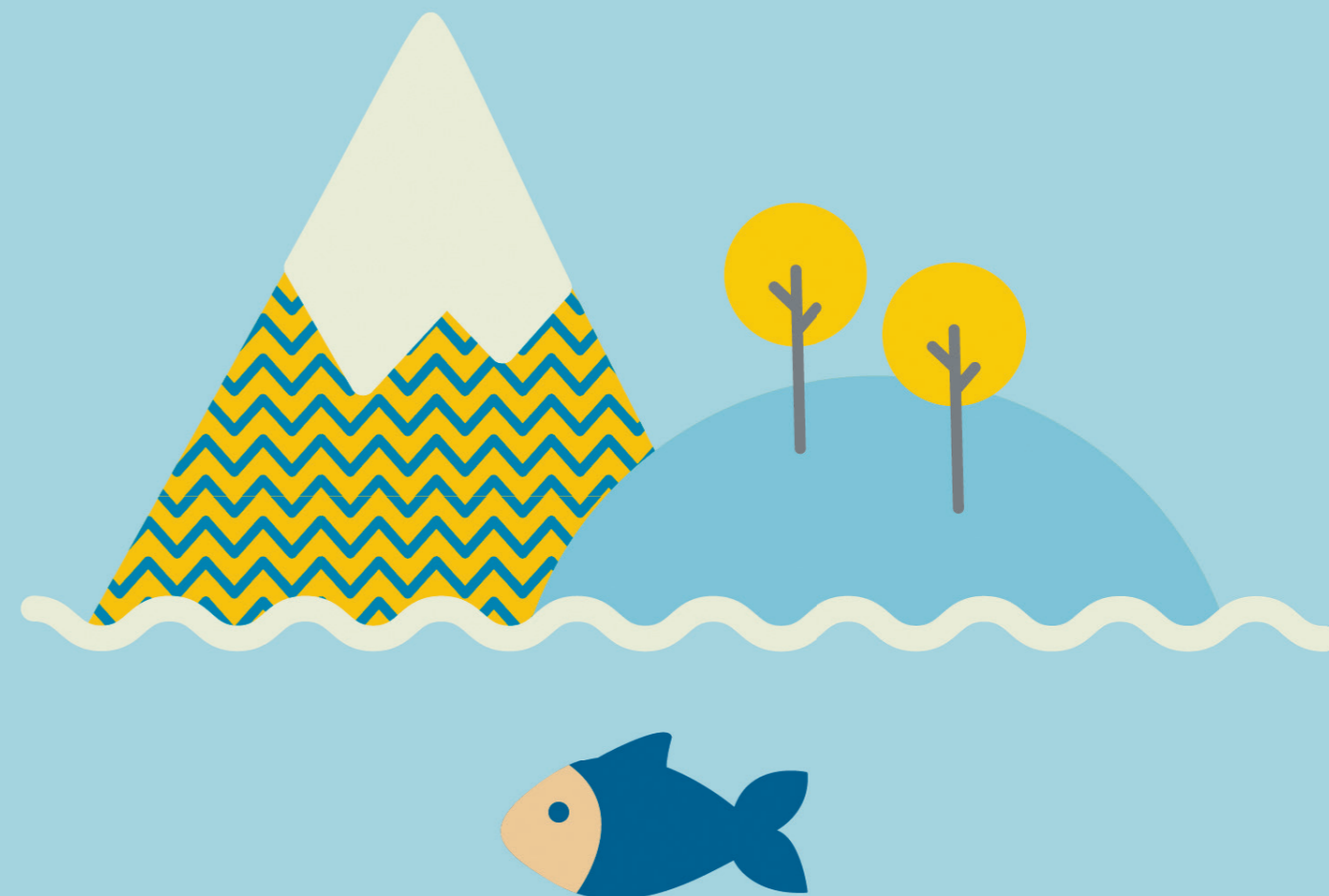
