



2 Mers Seas Zeeën

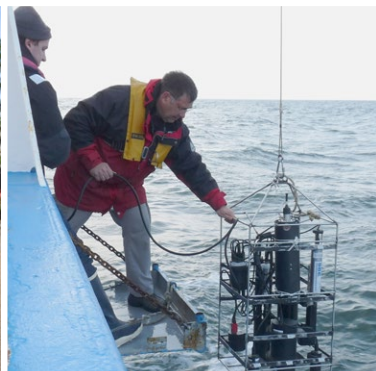
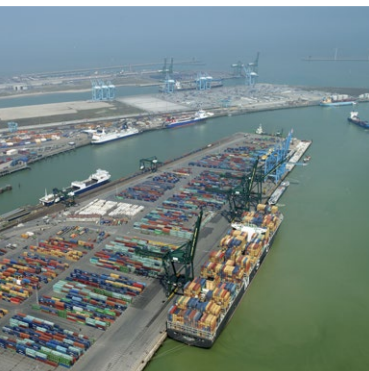
INTERREG IV A

FRANCE - ENGLAND - VLAANDEREN - NEDERLAND

# 2007-2013 achievements in a nutshell



Cross-border cooperation  
programme 2007-2013  
part financed by **ERDF**



This publication is the conclusion of the result analysis of the 2007-2013 Programme conducted by the Joint Technical Secretariat. It does not claim to be exhaustive regarding the content of the projects, but aims to collect and outline the key results and major impacts on the Programme area.

# Starting point

## What is the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme?

The Programme falls within the objective “European Territorial Cooperation” set out in the Cohesion Policy for the period 2007-2013. The European Union supported different types of cooperation programmes: cross-border programmes, transnational programmes and one interregional programme.

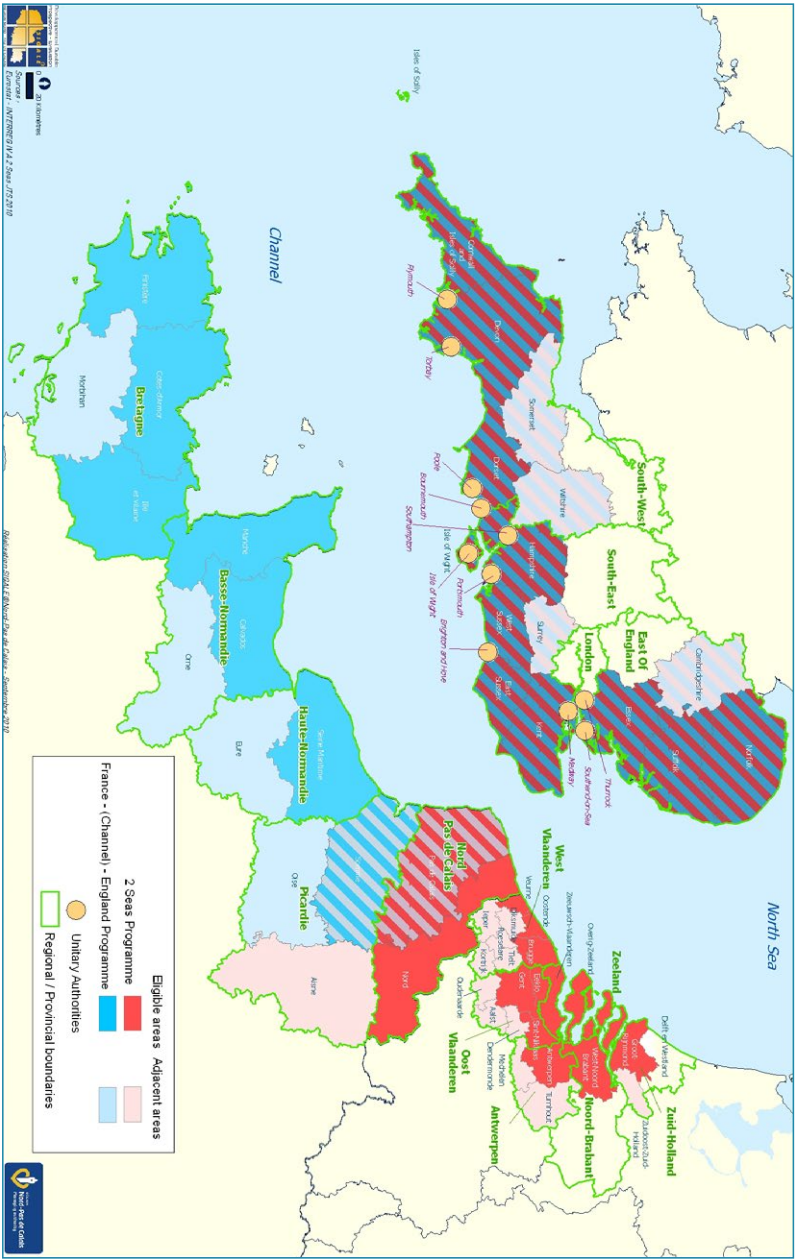
INTERREG 2 Seas is a cross-border Cooperation Programme that covers the coastal areas of four countries: England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The € 291M Programme was partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund (€ 165M). During its implementation, it supported 86 projects and 23 clusters in a wide range of areas.

In line with the European Union guidelines, the Programme identified strategic areas that needed intervention. Here below are indicated the priority axes of the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme:

- I. Creating an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area**
- II. Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment**
- III. Improving quality of life**
- IV. Common Priority with the France (Channel) - England Programme**

This document will present what has been achieved by the projects supported during the INTERREG IV A 2 Seas Programme.

# Programme Area 2007-2013



# Important note regarding the terminology

To avoid any confusion with the new programming period's terminology, the reader should be reminded that the terminology used in this document refers to the one of the 2007 – 2013 programming period. The definition of the main terms used in the present evaluation can be found below:

- Aim** The aim is a purpose toward which the project efforts are directed.
- Objective** The objectives are the stated, measurable targets of how to achieve the aim. For example, a project's aim could be to contribute to decreasing the energy consumption in the programme area.
- Results** The project's results describe tangible products or services delivered by the project or tangible improvements to services, facilities or knowledge that will directly support the achievement of the project's purpose. More in detail it is about the direct/tangible results (goods and services) that the project delivers, and which are largely under the project management's control.
- Effects** Effects/outcomes are the results or impacts obtained in terms of people's well-being and progress. Intended outcome, or simply 'outcome' is the specific dimension of the wellbeing and progress of people (in their capacity of consumers, workers, entrepreneurs, savers, family or community members, etc.) that motivates policy action, i.e. that is expected to be modified by the interventions designed and implemented by a policy.

# Which resources have been spent by the Programme?

The Programme received € 165M from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). 95% of the resources were spent through the different projects and clusters supported.

			<i>Budget Spent</i>	
	<i>Number of projects &amp; clusters approved:</i>	<i>Operational Programme ERDF</i>	<i>ERDF Spent</i>	<i>% ERDF Spent</i>
Priority 1	40	€ 58,078,711	€ 57,724,310	99%
Priority 2	29	€ 40,383,674	€ 37,740,272	93%
Priority 3	33	€ 44,354,587	€ 41,199,142	93%
Priority 4	7	€ 12,630,429	€ 11,442,451	91%
TOTAL	109	€ 155,447,401	€ 148,106,176	95%

Over the 2007-2013 period, the 2 Seas Programme supported **86** projects and **23** clusters.



**742** organisations involved  
in the 2 Seas Programme

## Which were the main results and effects of the Programme?



**433** SMEs Supported



**183** Heritage, cultural  
and natural sites improved



**1 506 140** Visitors attracted  
in the 2 Seas area



**65** Scientific prototypes developed



**21 424** People benefitting  
from training



**578** Long term jobs created  
(longer than 6 months)

**1 584** Short term jobs created  
(shorter than 6 months)



**75** Infrastructures built





DUNKERQUE

DUNKERQUE

CMA CGM FORT ST LOUIS  
MARSEILLE



## Priority Axis I:

# Creating an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area

- 1.a Supporting the development of joint economic activities, including the maritime economy
- 1.b Promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship and the development of new cross-border commercial initiatives
- 1.c Supporting innovation, research and the cooperation between universities, knowledge institutes and businesses
- 1.d Supporting tourism and promoting sustainable tourism
- 1.e Promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating the development of employment and human capital
- 1.f Improving the accessibility of the Programme area by optimising the use and mutualisation of existing infrastructures

