skills, job attractiveness and satisfaction, flexibility to innovate, increased effectiveness and results
- **Organisation benefits**
Image and recognition, knowledge, expertise and investment, improved internal communication and cross unit collaboration, establishment of wider networks
- **Target group benefits**
Policy recognition, exchanges - mobility and social skills, increased job prospects and employment, awareness and ownership by community, accessibility of services
- **Area benefits**
Policy influence, attractiveness, increased organisational cooperation, wider dissemination and impact of results

(Annex 2 – Newsletter Special Edition March 2013).

Technical Assistance to approved projects

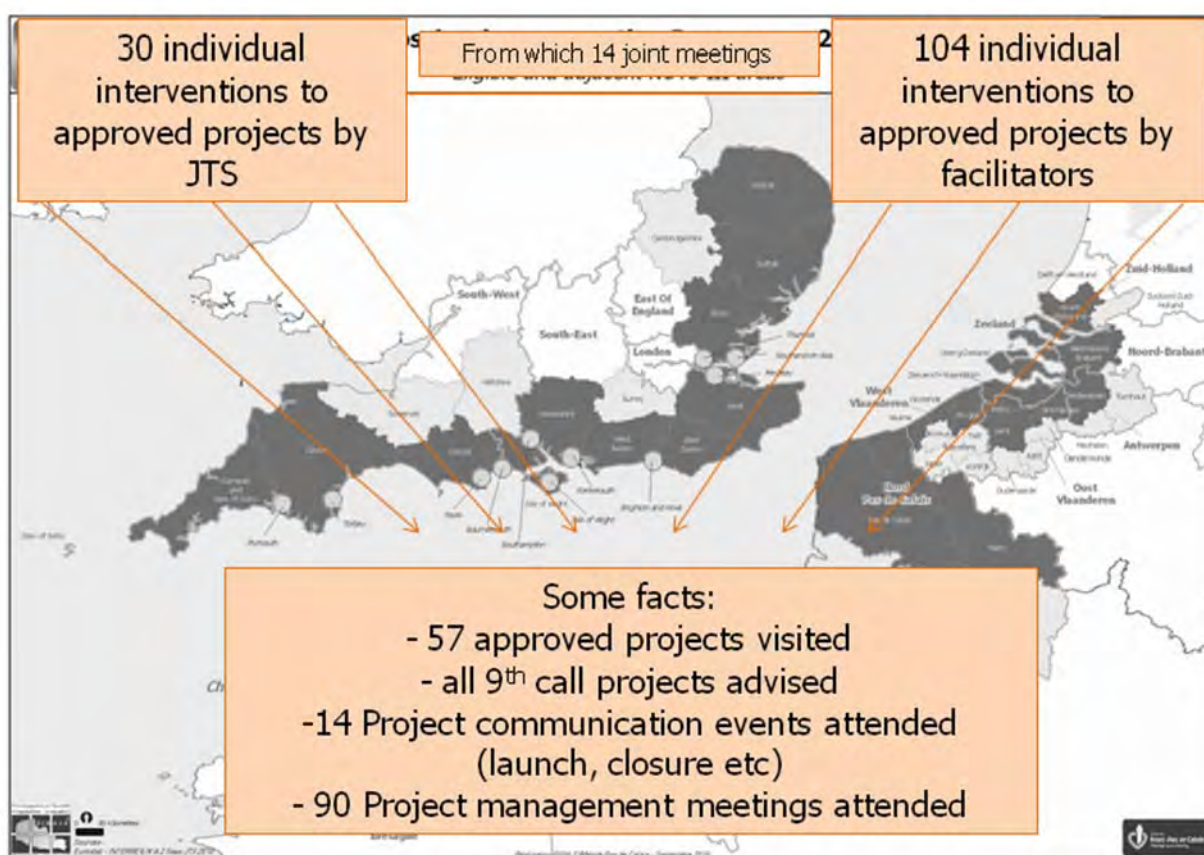
During 2012 the territorial facilitation network, in conjunction with the JTS, played an active role in the development of Programme activities and with regards to the 86 approved projects. The added-value of the territorial facilitators has been recognized by all Programme stakeholders and demonstrated particularly by their work on in the following:

- Help generate projects in the eligible area (the last 'classical' Call for proposals was closed on the 20 January 2012);
- Promote the Programme to stakeholders and the general public (help with the organisation of the territorial exchanges, publication of articles on websites...);

- Assistance to approved projects, thanks to their Programme knowledge and project experience (during partner meetings, site visits, help with monitoring reports...);
- Help with the organisation of Programme events such as the PMC and PSC.

The facilitation network has therefore played an extremely important role in the Programme's success so far and particularly in terms of project generation. 2012 saw a major shift in terms of focus on assistance to projects which have been supported through the Programme. Facilitators individual workplans for 2012 reflected this shift in activity and guidance was provided to ensure complementarity of tasks between the network and JTS.

The illustration below provides a snap shot of the assistance given to approved projects and project partners by both the JTS and facilitators. This information concerns the period between the PMC meetings in 2012 - 17/04/2012 and 26/11/2012.



As in previous years, during the course of 2012 the JTS has ensured a **follow up of the corrections** - by projects and towards the budget of EU - of any financial irregularity detected and of any recommendation defined by auditors.

The JTS was also directly involved in the **participation to the national First Level Control seminars** assisting the national authorities in explaining the European, Programme and national eligibility rules to the designated controllers.

As in 2011, in 2012 individual **economic analyses** were also undertaken per project to determine the state of project implementation against forecast. This was asked for twice during 2012, in February and May. The aim is to:

- Make projects aware of their situation
- Identify underspending
- Recover any unused funding for the Programme

The Programme did not experience any decommitment in 2012.

2.1.5. Assistance repaid or re-used

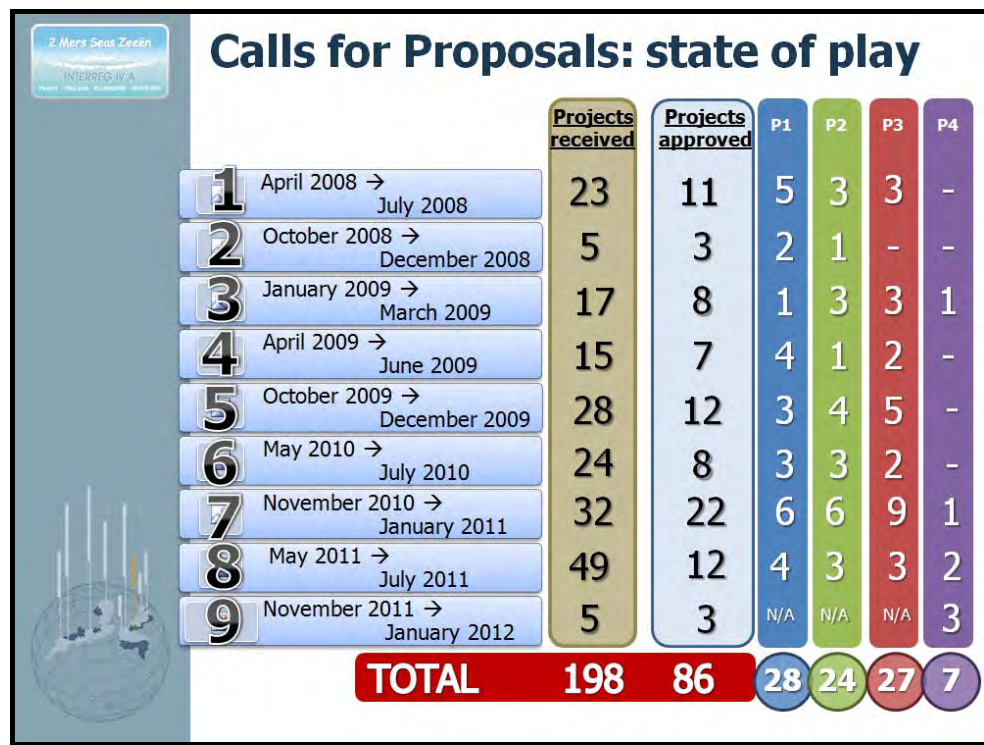
No assistance repaid or re-used during the implementation of the Programme in 2012.

2.1.6. Qualitative analysis

The objective of the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme is to fund cross border operations in the framework of the following four thematic priorities:

- Priority 1: Creating an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area
- Priority 2: Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment
- Priority 3: Improving quality of life
- Priority 4: Common priority with the France (Channel) – England programme

After **9 calls for proposals**, a total of **86 projects** have been selected from a total of 198 submitted. A corresponding amount of **155 286 309,68 €** ERDF has been committed representing 99.9% of the Programme budget allocated to projects.

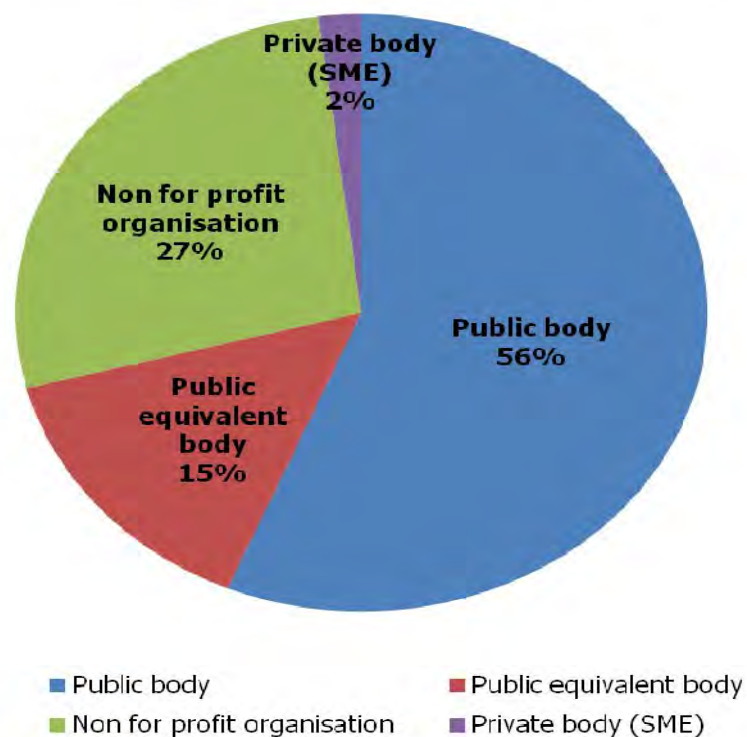


	Operational Programme	Approved Projects ERDF	% committed	% spent	Number of approved projects
Priority 1	58 078 711 €	58 078 862,90 €	100,00%	46,64%	28
Priority 2	40 383 674 €	40 321 756,87 €	99,85%	39,36%	24
Priority 3	44 354 587 €	44 257 581,91 €	99,78%	40,47%	27
Priority 4	12 630 429 €	12 628 108,00 €	99,98%	21,79%	7
Total	155 447 401 €	155 286 309,68 €	99,90%	40,97%	86