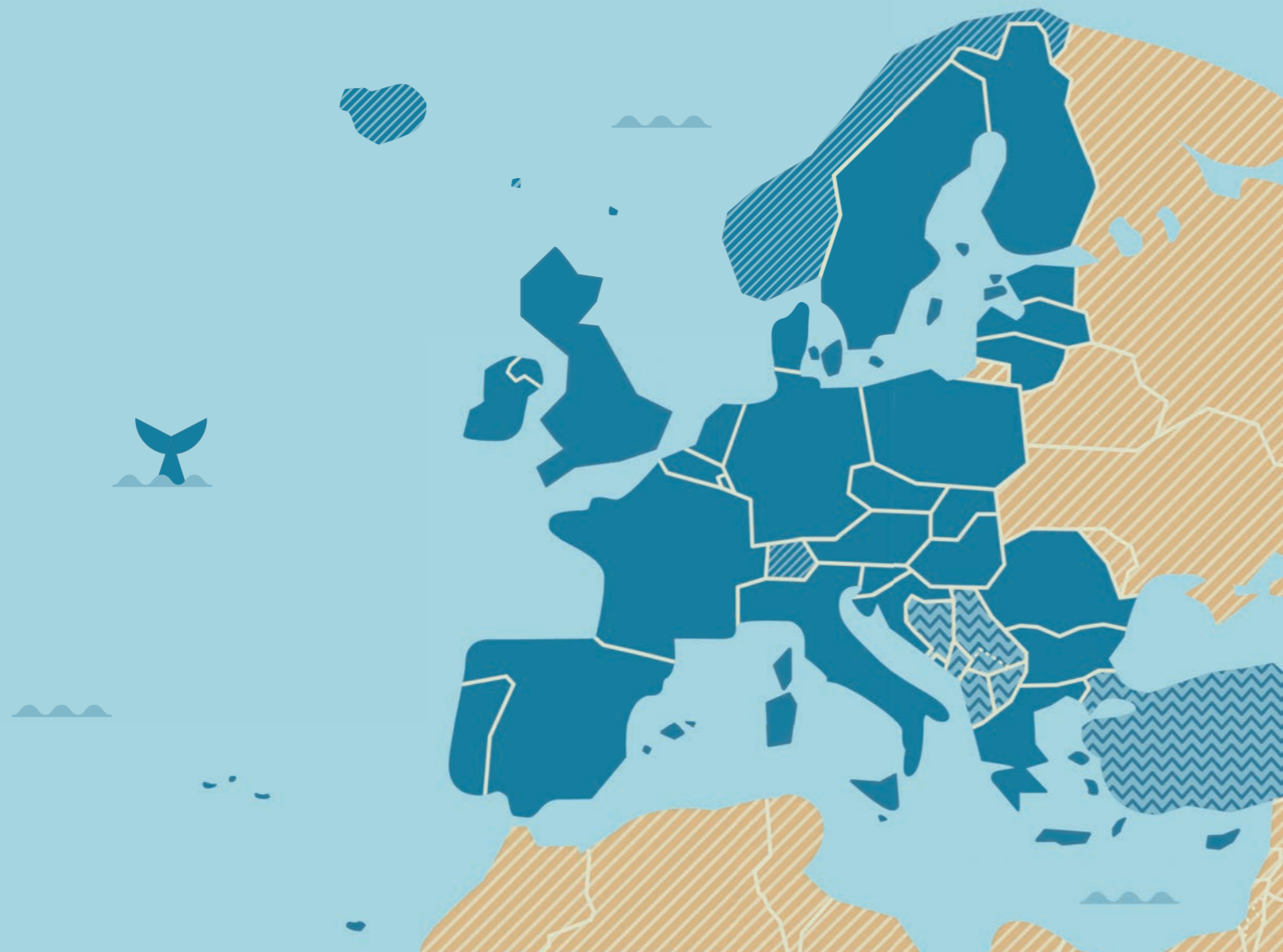


# Stories of European cooperation

France, Spain, Portugal and UK - Cooperation across borders!



Want to read more interesting stories about how Interreg is benefiting people all over Europe? Check out the Interreg Highlights blog, launched on European Cooperation Day 2018! Click on [www.interreg.eu](http://www.interreg.eu)



# Introduction

The heart of the European project is cooperation. And in a way, we could say that the story of the European Union is made of stories of European cooperation. This is precisely why Interreg is one of the EU flagship programmes. This is also why we must stand up for more cohesion in Europe, and for a bolstered Interreg budget.

The year 2020 will be decisive for Europe's future. In one year, we will have negotiated the multiannual financial framework (MFF), lasting until 2027 as well as all the most important fund regulations.

Despite the important efforts made through our policy, which mobilised more than 350 billion euros, one-third of the Union's budget, territorial fractures exposed by the economic crisis have not disappeared.

This is why I would like to take the opportunity of this publication to call all of you, readers, citizens, local governments, associations, enterprises and stakeholders, to lobby your government to fight for an appropriate budget for cohesion. With Brexit, action will also be needed to safeguard cooperation between the European and British regions, particularly in Northern Ireland, in an appropriate framework.

Without a common project, without the ambition to reduce disparities in wealth and development, therefore without cohesion, there is no common destiny possible. Cohesion is also a course for Europe and the best vaccine against the risk of dislocation. The solidarity assumed by cohesion is the beating heart of the European political project.

Publications of this kind have an important role to play in our efforts to tell the story of Europe through the eyes of young people. Therefore, I am glad to see yet another edition prepared in cooperation between Association of European Border Regions and Interact programme being released today. Enjoy reading the view of the youth, the view of future of Europe.



Younous Omarjee  
Chair of REGI

Publisher:  
Interact Office Valencia,  
C/ Amadeo de Saboya, 4 - 2º planta  
46010 Valencia, Spain  
[www.interact-eu.net](http://www.interact-eu.net)  
2019

Contact:  
[laura.belenguer@interact-eu.net](mailto:laura.belenguer@interact-eu.net)

Editorial Team:  
Laura Belenguer, David González,  
Kevin Fulcher

Graphic Design:  
Gestión Gráfica  
[www.gestiongrafica.net](http://www.gestiongrafica.net)

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# Canarias, Madeira and Cape Verde collaborate together to preserve the marine resources of the Macaronesia!

The chef Juan Domínguez. Picture by Tato Gonçalves.

## The Macarofood project helps improve food quality and competitiveness of the SMEs and promotes experimental fishing

By Marion Charret

I started my IVY experience in Gran Canaria in February 2019 for a six-month period, joining the International cooperation department of the University of Las Palmas (ULPGC). The ULPGC participates in 19 projects financed by the cooperation programme known as the Interreg Madeira-Azores-Canarias (MAC) 2014-2020.

As an Interreg volunteer, I've realized how many projects and topics the University is dealing with. I have the opportunity to get involved in many aspects of the projects. I have access to detailed information and I can understand better what are

the direct impacts of these projects. I had also the chance to get closer to topics related to innovation or specific technologies.

This year the university is celebrating his 30th birthday. Just like me! Last call for the opportunity of IVY volunteer - so grateful to take part in it.

### When science meets gastronomy

In my opinion, to combine science and gastronomy is a very nice idea. In this project, we can see how each field contributes to each other: science helps gastronomy and vice versa.

As a chef, having a good knowledge of species of fish and their habitat is the best way to really know what are you offering to your customers. At the same time, you will become aware of, and contribute to maintaining the sustainability of marine resources.

Also, the public is impacted by increased knowledge of food. It's important to know what we eat and how it impacts nature.

### What is the Macarofood project?

Macarofood is a multidisciplinary project: scientific and socio-economic. One of its objectives is to maintain the sustainability of marine resources.

Canarias, Madeira and Cape Verde collaborate to preserve and value their marine products through tourism, gastronomy, and professional training. The project, co-financed by the European Union, started in January 2017.

Some examples of this project are biological and environmental studies on tunas and emerging species, as well as proposals for rational fisheries management. It also creates an occasion to share good practices and stimulate synergy between actors in the marine field.

The idea is also to improve food quality and competitiveness of SMEs.

The island of Gran Canaria promotes its natural values, geography, and climate. It's important for the island to defend her nature and value her local products. This road advances towards the goal of an eco-island that increases its food and energy independence.

### Actions!

As a result of the project Macarofood, a book of recipes was created. There you can find forgotten recipes from the island utilising local products. The idea is to highlight the treasure of the Canarian gastronomy. The book was presented at the University of Las Palmas. A local photographer gathered the pictures of the book.

The Macarofood project collaborated in the 'Tuna Fair of Mogán' by presenting its results and findings, while also offering a blind tasting of tuna for 40 guests. Mogán is in the south of Gran Canaria and benefits from a nice flowered harbour. The scientific



High School 'Faro de Maspalomas'. Picture by Tato Gonçalves.



The book of recipes from the island. Picture by Tato Gonçalves.





A chef near the salinas and lighthouse. Picture by Yuri Millares.

director of the project, Dr José Antonio González, presented the Macarofood project while praising the excellence of local products: “In the Canary Islands, we find some of the best fish in the world”.

An experimental fishing campaign through the ‘Promotional day of crabs and deep-water shrimps of the Canary Islands’ was organised. The catch was designated for the promotion of biological-fishing studies and to promote the culinary use of Canarian seafood. The campaign also contributes in establishing scientific-technological bases for the sustainability and responsible use of emerging marine resources, to its gastronomic promotion, and to generate new opportunities for a deal.