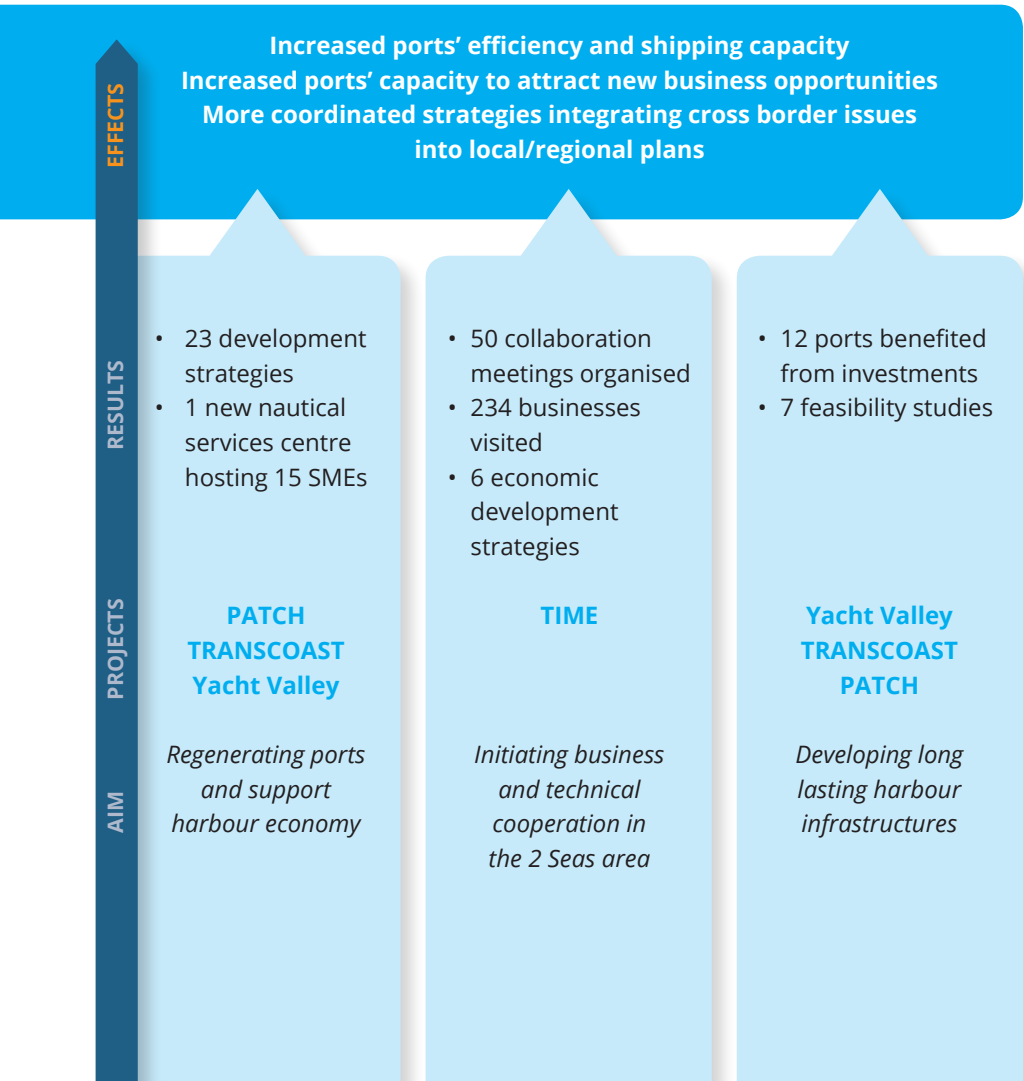
**28**  
projects

**€ 57.72 M**  
ERDF

# 1.a – Supporting the development of joint economic activities, including the maritime economy

Cross-border economic activities are key elements of the competitiveness and of the economic development of the 2 Seas area. Indeed, the maritime nature of the 2 Seas area implies a particular focus on cross border exchanges between the two sides of the Channel and the North Sea.

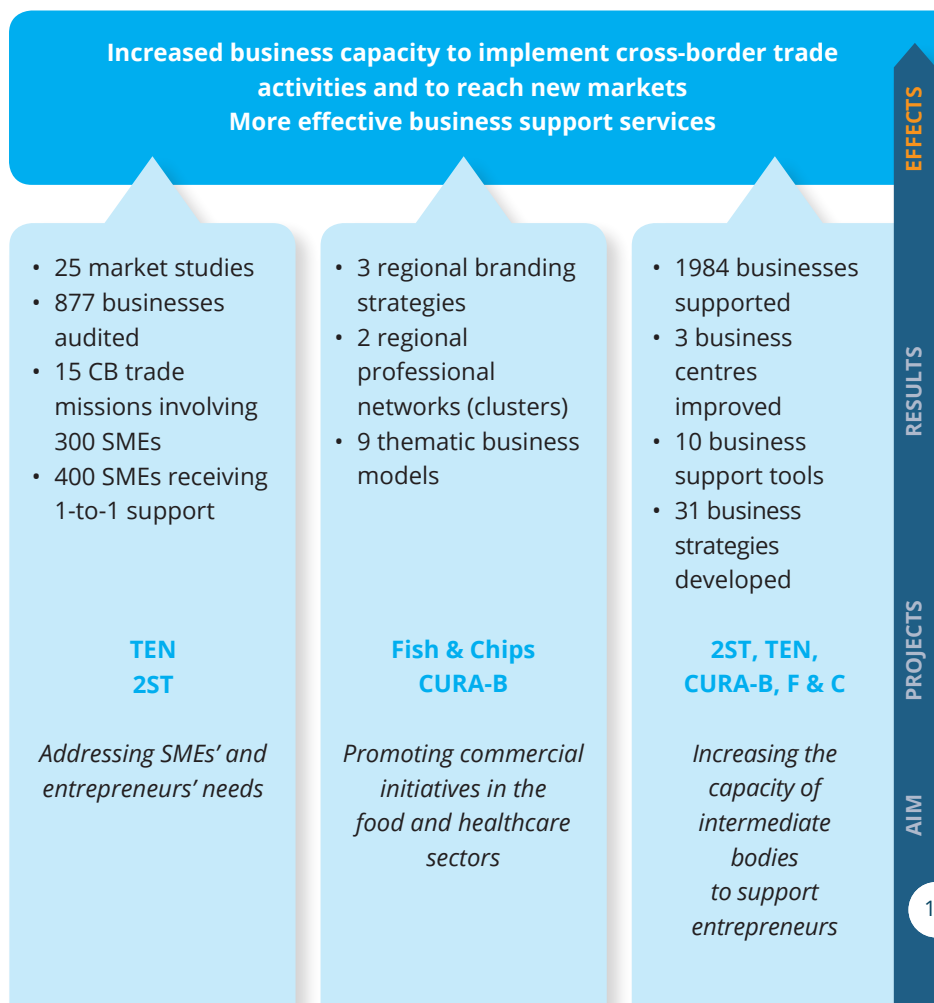
Under this Operational Objective, four projects, **TIME**, **PATCH**, **TRANS-COAST** and **Yacht Valley**, supported the maritime economy.



## 1.b – Promote and encourage entrepreneurship and the development of new cross-border commercial initiatives

The area contains some of the strongest economical regions of the European Union, and if most of the eligible territories benefit from this favourable geographical positioning, some regions are economically underperforming and strong disparities appear. The Operational Programme identified the need to develop new business sectors while making sure that existing business in traditional sectors becomes more competitive.

