

KCC INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS GROUP GUIDE TO INTERREG IV - CONNECTING EUROPEAN REGIONS

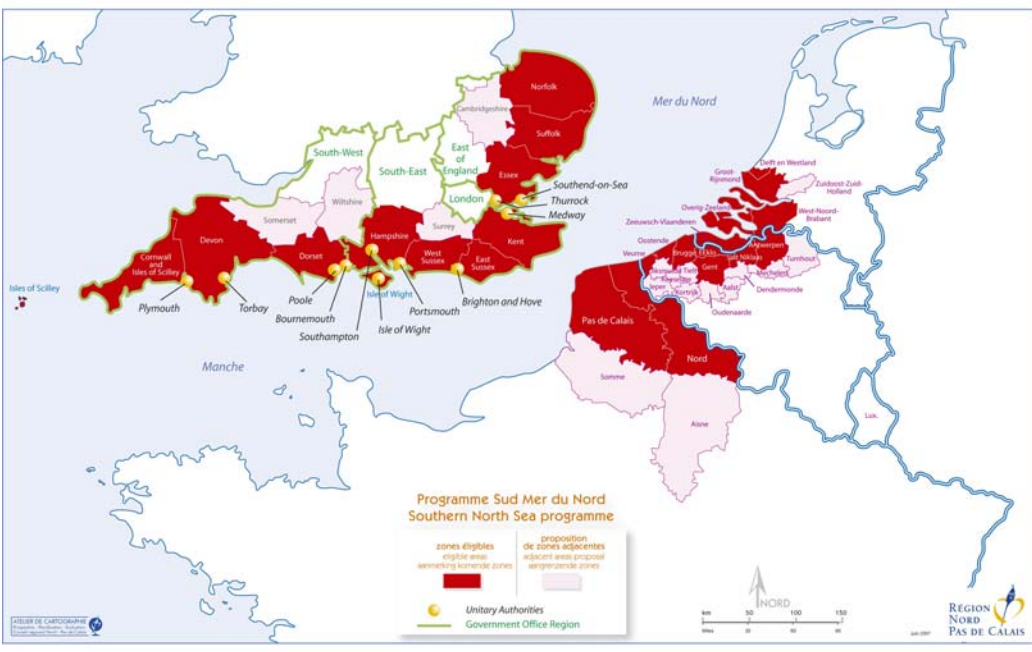
The EU's cohesion policy aims to help regions and cities from different EU Member States work together and learn from each other through joint programmes, projects and networks. Cohesion policy is delivered through three main objectives which includes the European Territorial Co-operation objective. This is made up of three types of Interreg IV programmes, all of which are financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and aim to encourage joint working across Europe:

- **Cross-border Programmes – Interreg IVA**
These programmes aim to encourage cooperation between adjacent European regions in order to develop cross-border social and economic centres through common development strategies. There are 52 Interreg IVA Programmes across each internal EU border area (both maritime and land borders) including 2 programmes for which Kent is eligible.
- **Transnational Programmes – Interreg IVB**
These programmes involve national, regional and local authorities and aim to promote better integration within the Union through the formation of large groups of European regions. There are 13 Transnational Interreg IVB programmes, two of which include Kent as an eligible area
- **An Interregional Programme – Interreg IVC**
Interregional cooperation aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks). There is a single Interreg IVC programme covering the whole of the EU.