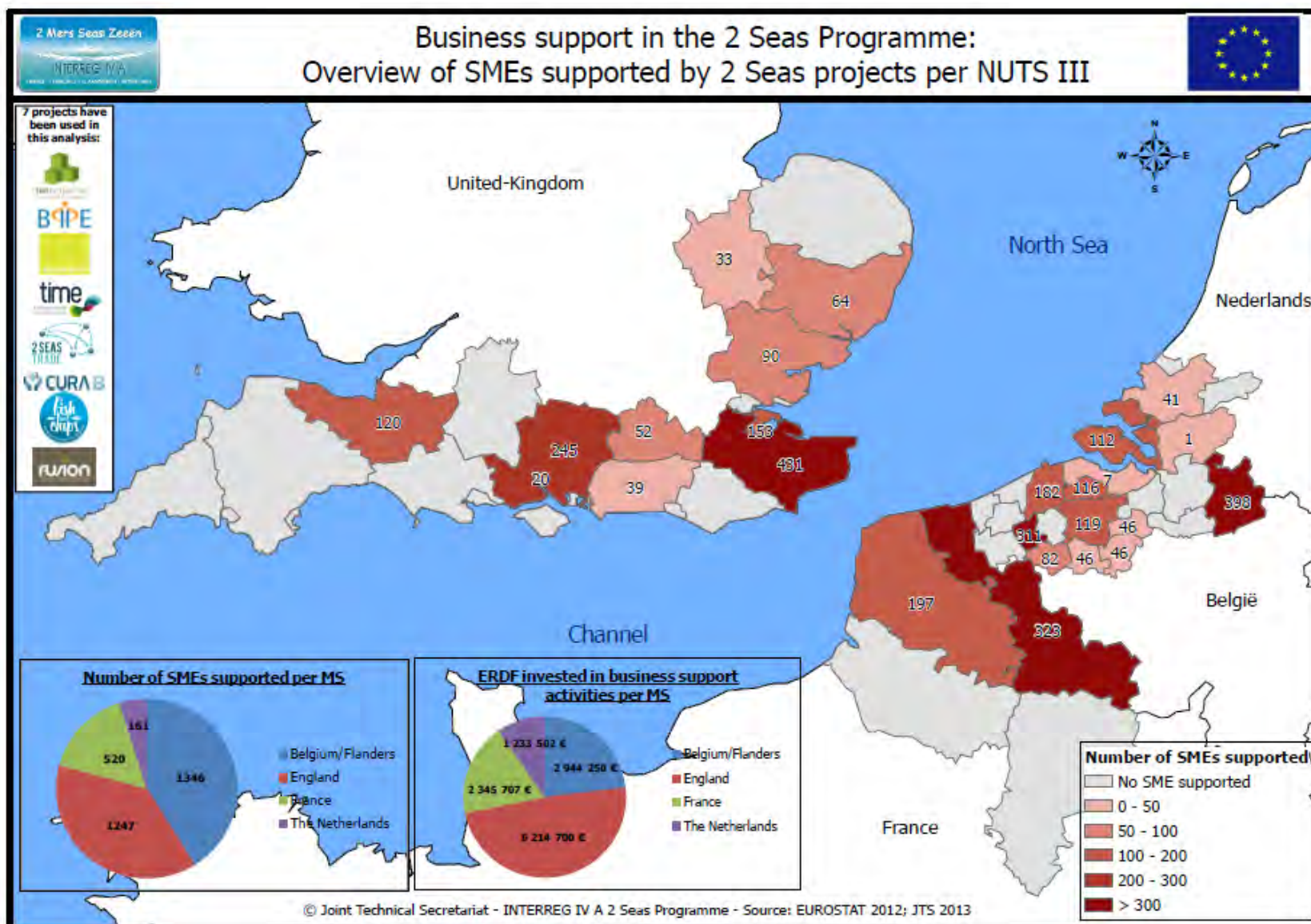
These figures were provided to the participants at the annual event in 2013 and were correct at this point.

The Programme has covered all operational objectives within each Priority and supported **554 partners** in its projects. The typology of partner is predominantly public body.

Typology of partners from approved projects

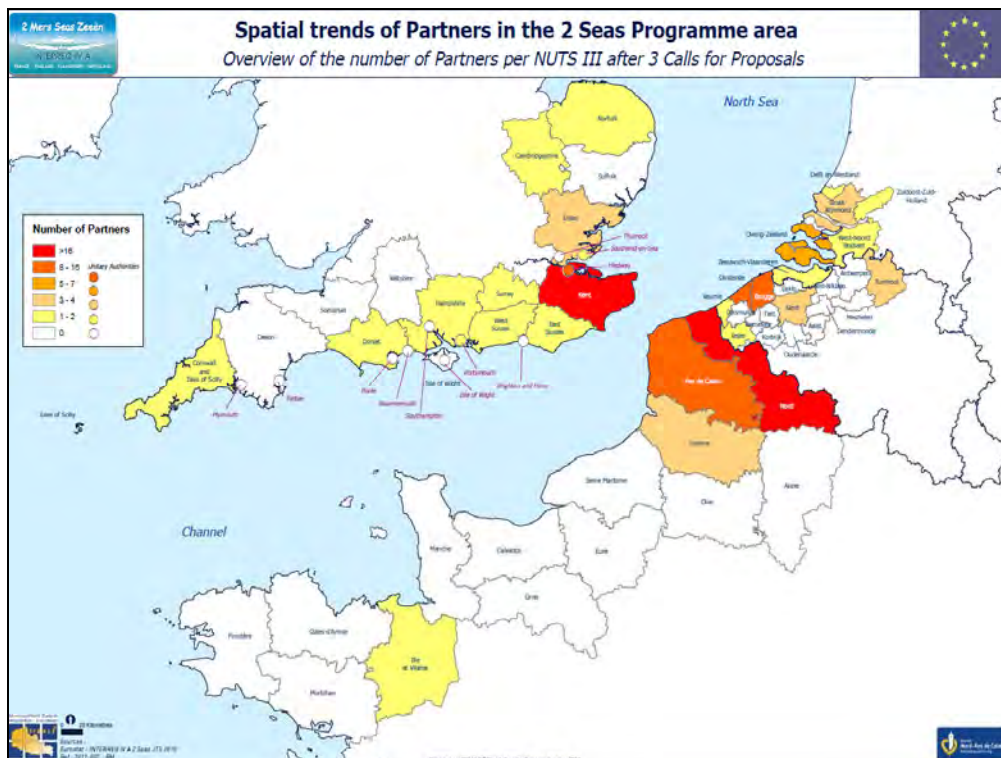


It is to be noticed that the private body involvement as direct programme beneficiaries is small. However, as can be seen below, the programme has supported the private sector directly through its projects.



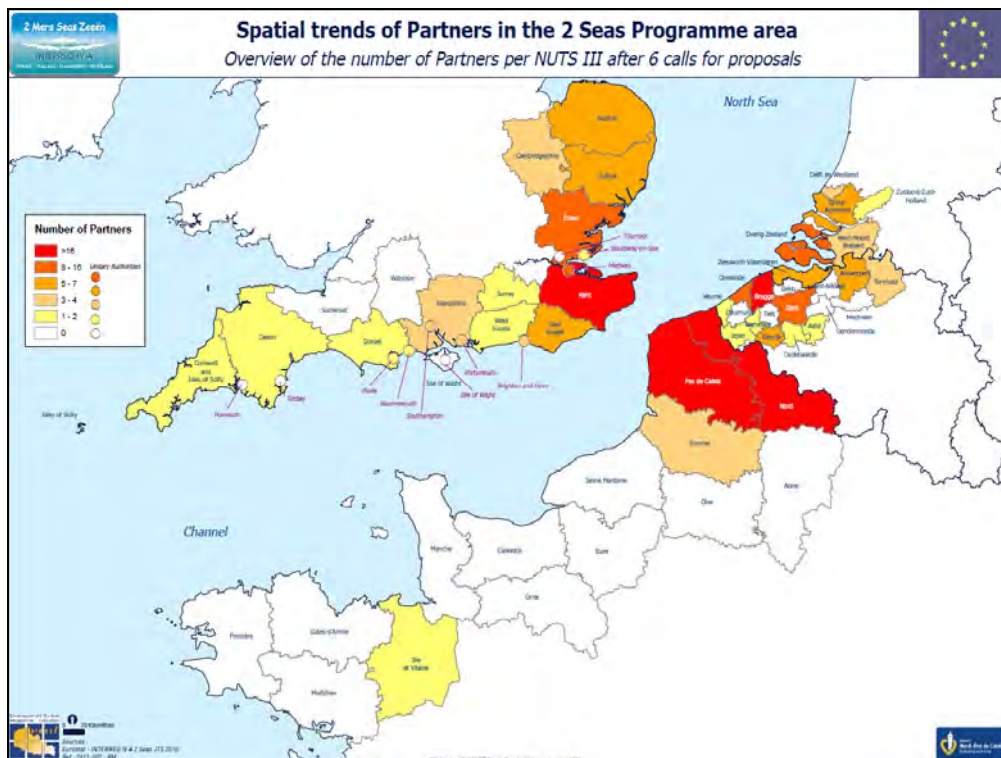
Furthermore, the maps below show the evolution of partners in the Programme by geographical location. Between the 1st and the 9th Calls for Proposals, 4 main conclusions can now be drawn:

- the geographical spread of partners has broadened to be more inclusive of all areas over the course of the calls for proposals;
- core area covering Kent CC, Nord and Pas-de-Calais territories started with a strong involvement and kept being very active over the following calls for proposals;
- the involvement of territories turned towards the North Sea, both on the English side and in Flanders/ Netherlands started slowly, but intensified over the course of the time;
- the south west of England was very slow to get involved in the 2 Seas Programme. However, at the end of the programming period, interest had developed and more and more South West partners were becoming involved in projects. This can be attributed particularly to the recruitment of a English South West project facilitator recruited in 2010.

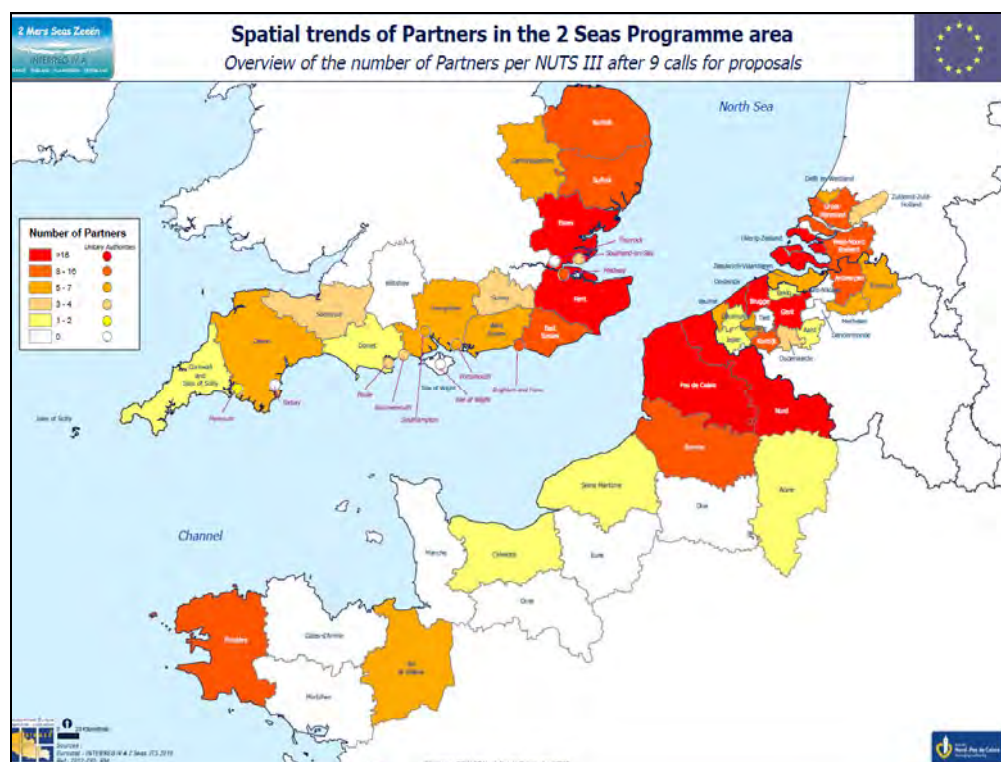


Spatial trends of partners: Call 3






Spatial trends of partners: Call 6



Spatial trends of partners: Call 9

Finally, it is to be noted that out of the 86 projects approved so far in the Programme, 22 have a strong direct maritime dimension across a number of core themes including those outlined in the European Integrated Maritime Policy. The total ERDF committed to Maritime projects so far is circa 45.5 M€ - representing 29% of the overall ERDF commitment..



Projects: Maritime

- 22 projects** (25% of all projects) adding up to 29% of the committed ERDF budget across all priorities
- Total ERDF committed to Maritime projects: circa **45,5 M€** - representing **29%** of the **overall ERDF commitment**
- 159 maritime** partners evenly distributed in the different Member States
 - from public to private sector,
 - from research centres to port development authorities
 - from environmental agencies to safety agencies
- Focus on interventions:

- Integrated maritime governance**
(Stakeholders involvement in maritime policy making)
 - Cross-cutting policy tools**
(Increased marine knowledge and improved quality of marine environment ; Integration of maritime surveillance)
 - Sustainable economic growth**
(Towards more efficient and competitive ports; Transferring innovation for maritime economy)

A project directory with all the approved projects can be found of the Interreg IV A 2 Seas website at the following address: <http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/left-navigation-box-2/publications/en>

2.2. Information about compliance with Community law

No problems relating to the compliance with Community law have been encountered in the implementation of the Operational Programme.

2.3. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

The INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Crossborder Cooperation Programme is a new programme for the 2007-2013 programming period. It is not a follow-on programme and has no previous history. The programme area is large and covers regions in four Member States, some with no past European cross border cooperation experience. Due to protracted negotiations concerning the programme area this has meant that the Programme has been late in starting. Officially transmitted to the European Commission on 19 November 2007, the formal Commission approval of the Programme was on 19 September 2008.

The above has presented a number of issues in terms of implementation of the Programme and in particular in terms of expenditure and commitment of funding to achieve the first N+2 targets. However, following a slow start to the Programme, and due to the intense efforts of the Member States, Managing Authority and Technical Assistance, it has grown from strength to strength. 2012 saw full Programme commitment; decommitment was avoided; and the Programme continued to experience a low irregularity rate for its audits on operations at 1.67%.