During the project 29 conferences, 4 cooking workshops and 7 promotion events were held. More than 3.000 people participated in the events of this project in the 3 different countries.

More information:  
<https://macarofood.org/macarafood>



Kick-off meeting of the Macarofood project. Picture by Tato Gonçalves.



Presentation by the representatives of the Canary Islands government. Picture by Tato Gonçalves..



**Marion Charret**

- Age: 30
- Nationality: French
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering activity: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)
- Write 3 words that define ‘European cooperation’ for you: Diversity, culture, knowledge

# The ‘Pyrenean common market’: A taste in Pyrenees



‘Gâteau à la broche’ of Arreau, an essential tradition for weddings, baptisms, family meals...

## The project INSPYR: Made in Pyrenees develops new *cuisine* commercial circuits in the Spanish-French Pyrenean region

By *Hélène Champloy*

As a volunteer in Jaca (Spain), at the Interreg POCTEFA programme, I had the chance to know more about the Spanish-France-Andorra cross-border area and the projects these countries develop together. One of them is INSPYR: Made in the

Pyrenees, focused on local gastronomic products. Gastronomy, in my opinion, is the essence of a region’s cultural identity. Coming from an agricultural region in the north-east of France, my identity is partly defined by cheeses such as the



Comté, the ‘morbier’ or the ‘cancoillotte’, by the wines of the Jura (a mountainous area), by the Morteau sausage, by the ‘griottines’ of Fougerolles, sour cherries bathed in Kirsh alcohol, and by the Comtoises galettes.

What usually happens is that apart from the locals outsiders don’t know anything about the rich gastronomy in a geographical area. And this also happened to me when I moved to Jaca. Little by little, I discovered products from the Pyrenees area, both on the French and Spanish sides. This region is so diverse and varied! Showing this diversity is one of the goals of the ‘Made in Pyrenees’ project, which organises the ‘fair-congress of products and gastronomy of the Pyrenees’. Its second edition gathered over a single weekend, more than eight thousand people, who visited the more than 30 local food producers’ stands and participated in conferences and cooking workshops.



A ‘mocktail’ (cocktail without alcohol) made from fir syrup (home-made recipe).

### A region of agrifood and gastronomic sectors

The proximity of the market-gardening plains of Huesca (Spain), with its rich cultural lands, allows local producers to have access to raw materials of excellent quality. In addition, the meadows and pastures of the Pyrenees, a delight for the eyes too, has grass of rare purity, free of pollution. The inherited traditions have gradually enriched each



‘Poule noire’ (black hen) of Astarac-Bigorre, a high breed with the opposite rhythm of industrialisation with high yield.

product, making it possible to obtain delicious dishes, prepared with local products.

On the French side of the border, the purity of the air that surrounds the territory of the central Pyrenees, its tranquility and rhythm of life which can be perceived in every corner of its bucolic landscapes have given the area of the ‘Hautes-Pyrénées’ a very distinctive cuisine. The regional agrifood and gastronomic sectors has managed to preserve the essence of its traditions. It is an excellent example of how a product can be preserved and reclaim the exquisite heritage in popular knowledge.

### New commercial circuits for tourists and locals

The development of new short commercial circuits provides opportunities both for farming and traditional food production, as well as the environment and tourism. Adding value to these products makes possible the viability and the sustaining of activities that are essential to the maintenance of the mountain areas. Furthermore, it generates excellent touristic offers through its local products and the environment in which they are produced. Short commercial circuits may also give value and meaning to food and nutrition which will benefit locals, tourists, and the urban population. Finally, they also endorse new social ties by promoting a new approach to inter-sector activities, stimulating ‘rural-urban’ networks.

In this regard, INSPYR: Made in Pyrenees aims to consolidate in the territory, short local commercial circuits and their development towards urban markets. It also addresses the development of the global concept of ‘Pyrenean gastronomy’, covering both sides of the border, which can serve as an ambassador of Pyrenean products, the environment, and values. This two-level project is based on an exchange of good relations between

the French Hautes-Pyrenees territory (especially its experience in short circuits) and the Spanish ‘Alto-Aragon’ region (in particular, its gastronomy), and it attempts to be the first step towards a ‘Pyrenean common market’ model.

More information: <https://hechoenlospirineos.eu/>



Traditional bread.



Hydromel, cheeses, beers, sausages, honeys, oils, pâtés, and biscuits.

