

## **TRANSCOAST EU-INTERREG PROJECT (WWW.TRANSCOASTPROJECT.COM)**

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Sea ports and the related economy of maritime sectors have made an important contribution to shaping the socio-economic structure of the 2 Seas areas and allowed its port cities and coastal regions to flourish. In recent decades however, coastal regions in the 2 Seas area have experienced a decline in the economic importance of their industrial and commercial ports. As a consequence towns and regions turned away from the sea to focus on other opportunities. And many harbour areas slowly degraded into neglected, disadvantaged areas.

TRANSCOAST is a cooperation initiative of 12 local and regional authorities from France, the UK, Flanders and the Netherlands, that aim to counter this development in their territories together with a total investment programme of 12 million Euros. All are planning or starting a transformation of their degraded port areas to give their towns and regions a socio-economic impulse. An important development to renew economic vitality in these areas is the creation or improvement of marinas and facilities for maritime leisure and tourism (yachting, water sports).

The port transformation programmes are generally without local precedent and their scale and complexity exceed the competences and knowledge of any single local or regional authority. The partners recognise they need to join forces with other actors travelling down the same road, to improve their responses to this challenge.

In this context the main aim of TRANSCOAST is to strengthen the economic vitality of coastal regions in the 2 Seas area by providing cross-border support to the planning, design and implementation of measures to transform derelict and sub-standard port areas into new functions, most notably as marina's, and of measures to mobilise local communities to engage in the maritime economy in the wake of these transformations.

Website: [www.transcoastproject.com](http://www.transcoastproject.com)