In 2011 the Programme suffered a major setback in terms of its implementation. At the end of September, an audit from the European Commission was carried out in the United Kingdom. The purpose of the audit was to test the quality of the UK First Level Control system. On 5th December, following the draft audit report and the preliminary findings detected by the auditors, the European Commission informed the Programme by e-mail about their intention to temporarily **interrupt the payment deadline** of ERDF for the expenditure claimed by UK beneficiaries. On 9th December, the Programme was then informed by the European Commission that the Interruption Committee of the European Commission validated the temporary interruption. On this basis, the Managing Authority had to proceed to the temporary postponement of payments to UK beneficiaries.

As part of an action plan to ensure the effectiveness of the First Level Controls in the UK, the European Commission required that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to carry out 22 additional audits to verify the correct functioning of First Level Control on at least 20% of all UK beneficiaries. The scope of the additional 22 audits was to assess if the identified deficiencies in checking public procurement were isolated cases and not a systemic issue in the UK.

The 22 in-depth checks were undertaken by DCLG, partly in association with the JTS, from 9 to 23 March 2012. In the frame of the 22 in-depth checks, 11 % of the total expenditure claimed by all English beneficiaries until 31 December 2011 was checked. The financial irregularities detected represented 0.48 % of the total expenditure checked. Out of the 22 beneficiaries checked, only 3 needed minor financial corrections. For 2 of them, DCLG detected systemic irregularities caused by weaknesses of the management and control systems at beneficiary level. According to the methodology used for the on-site checks, 100% of the expenditure concerned by the systemic irregularity at beneficiary level was checked, the global amount of ineligible expenditure was identified and the related financial corrections was implemented by the beneficiaries in their following progress report and by the Programme in its following payment claim.

Nevertheless, the results of DCLG's investigation demonstrated that there was no systemic irregularity caused by weaknesses and deficiencies of the management and control systems at national and Programme levels. The verification therefore provides reasonable assurance that the First Level Control system on the whole works.

DCLG also established that the independence of First Level Controllers was an issue only for one beneficiary, Marine South East, which was audited in September by DG REGIO. All expenditure claimed by this beneficiary before the audit was checked again by DCLG and all necessary corrective actions have been undertaken. A new First Level Controller has been appointed for future claims.

Taking into consideration the complementary elements provided during the contradictory phase and the positive results of the additional 20% on-site checks in UK, all outstanding findings in the frame of DG REGIO audit mission n° 2011/REGIO/J3/963/1 were closed and the interruption of the payment deadline for the expenditure claimed by English beneficiaries was lifted in July 2012.

In the meantime however, to alleviate cash flow problems being experienced by English beneficiaries due to the interruption, at its PMC on the 16/04/2012, Committee members agreed that payment could be made to all UK beneficiaries for costs claimed until 31/12/2011 using the Programme cash-flow.

As a consequence of the temporary interruption of payment, some English beneficiaries communicated to the JTS in 2012 their difficulties in providing the necessary cash flow to anticipate project's costs in absence of ERDF reimbursement and the consequent risk of bankruptcy and administration procedures. Particularly, two beneficiaries – INTEGRIA Limited, partner in Project CRYSLIS, and Coast-Net, partner in project VillaCrossMedia – failed into administration following the communication of the temporary interruption of payment. The Managing Authority together with the UK representative at the PMC and the Lead Partner are still investigating the reasons behind the administration and to get enough evidence of the soundness of the claimed expenditure before paying the last ERDF subsidy to these two beneficiaries in compliance with the EU requirements of durability and eligibility.

2.4. Changes in the context of the operational programme implementation (if relevant)

As previously stated, in 2012, Programme funding for projects for the current period was fully committed. Special attention was therefore placed on developing and implementing the Programme Capitalisation axes to prepare for the future:

1. Thematic
2. Territorial
3. Ongoing evaluation Step 3.
4. Functional Capitalisation

A Capitalisation Working Group was set up to oversee these axes.

Thematic Capitalisation

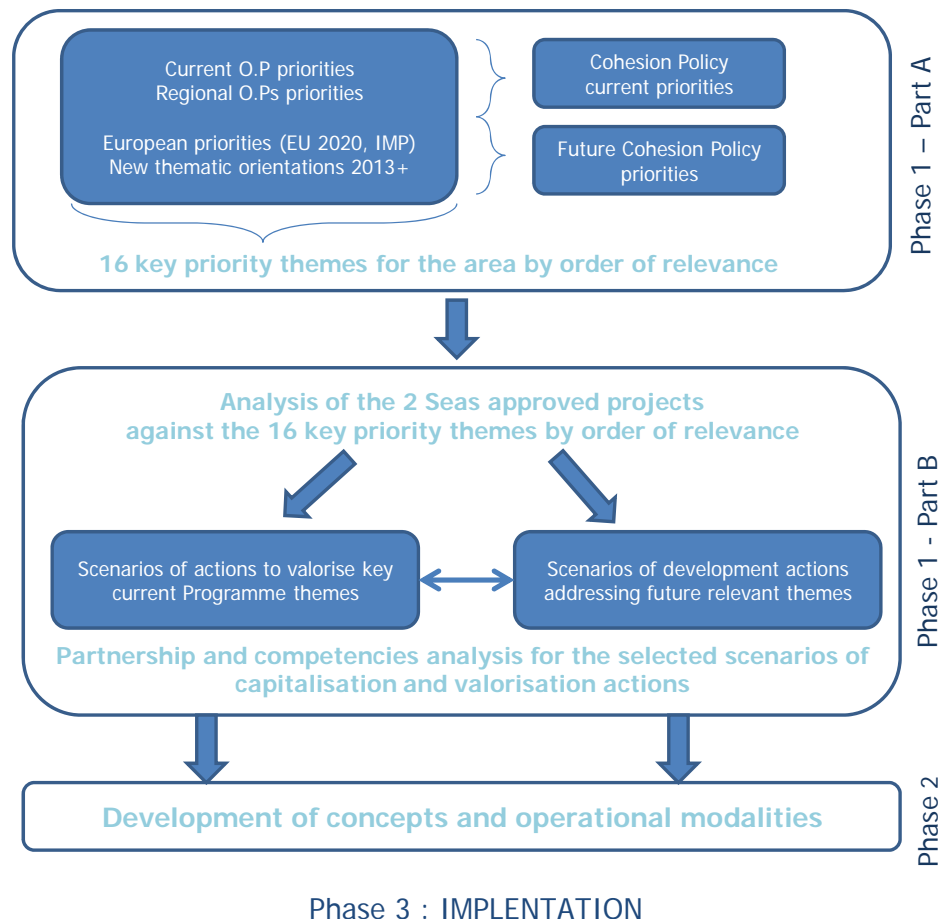
The main aim of thematic capitalisation is to valorise and capitalise on what the Programme has thematically achieved in view of showing the Programme results and informing the preparation of the next Programming period

A three phase approach was approved by the PMC in April 2012, in order to develop and implement effective and structured thematic capitalisation actions:

Phase 1: Creating the baseline

Phase 2: Developing the concepts

Phase 3: Implementing thematic capitalisation actions



Following on from the analysis, in November 2012 the PMC approved the launch of the 2 Seas cluster initiative with the aim of creating strategic cooperation between approved projects and between potential competencies outside 2 Seas projects in order to strengthen and enlarge the impact of the Programme for the benefit of the 2 Seas territories.

The Programme authorities decided to particularly focus the thematic clusters on four main themes:

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

Nevertheless, the 2 Seas capitalisation is open to the 16 relevant themes as implemented in the 2 Seas Programme. 2 phases to a cluster are foreseen:

1. Valorisation and dissemination of results obtained
2. Future development

In March 2013 the 2 Seas Cluster initiative was launched at the Programme annual event in front of more than 400 participants. <http://www.interreg4a-2mers.eu/clusters/en>

Territorial Capitalisation

Territorial capitalisation consists of 3 steps:

- ❖ **STEP 1 Territorial Diagnostic:** To be able to show **how the respective territory participates in the Programme? How and to what degree does this participation reflect the main strategic issues from that territory? What are the strengths and weaknesses at this point?**
- ❖ **STEP 2 Territorial Benefits:** To be able **to analyse how the territory benefits concretely from the Programme:** concrete outputs, results... How the benefits are known and by whom: visibility, communication, dissemination...
- ❖ **STEP 3 Territorial Perspectives:** To be able to **put in perspective how the territory could benefit better from a Programme like ours**, by doing what?

Step 1 was carried out in the first half of 2012 with the help of the facilitation network with a report presented to PMC members outlining strengths and weaknesses and asking a set of questions for regarding future perspectives. Step 2, as described earlier, was undertaken in June and July 2012 through the territorial exchange events set up by the Programme. Step 3 was rolled out at the 2 Seas Programme annual event in 2013 where the second day was dedicated to this. In a number of sessions at the event, two specific territories showed how the crossborder projects benefited their area, their communities and their inhabitants and why they are confident that crossborder cooperation will remain a priority for the development of their territory in the future.

Ongoing evaluation Step 3.

The focus of the 3rd and final stage of the ongoing evaluation was on evaluating programme performance to provide guidance for a future 2 Seas programme. It built on previous stages of the ongoing evaluation (2011) that concentrated on identifying necessary revisions of the programme strategy and documents of the present 2 Seas programme.

The aim of this 3rd stage of the ongoing evaluation was to provide an independent analysis of the 2 Seas programme along two (interrelated) lines of investigation. On the one hand it intended to assess the performance and results of the programme in view of its initial regulatory and policy context.

On the other hand the evaluation aimed to provide building blocks and input for the process of developing a new 2 Seas programme for the period after 2014. The strengths and weaknesses of the present 2 Seas programme were therefore evaluated against the proposed requirements for this new funding period. This serves to identify how the 2 Seas programme performs in view of the new framework and to enable the definition of concrete proposals and recommendations on how to adapt the programme to this new context.

The evaluation looked from a Programme, project and organisation and management perspective.

(Annex 3 – Newsletter Special Edition February 2013).

Functional Capitalisation

This work started in January 2013. The functional capitalisation is, first of all, an opportunity to be used by all Programme authorities to highlight the challenges as well as the best practices experienced in the current programming period in order to facilitate the effectiveness, efficiency and user-friendliness of the future 2 Seas Programme. The functional capitalisation begins through a deep **work of analysis** of the current INTERREG IVA 2 Seas management and control system, with the purpose of highlighting any possible future simplification and improvement of the rules and processes.

One of the main targets of the functional capitalisation is also to **facilitate the harmonization** between the 2 Seas Programme and other neighbouring Programmes (particularly the France(Channel)-England Programme).

Finally, the output of the functional capitalisation is the definition of **concrete proposals** for designing the future management and control system (including tools, templates, rules, etc.) in the framework of the new Operational Programme.

Interreg VA

The above work will nourish the development of a new Interreg VA Programme which was set in motion mid 2012 with the creation a Programme Preparatory Group to begin the work of constructing this new programme. The MA for the 2 Seas area was agreed in May 2012. Negotiations have been ongoing with regard the Programme area. It was agreed in October 2012 to undertake a joint situation analysis with the France (Channel) – England Programme to clearly understand the commonalities and differences/specificities of the 2 programme areas. The tender was launched in February 2013.

2.5. Substantial modification pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (if relevant)

No substantial modification pursuant to Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 in 2012.

2.6. Complementarity with other instruments

The objective of complementarity and consistency is highlighted in Art. 9(2) of Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 that states as follows:

“The Commission and the Member States shall ensure that assistance from the Funds is consistent with the activities, policies and priorities of the Community and complementary to other financial instruments of the Community. This consistency and complementarity shall be indicated in particular in Community strategic guidelines on cohesion, in the national strategic reference framework and in the operational programme.”

The Operational Programme has defined a double approach to deal with the potential (or perceived) risk of funding duplication. The approach is structured on the following two levels:

- 1) Evaluation and approval of projects applications;
- 2) Ongoing evaluation.

Concerning the first level of monitoring, the Programme Steering Committee and the Managing Authority look at the risk of funding duplication or overlapping during the process of projects evaluation and approval. Whenever a risk of funding duplication is apperceived, the issue is discussed during the PSC meeting. No project application is approved until the risk of funding duplication is solved and the complementarity is demonstrated.

Concerning the second level of monitoring, the first level controllers designated by each Member State (according to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 1080/2006) have to ensure that projects are not using any other European financial instruments as source of match-funding.