## The project at a glance

- The project INSPYR: Made in Pyrenees is financed by the Interreg POCTEFA programme.
- Its budget, 900.445 euros, comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- The project aims to promote gastronomy and hillside producers in love with the Pyrenees and to make it an asset for the development of rural areas and boost tourism.
- Developed on two ‘levels’, it is based on an exchange of best practices between the ‘Hautes-Pyrénées’ French region (particularly on short routes) and ‘Alto-Aragon’ (particularly on gastronomy) in Spain, and aims to develop an exemplary model for progress towards a ‘unique Pyrenees area’.



### Hélène Champloy

- Age: 27 years old
- Nationality: French
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering activity: Jaca (Aragón, Spain)
- Write 3 words that define ‘European cooperation’ for you:  
Smart development, sharing and sustainability.





The 'Oza' Forest, in the Spanish region of Huesca (Aragón).

# Jointly tackling climate change in the Pyrenees

## The Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory 2 project aims to reduce the vulnerability and impact of climate change in cross-border regions

By *Clémentine Zill*

From the Scandes to the Baetic Mountains, from the Highlands through the Alps to the Olympus Mountain Range, Europe is covered by mountains for almost 22% of its territory.

Coming from a mountain area myself, I have always enjoyed the natural landscape of the Pyrenees: the

long walks in summer, the fun days spent skiing in winter. Being very attached to this region, I was surprised to learn that mountain areas are particularly sensitive and vulnerable to climate change - and therefore particularly happy to volunteer for a project which strives to mitigate its effects in the Pyrenees.



A view from ski station Candanchu, threatened by the decrease in snowfall in the Pyrenees.

### Climate change at home

The Pyrenees extend for about 491 km from the Bay of Biscay (Cap Higuer) to the Mediterranean Sea (Cap de Creus). The Pyrenean region possesses varied ethnology, folklore, and history, divided in its different areas.

Being a shared cross-border territory, cooperation between Andorran, French and Spanish regions is crucial to implement policies to tackle climate change. One of the initiatives of the European cooperation programme POCTEFA, which covers these three countries, is the project Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory 2 (in short, OPCC2). The OPCC2 monitors and evaluates the impacts of climate change in the Pyrenees, covering the regions of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie, Basque Country, Navarre, Aragon, Catalonia and the Principality of Andorra.

A report published within the scope of the OPCC2 in 2018 lists the results of its studies and the work of its scientific partners. Some of the most compelling conclusions drawn are the sharp increase in average temperatures in the Pyrenees, which rose 30% more in the mountain range than the world average in

the last 50 years - and the rise is still ongoing, with projections estimating an increase in average temperatures of between 1 and 2,7°C in the Pyrenees by 2030.

The higher temperature has negative consequences on the landscape and on the management of the cross-border area. Warmer temperatures cause, for example, more frequent and more intense extreme weather events such as floods. Ultimately, this will mean that the population of these regions will be confronted more often with greater natural risks. Likewise, the socio-economic sector will be affected, tourism in the first place: the reduced snow coverage, the modification of iconic landscapes and the vulnerability of infrastructure to natural risks will all alter the attractiveness of the Pyrenees as a destination for tourists. Nature is affected as well by climate change in the Pyrenees. The report informs us about a loss of biodiversity, the modification of ecosystems, greater vulnerability to pests and possible water scarcity.

### Helping the local communities to tackle its effects

In light of these findings, the project strives to identify the most efficient adaptation measures and





The Pyrenean range seen from a hiking trail near Jaca (Spain).  
The author of these pictures is H el ene Champloy.



The small village of San Juan de los Seros in Arag on (Spain).

# Sudoe Stop CO2: travelling in a sustainable way

## The South-West Europe works on improving energy efficiency in public transport and buildings



policies to be implemented to mitigate the negative effects of climate change in the region. Gathering knowledge on climate change adaptation is a key measure to help citizens face this challenge and socioeconomic sectors tackle its effects.

With the OPCC2, I contribute to raising awareness on these issues. The Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory is the platform of reference on climate for the cross-border region. The OPCC Observatory aims to spread the word about their findings, give visibility to the crucial data they gather and raise awareness in the territory and beyond on the necessity to act rapidly to tackle climate change.

I have learned a lot about the specific sensibility of alpine ecosystems and the challenges global warming will bring to the communities of the Pyrenees. Being myself from this region, I have realized the lack of awareness of the population

of these challenges they will face in the near future. Therefore, it is a particularly rewarding experience to be able as a volunteer to communicate on these issues to the general public, with the hope of motivating adaptation and triggering a positive change.

