



Newsletter issue n°21 September 2020

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## 2 Seas projects

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

In this newsletter issue you can learn how **COBRA** and **MOTION** have contributed to the Interreg 2 Seas Specific Objective 1.2, which is to increase the delivery of technological innovation in smart specialisation sectors.

Click [here](#) to find more approved projects.



### **COBRA** ([website](#))

- Aims to improve the quality of both diagnosis and treatment of localized cancers, by developing innovative technology for biopsy and brachytherapy under MRI control.
- Brings together 10 organisations.
- Is led by the University of Lille.
- Started on 01/01/2018 and will end on 30/09/2022.
- Has a budget of € 3 801 252 of which 60% ERDF.

### **MOTION** ([website](#) - [video](#))

- Aims to advance development, validation and adoption of bionic rehabilitation technology for children with neurological disorders to improve quality of life.
- Brings together 15 organisations.
- Is led by the HEI - YNCREA Hauts-de-France.
- Started on 03/01/2019 and will end on 30/09/2022.
- Has a budget of € 7 476 119 of which 59% ERDF.

## Future of the 2 Seas



At the end of June, the UK government announced that it will not participate to any future Inter-reg programmes (with the exception of the PEACE + Programme) in the 2021-2027 programming period. The 2 Seas Programme acknowledges the UK position with regret but also fully respects the will of the UK government.

As communicated in a website article earlier this month, France and Flanders are convinced that territorial cooperation in the Channel and North Sea area is even more needed now than in the past, knowing that the Strait area is among those hit hardest by Brexit and will in a very near future form an external border of the Union.

Brexit and the non-participation of UK in future territorial cooperation programmes does not mean that challenges on the maritime border will disappear. The Strait area will remain one of the busiest seaways in the world and will therefore continue to require a close joint cooperation between its neighbouring countries on many issues as blue economy, energy, maritime traffic, environment, adaptation to climate change,

And what is your opinion? Are you happy with the 2 Seas Programme? How do you see the future?

Please [tell us your view!](#) The survey will close on 04/10/2020.

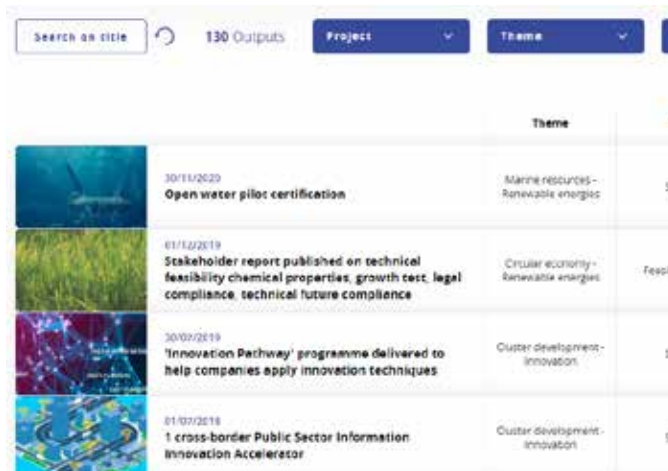
Do not forget: if you wish to keep cooperating in the future, we encourage you to raise your voice now and share your view with political representatives in your region, in your country and in Brussels. The legislation regarding the future will be finalised in the coming few weeks!





## Output library updated

The output library was launched in June this year. It highlights the outputs delivered by 82 projects. To discover what the Programme is financing, scroll down the output library and use the filters to tailor the selection, per theme or target group. 130 outputs are now available.

A wide variety of outputs can be found via the output library, have a look at these examples:

- This [map of the investments](#) delivered by WRC of sustainable urban drainage systems.
- This [mobile website](#) providing a virtual incubator with steps to self-employment for refugees to create a new business, developed by the SIREE partners
- This European [shared database](#) for a better management of ray stocks, created by SUMARIS.