In general, the Operational Programme proposes to emphasize the opportunity for a synergetic approach. A structured mechanism, based on transparency, is proposed in order to achieve the objectives of complementarity and consistency. This mechanism would, at the same time, aim at avoiding any duplication of funding of the same action.

Close cooperation has been set up with the **INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England Programme**. This programme shares a Common Priority with the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme. Regular contact is undertaken with the 2 programmes in the form of telephone conversations, email and meetings for programme and project development. The 2 JTSs and facilitators have attended various events to promote and develop partnerships under the Common Priority. The France (Channel) – England Programme inputs into the evaluation process and the Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme PSC, concerning projects submitted in this Priority for each call for proposals.

As described above, in 2012 the preparation for the future programming period was launched. A joint Programme Preparatory Group was held between both programmes in October 2012. The result was agreement to undertake a joint situation analysis and SWOT.

Collaboration is also very strong between the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme and the **INTERREG IV B North West Europe Programme and INTERREG IV C Interregional Programme** as the Managing Authority for these Programmes is also the Region Nord Pas de Calais. The Joint Technical Secretariats are housed in the same building and exchanges of best practice and projects are a regular occurrence. In particular information is shared concerning relevant projects submitted under the Calls for Proposals to ensure complimentarily and avoid duplication. If required representative of other Joint Technical Secretariats of other territorial cooperation programmes in the area are able to attend the Steering Committee meetings of the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme as observers.

The 2 Seas JTS also has developed close working with the **France-Wallonia-Flanders Programme** to share information about the Programme and discuss Programme approaches to various key topics including audit, PMS, project closure, evaluation, future programming period. Furthermore, the 2 Seas

secretariat is an active collaborator with the wider Interreg Community through its regular attendance at **Interact** seminars and events to exchange with other programmes.

During various information events and the consultations with potential partners, the Programme always underlined the specific criteria of the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme. It is made clear that the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme can not be a substitute programme for proposals to be co-financed by other programmes. Moreover the project application form for the 2 Seas Programme asks about the history of the project and more particularly 'Does the project take into account or cooperate with other EU funded project or Community Initiatives. If so, how does it represent added value?' Within the Programme Manual a specific annex (annex 11) has also been developed concerning European Territorial Cooperation and the differences between the strands.

2.7. Monitoring and evaluation

During 2011, 2 **Monitoring Committees** and 1 **Steering Committee** were held. (*Annex 4 – Monitoring Committee List of Decisions*). A number of key decisions for the current and future programme were made concerning the programme and projects developed in the Programme:

- The 9th Call for Proposals is the last "classical" open call for proposals in the current programming period
- The Programme funding not committed or made available through project under-spending is to be used to cover any Programme de-commitment or for Programme Capitalisation purposes.
- The overall capitalisation framework and launch of cluster initiative
- The payment to all UK beneficiaries for costs claimed until 31/12/2011 using the Programme cash-flow.
- Process for declaration of interest for candidates to the role of Managing Authority for future programme; the composition of a working group to prepare the future OP and work to be undertaken through current TA budget.

A **Programme and Financial State of Play** is provided to the Monitoring Committee members at each meeting to inform on Programme delivery and any remedial actions necessary.

In 2012, 114 progress reports were certified by the Programme. 3 payment claims were submitted to the European Commission representing a **total expenditure of 48 185 106,16 €** and **ERDF amount of 27 277 187,66 €** (including Technical Assistance). No de-commitment has been encountered in 2012. Furthermore, **41 requests for major modifications** were evaluated and approved by the Steering Committee.

In 2012, **National First Level Control training** seminars have been undertaken in all Member States. In addition, the JTS produced and published an First Level Control Manual in order to give clear instructions to the First Level Controller about their role and responsibilities.

The expenditure audited for the 2012 random sample in the framework of the **Second Level Control** amounts to 5 421 903,76€, representing 12.02% of the expenditure declared to the EC in 2011. 12 audits have been carried out so far. The error rate, after contradictory phases, is of 1.67%.

During the first specific system audit conducted in September 2011, auditors were not able to control the implementation of the new certification procedures by the Certification Authority (Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations). Consequently, the Audit Authority and the Group of Auditors, during the 27 October 2011 GoA meeting, decided to conduct a complementary specific system audit of the CA.

This audit has taken place at the Certifying Authority's premises and intended to control the actual and effective implementation of the new certification procedures, and namely the use of the PMS system as daily data management tool.

Therefore, the complementary specific system audit was focused on the following issues:

- Certification procedure control;
- Control of the tools used for the certification and mainly the PMS system as the tool for management and monitoring of the certification and payment procedures;
- Walkthrough test on one operation;
- Random tests on a sample of 10 operations.

The complementary specific system audit was hold on 12 June 2012 at the Certifying Authority's premises.

After the 2012 complementary specific system audit, no finding remained open about the efficiency of the management and control system of the INTERREG IV A II Seas programme, concerning MA, JTS and CA.

Consequently, the management and control system of the three above-mentioned authorities was assessed as: Category 1: "Works well, only minor improvements are needed".

In the framework of the **Third Level Control**, all outstanding findings in the frame of DG REGIO audit mission n° 2011/REGIO/J3/963/1 were closed and the interruption of the payment deadline for the expenditure claimed by English beneficiaries was lifted in July 2012.

2.8. National performance reserve (where applicable and only for the annual implementation report submitted for 2010)

N/A

3. Implementation by Priority

Below is a qualitative analysis per Programme Priority. The indicators are output and result indicators for Priority 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The Programme indicators have been updated as a result of the ongoing evaluation step 1 and 2 undertaken in 2011 and approved by the Commission in 2012. This is the first time in programme reporting that these indicators will be used

Facilitation jobs have been included in the number of jobs created at Programme level. The split male / female is 45/55 and has not changed from the previous year.

The “number of projects” supported are those which were supported under the 9 Calls for Proposals. The number of promotion and publicity activities includes the events / seminars the Joint Technical Secretariat have assisted in / held over the course of the year to inform and advise about the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme.

Further, information on the implementation of Priority axes 5 (Technical Assistance) is given in the section 6 below.

The baseline value for all indicators is zero.

3.1. Priority 1: Supporting an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area

3.1.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Priority 1 Indicators

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>1.1 Number of projects supporting the development of economic activities, including the maritime economy</i>	Achievement ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1	1	0	4	7
	Target ⁽²⁾							7
	Baseline ⁽³⁾	0						0
<i>1.2 Number of projects supporting innovation, research and cooperation between universities, knowledge institutes and businesses</i>	Achievement	1	0	2	4	0	7	4
	Target							4
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.3 Number of projects supporting the tourism sector and promoting sustainable tourism</i>	Achievement	0	6	0	2	0	8	2
	Target							2
	Baseline	0						0

¹ The achievement should be expressed cumulatively – the value for the indicator should be the total achieved value by the end of the reporting year. Previous years' achievements can be updated when submitting later years' annual implementation reports, if more accurate information is available

² The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

³ Baseline inserted only for first year when the information is available, unless the concept of a dynamic baseline is being used.

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>1.4 Number of projects promoting entrepreneurship and supporting development of employment and human capital</i>	Achievement	1	0	1	2	0	4	2
	Target							2
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.5 Number of projects encouraging the development of crossborder commercial initiatives</i>	Achievement	1	0	2	1	0	4	2
	Target							2
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.6 Number of projects improving the accessibility of the programme area by optimising the use and mutualisation of existing infrastructures as a priority</i>	Achievement	2	0	1	2	0	5	11
	Target							11
	Baseline	0						0
RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>1.1 Number of joint economic actions developed</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	110
	Target							110
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.2 Number of new cross-border cooperation structures between businesses and knowledge institutes</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	4	4	8
	Target							8
	Baseline	0						0

RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>1.3 Number of new cross-border tourism products generated by supported projects</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	21	21	10
	Target							10
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.4 Number of businesses whose development was accompanied through supported projects</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	197	197	100
	Target							100
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.5 Number of joint products and services generated by new commercial initiatives</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	14	14	4
	Target							4
	Baseline	0						0
<i>1.6 Number of measures to improve the accessibility of the area by optimising the use and mutualisation of existing infrastructures as a priority (terrestrial, ICT, networks ...)</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	7	7	44
	Target							44
	Baseline	0						0

The entire Priority 1 budget has now been committed to support a total of 28 projects throughout the Programme area. Most of the target groups as outlined in the Operational Programme are partners within at least one project, these range from national, regional and local authorities, ports and authorities responsible for port development, organisations representing the business community, especially related to SMEs, universities and knowledge institutes and education establishments and regional development agencies. All the Operational Objectives have also been covered by at least one project. 194 partners are involved in Priority 1. Priority 1, in general, has a good variety of projects and partners involved. In 2012, 7 projects closed.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

BPPE

Developing Best Practice in Promoting Enterprise

The main aim of BPPE is to develop an enterprise culture and promote entrepreneurship in disadvantaged areas so that individuals can earn a living, gain self respect and grow the work ethic within their communities.

Achieving this entrepreneurial spirit will mean creating the conditions and attitudes to be developed so that individuals can gain access to support and success in starting businesses. The project partners, support organisations with different social groups, will help these disadvantaged communities by intervening in schools and other training establishments, both in rural areas and coastal towns of the partner regions.

The crossborder aim is to affect the regional policies in this field, benefiting both citizens and regional economies by bringing together the best practical experience from the different partners. By increasing the availability and quality of entrepreneurship education and training, and not just focusing on business start up support, the project hopes to promote a culture in which all citizens in all regions will have the confidence to take risks in their lives as well as in business.

Lead Partner	Business Support Kent CIC (UK)	
Other Partner(s)	(1): Voka – Kamer van Koophandel Oost-Vlaanderen (BE)	
Location of the activities	Medway (UK), Kent (UK), Arr. Gent (BE), Arr. Eeklo (BE), Arr. Oudenaarde (BE), Arr. Aalst (BE), Arr. Dendermonde (BE)	
Total Budget	€ 1,131,293	
ERDF	€ 565,646 (50%)	
Duration	45 months (02/01/2008-30/09/2011)	
Contact	Anna Best Anna.Best@bsk-cic.co.uk	www.bsk-cic.co.uk/programmes/bppe-best-practice-in-promoting-enterprise

30
Priority 1 Objective e

Main results:

The BPPE project closed in September 2011 and brought together the key business support players in Kent/Medway and East Flanders. Despite a rather small partnership, the project has managed to achieve very good results in the two territories by translating and transferring, and accompanying this transfer, of support programmes from one Member State to another. 197 English and Flemish SMEs were accompanied through the various pilot programmes developed by the partners.

It is particularly interesting to notice the following elements that underline the sustainability and relevance of the pilot programmes developed under BPPE:

- The “Shape Your Future” pilot programme developed by the Flemish partner has been recognised by the Flemish Job Agency (VDAB) and consequently incorporated into a national Programme for 45+ workers.
- There has been clear interest in the “Prison programme” Taktix actions and the inspirational events to encourage more women to take up self employment, both programmes will be continued due to the large demand from the target audience.
- The “Desire to enspire” ambassador programme will also be self-sustaining as it was picked-up by a Kent University group to reach out the younger generations.
- Partners have received several requests from universities and businesses to continue some of the programmes (among which the “Wheel” programme, – these would be paid by these organisations themselves, thus ensuring a legacy for the project’s results.

All project results and findings have been consolidated in the BPPE toolkit, available via

<http://www.bsk-cic.co.uk/uploads/assets/media/documents/c5f236d64fae4ac8eeeff3bf107f4392e22deed8.pdf>.

It is also worth mentioning that the involvement in BPPE and the development of the subsequent pilot programmes have raised high demands and expectations for further development of pilot programmes by regional and national stakeholders. Both partners have therefore seen the interest of building on their experience through the implementation of a new 2 Seas project – called FUSION (approved under the 8th Call for Proposals) – that capitalises on the ECOMIND (presented in last year’s Annual Implementation Report) and BPPE.

3.1.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered in 2012.

