



## PROJECT RISKMANCHE



# Shellfisheries and food safety: what risk perception and communication in Brittany and Great Britain?

PRESS RELEASE

**Purpose of the release :** To improve the risk analysis of shellfisheries and food safety : a cross-border region France-Britain scientific program.

RiskManche is a European scientific research project. The main strategic objective is to further integrate cross-border research and practice in the field of water-related disease control in the France (Channel)-England Region.

In the RiskManche project, with support of the inter-regional European program INTER-REG IV A, the EHESP, High School of Public Health in Rennes (France), is member of a research consortium for the risk analysis about shellfisheries and food safety.

The partnership between both sides of the channel is a major strength of the project RiskManche: on the French coast, with INFREMER based in Brest, the geosciences institute of CNRS in Caen and Rennes, and on the British side the University of Brighton, the UK Environment Agency, and a scientific research institute of shellfisheries and aquaculture science in Weymouth (CEFAS).

The cross-border consortium aims to improve knowledge on the risk induced by the presence of hazards in rivers, marine waters and shellfish in the Region through the identification and enumeration of viruses, bacteria in shellfishes (Salmonella, Listeria, Campylobacter, