

Annual Implementation Report 2015

Citizens' summary

The Interreg 2 Seas Mers Zeeën Programme (2014-2020) was approved on 3 June 2015 by the European Commission. The launch event of the Programme took place in Saint-André-lez-Lille on 20-21 November 2015.

Following that, the Programme has launched its first Call for Proposals on 07/01/2015. This followed a 2 step application process. The deadline for step 1 was 16/02/2015.

During 2015, to promote the projects' generation, the Programme carried out already a total of 18 animation measures covering all Member States of the Programme area.

With regards to projects' application, all information regarding the call for proposals is made available on the programme website.

Projects can apply by using a 100% paperless online application system. Indeed, the Programme has developed an Electronic Exchange Platform that is the tool to be used by applicants to submit a Concept Note and an Application Form. Applicants are never required to send paper documents.

During 2015, in the framework of the first call for proposals, a total of 79 Concept Notes were received and 36 Application Forms were submitted in step 2.

The Programme Monitoring Committee met for the first time on 17-18/09/2015 in Oostende. The second meeting of the MC took place on 03-04/11/2015 in Ghent. During this meeting, the Committee discussed and decided on the first projects submitted under the first call for proposals.

Among the 36 Application Forms submitted, the MC approved 2 projects. 20 additional projects were referred back. This group of projects were given an extra chance to submit a revised Application Form at a later stage. The 2 Approved projects in 2015 are SSENT, under Specific Objective 1.1, and DOC2C's under Specific Objective 1.2.

The SSENT project (total budget: € 3,085,633.20; ERDF € 1,851,379.92) tackles the relatively low level of social innovation in and the development of social enterprises as SMEs. The overall objective of this project is to improve the capacity of social enterprises to develop and deliver sustainable and high impact innovations. Currently there is no methodology for the consistent harnessing of sustainable social enterprise innovation and a lack of joint tools and services for their development. The expected change this project will make will be an improvement in the framework conditions for innovation through enhanced cross-border cooperation, increase in innovation partnerships and R&D, and new and more effective models and tools for delivery of social innovation.

The project will therefore contribute to improve the framework conditions for innovation of the area in the chosen sector.

DOC2C's (total budget: € 4,189,795.60 ; ERDF: € 2,513,877.36) tackles the issues linked to the existing low technology infrastructure for drinking water production, soon inadequate to ensure supply of excellent water quality while adapting to pollution and climate change.

The project main objective is to develop new environmental technologies for efficient, future proof drinking water production in coastal areas, able to cope with mounting levels of Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC).

The project will therefore contribute to the Specific Objective 1.2 by concretely boosting the delivery of new technology in the chosen field.