

## **AIR 2018 – Citizens' summary**

### **A. Introduction**

The Interreg 2 Seas is an EU funded cooperation programme which is part of the European Union cohesion policy. The EU cohesion policy promotes more balanced, more sustainable 'territorial development' in the EU. The 2 Seas Programme is part of the Interreg programmes which are a key policy instrument of the cohesion policy. Interreg aims at bringing together different regions of Europe in order for them to cooperate on topics of shared interest, to jointly develop solutions which tackle common challenges, to learn from each other and then transfer best practices back home.

The 2 Seas Programme brings together partners from The Netherlands, Flanders, France and England. The programme approved 15 projects in 2018, bringing the total of approved projects under the programme by the end of 2018. These projects involve over 500 organisations as formal or observer partners. As during the previous year, the focus for 2018 was to generate and select quality projects; therefore, the programme has been busy organising applicant seminars and information events to encourage and support new project ideas. A lot of direct contacts were made between applicants and the programme's 'territorial facilitators' in order to further develop initial ideas into quality application forms. Along with this, the programme partners and the 'Joint Secretariat' have been busy assessing submitted project proposals in order for the programme decision-making body (the Monitoring Committee) to take informed decisions about project selection.

In relation to previously approved projects, some of the first achievements from these started to emerge and were disseminated via the Programme newsletter, social media and events as well as projects' own communication channels (newsletters, youtube channel, social media, events).

We are looking forward to reporting much more during 2019!

### **B. Approved projects**

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

The technological and social innovation 'priority axis' continues to be a driving force for the implementation of the programme. In 2018, 9 new projects were approved under this priority.

One further project was approved during the year under the low carbon technology priority axis and two under the adaptation to climate change topic.

Finally, three projects were approved under the sustainable use of resource priority axis, one of which deals with the circular economy.

### **C. EVENTS:**

The Interreg 2 Seas Programme organised several events during 2018, including:

- 17 applicant seminars to train organisations on how to apply for 2 Seas funding;
- 6 seminars for approved projects;
- 10 initiation stage meeting with individual projects.