



EMDI Project

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Objectives of the project

The **Espace Manche Development Initiative (EMDI)**, 2004-2007, was set up to enable joint issues to be more efficiently addressed by working together along the Channel.

The Channel is the busiest maritime thoroughfare in the world. It is an area of integration between the UK and continental Europe, with multiple interactions and overlapping usage. However, it is also a divided area. There are imbalances in the level of cooperation between either side of the Channel, in areas such as tourism and integrated coastal zone management, and differences in eligibility for funding.

The objectives are to contribute to increased European integration by fostering cooperation between French and English authorities on either side of the Channel.



Funding Stream

EMDI is co-financed by the INTERREG III B North West Europe Programme which provides support to transnational cooperation projects that seek to improve territorial development and cohesion in the North West Europe area.

The project commenced during October 2004 and has an overall budget of €1.8 million. The Isle of Wight Council budget is almost €190,000. The project will be completed in 2007.

Outcomes

The required outcomes of the project are to highlight the strategic priorities of the Channel area, to produce a strategic vision document for the Channel area, including theme based policy directions, and to produce a printed Atlas for distribution to a wide audience.

EMDI also aims to deliver thematic pilot projects in the following areas:

- tourism, led by West Sussex;
- integrated coastal zone management, led by Nord pas de Calais;
- research and development and higher education, led by the Isle of Wight;
- fisheries, led by Basse Normandie;
- maritime safety, led by AMRIE.

Partners

The project has 17 partners:

- five French Regions (Nord pas de Calais, Upper Normandy, Picardie, Lower Normandy, Brittany);
- two French Departments (Finistere, Armor);
- three UK County Councils (Kent, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight);
- five universities (Rouen, Caen, Rennes, Southampton, Plymouth);
- the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA); and
- the Alliance of Maritime Regional Interests in Europe (AMRIE).