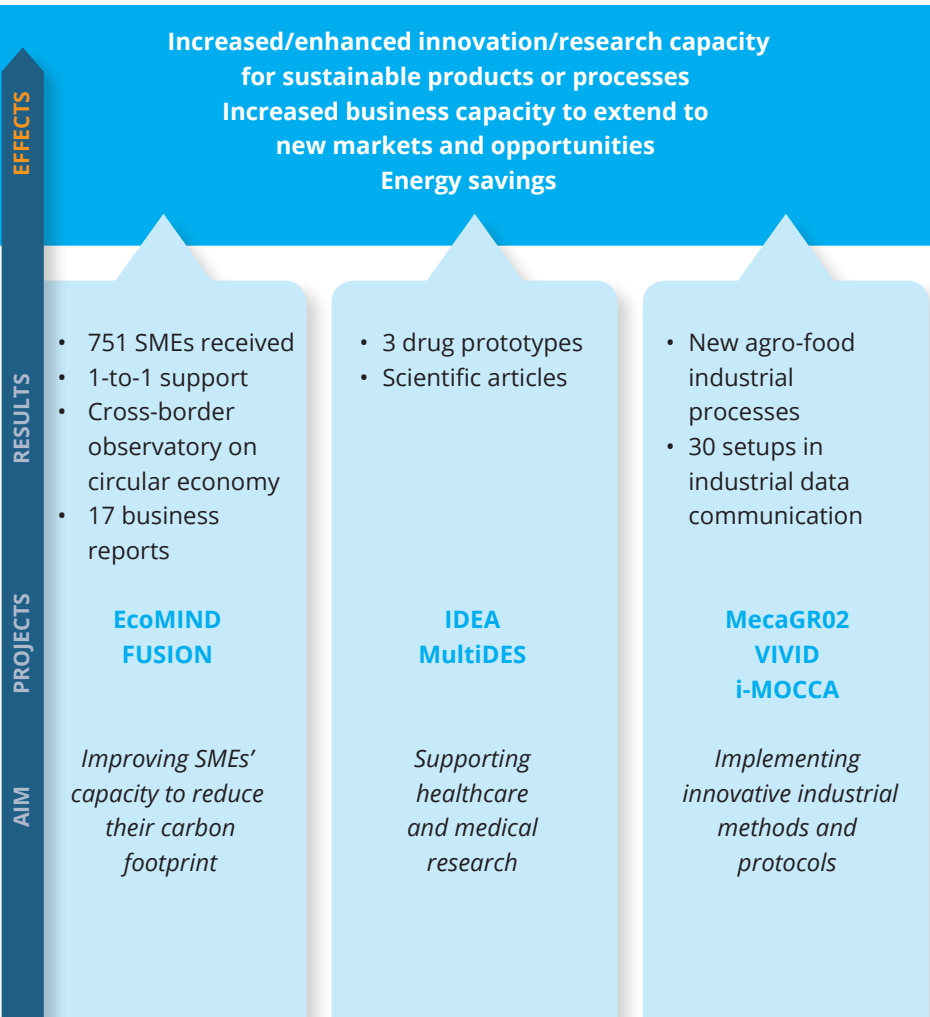
Four projects, **TEN**, **2ST**, **CURA-B** and **Fish & Chips**, have contributed to this Operational Objective, and thus promoted and encouraged both trade and entrepreneurship in the 2 Seas area.



# 1.c – Supporting innovation, research and the cooperation between universities, knowledge institutes and businesses

Innovation and a knowledge economy are essential to the economy of the European Union, and are strong priorities for the future development as stated in the EU 2020 strategy. The budget spent on Research and Development, as well as the number of public/private research partnerships show significant variations between the different Member States.

The 2 Seas Programme aimed at encouraging this type of collaboration and supported seven projects focused on innovation and research: **EcoMIND**, **IDEA**, **MultiDES**, **McCagr02**, **I-MOCCA**, **VIVID** and **FUSION**.



- Uptake of the projects' results by the private sector

**MecaGR02**  
**VIVID**  
**FUSION**  
**I-MOCCA**  
**MultiDES**

*Promoting  
cooperation through  
the adoption  
of the Triple  
Helix Model*

- Creation of the clusters AQUA-PARIS and TEAM<sup>2</sup>
- MecaGr02 labelled by AQUIMER and Nutrition Santé Longévité

**MecaGR02**  
**VIVID**  
**i-MOCCA**

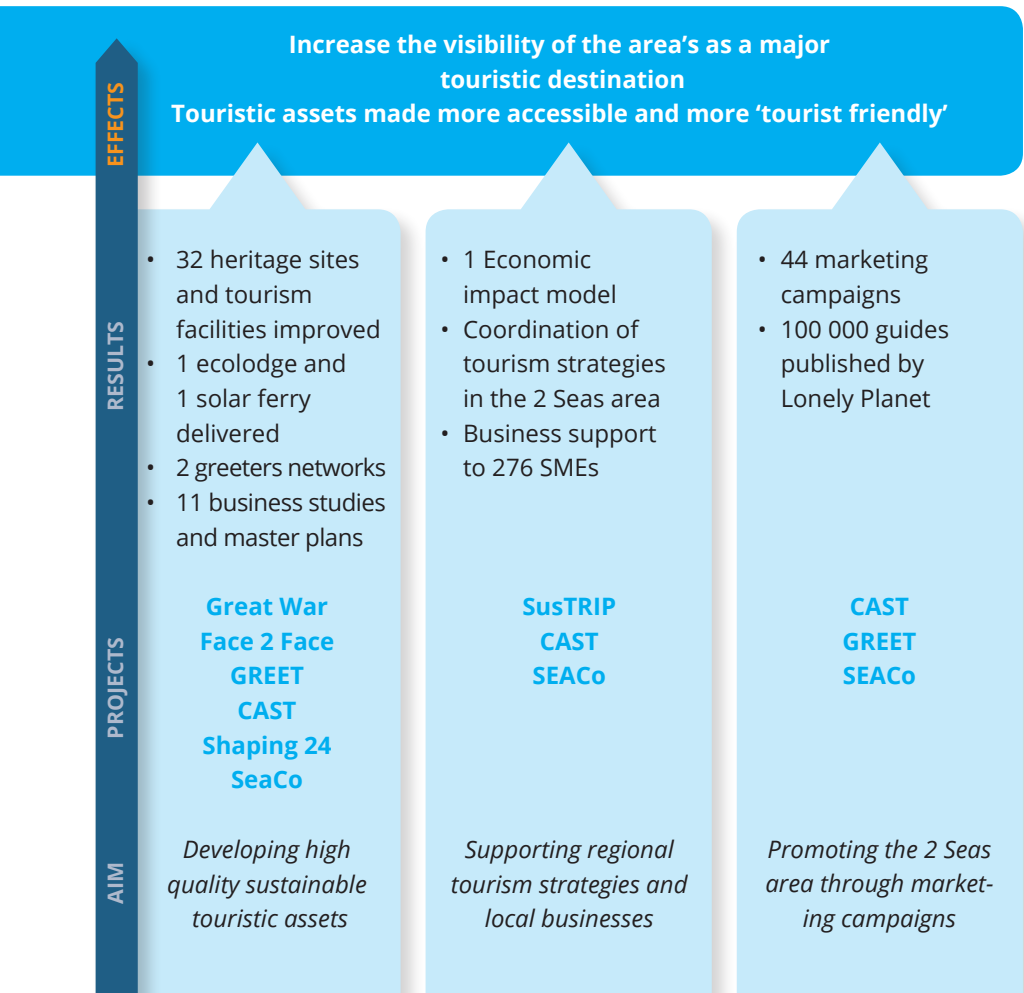
*Establishment  
and labelling by  
competitiveness  
clusters*



# 1.d – Supporting tourism and promoting sustainable tourism

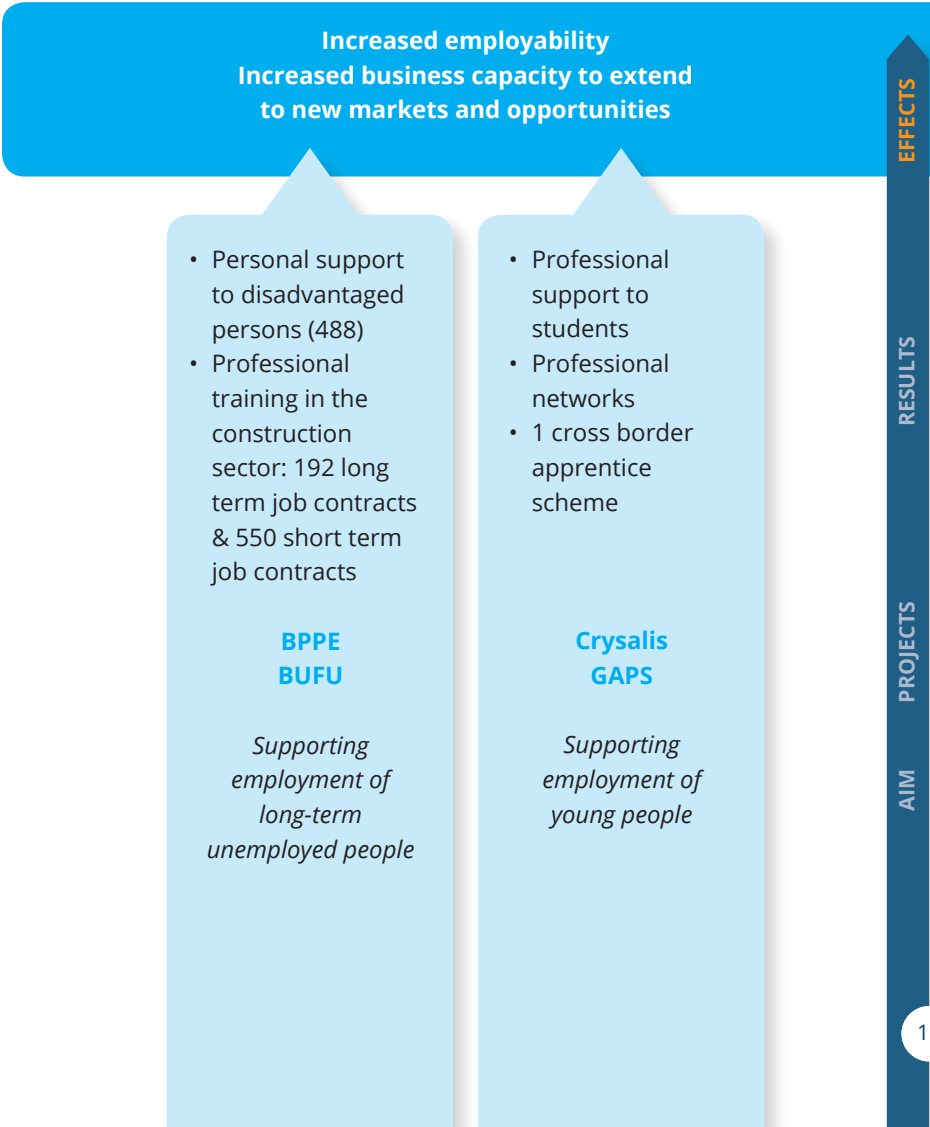
Tourism is an important economic sector in the 2 Seas area, with well known touristic destinations across the four Member states. The region has strong assets to attract tourists; beaches and coastal areas, dynamic cultural cities and historical heritage, in particular World War I and II heritage.