More information: <https://opcc-ctp.org/en/opcc/>

### Challenges tackled by the project

- Temperatures' have risen by 30% in the Pyrenees
- Projections of increased temperatures between 1 and 2,7° C by 2030
- 50% of the Pyrenean glaciers disappeared in the last 35 years
- 2% less rainfall in 2010 compared to 1960
- 50% of the hydrometric stations affected by a decrease in average

By Sara Pettinelli

If you look back at your travels over the last few months, you may notice that you used the bus and train stations or at least to you took them into account. Stations are often located in the cities' centers and are daily used by thousands of people and are the keys to our mobility. But what about their facilities? How is their energy managed? Is it used in an efficient way?

Stations facilities are the heart of public transport and should be examples of the energy transition towards a low-carbon economy. The project Sudoe Stop CO2 wants to improve the energy efficiency of train and bus station facilities, reducing their energy consumption and then, their environmental impact. This initiative is developed by 8 partners from Spain, Portugal, and France covering the South-West area of

Europe. It aims at innovating and improving energy efficiency in public buildings and houses while raising awareness on these topics.

The project is developed thanks to the Building Information Modeling (BIM) methodology that allows a better management of the facilities. The BIM model is an architectural tool that gives the opportunity of sharing the design files of the building with the planners and simulate the final result. In this way, electricians, engineers and so on, can share all the information of their work. The 3D model will be a reference point for building managers who will be able, for instance, to control remotely the lights in the building, know when they must be replaced, their price, and who installed them. They just need a computer to manage an entire station!



Cl ementine Zill

- Age: 24
- Nationality: French
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering activity: Jaca (Arag on, Spain)
- Write 3 words that define 'European cooperation' for you:  
Community, communication and innovation.





Victoria-Gasteiz bus station.



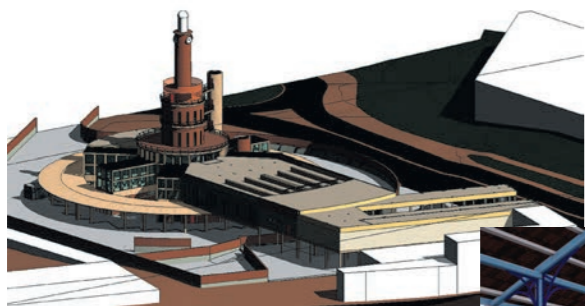
Presentation of itinerant exhibition in Bordeaux.

### Communication and awareness among people: key aspects of the project

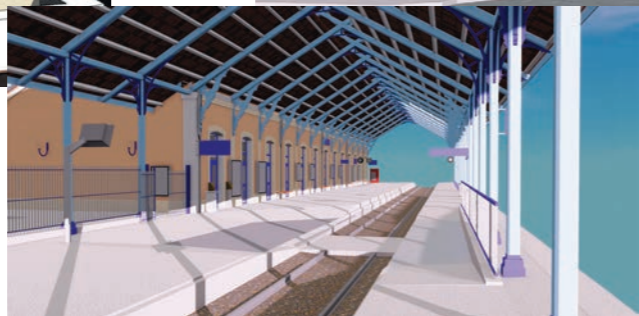
The second part of the project's focus is on the communication and the raising of awareness, contribute in giving a more modern and sustainable image of the transport facilities to the public. This is spread through an awareness campaign and the development of a **network of sustainable stations** in the South West European area that classifies the stations according to new efficiency energy standards, rating them from 1 to 5 stars.

Nowadays the network is formed of more than 60 stations and includes top stations such as the bus station of Vitoria-Gasteiz and Barcelona Nord, Lisboa Entrecampos and Montpellier. Moreover, the partners of Sudoe Stop Co2 also organised workshops for workers in the sector to spread the project and its technology, such as the one in Libourne, France, in cooperation with SNCF, the French National Railway Company.

More information: <http://www.sudoe-stopco2.eu>



BIM 3D models



Orestes Cendrero, responsible for the communication of the project, highlights the importance that the project and public transportation have on the urban environment. It aims at changing people's behavior for a transition to a sustainable way of living.

The project resulted also in a 'Best practice guide' which includes guidelines for sustainable management of energy in transport facilities, a useful tool for future projects that want to use these innovative techniques in other stations.

Finally, asking Orestes how it was working at the transnational level, he answers: 'We had loads of fun! This project enriched me and expanded my horizons at a personal and professional level'. Yes, European cooperation is also this!



Good practices guide.