3.2. Priority 2: Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment

3.2.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Priority 2 Indicators

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>2.1 Number of projects dedicated to integrated coastal zone management, maritime resource management and the management of estuaries</i>	Achievement	1	0	1	1	0	3	3
	Target							3
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.2 Number of projects on the prevention and management of natural, technological and human risks and to guarantee the quality of the environment</i>	Achievement	0	2	2	3	0	7	2
	Target							2
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.3 Number of projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energies</i>	Achievement	1	0	1	1	0	3	6
	Target							6
	Baseline	0						0

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>2.4 Number of projects related to management of nature, landscape, natural heritage, and urban-rural relations</i>	Achievement	1	3	2	1	0	7	7
	Target							7
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.5 Number of projects related to water management, waste management and sustainable use of resources</i>	Achievement	0	0	1	3	0	4	2
	Target							2
	Baseline	0						0
RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>2.1 Number of new cross-border plans or tools for management of coastal, maritime areas or estuaries</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Target							12
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.2 Number of new cross-border plans or structures for risk management</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Target							8
	Baseline	0						0


RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>2.3 Number of joint renewable energies / energy efficiency measures implemented</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	15
	Target							15
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.4 Total area of nature and landscape developed and / or protected by the programme</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	3	3 km ²	945 km ²
	Target							945 km ²
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.5 Number of new cross-border plans or tools for water, waste or resources management</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Target							10
	Baseline	0						0
<i>2.6 Number of citizens directly benefiting from the project</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	4 182	4 182	N/A
	Target							N/A
	Baseline	0						0

Priority 2 was considered as being rather problematic at the beginning of the Programming period, as it was lagging behind the other Priorities in terms of number of projects. However, Priority 2 saw a growing interest since 2010 notably due to further promotion of this Priority by the Programme as described in the previous Annual reports, which led to the approval of 9 projects in 2011 for a total ERDF commitment of 17.1m euro. In total 24 projects have been supported under Priority 2 and Priority 2 budget was entirely committed at the end of 2011. Partners involved in this Priority range from national, regional and local public authorities, universities, knowledge and research institutes and education institutes, environment agencies, regional development agencies and other actors relevant to promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment. All of the operational objectives have been addressed through the projects. 130 partners are involved in Priority 2 with. Priority 2, in general, has a good variety of approved projects. In 2012, 3 projects closed.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

ARCH

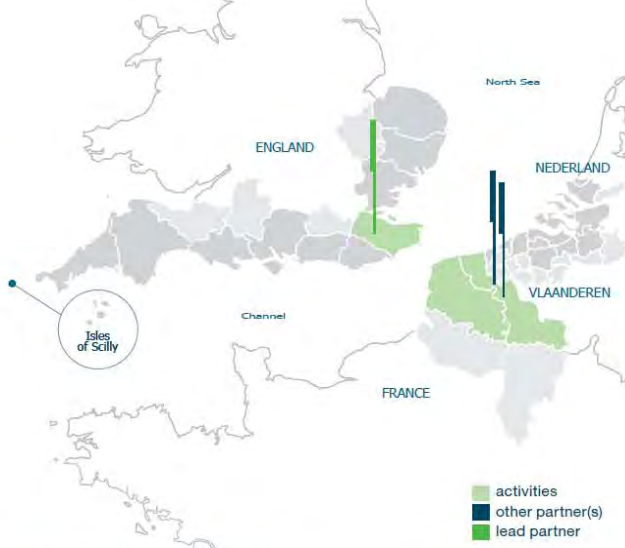
Assessing Changes to Regional Habitats



ARCH partners will share information and jointly develop methods to assess the condition of habitats and species, improve the way in which they are mapped and use innovative techniques to secure their long term monitoring and conservation.

Although habitats differ, partners have benefitted from a long-term shared desire to achieve these objectives, and to be able to offer a system for gathering, mapping, analyzing and using biodiversity information to scientists, planners and decision-makers in the 2 Seas area.

The project will therefore ensure that base biological data on the extent and distribution of key habitats meets national and European objectives in terms of biodiversity protection in its area. It will firstly assess the extent and condition of biodiversity across Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais and then develop a geographical information system for habitat and biodiversity data use by land planners, and a 'Planning Footprint Software' tool, both of which will be developed jointly through working groups and crossborder seminars. They will also explore the use of further techniques for long-term monitoring, such as satellite generated imagery.



Lead Partner	Kent County Council (UK)	
Other Partner(s)	(2): Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de Calais (FR), Centre régional de phytosociologie agréé Conservatoire botanique national de Bailleul (FR)	
Location of the activities	Kent (UK), Medway (UK), Pas-de-Calais (FR), Nord (FR)	
Total Budget	€ 2,293,171	
ERDF	€ 1,146,585 (50%)	
Duration	45 months (01/07/2009-30/03/2013)	
Contact	Laurence Guedon laurence.guedon@kent.gov.uk	www.archnature.eu

Priority 2 Objective d 49

Main results:

ARCH is a 2,3M€ crossborder nature management project between Kent and Nord – Pas de Calais. The three partners – supported by a wide range of regional environmental stakeholders in both regions - have developed joint methodologies (including a common crossborder habitats classification) and

geographical information system tools with the aim of providing regional decision-makers, spatial planners and private sector (e.g. architects, consultancy firms) with clear and updated information on habitats and species in both regions for informed decisions with regards to spatial and territorial developments.

The two key geographic information systems developed in both regions can be found at the following links:

- <http://www.arch.nordpasdecalais.fr/> for the Nord – Pas de Calais area
- <http://archnature.eu/navigator.html> for the Kent area.

Beyond these two overarching geographic information systems, the project has developed a series of tools including the “Planning Screening Tool” and the “Fragmentation Index tool” that can be embedded in the GIS systems for further and more detailed information.

The partnership has also produced a joint crossborder map of natural habitats from Kent and Nord – Pas de Calais.

2012 saw the organization of various information and training workshops in both regions to ensure that these tools will be taken up by end beneficiaries. As a first result, it is already established that 4 Kent districts have implemented and now use the tool in their daily work (in relation of major territorial infrastructure works, control of planning permission etc.).

ARCH has also developed links with EURISY (European non-profit association of over 30 governmental space offices and space agencies, international organisations, research institutions, and private businesses involved or interested in space-related activities) with which an EU level conference was jointly organised in October 2012 in Lille. Keynote speakers including Jaqueline McGlade, the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, and representatives from DG REGIO, DG ENV and DG ENTR stressed the importance of using all sources of information available, in a "complex, web-like approach", to improve knowledge of the ecosystems and of the efficiency of policies and management measures. Following this conference, the ARCH partnership published key recommendations in the field of Satellite data monitoring for habitats management. These recommendations were sent to various stakeholders at regional, national and EU levels.

More information about this seminar can be found here: <http://www.eurisy.org/index.php/activities/local-and-regional-authorities/pastactivities/item/179-valuing-and-managing-biodiversity-how-satellite-applications-can-help.html>

3.2.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered in 2012.

3.3. Priority 3: Improving quality of life

3.3.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Priority 3 Indicators

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>3.1 Number of projects related to community quality of life, social inclusion and well-being of different groups in society</i>	Achievement	1	1	3	3	0	8	12
	Target							12
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.2 Number of projects developing cooperation in the field of public services</i>	Achievement	2	0	2	1	0	5	9
	Target							9
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.3 Number of projects supporting cooperation on education and training</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	2	0	2	8
	Target							8
	Baseline	0						0

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>3.4 Number of projects related to heritage and cultural assets</i>	Achievement	0	4	2	5	0	11	13
	Target							13
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.5 Number of projects dealing with leisure activities and social tourism</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
	Target							4
	Baseline	0						0
RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>3.1 Number of new measures jointly implemented improving community quality of life, social inclusion and well-being</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	96
	Target							96
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.2 Number of joint public facilities and services developed</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	15	15	36
	Target							36
	Baseline	0						0


RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>3.3 Number of people participating in joint education or training activities</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	800
	Target							800
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.4 Number of new measures jointly developed to enhance heritage and cultural assets</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	104
	Target							104
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.5 Number of new initiatives to support leisure activities and social tourism</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
	Target							12
	Baseline	0						0
<i>3.6 Number of citizens directly benefiting from the project</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1 801 726	1 801 726	N/A
	Target							N/A
	Baseline	0						0

2011 has seen the commitment of the remaining Priority 3 budget. A total of 27 projects now address all the operational objectives of this Priority 3. Most of the target groups as outlined in the Operational Programme are partners within at least one project, these range from national, regional and local authorities, cultural actors, community actors and social organisations, media, recreational organisations, economic actors, mobility actors, universities, knowledge and research institutes, education institutes and other actors relevant to improving quality of life. The Operational Objectives a (Promote and allow for social inclusion and well-being of different groups in society) and c (Promote, enhance and conserve the common heritage and cultural partnerships, including development of creativity and design and joint cooperation between the media) represent the biggest share of projects in Priority 3. 190 partners are involved in Priority 3. Priority 3, in general, has a good variety of projects and partners involved. There are also a good proportion of small-scale organisations involved. In 2012, 3 projects closed.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

LCP

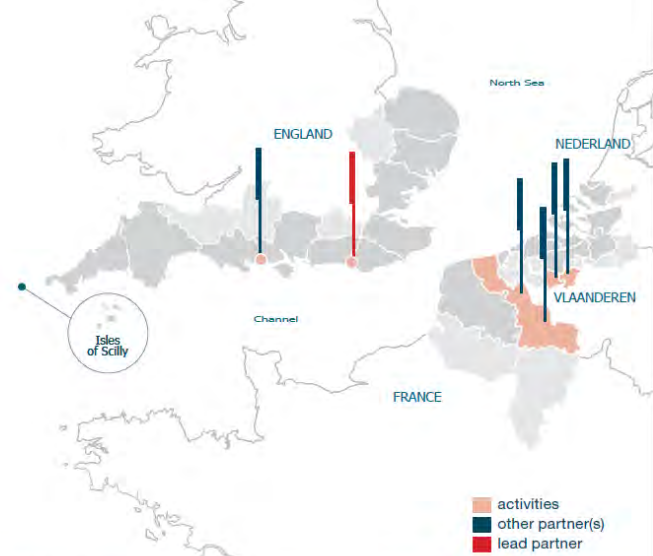
Landscape, Cities, People



The LCP project will build and broaden audiences for contemporary visual art by creating a sustainable model for audience development. Using new digital technologies alongside more traditional methods, it will develop and market contemporary art experiences as a new tourism product adding value to the existing cultural and heritage tourist offer.

The partnership of arts organisations was born of a common desire to find and address the needs of a crossborder audience, and to help artists and freelance arts professionals engage with opportunities beyond borders.

The partners will first share expertise to create sustainable audience development Strategies and work plans. They will develop professional competencies and broaden their appeal within local communities by sharing their learning and enhancing the quality of arts education services. In parallel, the project will support visual arts professionals to locate and engage with opportunities in the crossborder region through work placements, training and language learning.



Lead Partner	Fabrica (UK)
Other Partner(s)	(5): Netwerk vzw (BE), Association Acte de Naissance (FR), Aspex Visual Arts Trust (UK), Boem vzw (BE), Association La Malterie (FR)
Location of the activities	Brighton & Hove (UK), Portsmouth (UK), Nord (FR), Arr. Aalst (BE), Arr. Oudenaarde (BE)
Total Budget	€ 2,267,983
ERDF	€ 1,133,981 (50%)
Duration	40 months (01/09/2009-31/12/2012)
Contact	Lisa Finch lisa.finch@fabrica.org.uk
	www.lcpeurope.eu

Priority 3 Objective d

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Main results:

LCP which closed on 31/12/2012 was created by 6 arts organisations to help them achieve greater impact, reach and visibility at crossborder level.

Some key figures could sum-up the scope and impact of the project activities: the six partners have set up a large number of artistic exhibitions (24 in total) which have been visited by more than 100 000 people. 150 non-arts partners (which were completely new) have been engaged and involved in the different exhibitions. The partnership has also organised 780 workshops to engage with key target groups (school pupils, socially disadvantaged people, elderly people etc.), which have been attended by more than 14 500 people. In terms of direct work placements, partners have exceeded the initial target was 10 by managing to get 27 work placements in total. Further to these direct work placements, the partnership reports that 168 work opportunities have been provided by the project.

To achieve greater crossborder visibility, the partnership created a joint common brand called IRIS. This brand was used by all partners to promote their exhibitions, exchange of artists and residencies at crossborder level.

All the partners worked with their local tourism organisations and agencies to disseminate information about the project and to promote project outcomes to a wider audience. Good results were achieved in that respect, and LCP has allowed these small arts organizations to exist and be fully recognized as part of the local and regional tourism strategies.

All project reports and results can be found on the project's website: www.lcpeurope.eu

3.3.2. Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered in 2012.

3.4. Priority 4: “Common priority with the France (Channel)-England OP”

3.4.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Priority 4 Indicators

OUTPUT Indicators (Source: Project applications)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>4.1 Number of Projects supported by the common priority</i>	Achievement ⁽⁴⁾	0	1	0	3	3	7	6
	Target ⁽⁵⁾							6
	Baseline ⁽⁶⁾	0						0

⁴ The achievement should be expressed cumulatively – the value for the indicator should be the total achieved value by the end of the reporting year. Previous years' achievements can be updated when submitting later years' annual implementation reports, if more accurate information is available

⁵ The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

⁶ Baseline inserted only for first year when the information is available, unless the concept of a dynamic baseline is being used.

