

INTERREG ATLANTIC AREA PROGRAMME

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

June 2019

The Interreg Atlantic Area Programme

The Interreg Atlantic Area Programme is a financing instrument of European Territorial Cooperation which aims to provide a framework for the implementation of joint actions, good practices and policy exchange between actors of five Member States: Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

With the support of the European Union the programme has a total budget of EUR 185 million, out of which EUR 140 million come from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

5 COUNTRIES

FRANCE
IRELAND
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
UNITED KINGDOM

4 PRIORITIES

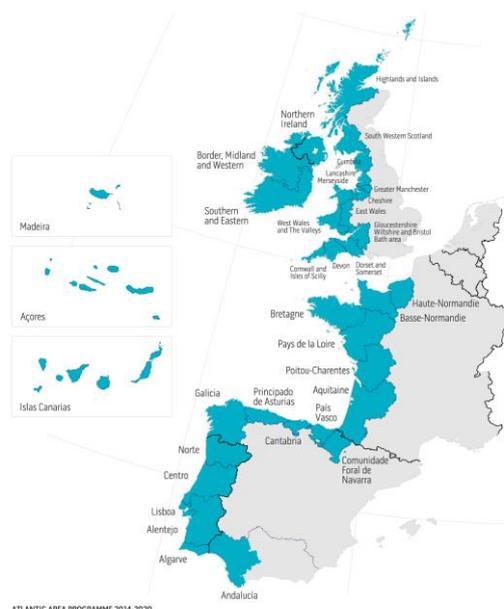
INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
RISKS OF NATURAL, CLIMATE & HUMAN ORIGIN
BIODIVERSITY, NATURAL & CULTURAL ASSETS

185M€
BUDGET

The scope of the funded projects will reflect the objective of sustainable social and economic growth in the Atlantic Area, articulated in four main priority areas:

1. Stimulating innovation and competitiveness (EUR 62.8 million)
2. Fostering resource efficiency (EUR 39.6 million)
3. Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin (EUR 20.3 million)
4. Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and cultural assets (EUR 52.6 million)

The Programme covers the western part of Europe bordering the Atlantic Ocean, comprising 36 regions from 5 countries. For the 2014-2020 period the Programme also includes the Canary Islands (Spain) and the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira (Portugal).





Main activities implemented in 2018

As it is currently in full implementation phase, this year marks an important stage in the life of the programme. The image shows some of the milestones that are worth highlighting:

The second call for projects was held from March to June 2018, during which the Secretariat received 115 applications. In October 2018, in Cardiff, the Monitoring Committee approved 27 projects, representing a total ERDF investment of EUR 46.7 million. The entire available ERDF budget of the programme (EUR 140 million) is now fully committed.



The programme is already funding 45 projects approved in 2017, under the 4 thematic priorities, representing an ERDF total funding of EUR 87.8 million allocated to 466 institutions from the Atlantic regions and beyond.

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OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECTS APPROVED		 			
		 INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS	 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY	 TERRITORIAL RISKS	 BIODIVERSITY, NATURAL & CULTURAL ASSETS
 72 projects		27	15	9	21
 179,4 million EUR (total budget)		<u>62.9M</u>	<u>42.3M</u>	<u>20.4M</u>	<u>53.8M</u>
		ERDF 140 M EUR - 100% of the funds allocated			
 726 <u>project partners</u>		France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom & Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Morocco, Canada, Finland and Switzerland			

A list of the approved projects is available on the website: www.atlanticarea.eu. Information about these projects' activities and results can be found on this website or on the projects' websites.

The [programme website](#) also provides all the information and necessary documentation related to the main activities, initiatives, and events organized by the programme, addressed not only to current beneficiaries



and project applicants, but also to programme bodies, key actors in European territorial and maritime cooperation and European citizens.

Interreg Atlantic Area further organised a Training Session for Lead Partners of approved projects in the First Call, which was attended by 45 partners, held in February, in Porto; one Informative Session about the Second Call, which took place in May, in Porto and counted with an attendance of 120 participants, as well as a webstream session.

Additionally, the Secretariat supported the Member States in the organization of several workshops in Portugal, Ireland, France, Spain and the United Kingdom, to provide support to the beneficiaries and the First Level Controllers in their respective countries.