This Operational Objective aimed at supporting the development of sustainable tourism in the area, thanks to more integrated regional tourism strategies and to high quality touristic facilities and offers. Eight projects were supported under this objective: **Shaping 24, Face2Face, SusTRIP, CAST, GREET, STEP, SEACo** and **Great War**.



# 1.e – Promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating the development of employment and human capital

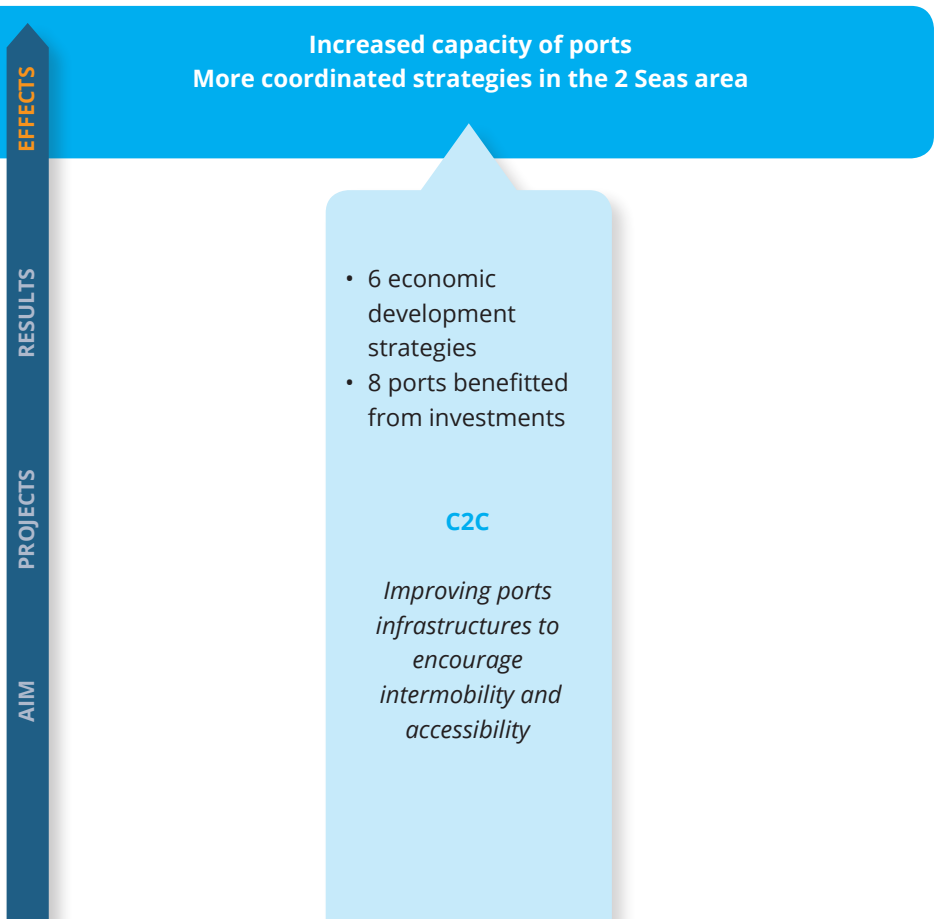
The Lisbon Strategy targets an employment rate of 70%, which is only achieved in England. Strong disparities between Member States in terms of employment can be noted. Four projects were approved under this Operational Objective, **BPPE**, **GAPS**, **BUFU** and **Crysalis**.



## 1.f – Improving the accessibility of the Programme area by optimising the use and mutualisation of existing infrastructures

The Programme area benefits from a good connectivity that links the regions to each other and to major European cities. The 2 Seas area is shaped by the Channel and the North Sea, and the maritime transport has always been essential to the local economic activity. Local ports are involved in international trade and cross border traffic of both individuals and freight is rising, requiring up to date transport infrastructures.

Under this Operational Objective, the Programme aimed at developing and optimising transport infrastructure in order to improve the accessibility of the area.



## Priority Axis II:

# Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment

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

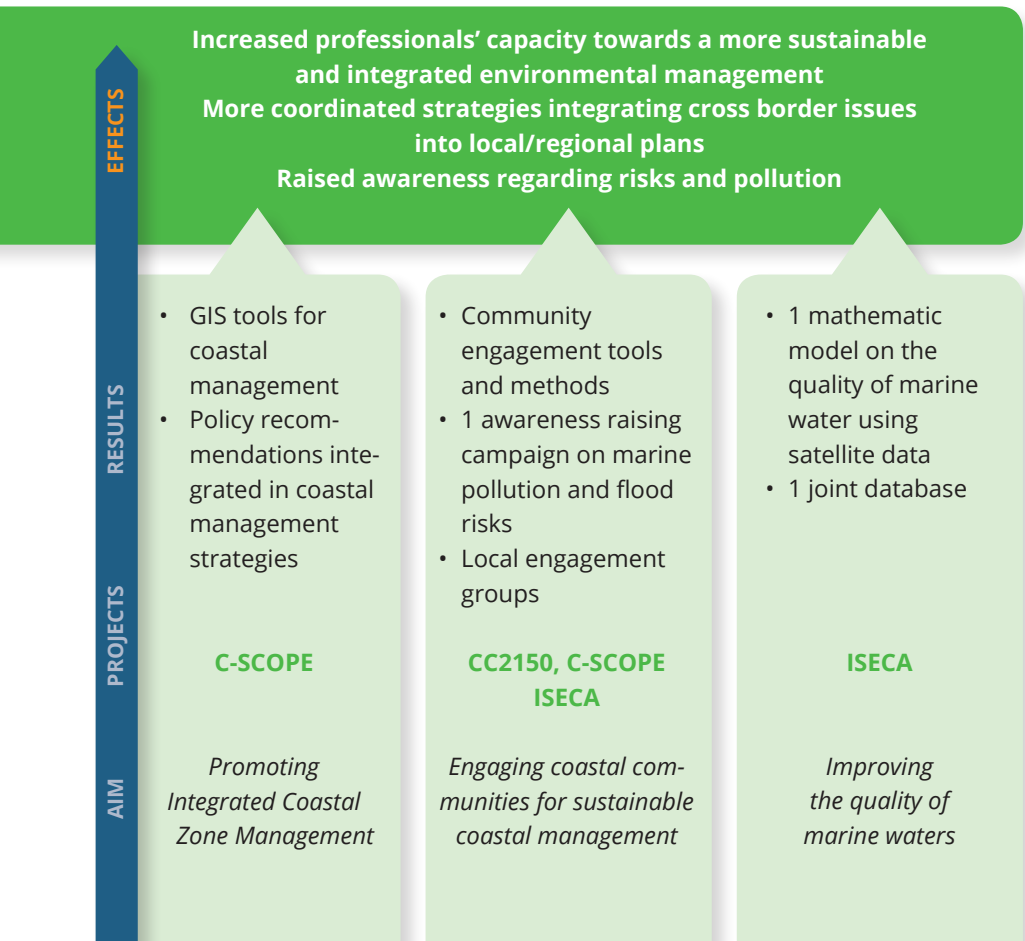
**24**  
projects

**€ 37.74 M**  
ERDF

## 2.a – Promote and improve the development of activities linked to integrated management of coastal zones, maritime resources and estuaries

The 2 Seas area has many protected areas especially along the coasts. However, landscape fragmentation, urban sprawl and the loss of biodiversity are common threats for the region that need to be tackled. The valuable maritime and coastal areas are strong assets of the 2 Seas area and the Programme aimed at working towards their protection by promoting sustainable management methods.

Three projects were supported under this Operational Objective: **C-SCOPE**, **CC2150** and **ISECA**, in order to encourage a more sustainable management of the 2 Seas coastal area and contribute to the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union.