		Theme	
	30/11/2020 <b>Open water pilot certification</b>	Marine resources - Renewable energies	54
	03/11/2019 <b>Stakeholder report published on technical feasibility chemical properties, growth test, legal compliance, technical future compliance</b>	Circular economy - Renewable energies	Feedb
	30/07/2019 <b>'Innovation Pathway' programme delivered to help companies apply innovation techniques</b>	Cluster development - Innovation	54
	01/07/2018 <b>1 cross-border Public Sector Information Innovation Accelerator</b>	Cluster development - Innovation	54



## Project databases in Flanders

Today's world wide web offers plenty of information on European cooperation projects. However, as an internet user, it is not always easy to find what you are actually looking for. To those Dutch speaking that are interested in cooperation projects in Flanders, we have a couple of great databases that are worth a visit.

- [Project database of Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship \(VLAIO\)](#)
- [Project database of the Province of Antwerp](#)

- [Project database of the Province of East-Flanders](#)
- [Project database of the Province of West-Flanders](#)

## Interreg 30 years

Interreg 2 Seas, Interreg North-West Europe and Interreg Europe, representing all strands of Interreg programmes (cross-border, transnational, interregional), gladly introduce the video produced for Interreg's 30th anniversary. For this special occasion, the three Programmes invite people, organisations and regions to share their Interreg stories.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

The video was released on 21st September, when we celebrated the European Cooperation Day #ECDay2020. The date commemorates the achievements of cooperation throughout the European Union.

## Project videos

Most growing media that are currently used in the **horticulture** industry are not sustainable. Peat and stone wool are not renewable and the production of stone wool is energy-demanding as well. Although peat has many advantages for use in growing media, its extraction from pristine peatlands threatens these sensitive ecosystems and carbon sinks, meanwhile resulting in increased emissions of greenhouse gasses. Take a look at the [HORTI-BLUEC video](#) and discover innovative solutions for a more sustainable, circular and soilless horticulture process.



Combining work and **childcare** is not easy for families. Sometimes, work or the lack of work, can hinder access to good childcare. Also, childcare requirements can limit the possibilities to work. This situation is particularly difficult for disadvantaged families who generally have less access to childcare and to jobs. PACE, a social innovation project, experimented with different approaches to facilitate the combination of childcare and employment, or starting with employment. Watch the [PACE video](#) demonstrating the project's results.

Connecting the Culm is a three-year project which aims to make the River Culm and its floodplain more resilient to flood and drought, improve water quality, support biodiversity and habitat, and involve local people and organisations in the process. It is part of the wider EU Interreg 2 Seas funded CO-ADAPT project. In a short [video](#), Connecting the Culm's project manager Steven Johnson explains how this **water management** project will make the Culm river better for wildlife and people.

We have [more exciting project videos](#) on our website!

Would you like to see your project video on our website? [Let us know](#) and we will be very happy to add it.



## Project events

Covid-19 makes it very challenging to bring people together. A lot of project events have been cancelled or postponed due to the sanitary measures that are applicable in the 2 Seas member states. Nevertheless, many projects have found digital solutions to bring together stakeholders in virtual meeting places. The PACE project, for example, gathered over 150 participants for their online final event. Have a look at [the registration of this webinar](#) and get inspired.

- 27 OCT | [ENCORE @ Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference](#)
- 07 DEC | [IMOD @ MEDFIT](#)
- 26-27 JAN | [SEAS 2 GROW – Final event](#)

Would you like to see your project event on our website? [Let us know](#) and we will be very happy to add it.

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## New 2 Seas colleagues



We are pleased to welcome Caroline Daessle, who is the new French Territorial Facilitator. Caroline used to work for the Haut-Rhin Departement and has now joined the Hauts-de-France Region.

After the departure of Pieter Louwers for new adventures, working for Interact in Vienna, we are delighted to welcome Fayçal Ramdane as a Finance Officer. Fayçal has previous experience with several Interreg programmes and used to work as a Programming & Audit Officer in Urbact.

You can find Caroline's and Fayçal's contact details on [the website](#).