Interreg Atlantic Area participated in key events during the year. The [Atlantic Area Annual Event](#) was held in October, in Vigo, under the theme “Blue innovation as a main engine for sustainable growth in the Atlantic Area”. It gathered around 190 participants, representatives of the economic, educational and research sectors, as well as local, regional, national and European bodies.

The main focus of this event was the contribution of the Atlantic Area programme to innovation in the maritime economy, whether through its linkage with the Atlantic Strategy or by sharing the views, experiences and good practices of experts in the field. Five Atlantic Area projects with a high innovative component, ATLANTICKETMED, NASPA, BLUEPORTS, MYCOAST and OCEANWISE, had the opportunity to participate in a round table and share their experience and good practices related to the improvement of the maritime economy through transnational cooperation. Several other Atlantic Area projects participated in an exhibition to showcase their innovative concepts and practices.

Interreg Atlantic Area also participated in the annual 4-day event [European Week of Cities and regions](#) in October in Brussels, on the #MadeWithInterreg stand “A journey into transnational cooperation”. This exhibition, held jointly with other Interreg Transnational Programmes, aimed to showcase how transnational cooperation strengthens EU cohesion by communicating tangible benefits and illustrating how it is making a difference in regions and cities. CLEANATLANTIC project was invited to join this exhibition to raise awareness about marine litter in the Atlantic Area and to address the need to improve marine litter managing systems.



The Programme also participated in the [5th Atlantic Stakeholder Conference](#), in October in Vigo, where it had a joint stand with Interreg North West Europe Programme. The programme took the lead in organising a Plenary Session dedicated to the contribution of the programme to the Atlantic Action Plan; and a



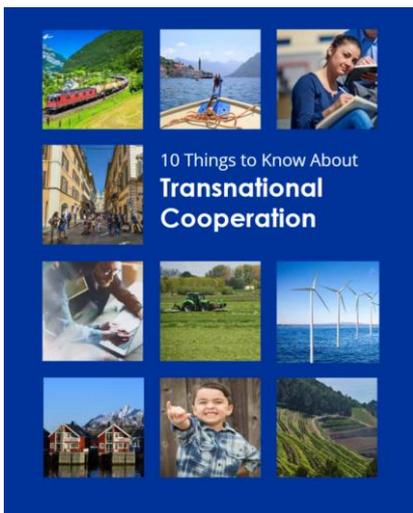
workshop to present good investment practices in the blue economy related to skills, employment and innovation, which counted with the participation of two other Atlantic projects, SAFER and MOSES.

The Atlantic Area [EBB project](#) (European Blue Biotechnology) won the best project prize in the category 'Atlantic Marine and Coastal Environment', as part of the 3rd edition of the Atlantic Project Awards, which were held during the Conference. This event had an audience of around 200 people.



These initiatives, which bring together different cooperation programmes, are an added value and a benefit in building relationships between individuals, as well as a stronger image of European Territorial Cooperation. Representatives of the Programme Member States also participated in and contributed to several events and meetings at national, regional or local level on issues of ETC, which included a presentation of the work and progress of Interreg Atlantic Area.

The Programme manages a [Facebook page](#) and a [Twitter account](#) to reach relevant potential beneficiaries, current beneficiaries, stakeholders and the general public. The social media accounts are used to promote the programme and project events, and communicate specific topics or messages, as well as to provide links to the programme website or other media sources.



Interreg Atlantic Area also participated in two publications: "[10 things to know about transnational cooperation](#)", and the E-Book "[Connecting Cultures, Connected Citizens](#)", aimed at presenting the added value and achievements of transnational

cooperation in European countries and regions, identifying examples of projects related to specific issues and its positive impact in the area. Both publications were coordinated by Interact.

In 2018 the PMC Presidency was held by the United Kingdom, through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Programme organised two Monitoring Committee meetings: one in June in Belfast, mainly to discuss the programme state-of-play and further implementation.



The Secretariat and the Managing Authority also participated in meetings of various transnational cooperation programmes to discuss the upcoming regulatory framework (2021-2027), aiming to contribute to improve the performance of future Interreg programmes.