# Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>FUND</strong></th>
<th><strong>France (Channel) England Programme</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Acronym:</strong></td>
<td>INTERREG FCE</td>
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## Fund synopsis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Type</strong></th>
<th>European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) INTERREG IVA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale</strong></td>
<td>Channel regions of France and England</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fund amount</strong></td>
<td>Total 2014 - 2020 fund €210 million (£150 million)</td>
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## Fund purpose

### Overview

The European cross-border programme INTERREG IVA France (Channel) - England (FCE) covers a wide geographical area reaching from Cornwall to Norfolk in England, and from Finistère to Pas-de-Calais in France. These territories share a common maritime border – The Channel. The programme aims to encourage an area of common citizenship, a shared identity for the area of cooperation, and a sense of belonging to a cross-border area.

The programme currently funds nearly 150 cooperation projects between France and England, that involve some 550 different organisations from both countries. These projects deal with a wide range of cooperation topics that are supported by the programme: economic development, environment, culture, tourism, social inclusion, but also maritime cooperation.

The France (Channel) England Programme shares a common priority with the 2 Seas Programme. This common priority is primarily devolved to projects having a recognised maritime dimension of common interest, the pooling of good practices and strategic projects within the entire cooperation France (Channel) England (FCE) area. €12.6 million from the ERDF was allocated to this common priority between 2007 - 2013 and spent on financing seven projects.

This funding programme is seeking an integrated, coherent and consistent approach to project funding whereby all maritime and coastal development will take place within a clear policy context, and only projects supporting the broad Europe 2020 agenda will receive funding.

### Aims and objectives

The following four Priorities flow from the [2014-2020 Programme’s](#) overall ambition, with financial allocations per priority:

- Priority 1 - Support innovation in order to address the economic and societal issues facing the FCE area. €63 million (£47 million)
- Priority 2 - Support the transition to a low-carbon economy in the FCE area. €42 million (£31 million)
- Priority 3 - Enhance the attractiveness of the territories of the FCA area. €63 million
- Priority 4 - Ensure a balanced and inclusive development across the FCE area. €42 million
### Priorities

Each programme funded by ERDF must select its priorities for the period 2014 – 2020 from a headline list of 11 thematic objectives as pre-selected by the European Commission. This ensures all programmes contribute to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020 Strategy). The FCE Programme 2014 - 2020 has selected the following Thematic Objectives & Investment Priorities:

**Thematic objective 1B:**
- Strengthening research, technological development and innovation through business investment in innovation and research
- Developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular, product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, eco-innovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation
- Supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general-purpose technologies

**Thematic objective 4F:**
- Promoting research in, innovation in, and adoption of, low-carbon technologies

**Thematic objective 6C:**
- Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage

**Thematic objective 6D:**
- Protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration, and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures

**Thematic objective 9B:**
- Support for physical, economic and social regeneration for deprived urban and rural communities and areas

### Proposed supportable activities

The programme(s) for the period 2014 – 2020 are instructed to focus on complementing and supporting mainstream funding programmes as well as other EU European territorial cooperation programmes and their thematic programmes. Particular attention will be given to the ‘smart specialization’ approach (knowledge and innovation driven).

The role of SMEs has been particularly highlighted in the recent consultation on the future scope of this funding programme, as well as a heightened visibility for the maritime industries and dimensions in the new funding programme. It is likely that the programme is going to be more flexible in the future allowing for strategic-level, micro-level and cluster projects.

### How it works

This funding programme has changed priority since 2007 – 2013. Please contact the managing authority, below, for more information about how and where your aquaculture interests might get involved in this funding programme. The 2007 - 2013 Programme had a well defined process and facilitation network More information should soon be forthcoming on the new 2014 - 2020 Programmes funding.

### Grant (the full UK grant will be confirmed in 2015)

**Size of grant**

Each ‘call’ will specify how much budget there is available for any of the priorities, above. Please check with the managing authority on the status of these funding streams.

**Restrictions**

All restrictions are still in draft form and the managing authority will be able to provide more information about these in due course.

**Match funding**

Based on the previous funding model, you are likely to need to find between 25% and 50% of the costs of running your project. As a business, you may be eligible for smaller fast-track schemes, /micro-project procedure (previously available only to private organisations such as charities and/or SMEs) with a funding rate up to 75%, but please contact the managing authority for clarification.
# Guide to eligibility

## Overview

The France (Channel) England Cooperation Programme is still in draft form (awaiting adoption). It can be found on the Programme websites [homepage](https://www.francechannelenglandprogramme.org). The FCE area is characterised by specific development challenges, where cross-border cooperation in innovation projects can have a real development impact, including exploiting the potential of its marine, maritime and coastal economy.

## Exceptions and restrictions

All exceptions and restrictions will be made available once the 2014 - 2020 Programme has been finalised. Stay in touch with the France (Channel) England website for developments.

## Industry involvement

Depending on the level of grant you are looking for, there may be a number of ways in which you can get involved. The role of SMEs has been particularly highlighted in the recent consultation on the future scope of this funding programme, as well as a heightened visibility for the maritime industries and dimensions in the new funding programme. It is likely that the programme is going to be more flexible in the future allowing for strategic-level, micro-level and cluster projects.

## Stakeholder involvement

It is likely that you will need to contribute via a consortium or partnership in order to benefit from this funding stream (see above). Rule changes might alter this, but please consider, from the outset, whether you are looking to operate within a cross-border partnership or whether you need to be more flexible and independent. You may be eligible for fast-track micro-project status.

## Contact details for applicants

### Managing authority

Norfolk County Council

### Contact details

INTERREG VA France (Channel) England Programme  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2SG  
Email: InterregV@norfolk.gov.uk  
Tel.: +44(0)1603 222896

## Useful websites and where to go for other information

### European Commission

INTERREG IVA Programme website – the web address is likely change for Interreg V.  

### Interreg V consultation results

The launch of the [consultation results](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/consultation) gave an insight into how this programme is going to run.