



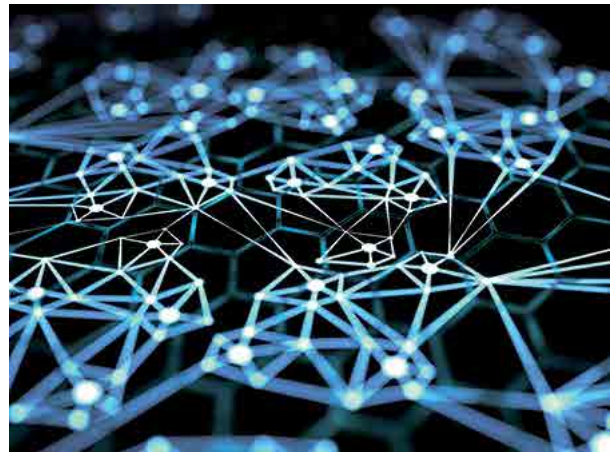
Newsletter issue n°20 June 2020

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2 Seas projects

The 2 Seas Programme 2014 - 2020 counts 82 projects, all contributing to the innovative, sustainable and inclusive development of the 2 Seas area.

In this newsletter you will find out how **PROFIT** and **ICARES** have contributed to the Interreg 2 Seas Specific Objective 1.1, which is to improve the framework conditions for the delivery of innovation, in relation to smart specialisation.



Click [here](#) to discover all 82 projects.

PROFIT

- Supported tourism entrepreneurs in the 2 Seas coastal economies by developing a strategy for innovation.
- Brought together 8 organisations.
- Was led by Westtoer (BE).
- Started on 01/10/2016 and ended on 31/03/2020.
- Had a budget of € 2 915 773 of which 60% ERDF.

Want to find out more about this project?
Visit the [website](#) | Watch the [video](#) | Read the [magazine](#)

ICARES

- Improved the conditions for innovation in the field of remote sensing and data communication & processing.
- Brought together 11 organisations.
- Was led by Woensdrecht (NL).
- Started on 01/12/2016 and ended on 29/02/2020.
- Had a budget of € 3 223 553 of which 60% ERDF.

Want to find out more about this project?
Visit the [website](#) | Watch the [video](#) | Read the [reports](#)

New website section: Output Library

If you are interested in what projects have actually delivered in the 2 Seas region, then you will certainly appreciate this information. A brand new section has been launched on the Programme website to highlight the achievements of the 2 Seas projects.

The output library will present you with a current state of play in terms of project outputs. The JS will update it once a year, after treatment and validation of the project progress reports. Today, the library contains 44 outputs delivered by 25 projects.

Click [here](#) to explore the Output Library.



2 Seas projects in times of COVID-19

For many partners of Interreg 2 Seas projects, the ongoing pandemic makes it hard to continue implementing project activities. As explained further on in this newsletter, the Programme Monitoring Committee has decided on a series of solutions to support projects.

In addition, projects have demonstrated a high level of creativity and flexibility throughout this challenging period. Below is only a brief sample of ideas on how some of the 2 Seas partnerships have maintained a dynamic cooperation spirit within their projects.

- Nature Smart Cities (NSCiti2S) launched [a new website](#).
- TRIPLE-A partner Breda switched to [online information sessions on energy renovation](#).
- BIOBOOST developed an [online learning module for secondary schools](#).
- HAIRE partners held [socially distanced meetings](#) with "Homemade cake and biscuits, children, dog and no rain!"
- H4DC produced [a series of videos](#) to present their work.



Earlier this month, BIO4SAFE transformed a physical stakeholder meeting into an online workshop. Frederik Van Baelen from the North Sea Farm foundation was happy to tell us a bit more about this successful online event:

“The event was a workshop for the development of a business case for biostimulants from local seaweeds and for this we wanted to reach agri/horticultural sector organisations, producers/retailers of seaweed biostimulants and end users. To encourage stakeholders to join and actively participate in the workshop, we included many multiple-choice questions throughout the presentation and introduced the recently developed [roadmap](#), which they could download or receive by post. Occasionally, a global chat was opened for open discussion with all participants.”

Frederik also kindly shared 3 do's and 1 don't:

- Do include interactive questions/polls to keep stakeholders engaged.
- Do have global text chat so participants can voice their ideas/questions.
- Do have 3-4 colleagues to support the presenter with stakeholder feedback and moderating.
- Don't close the global chat too soon. Leave it open for participants to round off discussions.

We know that many more projects are working hard to continue cooperating across borders. Together with the Territorial Facilitation Network, the Joint Secretariat is equally doing its level best to keep offering support to project partners.

Stay safe and stay positive, so we can soon set sail again to cooperate in a more comfortable context.

Programme solutions to COVID-related project challenges



With the COVID crisis affecting the Programme and the projects, the Programme has developed a series of measures in order to facilitate the projects' implementation and to reassess the feasibility of the projects.

In order to facilitate the projects' implementation, the Programme took a first urgent decision to grant a top-down 6 months extension to all projects ending between April 2020 and March 2022.

Furthermore, certain requirements in the claiming process were relaxed (e.g. regarding signed FLC certificate) and the deadline of the April 2020 claim was extended by one month.

On 14 May 2020, the Programme Monitoring Committee approved a second, more comprehensive package of decisions, again to facilitate the projects' implementation and to reassess the feasibility of the projects.

To find out more details about the second package of decisions, please refer to the [news article on our website](#), where you will also find the letter that was sent to all project partners.

In addition, to ensure as much expenditure as possible can be declared, validated and submitted to the Programme, the July submission deadline for the financial claims has been extended until the end of August 2020.

Projects can submit their claim from 24/07/2020 until 31/08/2020.

Project videos

Recent years have shown a growing interest in tidal energy. By boosting the development of international standards and certification schemes for marine energy technologies, **MET-CERTIFIED** helps paving the path for the future of the wave and tidal energy sector. Have a look at the MET-CERTIFIED [documentary on moon power](#) and learn how the project partners contribute to the sustainable development of the 2 Seas region.

NEREUS (New Energy and REsources from Urban Sanitation) aims at increasing the reuse of resources, water and energy from wastewater. Three years after the project took off, great results have been achieved at five different locations in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. With the development of innovative technologies for wastewater treatment at De Nieuwe Dokken in Ghent (a new city district of 400 dwellings), NEREUS partner DuCoop has been nominated earlier this year for the Belgian Business Awards for the Environment. Watch the video about [De Nieuwe Dokken and this groundbreaking circular development](#).



The partners from **POLDER2C's** aim to improve the capacity to adapt to climate change through increased flood resilience and emergency response. The video [Educating the next generation](#) shows how future water managers receive practical insights from more experienced water experts. Another video on [Baseline inspection](#) presents the work of a group of levee experts from France, Belgium, United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

If you look at our [TV page](#), you will understand that there is much more out there to explore. So, please serve yourselves and enjoy the videos.

Did you also produce a video about your 2 Seas project? [Let us know](#) and we will be more than happy to add it to our website.

Project events

25 June | [SOLARISE webinar @ EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)

25 June | [SPEED SHAKEUP](#)

30 June | [BISEPS webinar @ EU Sustainable Energy Week](#)

7 July | [E2C Project Stakeholder Event](#)

7 December | [IMODE @ MEDFIT](#)

Additional events might be organised, so stay tuned on our [website](#) to find out the latest information on upcoming events.

Do you want to have your event listed in our next newsletter? Let us know via contact@interreg2seas.eu.