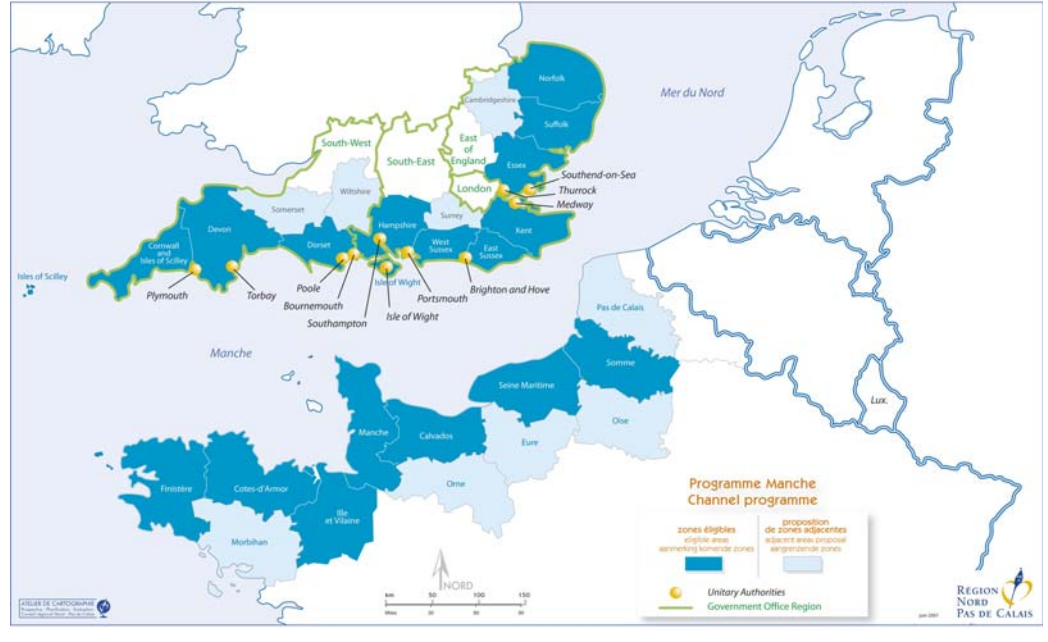
Organisations in Kent are eligible to develop projects with European partners under all three strands of Interreg and the following pages provide details of all of the programmes in which Kent organisations are eligible to participate during the 2007-2013 programming period:

- The Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme
- The Interreg IVA Channel Programme
- The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
- The Interreg IVB North West Europe Programme
- The Interreg IVC Programme



<p><i>Programme</i></p>	<p align="center">THE FRANCE-ENGLAND-FLANDERS-NETHERLANDS '2 SEAS' INTERREG IVA PROGRAMME</p>
<p><i>What it is</i></p>	<p>An EU funding programme which aims to promote joint working and cross-border co-operation between partner organisations on either side of a European land or maritime border.</p>
<p><i>Its objectives</i></p>	<p>The programme aims to support cross-border projects on a variety of themes in the eligible (and adjacent) areas identified on the map.</p> 
<p><i>Actions eligible for funding</i></p>	<p>The 2 Seas programme can fund cross-border projects under the following themes or priorities between organisations in eligible areas of England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Supporting an economically competitive, attractive and accessible area (including the maritime economy, innovation, research, entrepreneurship and tourism) • Priority 2: Promoting and enhancing a safe and healthy environment (including integrated coastal zone management, natural and technological risks, renewable energies, water and waste management) • Priority 3: Improving Quality of Life (including heritage, culture, health, education and social cohesion) • Priority 4: Common Priority with the Interreg IVA Channel Programme (strategic projects of importance for the whole maritime area and including partners from both eligible areas)
<p><i>How it works</i></p>	<p>Each Interreg project has to have at least 2 partners: one from each side of the Channel/North Sea e.g. an organisation in Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais. Project applications can be submitted during calls for proposals. The programme operates using the Lead Partner Principle whereby one partner organisation takes on the overall co-ordination and management of the project on behalf of the partnership. Each partner, however, is responsible for its own project budget.</p>

<i>Budget and co-funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €167 million for the seven year period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 1 - €59m - Priority 2 - €41m - Priority 3 - €45m - Priority 4 - €12m • Projects are co-financed at 50%
<i>Who is eligible</i>	<p>The programme is open to applications from public, private (under certain conditions) and not-for-profit sector organisations. Organisations need to be based within the eligible or adjacent areas but partners in the adjacent areas need to work with at least one partner in the eligible area.</p>
<i>Calls for proposals</i>	<p>3 per year until at least 2010 (March, June, December)</p>
<i>Find out more</i>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>www.interreg4a-2mers.eu</p> </div>