### Testimonials: Humans of SUDOE

Humans of SUDOE began as a testimonies project in April 2018. Its main objective is to collect experiences from users and people related to projects financed through the Interreg SUDOE Programme. Check them out!



**Sara Pettinelli**

- Age: 26
- Nationality: Italian
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering: Cantabria (Spain)
- Write 3 words that define 'European cooperation' for you: Future, innovation, participation.





# Spain and Portugal respond jointly to natural disaster and risk situations

## The ARIEM 112 project helps overcome administrative procedures and language barriers when an emergency occurs

By Nuno Tiago dos Santos Lopes

Overcoming borders has proven considerably vital. I was born in a small town in the northern coast of Portugal (Esposende), from where it would take me about an hour to cross the border to Spain. Therefore, I have experienced the proximity and cooperation between Spain and Portugal in its purest way: living it and feeling it myself.

One amazing example of this proximity and cooperation is the internationally awarded project ARIEM 112. Although emergencies know no boundaries, emergency management services do. When an emergency occurs in a cross-border region, the coordinated response of all parties may be hampered by different administrative procedures, legislation, and languages. And these are the obstacles the projects tackles.

A fire in a high-speed train, a couple trapped in a car at the bottom of a ravine or the rescue of a boat with a dozen people on board are situations that can test the ability of teams for local emergencies. It can even test teams that have also been challenged by forest fires, which in recent years are increasingly devastating, not to mention climate change, which contribute to these situations being out of control. Thanks to ARIEM 112, the regions of Galicia and Castilla y León (Spain) and North of Portugal can respond jointly to these risk situations.

As a volunteer for the Interreg Spain-Portugal (POCTEP) programme I have seen that cross-border cooperation is a key element to the development of many European territories, enhancing the



Equipment flies over the cooperation area between Portugal and Spain.

cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the European Union. And this project believes in it and works hard to improve people's lives.

### Drones, modern emergency equipment and real cooperation

The ARIEM 112 project introduces a centralised framework of collaboration between the emergency teams of the Spanish regions of Galicia and Castilla y León and the northern regions of Portugal. It's in this context that their forces have been confronted exactly with situations such as those already mentioned (in the form of joint drills).

The project establishes not only joint practices of emergency agents but also joint procedures for training, mobilisation and exchange of human, technical and material resources, in addition to the implementation of a common communication system and the dissemination and information to the citizenship.

This is a unique emergency service 112 that also favours the efficient management of resources, avoiding its duplication. For instance, two acquired drones have proved its investment in natural disaster control, fire prevention and on the search for missing people.

In addition to the drones, a number of other instruments and emergency equipment have also been purchased, including auto pump trucks, a videoconferencing system, 380 Tetra terminals, a mass fax broadcast alert system, a geolocation application, a tractor semi-trailer, 3 tanks, 1.465 hose clamps for fire hoses, 13.300 smoke detectors, 5 emergency fire release systems, 4 thermal chambers, 2 boats, 2 vans and trailers and 110 autonomous breathing systems.

However, the project is much more than just buying equipment; it also discusses how they are used. Since the moment it was launched, ARIEM 112 has successfully coordinated a joint response in several cross-border emergencies, such as an industrial fire, a fisherman's disappearance and





Guided equipment exploring the cooperation area in the framework of ARIEM 112.

a forest fire. In fact, it is an ongoing project that continues to develop since its implementation. Cross-border cooperation is real and effective.

### The best European project on International Cooperation

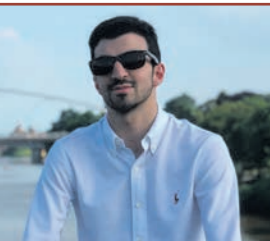
This model of cross-border cooperation in emergency management has been recognised as the [best European project on International Cooperation in Emergencies](#) by the European Single Emergency Number Association (EENA).

Yet, this is not the only example of successful cooperation at the Spanish-Portuguese border. This cross-border region has many other strengths such as exports, industrial and innovation areas, and of

course its gastronomy and incredible wines. The Spanish regions of Galicia and Castilla y León and the northern regions of Portugal also share common challenges such as natural disasters, unemployment, aging of the population and depopulation. More than 350 projects (and counting!) have been approved since 2007 by the POCTEP programme to tackle these specific issues. That is a lot of work, but it is definitely worth it.

I feel like I am contributing in a very positive way to Spain-Portugal's living collaboration. Much is being done across the frontier and I am sure that much more (and better) will be done in the future.