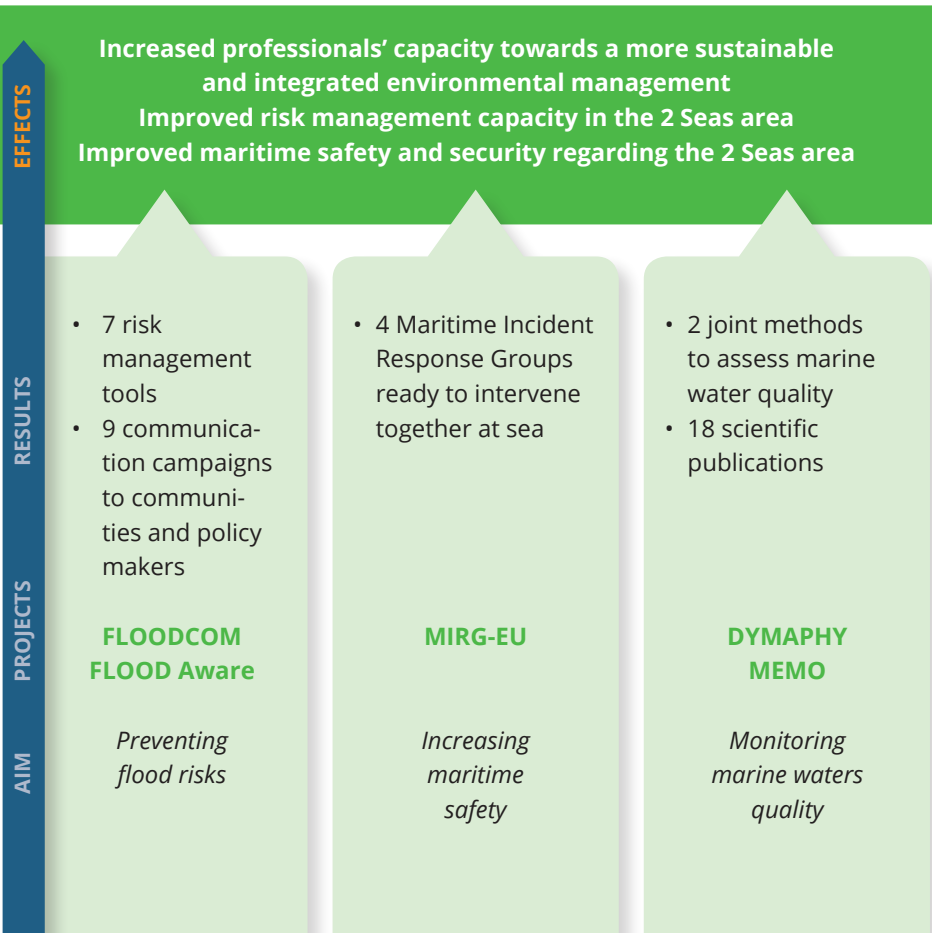





## 2.b – Develop activities to prevent and cope with natural technologies and human risks and to guarantee the quality of the environment

The 2 Seas area is particularly vulnerable to risks due to its geographical features and to the location of numerous industries. The coasts are particularly vulnerable to the rise of sea levels, droughts, floods, extreme weather and coastal erosion. Because of the location of numerous industries, the French and Dutch Regions have a high exposure to technological hazards. Moreover pollution respects no boundaries and this issue has to be tackled jointly by Member States.

Seven projects were supported under this Operational Objective to prevent risks of different nature in the 2 Seas area: **CleanTech, MultiFor, DYMAPHY, FLOODCOM, FLOOD Aware, MEMO** and **MIRG-EU**.



- 
- 2 new solutions to reduce industrial pollution

### **CleanTech**

*Preventing  
technological  
risks*

- 36 training sessions to professionals
- 1 joint strategy for the wood economy
- 5 sites improved

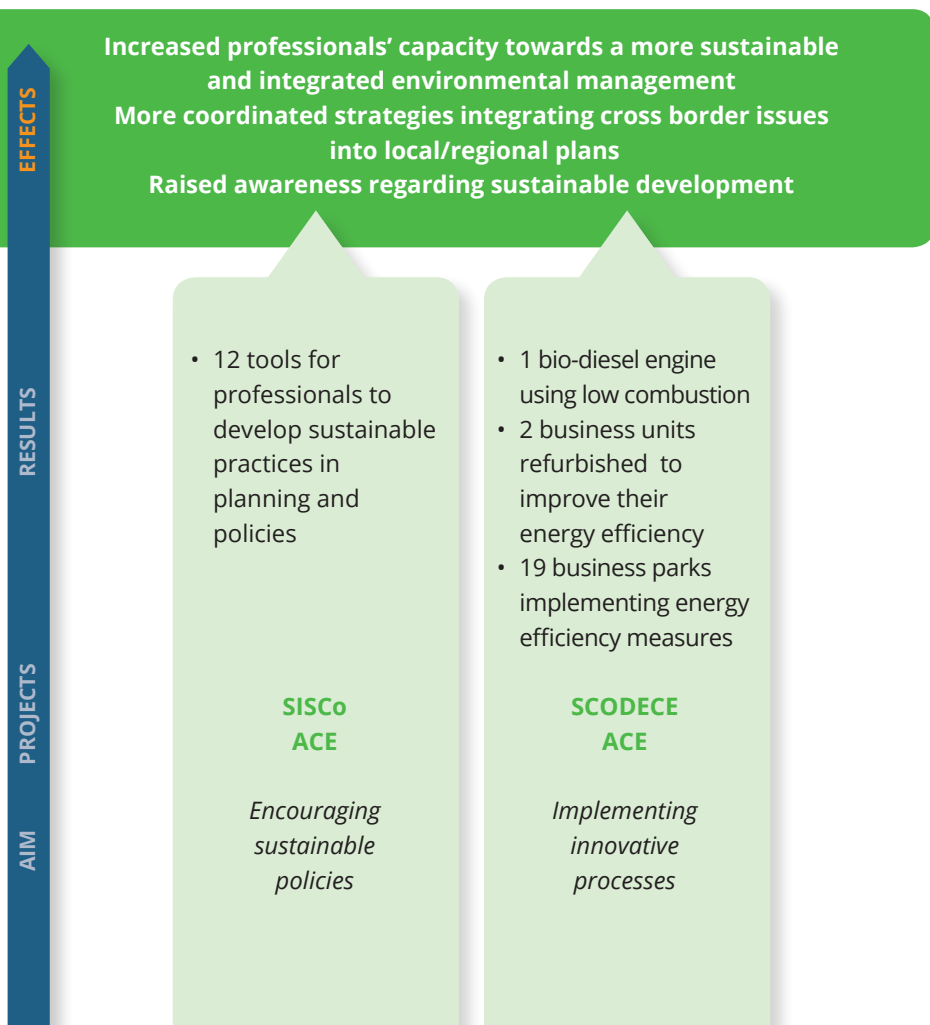
### **Multi-For**

*Protecting and  
promoting forests'  
ecosystem services*

## 2.c – Stimulate energy efficiency and development of renewable energies

The area is very dependent on imported fuel-energies. Renewable energies are a very small share of the energy consumption and the area should improve its energy efficiency.