RESULTS Indicators (Source: Final report of projects)		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>4.1 Number of new large-scale approaches, joint tools, initiatives or actions having a cross-border maritime dimension</i>	Achievement ⁽⁷⁾	0	0	0	0	18	18	12
	Target ⁽⁸⁾							12
	Baseline ⁽⁹⁾	0						0
<i>4.2 Number of shared good practices from both OPs or transferred from one OP to the other one.</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	5	5	3
	Target							3
	Baseline	0						0
<i>4.3 Number of large-scale networks established in a sustainable way (through a formal commitment)</i>	Achievement	0	0	0	0	1	1	6
	Target							6
	Baseline	0						0

Following the efforts on communication and promotion undertaken in 2009 and 2010, Priority 4, the Common Priority with the France (Channel) – England Programme, saw an increased demand in 2011 with 6 projects submitted, of which 3 were approved by the Programme Steering Committee for an ERDF commitment of 6.9m euro. 4.4m euro remains to support further Common Priority projects in 2012. The 6 projects approved in this Common Priority are split over the 3 operational objectives. 45 partners are involved in Priority 4. In 2012, 1 project closed.

⁷ The achievement should be expressed cumulatively – the value for the indicator should be the total achieved value by the end of the reporting year. Previous years' achievements can be updated when submitting later years' annual implementation reports, if more accurate information is available

⁸ The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

⁹ Baseline inserted only for first year when the information is available, unless the concept of a dynamic baseline is being used.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

GIFS

Geography of Inshore Fishing and Sustainability

The maritime zones situated in the Channel & North Sea are vitally important to the fishing industry that is facing significant changes and challenges. The GIFS project aims to explore the socio-economic and cultural importance of inshore fishing and to provide a pilot project in fisheries-based community regeneration. The goal is to incorporate these factors far more clearly into fisheries and maritime policies, coastal regeneration strategies and sustainable community development.

The GIFS project will develop a test bed for both policy makers and local planners (in Arnemuiden, NL) throughout the common priority area using maritime and fishing heritage as a conduit for regeneration, community identity and the development of new economic opportunities.

An innovative aspect of the project will be to use media such as photographs, oral accounts and fish-related festivals. By exploring the three themes of governance, geography and economy, GIFS will compile and document the characteristics of inshore fishing in order to help create a sense of place for the region and provide a snapshot of life in diverse fishing places at the start of the 21st century.

Lead Partner	University of Greenwich (UK)
Other Partner(s)	(5): University of Brighton (UK), Université de Brest – UBO (FR), AGRO-CAMPUS OUEST (FR), Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee vzw (BE), Gemeente Middelburg (NL)
Location of the activities	Medway (UK), Brighton & Hove (UK), Finistère (FR), Ile et Vilaine (FR), Arr. Oostende (BE), Overig Zeeland (NL), Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (UK), Devon, (UK) Kent (UK), Dorset (UK), Hampshire (UK), Essex (UK), East Sussex (UK), West Sussex (UK), Norfolk (UK), Suffolk (UK), Nord (FR), Pas-de-Calais (FR), Côtes d'Armor (FR), Manche (FR), Calvados (FR), Seine-Maritime (FR), Somme (FR), Arr. Veurne (BE), Arr. Brugge (BE), Arr. Diksmuide (BE)
Total Budget	€ 4,600,306
ERDF	€ 2,300,153 (50%)
Duration	34 months (01/12/2011-30/09/2014)
Contact	Bernadette Oakenfull B.J.Oakenfull@ greenwich.ac.uk

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First results

Priority 4 projects that have not already been presented in the previous Annual Implementation Reports were approved at the end of 2011 and 2012; no major results can therefore be presented so far. That is why only an introduction to the main objectives and achieved results so far are given on the GIFS project.

- Identifying best practice in coastal zone governance and marine fishing: 23 experts from regional, national government and private bodies were identified and contacted with a questionnaire on inshore fisheries governance, results have been discussed during the public stakeholders meeting in Rennes (January 2013)
- Exploring the social and cultural values of fishing places and communities: scoping visits already undertaken in Belgium, The Netherlands and England
- Valuing the economic benefits of inshore fishing: data collection combined with a questionnaire for tourists on the added value of inshore fishing for tourism. Close cooperation with tourism offices, Fisheries Local Action Groups, UK National Programmes and focus on one particular town in The Netherlands, Arnhem economic regeneration plan.
- Understanding grassroots perspectives on inshore fishing through the 'voice' of communities: Pilot fieldwork conducted with 30 interviews completed in Belgium and The Netherlands on the topic of women in fisheries. First results were the basis for debate with external experts during a workshop at the GIFS public stakeholders meeting.
- Creating a 'snapshot' of fishing life at the start of the 21st century: combination of professional photography and community input to capture the image of the fishing communities. Development of photographic exhibition to illustrate the social, economical and cultural value of the fishing communities.

1.4.2 Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

No significant problems were encountered in 2012.

3.5. Priority 5: Technical assistance

3.5.1. Achievement of targets and analysis of the progress

Priority 5 Indicators

OUTPUT Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of Projects supported</i>	Achievement	11	18	20	34	3	86	100
	Target							100
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of applications assessed</i>	Achievement	23	37	52	81	5	198	250
	Target							250
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of promotion and publicity activities at Programme level (annual events, seminars for lead applicants , for lead partners, thematic seminars, regional seminars)</i>	Achievement	8	16	8	10	19	61	50
	Target							50
	Baseline	0						0

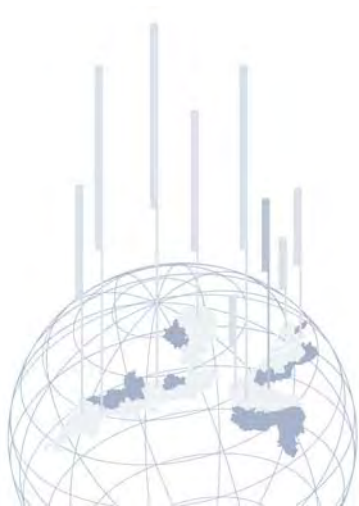
RESULTS Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of jobs created for the management of the programme (including territorial facilitators)</i>	Achievement	17.5		2			19.5	21
	Target							21
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Amount of ERDF subject to automatic de-commitment (N+2)</i>	Achievement			768 505,23€	1 012 011.77€	0€	1 7805 517	0
	Target							0
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of annual and final reports approved by the European Commission</i>	Achievement		1	1	1	1	4	8
	Target							8
	Baseline	0						0

4. ESF programmes: coherence and concentration

N/A

5. ERDF/cf programmes: major projects (if applicable)

N/A



6. Technical assistance

The total budget available for Technical Assistance in the Operational Programme is EUR 15.988.311 which corresponds to EUR 9.772.266 of ERDF. However, the PMC has committed until now a total TA budget of EUR 15.380.448,32 (including EUR 2.205.000 for the Territorial Facilitation).

The total amount of expenditure spent on Technical Assistance in 2012 amounts to EUR 1.588.881,73 (including EUR 60.787,05 for the Territorial Facilitation), which corresponds to EUR 971.124,51 of ERDF (including EUR 37.152.04 for the Territorial Facilitation)¹⁰.

The cumulative expenditure in TA budget from the beginning to December 2012 is EUR 7.078.306,18 which corresponds to EUR 4.326.260,74 of ERDF. This is 44.27% of total ERDF budget in Technical Assistance and 2.62% of total ERDF budget in the Operational Programme.

Please refer to table 9 below for further details about the expenditure incurred in TA budget.

In 2012, the available technical assistance funds allowed to finance 15 JTS staff members, for positions in the field of general management, assistance, communication, projects and finance.

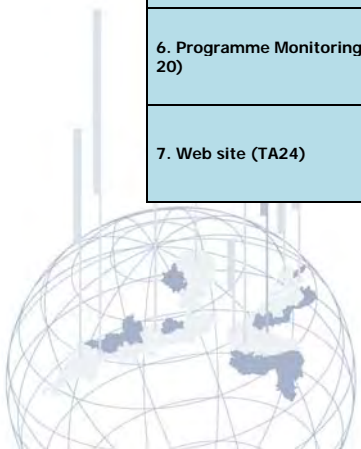
The costs related to these positions were reported on a full-time basis. Besides the staff costs mentioned above, the JTS also assisted the programme in carrying out the following activities financed from the technical assistance budget:

- Providing assistance to Project Applicants and after the approval of project to the Lead Partners (advice given by e-mail, phone and through Lead Applicant seminars/Lead Partner seminars, by individual consultations)
- Organisation and implementation of programme meetings (two Monitoring Committee meetings, two Steering Committee meetings, one meeting of the Group of Auditors)
- Costs related to communication and publicity (such as the website, brochures and newsletters)
- Organisation of the territorial exchanges and regional seminars
- Coordination and implementation of accounting, paying and certifying procedures with the legal employer of the Secretariat (GEIE GECOTTI) and also with the Certifying Authority.
- JTS office-related expenditure for office material such as office equipment, stationery, maintenance and utilities
- IT related expenditures (office IT equipment such as hardware and software)
- Development of the Programme Monitoring System

¹⁰ This information concerns the expenditure paid by the Programme before 31/12/2012, even if not yet declared to EC.

Table 9: Technical Assistance budget follow-up (years 2007-2013)

INTERREG IVA '2 Mers Seas Zeeën'													
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE													
BUDGET FOLLOW-UP 2007-2015 - Per Year													
2007-2015	Actual Expenditure 2007-2015						Total Expenditure 2007-2015			TOTAL BUDGET	% / Forecast Budget	Remaining (Forecast - Declared)	% of the BL / total budget
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total costs	ERDF %	ERDF				
<i>In EUR, en EUR</i>													
1. Staff (TA 11)	2 589,31	507 738,77	748 973,56	959 630,54	1 002 181,21	1 109 605,37	4 330 718,76	61,12%	2 646 935,31	7 892 250,91	55%	3 561 532,15	66%
2. External Consultants (TA 19)	0,00	6 794,48	2 300,00	0,00	35,02	0,00	9 129,50	61,12%	5 579,95	330 278,17	3%	321 148,67	0%
3. Office (TA 12)	0,00	16 316,58	27 759,61	23 958,05	20 593,55	32 636,03	121 263,82	61,12%	74 116,45	253 229,65	48%	131 965,83	2%
4. Travel and Accommodation (TA 14)	0,00	8 381,24	25 216,39	28 997,55	23 958,40	29 842,36	116 395,94	61,12%	71 141,20	242 375,80	48%	125 979,86	2%
5. IT systems (TA 13)	0,00	49 730,62	21 861,99	5 879,15	17 485,00	36 631,53	131 588,29	61,12%	80 426,76	214 546,57	61%	82 958,28	2%
6. Programme Monitoring System (TA 20)	0,00	0,00	36 580,60	35 455,00	93 855,00	43 450,00	209 340,60	61,12%	127 948,97	279 999,60	75%	70 659,00	3%
7. Web site (TA24)	0,00	926,07	39 805,44	28 347,82	99 939,80	17 154,00	186 173,13	61,12%	113 789,02	234 712,00	79%	48 538,87	3%



8. Programme Meetings (TA 15)	0,00	90 782,97	150 415,77	165 137,83	97 326,60	41 545,41	545 208,58	61,12%	333 231,48	921 019,41	59%	375 810,83	8%
9. Communication (TA 21)	0,00	980,75	2 821,20	24 409,56	22 972,72	57 202,99	108 387,22	61,12%	66 246,27	205 556,93	53%	97 169,71	2%
10. Employer GECOTTI services (TA 17)	0,00	26 162,42	43 762,82	51 471,27	65 997,47	44 215,25	231 609,23	61,12%	141 559,56	497 007,21	47%	265 397,98	4%
11. Certifying Authority (TA 16)	0,00	0,00	25 794,59	89 529,31	203 040,21	0,00	318 364,11	61,12%	194 584,14	1 010 494,82	32%	692 130,71	5%
12. Audits (TA 22)	0,00	245,69	2 201,78	27 838,29	104 295,77	88 961,74	223 543,27	61,12%	136 629,65	996 370,22	22%	772 826,95	3%
13. Programme Evaluation (TA 18)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	47 607,04	26 850,00	74 457,04	61,12%	45 508,14	97 607,04	76%	23 150,00	1%
TOTAL	2 589,31	708 059,59	1 127 493,75	1 440 654,37	1 799 287,79	1 528 094,68	6 606 179,49	61,12%	4 037 696,90	13 175 448,32	50%	6 569 268,83	100%
14. Territorial facilitation network (TA 23)	0,00	0,00	63 845,34	213 822,10	133 672,20	60 787,05	472 126,69	50,00%	236 063,35	2 205 000,00	21%	1 732 873,31	7%
15. Programme closure (TA25)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00			0,00	0%	0,00	0%

7. Information and publicity (2012)

7.1.1. Events

7.1.2. Programme Events

Unlike previous years, the 2 Seas Programme preferred to organise in 2012 a series of local events which focused on interactivity and exchanges between participants, instead of having a large and unique annual event.