<p><i>Programme</i></p>	<p align="center">THE FRANCE (CHANNEL) - ENGLAND INTERREG IVA PROGRAMME</p>
<p><i>What it is</i></p>	<p>An EU funding programme which aims to promote joint working and cross-border co-operation between partner organisations on either side of a European land or maritime border.</p>
<p><i>Its objectives</i></p>	<p>The programme aims to support cross-border projects on a variety of themes in the eligible (and adjacent) areas identified on the map.</p> 
<p><i>Actions eligible for funding</i></p>	<p>The Channel programme can fund cross-border projects under the following themes or priorities between organisations in eligible areas of England and France:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Reinforce the sense of belonging to a common space of citizenship and raise awareness of common interests (including mutual learning of language, culture and reinforcing mutual understanding) • Priority 2: Build partnerships for cross-border economic development and centres of excellence (including business and research, new enterprises and maritime activities) • Priority 3: Build an attractive region to live in and visit (including social inclusion, culture, heritage and tourism) • Priority 4: Ensure a sustainable environmental development of the common space (including renewable energies, environmental and risk management) • Priority 5: Common Priority with the Interreg IVA 2 Seas Programme (strategic projects of importance for the whole maritime area and including partners from both eligible areas)

<i>How it works</i>	Each Interreg project has to have at least 2 partners: one from each side of the Channel. Partnerships need to first submit a pre-application form and if the project passes the basic eligibility criteria, they will be invited to submit a full application within one month approximately. The programme operates using the Lead Partner Principle whereby one partner organisation takes on the overall co-ordination and management of the project on behalf of the partnership. Each partner, however, is responsible for its own project budget.
<i>Budget and co-funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €173 million for the seven year period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 1 - €17m - Priority 2 - €54m - Priority 3 - €40m - Priority 4 - €52m - Priority 5 - €10m • Projects are generally co-financed at 50% but micro-projects can be funded at a rate of 75% (these are limited to SME's, Charities and other small organisations)
<i>Who is eligible</i>	The programme is open to applications from public, private (under certain conditions) and not-for-profit sector organisations. Organisations need to be based within the eligible or adjacent areas but partners in the adjacent areas need to work with at least one partner in the eligible area.
<i>Calls for proposals</i>	3 to 4 application deadlines per year until 2012.
<i>Find out more</i>	www.interreg3.com


**INTERREG IVB NORTH SEA REGION
2007-2013**

Programme THE NORTH SEA REGION INTERREG IVB PROGRAMME

What it is An EU Transnational cooperation programme involving national, regional and local authorities which aims to promote better integration within the EU through the formation of large groups of European regions to deal with strategic issues.

Its objectives The overall aim of the Programme is to make the North Sea Region a better place to live, work and invest in. The programme encourages cooperation between regions covering parts of Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, UK and Norway (see map below for the eligible area). Kent is eligible for the first time for this programme under the 2007-13 programming period. The programme aims to stimulate transnational cooperation in ways that will provide tangible benefits to the areas concerned and the Region as a whole.



<p><i>Actions eligible for funding</i></p>	<p>The programme will deliver its objectives through funding projects under four Priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Building on our capacity for innovation • Priority 2: Promoting the sustainable management of our environment • Priority 3: Improving the accessibility of places in the North Sea Region • Priority 4: Promoting sustainable and competitive communities
<p><i>How it works</i></p>	<p>Each North Sea Region project has to have partner organisations from at least 3 countries and at least one of these needs to be from a formal EU member state. Project applications can be submitted during calls for proposals. The programme operates using the Lead Partner Principle whereby one partner organisation takes on the overall co-ordination and management of the project on behalf of the partnership. Each partner, however, is responsible for its own project budget.</p>
<p><i>Budget and co-funding</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €148 million for the seven year period with the following amounts available under each priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 1 - €28.6m - Priority 2 - €39m - Priority 3 - €39m - Priority 4 - €23.4m • Projects are co-financed at 50%.
<p><i>Who is eligible</i></p>	<p>The programme is open to applications from Local, regional and national authorities, NGOs, research institutions, universities and private partners (subject to certain conditions). Organisations need to be based within the eligible area.</p>
<p><i>Calls for proposals</i></p>	<p>The fifth call for proposals has been postponed.</p>
<p><i>Find out more</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme</p>  <p>www.northsearegion.eu</p> </div>


**INTERREG IVB NORTH WEST EUROPE
2007-2013**


Programme THE INTERREG IVB NORTH WEST EUROPE PROGRAMME


What it is An EU Transnational cooperation programme involving national, regional and local authorities which aims to promote better integration within the EU through the formation of large groups of European regions to deal with strategic issues.