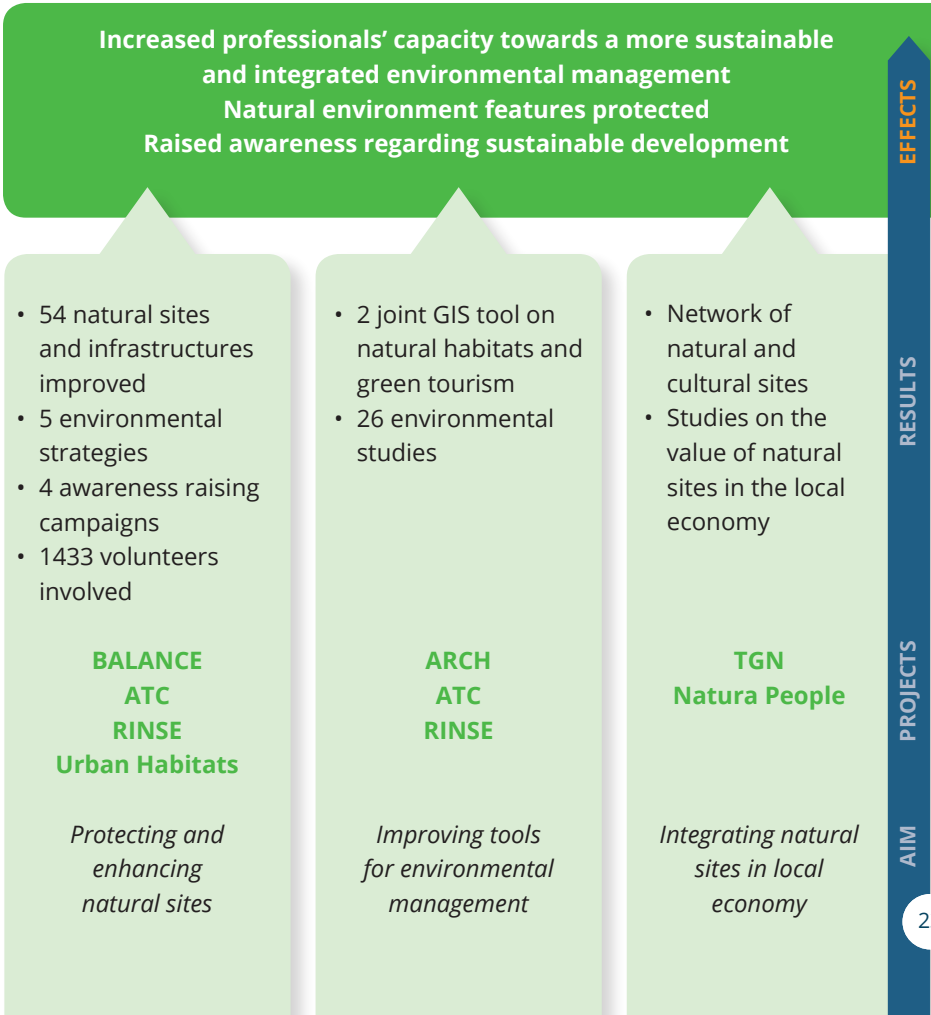
The Operational Objective aimed at improving energy efficiency and supporting renewable energies' development. To achieve these three projects were supported, **SISCo** focused on promoting sustainable policies to promote energy efficiency, **SCODECE** and **ACE** contributed to implement innovative processes to reduce pollution and energy consumption.



## 2.d – Promote, improve and manage nature, landscapes, natural heritage and relations between urban, periurban and rural areas

The Programme area includes natural sites that are protected for their landscape quality, their biodiversity, or their heritage dimension. 17 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are located on the English side, in France, the region is characterized by 321 nationally protected areas and 39 Natura2000 sites, Flanders has 38 habitat areas and 23 bird directive areas whereas in the Netherlands, 33 sites are Natura2000 sites.

Seven projects were supported under this priority: **ARCH, ATC, Balance, Natura People, Urban Habitats, TGN** and **RINSE**.

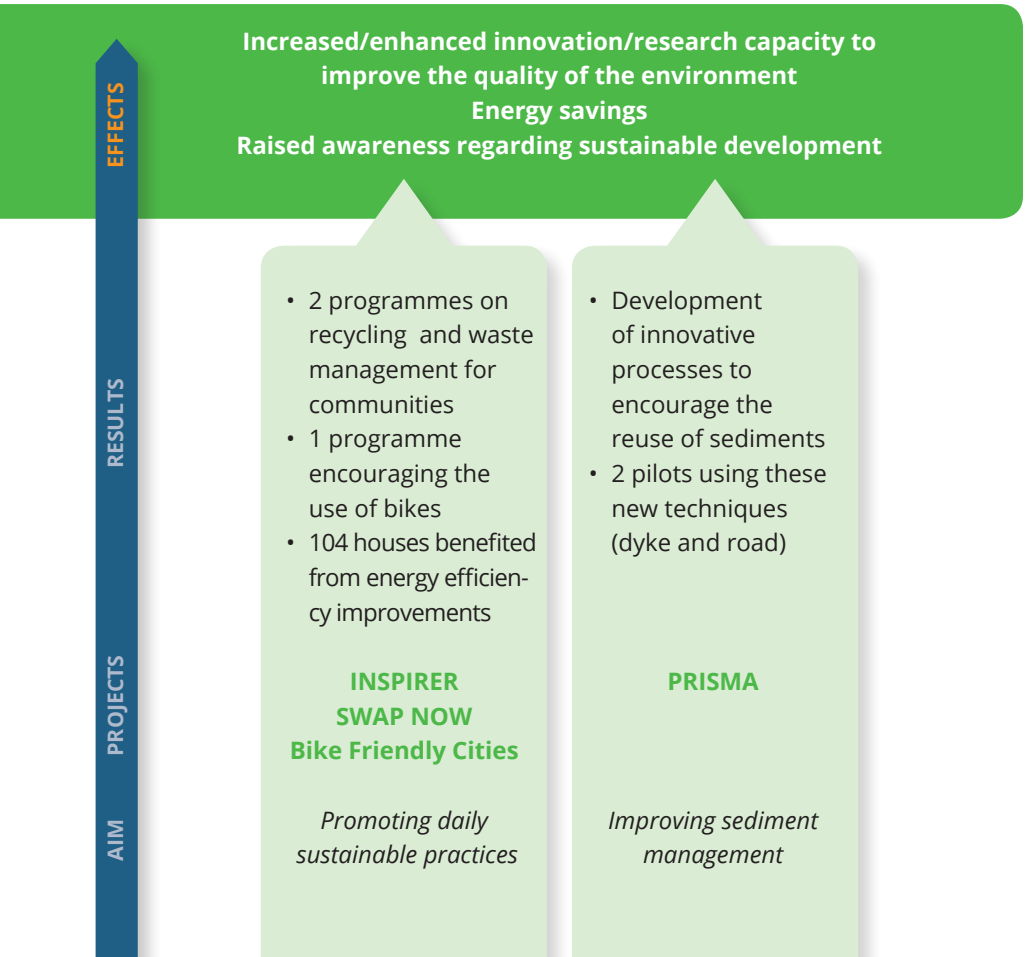




2.e – Improve and enhance good practices in water, waste and resource management and sustainable use of resources

Daily practices matter to ensure a good quality of the environment and citizens should be involved in the protection of our common resources. Waste management is an important aspect with a great environmental impact and that concerns all regions in the Programme area. Household waste has slightly increased in all Members States over the past few years and the Operational Programme aimed at supporting effective waste management and waste reduction.

Four projects were supported under this Operational Objective: **PRISMA**, **INSPIRER**, **SWAP NOW** and **Bike Friendly Cities**.



## Priority Axis III: Improving quality of life

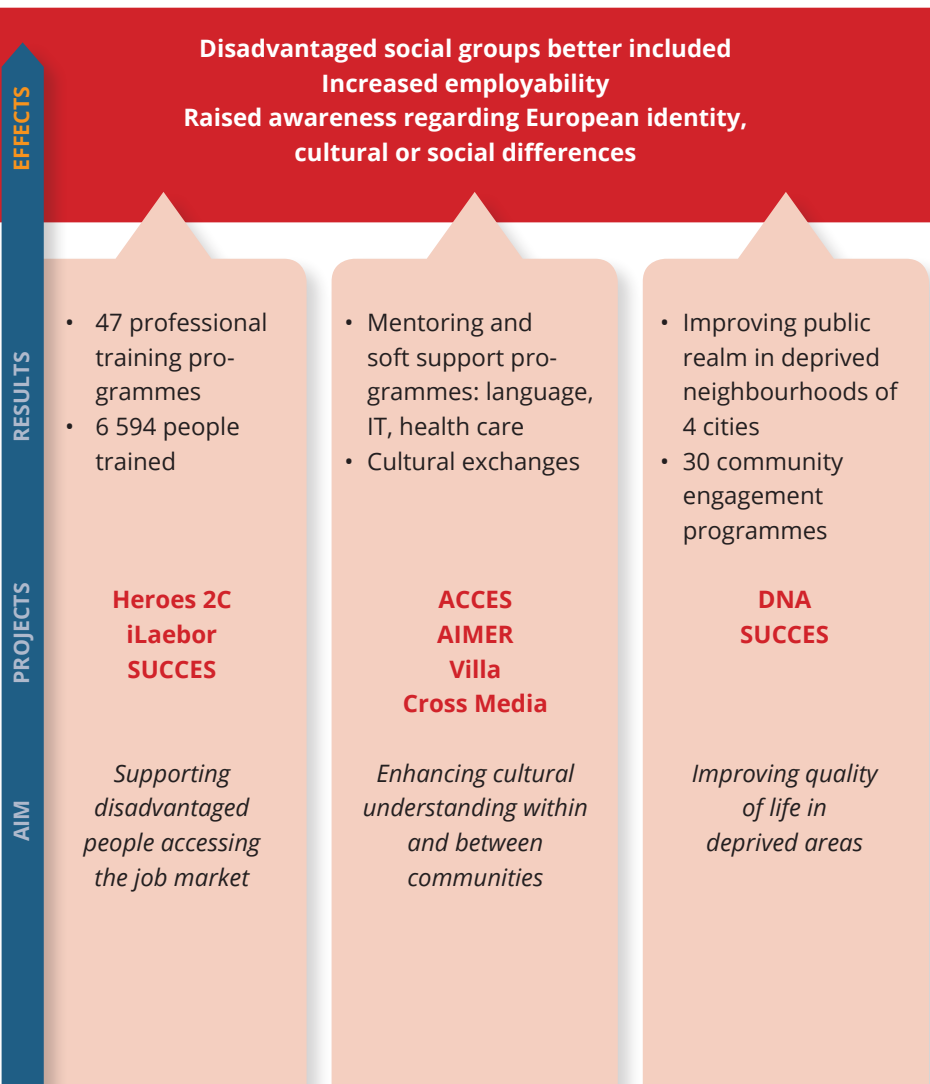
- 3.a Promoting and allowing for social inclusions and the wellbeing of different groups in society
- 3.b Improving the quality of services to the population, including mobility and health care facilities
- 3.c Supporting the development of cooperation in education, training in order to guarantee the possibility of life-long learning, setting up sustainable cultural partnerships and foreign language learning
- 3.d Promoting, enhancing and conserving the common heritage and cultural partnerships including the development of creativity and design and joint cooperation between the media
- 3.e Developing active leisure activities, including the promotion and enhancement of infrastructures and social tourism