2012 was the time when the 2 Seas Programme not only organised 5 **Regional Seminars, but also launched its very first territorial exchanges.**

The Regional seminars were tackling topics such as project and partner management, reporting procedures, changes in the project and communication, to help Project partners in their project implementation. The first seminars were held in Bruges (B) on 5th December and in Chelmsford (UK) on 8th and 9th December 2011. The 5 following seminars were organised during the first semester of 2012.

Lille (F) 13/02/2012 – Call 1-5:

60 partner organisations invited

37 attended (61%)

London (UK) 14/02/2012 – Call 7-8:

72 partner organisations invited

49 attended (68%)

Breda (NL) 17/02/2012 – Call 1-8:

68 partner organisations invited

29 attended (43%)

Ghent (B) 27/02/2012 – Call 7-8:

66 partner organisations invited

48 attended (72%)

Wimille (F) 13/03/2012 – Call 6-8:

79 partner organisations invited

36 attended (46%)



Breda

A series of **thirteen territorial exchanges** was organised throughout the 2 Seas area in June-July 2012.

This large consultation of the territories aimed to bring partners from the same area together and to involve them in an assessment on the benefits of taking part in a 2 Seas project.

The debate focused on why organisations participate and what the concrete benefits for the partner areas are. The participants also shared experiences on communication and brainstormed on how partners can work together to ensure the durability of their actions

The half-day workshops gathered over 150 participants who were enthusiastic about **exchanging** on their **experiences** and the **benefits** of taking part in a cooperation project.



19/06: Exeter (UK) – 12 participants
 20/06: Brighton (UK) – 13 participants
 21/06: Ghent (B) – 10 participants
 22/06: Antwerp (B) – 14 participants
 25/06: Vlissingen (NL) – 16 participants
 26/06: Rotterdam (NL) – 15 participants
 27/06: Arras (F) – 8 participants
 28/06: Cambridge (UK) – 16 participants
 29/06: Chatham (UK) – 18 participants
 02/07: Lille (F) – 16 participants
 09/07: Roeselare (B) – 8 participants
 10/07: Ostend (B) – 13 participants
 11/07: Calais (F) – 13 participants



Vlissingen

7.1.3. Project Events

There were also 60 project events (Launch, closure or press events) organised by the 2 Seas partners in 2012. Either JTS Team or Territorial facilitators took part in these events, made some presentations or even ran a stand.

These events were also the opportunity to raise press attention towards the 2 Seas Programme, Projects and their results.

These events took different formats:

- Launch events chaired and headed by politicians (Walls and Gardens in Brugges, Bike Friendly Cities in Middelburg,...), 3i in NL
- Inauguration of buildings and sites funded by the 2 Seas Programme: Treasures Revealed (Cathedral crypt in Boulogne, Canterbury centre), GIFS (new street in Arnemuiden, NL), Seaconomics (new playground and tourism centre), Urban Habitats (Biesbosch Park), INSPIRER (collective garden in Boulogne), Natura People (Opening of a new center in Minsmere Norfolk),
- Exhibitions: Boat 1550 BC: beyond the Horizon in Boulogne (June 2012) and Oudenaarde (Dec 2012) ; A2S exhibitions in Rennes and Ostend in the summertime,
- Award winning: Arch (Green week in Brussels) and C-Scope in England (Landscape Institute Award and South West regional Town Planning Institute Award)
- Local public events: Free sports sessions in Antwerp (DNA), Pupils exchanges (Multifor), activities for the World Ocean Day (Dymaphy).
- Launch of a cross-border video platform on demand (Sea Media): Videos are posted on almost daily bases, which show the creativity and audio-visual talent of students to an international audience.
- BtoB event on Eco-innovation during a return sailing trip between Calais and Dover (Patch – February 2012)
- Press conference and press trip: Boat 1550 BC Press trip to Dover in May 2012 for the launch of the Boat, Cast Press conferences in Flanders and in UK for the Olympics.

Some projects even organised European or national-wide events, where the 2 Seas Programme and projects were showcased:

- The SusTRIP closing conference took place on 29th November 2012 in Ashford, and gathered Tourism and Research partners from mainland Europe and the UK for an International Tourism Research Symposium.

- The Shaping 24 partners organised a 3-day international conference in Norwich: " Culture Matters" in November 2012, where the 2 Seas Programme held a stand.



- The Arch Project held, together with the Eurisy organisation, an international conference "Valuing and managing biodiversity" in Lille on 18th October 2012.
- **The PATCH Port Networks organised Three Web Training Seminars** live from the European Institutions in September. During the webinars, web visitors were able to view the European Institutions representatives, see presentations and interactively ask questions to the speakers remotely from their computers.



- 2Seas Programme and Fusion Project Stands at JADDE 2012: Sustainable Fair in Lille

7.1.4. Participations and Presentations at external and European events

- **The Succes Project finalist at the 2013 Regiostars**

For its first participation to this EU competition, the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme knows already recognition of the quality of its projects at a European level.

The SUCCES project, led by the Medway Council, was invited by the Programme to submit its bid to the Inclusive Growth Category. SUCCES was selected as a [Regiostars 2013 finalist](#) among 149 applications.

The SUCCES project team have developed a cross-border programme of employment support and skills development to formal qualifications, giving beneficiaries a real advantage in the world of work. The neighbourhoods the SUCCES project was supported were in Medway, Great Yarmouth and Waveney in Norfolk & Suffolk (UK), Grande-Synthe (FR), and Kortrijk (BE).

The SUCCES partners were invited to present their project to an independent jury during the Open Days in October in Brussels. This was the opportunity for the partners to present the new SUCCES video, which focuses on the testimonies of the final beneficiaries.



- **European Cooperation Day – 21 September 2012**
"Sharing borders - growing closer"

For the first time on 21 September 2012, European Cooperation was celebrated all over Europe and in neighbouring countries!

Almost 40 countries had come together to celebrate cooperation and bridge-building between local communities across borders. Public events took place during the week of 17-23 September.

Some 2 Seas projects volunteered and joined this initiative with the organisation of 2 events in Flanders:

- **21st September in the City of Kortrijk:** Conference Participants were able to discover in a very attractive way how the 2 Seas project (Succes, DNA, Inspirer...) has improved social inclusion in the City of Kortrijk. A project corner was organised with a 2 Seas Stand. In the afternoon, a guided tour was organised with project site visits.



- **22nd September in Ostend:** the Flood aware partners together with the CC2150 project partners were present on the sea front to raise people awareness on how to protect their family and belongings from floodings, with exhibitions and 3D film projection.



- **Local Open days in Ipswich:**

On 20th September 2012, the British 2 Seas representatives and facilitator took part in the EU Connects Seminar: Territorial Cooperation – past, present and future! in Ipswich. This event was organised in the frame of the local Open Days launched by the DG Regio (European Commission).



- **Ministerial Visit for the 2 Seas Projects in Brighton**

On 20 September 2012 Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) visited three 2 Seas Projects in Brighton & Hove on 20 September 2012: **BUFU, Great War and Learning Cities.**



- **At project level, 6 Dutch partners of 2 Seas Projects took part in the “Europa kijkdagen” on 11 and 12 May 2012.**

During this weekend, and all across the Netherlands, projects supported by the European Union open up doors to the public.

The 2 Seas projects taking part in this national event were HMS (Vlissingen), STEP (Dordrecht), TSM (Arnhem), Balance (Zuid-Beierland), Natura People (Groede) or Dignity in Care (Terneuzen). They all planned for interesting walks and excursions.

- **Participation in European Networks**

The JTS took also part in 30 meetings organised by different European networks: INTERACT, MOT, DATAR, Regiostars, EU Open Days, EC DAY events, Common meeting with France (Channel) England Programme, CAMIS, NOSTRA, INFORM,...

Due to the preparation of the future Programming period, the number of meetings increased significantly in 2012.



7.2 Website

In 2012, the 2 Seas website was updated on a regular basis with news from the Programme and the projects (75 news, vacancies or tenders were published online), with 2 Seas publications available online: 2 Seas Directory, 2 Seas newsletters.

The 2 Seas project database was launched in September 2012.

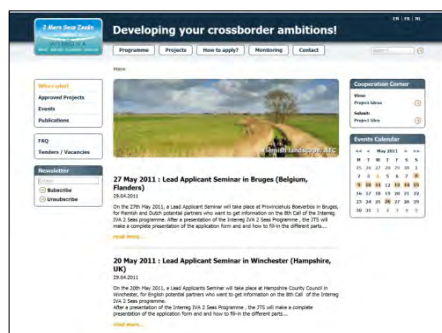
Thanks to this new online tool, visitors are given a good overview of the 86 approved projects of the Programme. They are now able to have a greater insight into all these projects with a complete description of their activities, their results, distinctiveness, sustainability and their deliverables.

This will provide with updates and results and therefore will give a better understanding on how the projects contribute to the development of our cross-border cooperation area.

For more information, check out the website in its **Approved Projects** Section.

The number of visits has quite decreased since 2011.

The decrease of the visits can be explained by the fact that the budget of the Programme was mainly committed in May 2011, and there were fewer opportunities for newcomers to have a project accepted in the Programme.



2012	Number of visits	Number of visited pages
January	2 917	12 527
February	2 734	11 579
March	2 540	11 987
April	1 956	8 770
May	2 189	7 677
June	1 940	7 115
July	1 863	7 664
August	1 630	7 342
September	1 742	5 616
October	2 108	8 295
November	2 099	8 190
December	1 603	5 707
Total	25 321	102 469
Average	2 110 /month	8 539/month

7.3 Printed and advertising material

2 Seas Project Directory 2012

In June 2012, the final edition of the 2 Seas project directory was published and included all the 86 approved projects from Call 1 to Call 9.

It was published in the 3 languages and in 2500 copies.



2 Seas Newsletters

3 newsletters were produced in 2011, with news from the Programme, some focuses on the best practices projects, the 2 Seas participation in the EC Day and in the 2013 Regiostars Contest,...

2 807 people are registered to the '2 Seas News' produced in the 3 languages of the Programme, with 745 subscribers for the English version, 828 for the French version and 1 304 for the Dutch version.

A new provider was selected to produce the 2 Seas News, and the design of this publication has slightly evolved to be more attractive.

Save the date for the next 2 Seas Annual Event!

The 2 Seas Programme will hold its next annual event in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on **14 and 15 March 2013** (noon to noon).



This event will be constructed around three key pillars:

- **Valorisation of the results obtained;**
- **Launch of the thematic capitalisation;**
- **Preparation for the future.**

As you know, most of the 86 projects supported by the 2 Seas Programme are still running, but at the same time, we are approaching the end of the 2007-2013 programming period. Therefore we have to prove that the ERDF funding was a useful investment both on a 'thematic' and a 'territorial' level.

One key objective of this event will be to **showcase the achievements of the approved projects** to a wide audience via an exhibition gathering all 86 projects as well as the different territories involved. In addition to this, the projects, territories, communities involved, will be invited to showcase the added-value brought by the Programme.

A second key objective is to **launch the capitalisation actions**. The 2 Seas Programme is part of the 'European Territorial

Cooperation Programmes' and, more in particular part of the 'cross-border' family of programmes. The 2 Seas capitalisation is therefore tailor-made, taking into account the specificities of the partners and territories involved.

The key priorities of the 2 Seas capitalisation are the following: consolidate and valorise the results obtained; integrate competencies outside the current partnerships; and support the current thematic networks to prepare for the future.

Finally, we will take the opportunity of this annual event to **prepare ourselves for the future programming period**.

A round table will gather speakers to discuss the conclusions of the IVA evaluation (programme, projects and organisation), and provide views about the future VA Programme (EU, Member States and Programme Authorities). This will nourish the debate around the future 'distinctiveness' of the 2 Seas Programme.