More information: <http://www.ariem112.eu>



#### Nuno Tiago dos Santos Lopes

- Age: 27
- Nationality: Portuguese
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering activity: Badajoz (Extremadura, Spain)
- Write 3 words that define 'European cooperation' for you: Cohesion, negotiation and accountability.

# Portugal, Spain, France and the UK: joining forces against marine plastic garbage

“If we don't change the way we produce and use plastics, there will be more plastics than fish in our oceans by 2050”, Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission.

*By Luc François*

In the end of 2018, I began volunteering with a mission in Lugo (Spain) as an IVY volunteer. After a couple of weeks working on the project AYCH OCEAN, funded by the Interreg Atlantic Area programme, it really seemed to me that Interreg programmes are one of the most significant tools for enhancing European cooperation and mutual understanding. This is especially true about a subject that concerns everyone: sustainable development, and precisely, in this case, the challenge of marine litter.

Marine waste is anything present of non-natural origin that is in the ocean. It consists of all sorts

of materials, such as metal, glass, plastic, etc. Plastic is one of the most common and problematic products as it is resistant to degradation and persists in the marine environment.

What Vice-President Frans Timmermans expressed is, unfortunately, the sad and bitter truth about plastics and his statement won't change unless we recycle and re-use more. The big problem is that not all plastics are recyclable and not all recyclable plastics are recycled. Each year, Europeans generate 25 million tons of plastic waste, but less than 30% is collected for recycling.



Marine litter is a good example of how beneficial European cooperation can be. I could see that it is a challenge that also requires to be tackled on a larger scale with the support of the European Union. Of course, one can be active on a local scale and start cleaning the coastline and beaches of their area. But because of all the natural links that exist between territories, it will be a never-ending task. Through cooperation, however, the European Union can be a strong voice in the world and change other states' ideas on this subject.

### The AYCH OCEAN project

This project is part of the Atlantic Youth Creative Hubs (AYCH), an initiative for integrating best practices and knowledge, supporting young talents and their education, entrepreneurship and employability through the development of creative

and technological skills. It brings together four countries: Portugal, Spain, France and the United Kingdom (UK).

Each country participating in this project is organising a series of activities based on the protection of the oceans through the analysis and involvement of the youngest population. Collaboration with local partners gives visibility while influencing on-site activities.

The AYCH OCEAN project is the result of the commitment of the Atlantic Youth Creative Hubs partners to bring young Europeans education in values, focusing on environmental education as a basic principle of life, and the protection of the Atlantic Ocean against the growing invasion of plastic garbage.



One recurrent example of marine litter: net fishing.



Young volunteers cleaning the beach during a work-camp.



Sensibilisation on the biodiversity of the island.

## Achievements of the project

- **Involvement of young people** from four European countries (Portugal, Spain, France, UK) in initiatives to conserve the good environmental status of its beaches.
- **Creation and distribution of educational and informative material**, achieving an active and interceptive communication of these values with the work of European youth.
- **Citizens' awareness.** The work of young people has an impact on the rest of society.

This is done through activities to benefit conservation of seas and oceans with a special emphasis on the problem of plastic, fulfilling the commitment that the entire partnership has acquired in relation to the circular economy and on the basis of starting this common project.

## TESTIMONIAL

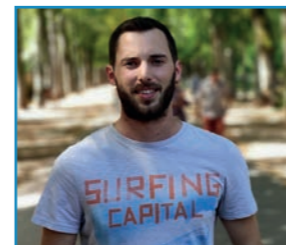
'I'm Lena from Germany, and I am participating in the International Camp of Illas Atlánticas (Spain), one of the AYCH OCEAN activities to create awareness among young people. We have an important impact on the environment of this island. We clean the beaches of trash, fight invasive plants, and we try to bring awareness to children who arrive here.

How would you feel if a lot of people would arrive at your home and leave trash everywhere? Sounds horrible, right? I think that is why it is so important to

educate everyone who doesn't know yet about the plastic problem that we have on the planet. This work camp combines intercultural exchange with a natural impact.

In the end, this Interreg project seems to be a good way to connect the European policies and stakeholders' interest in order to promote a common approach to sustainable development and to explain the global phenomena in a language understood by the citizens'.

More information: [www.aych.eu/aych-ocean](http://www.aych.eu/aych-ocean)



### Luc François

- Age: 28 years old
- Nationality: French
- Region where you are doing the IVY volunteering activity: Lugo (Galicia, Spain)
- Write 3 words that define 'European cooperation' for you: Innovation, strength and solidarity.