**27**  
projects


**€ 41.19 M**  
ERDF

### 3.a - Promoting and allowing for social inclusions and the well being of different groups in society

The 2 Seas population is well educated, considering the fact that 88% hold a qualification. However, there are strong disparities between the territories; there is a lack of postgraduate degree holders in Nord-Pas-de-Calais and a lack of people with technical skills in the South of the Netherlands. The 2 Seas area is also attractive for migrants, where the non-EU migrant population is high. These groups require specific attention as they suffer from lower education, employment difficulties and social exclusion.



Eight projects were supported under this Operational Objective, aiming at improving social inclusion and well being of citizens in the 2 Seas area: **ACCES, AIMER, Heroes 2C, SUCCES, iLaebor, Villa Cross Media, CAFTA** and **DNA**.

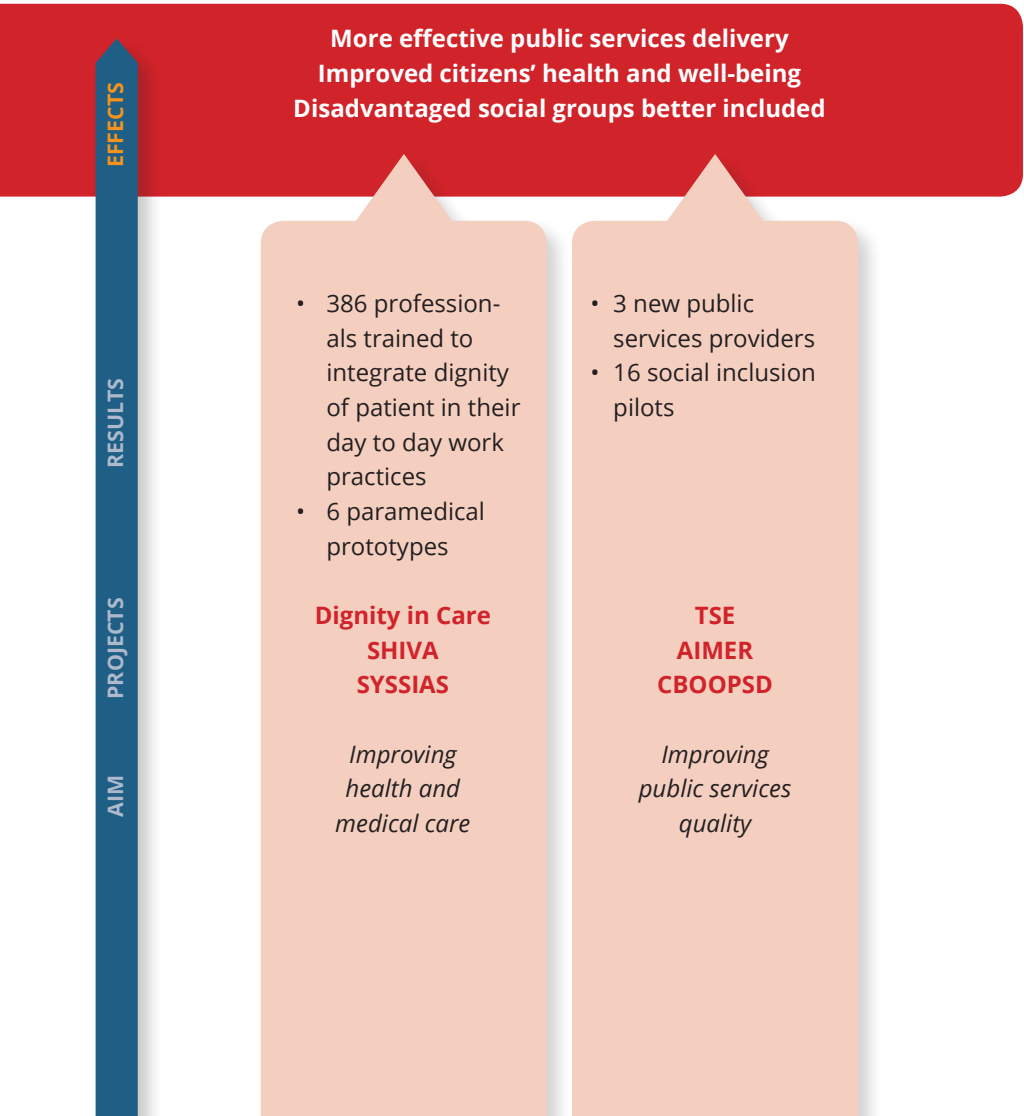
- 
- 4 support programmes to families facing drug problems
  - 3 community engagement programmes

**CAFTA**

*Raising awareness  
concerning drugs  
and supporting  
families and users*

### 3.b - Improving the quality of services to the population, including mobility and health care facilities

The 2 Seas population is ageing and therefore requiring good levels and high density of health and public services. This is particularly true for rural and coastal areas that form pockets of deprivation. Five projects contributed to improve services to the population. Three of these projects **Dignity in Care, SHIVA, SYSIASS** focused on improving health and medical care whereas **CBOOPSD** and **TSE** aimed at improving public services.



### 3.c - Supporting the development of cooperation in education, training and the assistance to crossborder projects, in order to guarantee the possibility of life-long learning, to set up sustainable cultural partnerships and foreign language learning

Joint initiatives in the field of culture and heritage have always been a strong asset of cross border cooperation in the 2 Seas area. There is a high demand for these types of projects which are contributing to the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies. At the same time, the operational Programme aimed at developing lifelong learning and education opportunities.

Two projects were supported under this Operational Objective: **BOAT 1550 BC** and **Learning Cities**. The first one aimed at restoring a boat dating from 1550 BC and engaging the public with recent archaeological discoveries. The second one targeted hard to reach groups to improve their quality of life through education.

Improved knowledge / understanding about cross border history  
Protected heritage and historical features  
Disadvantaged social groups better included

- Boat replica from 1550 BC
- 1 catalogue regrouping 47 scientific articles on the Bronze Age
- 4 exhibitions
- Education kits

#### **BOAT 1550 BC**

*Promoting  
architectural  
heritage*

- 12 learning programmes for vulnerable people
- 18 social inclusion training programmes
- Improved learning facilities