A detailed programme along with practical details will be available on the **Programme website in January**. **Registration will open early next year.**



Ministerial Visit in Brighton & Hove
Page 2



EC Day in Ostend
Page 4



Kortrijk Conference on Social Inclusion
Page 5



Do you want to be a Registar?
Page 6

2 Mers Seas Zeeën
INTERREG IV A
FRANCE - ENGLAND - VLAANDEREN - NEDERLAND

Programme de coopération transfrontalière 2007-2013 cofinancé par le FEDER
Cross-border cooperation programme 2007-2013 part-financed by ERDF
Programma voor grensoverschrijdende samenwerking 2007-2013 medegefinancierd door EFRO

EUROPEAN UNION

2 Seas NEWS n°10
May 2012

Introduction

The beginning of this year was quite a stormy period for the 2 Seas Programme. A series of projects submitted by the Programme Authorities (C&C Regions) to the UK for the 2 Seas Programme were not successful. The situation led to a temporary suspension of the projects submitted by the UK authorities. A letter highlighting the main issues identified by the authorities and the concerned territories was sent to all UK partners by the 17th and can still be consulted on the 2 Seas website.

Following the recommendation of the authors, an additional check on 22 UK Partners was carried out in March. It seems that these authorities did not provide evidence of any systemic issues and gave maximum resources of the overall effectiveness of the UK C&C system.

However, the information of the partners' situation has not yet been officially filed by the European Commission. Nevertheless, an 18th April 2012 Programme Authority Committee decision to give priority to UK partners at least for the year 2012 (April 2012).

The Programme will now temporarily resume its work.

About the Programme

3 new maritime projects approved in Lille

On the 17th April 2012 in Lille, the Programme Steering Committee decided on the projects submitted in the 18th Call for Proposals submitted by the European Authority with the French (Channel) Regional Programme.

The 3 new projects approved are worth a total of 4.5 million euros ERDF:

- **RE**, a project which will work on improving the maritime safety of the Channel by using unmanned aerial systems.
- **RedC&C**, a project dealing with the identification and validation of local marine businesses for health and the environment.
- **PROBIO**, in which Research Centres will address the problem of microplastic pollution in the 2 Seas and France - Channel area.

The new list of Call for Proposals in the current programming period. Since the launch of the Programme in April 2008, 8 Calls for Proposals have been open leading to the submission of 148 projects. The Steering Committee has approved 80 projects.

The four priorities of the Programme and the validity of the territorial cooperation are covered. The geographical area covered has spread following each Call for Proposals. The public sector involvement in these small private sector businesses has been made through several projects which they did not undertake in isolation. The maritime dimension is present in all projects with 22 projects under this theme.

The Programme budget is now fully committed. The 2 Seas Programme will now enter a new era and seek to continue in the medium to long term for future developments.

The list of beneficiaries is now published on the Programme website.

2 Mers Seas Zeeën
INTERREG IV A
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Programme de coopération transfrontalière 2007-2013 cofinancé par le FEDER
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EUROPEAN UNION

2 Seas NEWS n°11
November 2012

Hot off the press:

SUCCESS finalist at the 2013 Registar awards

Following its first foray in this EU-wide competition, the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme has already been recognised for the quality of its projects.

Search of the Seas and Gables Project
Page 1

UNESCO World Design Series
Page 2

2012 EUROPEAN DESIGN AWARDS
Page 3

European Commission Day 2012
Page 4

Coastal Culture Nations 2012
Page 5

The **SUCCESS** project, led by the Midway Council, was invited by the Programme to submit its bid to the European Growth Category and was selected as a Registar 2012 finalist amongst 140 applications.

The **SUCCESS** project team has developed a cross-border programme of employment support that provides skills and formal qualifications for job-seekers, giving a real advantage, especially to those farthest from the labour market.

The neighbourhood which the **SUCCESS** project has been supporting are in Hove, Great Yarmouth and Winterton in Norfolk, Suffolk (UK), Grande-Duchère (FR), and Kortrijk (BE).

Helping people find their own personal stepping stones to work is only a small part of the story. **SUCCESS** works with each beneficiary as an individual to help them overcome the barriers they face to move forward with their lives. Over 2,500 people have accessed Neighbourhood Delivery Centres across the cross-border partnership to seek a wide range of support from the project, which is far in excess of the original target of 500 across the lifetime of the project.

The Jury's decision on the award winners will be announced in February 2013 at the Registar for Economic Change conference.

Fingers crossed for the final result!

Promotional items



As the end of 2012 was a big time for the 2013 annual event preparation, a lot of promotional items were produced with the 2012 budget for communication purposes: USB keys, notepads, business cards, pens...

A range of 10 roll-up banners were produced and given to the facilitation network, so all the facilitators are now able to lend this promotional material to the 2 Seas projects when they organise a meeting or a an event, or to set up a 2 Seas stand when the Programme is invited to take part in a local event.

A pop-up stand was also produced for the Programme event, with a mosaic of pictures from the 2 Seas projects.



Indicators for communication

Output Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of printed publications produced</i>	Achievement ⁽¹¹⁾	7	3	7	5	4	26	40
	Target ⁽¹²⁾							40
	Baseline ⁽¹³⁾	0						0
<i>Number of events at local and regional level organised by the JTS</i>	Achievement	7	15	13	10	18	63	80
	Target							80
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of events covering the cross-border area organised by the JTS</i>	Achievement	1	1	1	1	0	4	7
	Target							7
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of external events attended by the JTS</i>	Achievement	2	10	10	9	30	61	12
	Target							12
	Baseline	0						0

¹¹ The achievement should be expressed cumulatively – the value for the indicator should be the total achieved value by the end of the reporting year. Previous years' achievements can be updated when submitting later years' annual implementation reports, if more accurate information is available

¹² The target can be given either annually or for the whole programming period.

¹³ Baseline inserted only for first year when the information is available, unless the concept of a dynamic baseline is being used.

Output Indicators		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Cumulative Total	Target Value 2015
<i>Number of press releases</i>	Achievement	3	3	4	22	40	62	20
	Target							20
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of people registering to the events</i>	Achievement	962	655	744	748	371	5480	5000
	Target							5000
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Surveys about quality of events organised</i>	Achievement	8	16	14	10	18	66	87
	Target							87
	Baseline	0						0
<i>Number of journalists invited to the events organised</i>	Achievement	120	20	20	22	120	302	400
	Target							400
	Baseline	0						0

Annex 1 – Projects Supported under Call 9

APPROVED Projects 9th Call 17/04/2012

Sorted by project number

Project registration number	Project Title	Acronym	Start date	End date	Duration (months)	LP	LP's country	Countries	Total eligible costs	ERDF request	% ERDF per project	Prior	Obj
9-002-BE	MicroPlastics - Is het een bedreiging voor het 2-Zeeën gebied?	MICRO	01/07/2012	30/09/2014	29	EV-ILVO Eigen Vermogen Instituut voor Landbouw en VisserijOnderzoek	BE	BE, NL EN FR	3 015 124,00 €	1 482 046,00 €	49%	4	C
9-003-EN	Biomolecules of the sea for environmental remediation and healthcare	BioCare	01/06/2011	30/09/2014	42	University of Brighton	EN	EN, BE FR	2 007 294,00 €	1 003 647,00 €	50%	4	A
9-004-NL	Integrated Coastal Zone Management - via - Increased situational awareness - through - Innovations on Unmanned Aircraft Systems	3i	01/08/2010	30/09/2014	52	Technische Universiteit Delft	NL	NL, EN FR	3 709 144,75 €	1 854 571,00 €	50%	4	A

Annex 2 – Newsletter Special Edition March 2013



2 Mers Seas Zeeën

INTERREG IV A

FRANCE - ENGLAND - VLAANDERIEN - NEDERLAND

Programme de coopération transfrontalière 2007-2013 cofinancé par le FEDER
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 Programma voor grensoverschrijdende samenwerking 2007-2013 medegefinancierd door EFRO



ENGLISH EDITION 

2 Seas NEWS

**SPECIAL
EDITION
MARCH
2013**

The crossborder benefits of the 2 Seas projects

A 2 Seas consultation initiative

At Programme level, we are constantly looking to capture the results, actions, and sustainable benefits of our projects. This last element is less straightforward to evaluate in a way that it cannot be captured by indicators, annexes, pictures or other black on white data. That is why we have decided to go out and meet our project partners directly!

During each of the thirteen Territorial Exchanges that were organised in 2012, the Programme wanted to know from the people on the ground how they benefit from their crossborder cooperation project, how they communicate on this and how they hope to have a sustainable impact on their area.




The main topics for debate where:

- **Why do organisations participate?**
- **How do they and their staff benefit from the project?**
- **How does the territory know about these actions?**
- **How do the relevant actors take part?**
- **What does this mean in the long term for each particular partner area?**

One third of all project partners participated in one of the sessions, which allowed us to get a comprehensive, although not exhaustive, view on the topics that were discussed.

This newsletter aims to present therefore some of the major impressions, remarks from project partners and conclusions of the different discussion sessions on territorial benefits.



**Working for a 2 Seas project:
job creation and skills development**
[Page 3](#)



**Why do organisations participate
in 2 Seas projects?** [Page 4](#)



**Crossborder opportunities
for local people** [Page 6](#)



**Impact on the larger
crossborder area** [Page 8](#)

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Annex 3 – Newsletter Special Edition February 2013

Programme de coopération transfrontalière 2007-2013 cofinancé par le FEDER
Cross-border cooperation programme 2007-2013 part-financed by ERDF
Programme voor grensoverschrijdende samenwerking 2007-2013 medegefinancierd door EFRO

ENGLISH EDITION

2 Seas NEWS

Evaluate the present to shape the future

Programme evaluation: what is it?

Evaluation of the European Territorial Cooperation programmes is a crucial stage of their lifecycle. It provides reflection on the performance of the programme and enables the programme to receive feedback on its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and consistency.

According to European Commission regulations, all programmes need to be evaluated before the actual programming period starts (evaluation ex ante), during its implementation, and it will be evaluated by the European Commission itself once the programming period is finished (evaluation ex post).

Since 2007, the classical 'mid-term evaluation' has been replaced by a more open and flexible approach of 'ongoing evaluation'. This means that it is up to the programmes to define what to evaluate, when evaluation exercises need to be

carried out and to which purpose. By definition, on-going evaluation is performed throughout the programming period and consists of various stages.

This newsletter wants to inform you about how programme evaluation has been set up in the 2 Seas Programme and share some of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation studies.

The three steps of evaluation in 2 Seas [Page 2](#)

9 questions: main findings and recommendations for the future

1. Building on the Programme identity: a maritime Programme? [Page 4](#)
2. Programme framework and future intervention logic: which priorities to focus on? [Page 5](#)
3. Partners and partnerships in 2 Seas projects: who are the key actors? [Page 6](#)
4. Technical Assistance: how to better support the 2 Seas projects? [Page 7](#)
5. Programme bodies: an enhanced role? [Page 8](#)
6. Programme performance and control [Page 8](#)
7. Project processes: a project's life from development to closure [Page 9](#)
8. Programme and project communication: new means, new actions [Page 10](#)
9. Evaluation capacity: how to improve? [Page 10](#)

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Annex 4 – Monitoring Committee List of Decisions



2-SEAS-CROSS-BORDER-COOPERATION-PROGRAMME-2007-2013¶

France-England-Flanders-Netherlands¶

8th Monitoring Committee meeting¶

16 April 2012--Lille, 2.00 pm--5.00 pm¶

¶

List of decisions¶

Points on the agenda¶	Decisions¶	References¶
Point 1-- Quorum¶	1. → Quorum is confirmed.¶ ¶	Reg 5 (1)¶
Point 2-- Approval of the Minutes of the 7 th Monitoring Committee 18/10/11¶	1. → Minutes are approved¶ ¶	Reg 4 (6)¶
Point 3-- Programme state of play after 8 calls for proposals and 9 th call perspectives¶	1. → The 9 th Call for Proposals is the last "classical" open call for proposals in the current programming period¶ 2. → The Programme funding not committed or made available through project under-spending is to be used to cover any Programme de-commitment or for Programme Capitalisation purposes.¶ ¶	Reg 2 (3)¶
Point 4-- State of play of the overall budget at Programme level¶	1. → The actual expenditure of TA budget for JTS at 31/12/2011 is approved.¶ 2. → The actual expenditure of TA budget for Territorial Facilitation at 31/12/2011 is approved.¶ ¶	Reg 2 (3)¶
Point 5-- OP financial de-commitment¶ ¶	1. → The revised OP budget as presented by the JTS is approved.¶ ¶	Reg 2 (3)¶
Point 6-- Audit and Control¶	1. → The acknowledgement of the state of play of the DG-REGIO audit in UK is approved.¶ 2. → The payment to all UK beneficiaries for costs claimed until 31/12/2011 using the Programme cash-flow is approved.¶ ¶	Reg 2 (3)¶
Point 7-- Programme economic analysis state of play¶	1. → The flexibility regarding the extension of the September 2012 reporting period and of the extension of the submission date is approved if necessary.¶ ¶	Reg 2 (3)¶

¶