

Citizens' summary

A. Introduction

The Interreg 2 Seas Programme approved 14 projects throughout 2017, bringing to a total of 40 approved projects by the end of 2017. These projects involve over 387 formal partners and 399 observer partners. Likewise in the previous year, the focus for 2017 was to generate quality projects. At the same time, the first achievements from the approved projects start emerging and were disseminated via the Programme newsletter, social media and events.

2018 will be also a very important year for projects' generation but at the same time the Programme will start sharing the first achievements from the approved projects through its channels and events.

This implementation year has also been crucial for further definition of the Programme management and control system. The Managing Authority has been officially designated in 2017. This is a very important step, because it means that, for example, it can submit requests for fund disbursement to the European Commission.

B. Approved projects

You can find information on all of the projects on the Programme website:
<https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/approved-projects>.

In 2017, one additional project has been approved under SO 1.1, two under SO 1.2. and four more projects under SO 1.3.

SCIFI is the newly approved project aiming at improve the framework conditions for innovation. The project will deal with smart cities and the use of big data in order to boost the cities' innovation capacity.

Under the specific objective Technological Innovation, the Programme has selected 2 more projects in 2017, the project QUALIFY dealing with maritime lightweight vessels and the project COBRA dealing with life sciences and health, further developing the promising technologies using brachytherapy in prostate cancer.

Under Social Innovation, this year the Programme has approved 4 projects. The themes covered by the newly approved projects are: sustainable care for dementia (CASCADE); integration of refugees through education and self-employment (SIREE); integrated care in communities (TICC) and men's health and wellbeing (SBS).

The Low-carbon Technologies objective initiated one more project: the project PECS stands for port energy and carbon savings. All is the title!

Two new projects joined the fight against climate change. The project ENDURE will make use of dune resilience to fight sea level rise, whereas STAR2C's will help communities to find affordable solutions to make the territories more resilient.

Last but not least, the Programme has approved the projects SUMARIS (aiming at a more sustainable use of marine resources) and BIO4SAFE (biostimulants in horti-cultural sector) under the objective Efficient use of resources and materials and the project NEREUS (reuse of urban sanitation water) under circular economy.

C. EVENTS:

The Interreg 2 Seas Programme has organised different events throughout 2017:

- 17 applicant seminars to train organisations on how to apply for 2 Seas funding
- 17 seminars for approved projects and first level controllers to highlight the rules and procedures for those who have successfully applied for funding.
- 1 projects' idea labs event to gather partners from Belgium (Flanders), England, France and the Netherlands to foster the development of cross border projects.