#### **Learning Cities**

*Improving  
public services  
quality*

EFFECTS

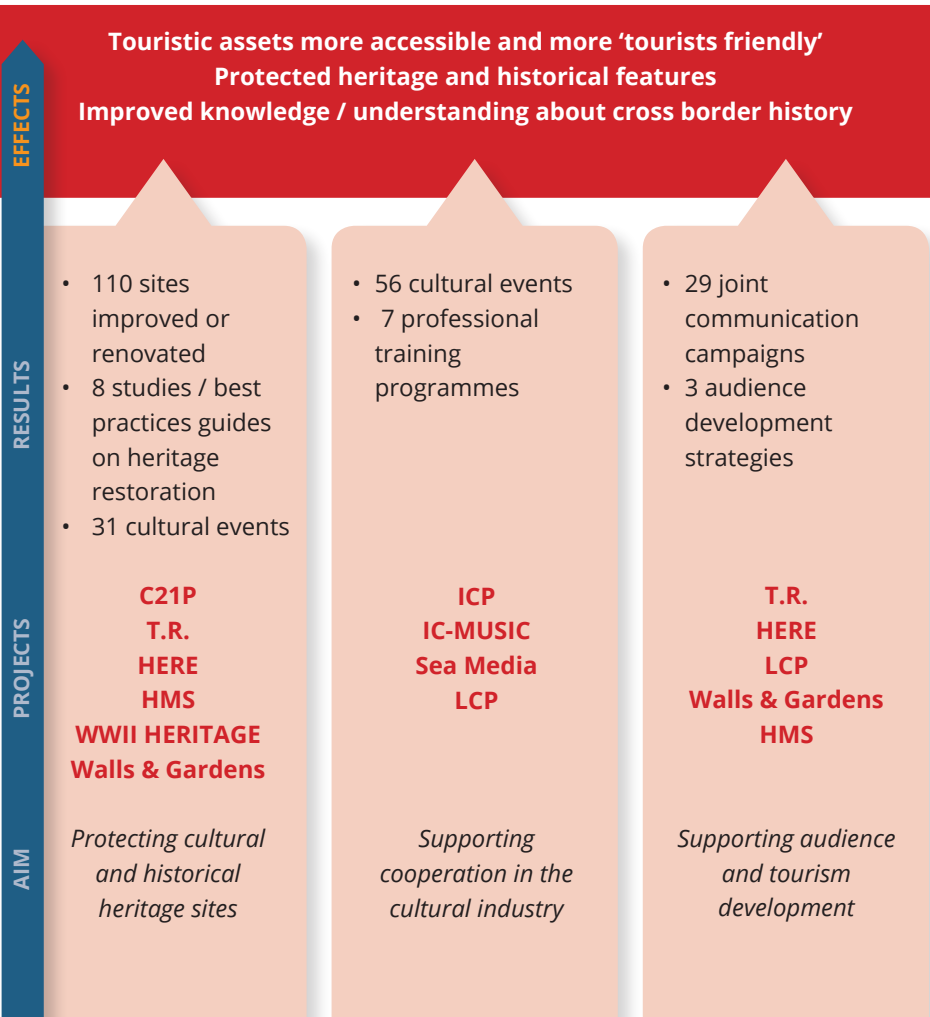
RESULTS

PROJECTS

AIM


3.d - Promoting, enhancing and conserving the common heritage and cultural partnerships including the development of creativity and design and joint cooperation between the media

Many high quality heritage and natural sites are located in the 2 Seas area, such as UNESCO World Heritage sites, like the Cathedral of Canterbury, the belfries of Belgium and France, or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty such as the White Cliffs of Dover. It is important to protect and enhance them as they represent the area’s identity and grant its touristic potential. On the other hand, cooperation initiatives between local media and cultural actors were underdeveloped in the cross border region.





Eleven projects were supported under this priority: **C21P, HERE, HMS, WWII HERITAGE, IC-MUSIC, ICP, LCP, SeaMedia, TMS, T.R and Walls and Gardens.**

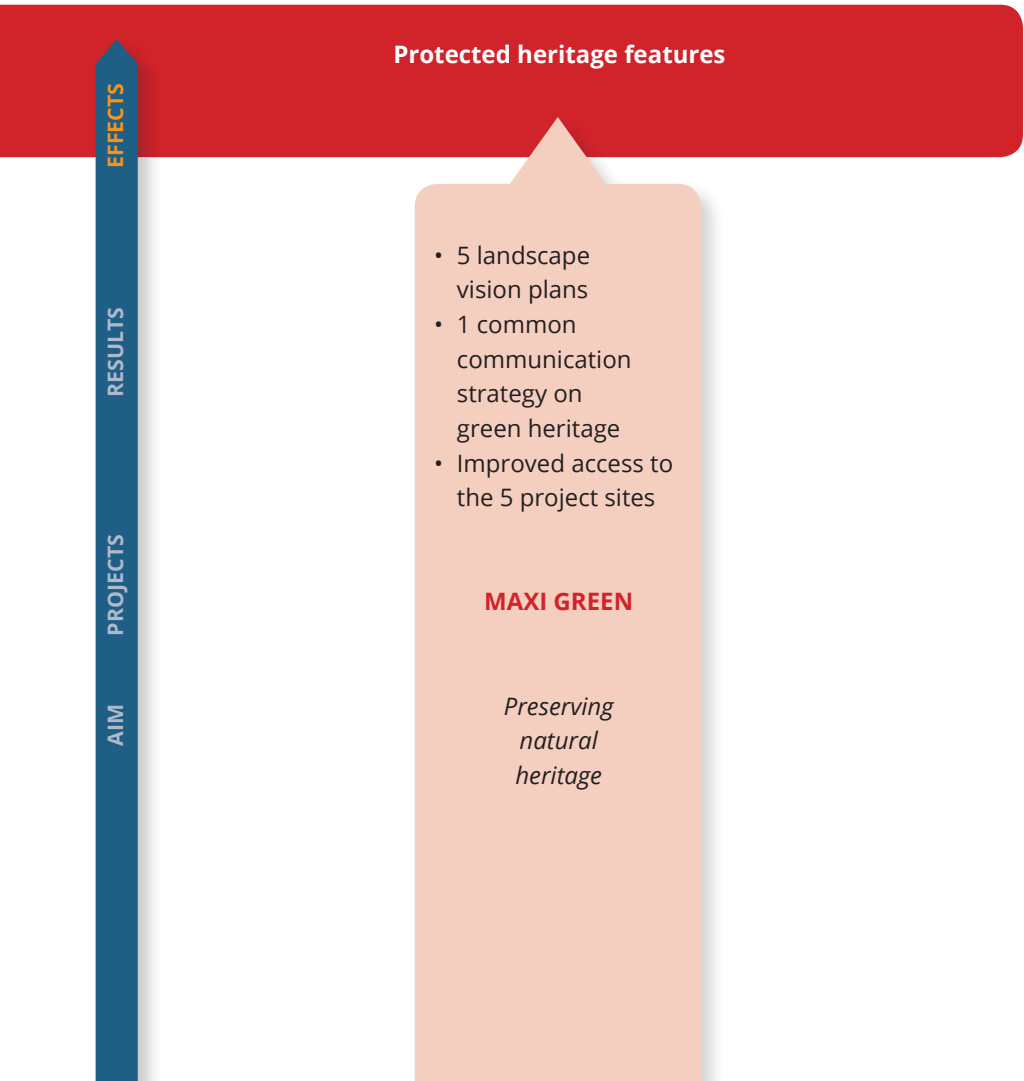
- 
- 1 Boatbuilding skills programme
  - 3 boats restored
  - 2 boats built

**TMS**

*Preserving and  
promoting  
boatbuilding skills*

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

Under this Operational Objective, the Programme supported only one project, **MaxiGreen**, focusing on the reuse of natural heritage sites to provide new economic prospects or recreational activities while preserving natural and industrial heritage.



## Priority Axis IV:

### Common priority with the France (Channel) England Programme

- 4.a Promoting 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
- 4.b Developing the capitalisation and sharing good practices, and favour networking activities between the projects implemented under each OP and this based on the strategic themes for the geographical area
- 4.c Developing specific strategic projects considered as priorities upon the proposal of the authorities responsible for both OPs

**7**  
projects

**€ 11.44 M**  
ERDF

In order to evaluate the tangible results of the projects, a thematic approach was implemented. The seven projects supported were evaluated depending on their aims. Three objectives were selected: **strengthening cooperation between universities and knowledge institutes, improving integrated coastal management and protecting cross border heritage.**

RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 scientist network on neurosciences</li><li>• 64 research protocols</li><li>• 3 protocols to use marine bio molecules in the field of derma tissues regeneration and detoxification</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 44 scientific articles</li><li>• Archaeological study of coastal change across centuries and a toolkit for decision makers</li><li>• 1 mathematic model of the micro plastics pollution in the 2 Seas area</li><li>• 4 prototypes of Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles to ensure safety and security at sea</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 communication campaigns</li><li>• 1 GIS database of shipwrecks in the 2 Seas</li><li>• Socio-economic study of fishing in local communities</li><li>• 1 toolkit for decision makers</li></ul>
PROJECTS	<b>TC2N BioCare</b>	<b>ARCH-MANCHE MICRO 3i</b>	<b>A2S GIFS</b>
AIM	<i>Strengthening universities and knowledge institutes cooperation to support innovation</i>	<i>Improving integrated coastal zone management</i>	<i>Protecting cross border heritage</i>

## **INTERREG IV A 2 Mers Seas Zeeën**

Secrétariat Technique Conjoint / Joint Technical Secretariat / Gemeenschappelijk Technisch Secretariaat

Les Arcuriales - 45/D, rue de Tournai - 5<sup>e</sup> étage - F-59000 Lille

T : +33 (0) 3 20 21 84 80 - F : +33 (0) 3 20 21 84 98

[contact@interreg4a-2mers.eu](mailto:contact@interreg4a-2mers.eu)



The Interreg 2 Seas Programme is an EU funding programme which promotes crossborder co-operation between partners from France, England, Belgium (Flanders) and The Netherlands. It aims to develop the competitiveness and the sustainable growth potential of maritime and non-maritime issues through the establishment and development of cross border partnerships.