Its objectives The aim of the programme is to fund projects which contribute to a cohesive and sustainable territorial development of North-West Europe. The programme area includes parts of the UK, Ireland, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland.



<p><i>Actions eligible for funding</i></p>	<p>The programme will deliver its objectives through funding projects under four Priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Developing the NWE knowledge-based economy by capitalising on our capacity for innovation in all sectors • Priority 2: Managing our natural resources efficiently • Priority 3: Improving connectivity in NWE by promoting intelligent and sustainable transport solutions • Priority 4: Promoting sustainable and dynamic communities
<p><i>How it works</i></p>	<p>Each project must involve partners from at least two EU member states, one of which should be within the NWE cooperation area. Project applications can be submitted during calls for proposals. The programme operates using the Lead Partner Principle whereby one partner organisation takes on the overall co-ordination and management of the project on behalf of the partnership. Each partner, however, is responsible for its own project budget.</p>
<p><i>Budget and co-funding</i></p>	<p>€355 million is available from 2007-13 with the following amounts available under each priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority 1 - €89m - Priority 2 - €87m - Priority 3 - €89m - Priority 4 - €68.5m <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are co-financed at 50%.
<p><i>Who is eligible</i></p>	<p>The Programme is open to organisations from the public, private and not-for-profit sector based within the eligible area.</p>
<p><i>Calls for proposals</i></p>	<p>Two calls for proposals are planned for 2009 (closing on 17 April and 7 October) with further calls planned during 2010, 2011 and 2012 depending on the amount of funding remaining.</p>
<p><i>Find out more</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>INTERREG IVB</p> <p>www.nweurope.eu</p> </div>

<i>Programme</i>	INTERREG IVC PROGRAMME
<i>What it is</i>	The Interregional strand of Interreg aims to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks).
<i>Its objectives</i>	<p>To encourage the exchange of experience & best practice to improve regional policy design. Rather than the direct implementation of activities (encouraged under Interreg IVA and IVB programmes), the focus of Interreg IVC projects should always be related to the exchange of experience.</p> <p>The programme covers the whole of the EU (27 Member States) as well as Norway and Switzerland and as such, it aims encourage much wider geographical partnerships that go beyond the cross-border or transnational cooperation programme areas.</p> 

<p><i>Actions eligible for funding</i></p>	<p>The programme will deliver its objectives through funding projects under two Priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Innovation & the knowledge economy This includes innovation, research and technology development; entrepreneurship and SMEs; the information society and employment, human capital and education. • Priority 2: Environment & risk prevention This includes natural and technological risks including climate change; water management; waste prevention and management; biodiversity and preservation of natural heritage including air quality; energy and sustainable transport and cultural heritage and landscape. <p>Two types of interventions are possible: Regional Initiative Projects and Capitalisation Projects. The first interregional cooperation projects focusing on the exchange of experiences and the identification, analysis, dissemination and possible transfer of good practices. Capitalisation Projects are interregional cooperation projects focusing specifically on the transfer of regional development good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.</p>
<p><i>How it works</i></p>	<p>Projects can be Each partnership must consist of organisations from a minimum of three countries but the size of the partnership will vary from project to project. Project applications can be submitted during calls for proposals. The programme operates using the Lead Partner Principle whereby one partner organisation takes on the overall co-ordination and management of the project on behalf of the partnership. Each partner, however, is responsible for its own project budget.</p>
<p><i>Budget and co-funding</i></p>	<p>€302 million is available for the 2007-13 programming period.</p> <p>Projects are financed at a rate of 75% for UK partners but partner organisations from some Member states can receive up to 85% funding.</p>
<p><i>Who is eligible</i></p>	<p>The programme is only open to applications from public sector bodies or public equivalent bodies only although private bodies can participate in a project at their own cost.</p>
<p><i>Calls for proposals</i></p>	<p>Calls for proposals took place in 2008 and 2009 and, subject to funding still being available project approvals following the second call, there should be further calls for projects in the future.</p>
<p><i>Find out more</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>www.interreg4c.net</p> </div>