



The France-England-Flanders-Netherlands Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013

Key Info

Summary of the 2 Seas Operational Programme:

"2 Seas, 4 Partners"

The 2 Seas cross-border programme combines old and new partners within an extended geographical area across a maritime border. Although some of the partners share numerous years of experience of cross-border cooperation, this programme is totally new in terms of scale and geographical area.

New borders for the maritime programme

The maritime border between England and France made the Franco-British programme an original INTERREG programme. The perimeter of the eligible zones was then enlarged to a radius of 150km coast to coast. They stretch from Cornwall to Norfolk, from Finistère in France to the Delft Province in Westland in the Netherlands.

To guarantee a close cross-border approach, 2 programmes have been developed :

The 2 Seas Programme (France – England – Flanders – Netherlands)

The France (Channel) – England Programme

The 2 Seas Cooperation Programme encompasses a new area of cross-border cooperation located at the crossroads of the Channel and the North Sea and involves the coastal regions of 4 Member States: France (Nord-Pas de Calais), England, Flanders and the Netherlands.

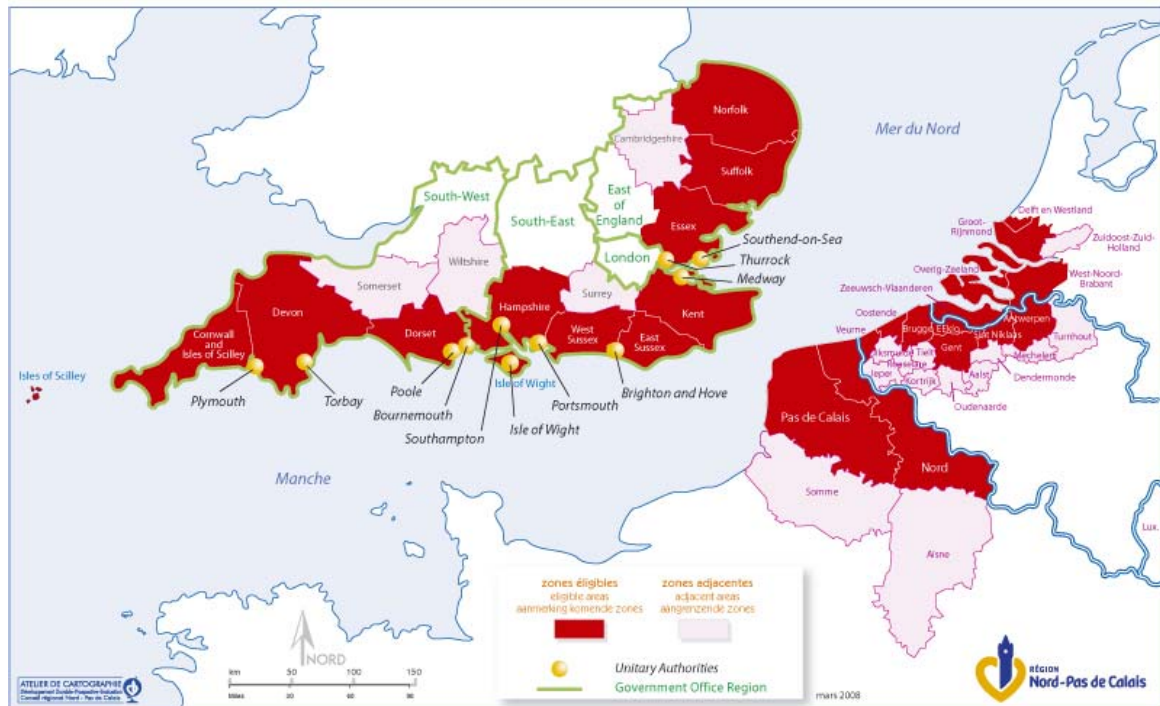




The new zones

Programme transfrontalier des 2 Mers 2007 - 2013

2 Seas cross-border programme 2007 - 2013 2 Zeeën grensoverschrijdende programma 2007 - 2013



The English Zone : Norfolk, Suffolk, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock, Essex, Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, Portsmouth, Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Medway, Kent, Bournemouth and Poole, Dorset, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Plymouth, Torbay, Devon.

The French Zone : Nord, Pas-de-Calais

The Flemish Zone : Arr. Antwerpen, Arr. Eeklo, Arr. Gent, Arr. Sint-Niklaas, Arr. Brugge, Arr. Oostende, Arr. Veurne.

The Dutch Zone : Delft en Westland, Groot-Rijnmond, Zeeuwsch-Vlaanderen, Overig Zeeland, West-Noord-Brabant.

3 priority themes and 1 common priority

The 2 Seas cross-border programme has a budget of **€167 million** community funding (ERDF) for the period 2007-2013.

Priority 1 – Creating an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area. ERDF: €59M (35.33%)

Operational objectives:





- a. Support the development of joint economic activities, including the maritime economy
- b. Promote and encourage entrepreneurship and the development of new cross-border commercial initiatives
- c. Support innovation, research and cooperation between universities, knowledge institutes and businesses
- d. Support tourism and promote sustainable tourism
- e. Promote entrepreneurship and facilitate the development of employment and human capital
- f. Improve the accessibility of the programme area by optimising the use and mutualisation of existing infrastructures as a priority.

Priority 2 – Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment. ERDF: €40.8M (24.43%)

Operational objectives:

- a. Promote and improve the development of activities linked to integrated management of coastal zones, maritime resource and estuaries
- b. Develop activities to prevent and cope with natural, technological and human risks and to guarantee the quality of the environment
- c. Stimulate energy efficiency and development of renewable energies
- d. Promote, improve and manage nature, landscapes, natural heritage, and relations between urban, peri-urban and rural areas
- e. Improve and enhance good practices in water, waste and resources management, and sustainable use of resources

Priority 3 – Improving quality of life. ERDF: €44.8M (26.83%)

Operational objectives:

- a. Promote and allow for social inclusion and well-being of different groups in society
- b. Improve the quality of services to the population, including mobility and health care facilities.
- c. Support the development of cooperation in education, training and the assistance to cross-border projects, in order to guarantee the possibility of life-long learning, to set up sustainable cultural partnerships, as well as the foreign language learning
- d. Promote, enhance and conserve the common heritage and cultural partnerships, including development of creativity and design and joint cooperation between the media





- e. Develop active leisure activities, including the promotion and enhancement of infrastructures and social tourism

Priority 4 – Common priority with the France (Channel) – England programme. ERDF: €12.63M (7.56%)

A common axis with the France (Channel) – England programme is the 4th Priority of the programme, which is allocated €12.63 million. This axis is above all about the sharing of good practice. It is also assigned as a priority to projects which promote issues which are of shared interest throughout the 2 Seas and the France/Channel zone, and in particular those projects with a maritime dimension.

Operational objectives of the common priority with the France (Channel) – England programme

- a. Promote cross-border cooperation issues and implement joint actions on issues of common interest throughout the whole area, and in particular those with a maritime dimension ;
- b. Develop the capitalisation and sharing of good practice, and favour networking activities between the projects implemented under each OP and this based on the strategic themes for the geographical area ;
- c. Develop specific strategic projects considered as priorities upon the proposal of the authorities responsible for both OPs.

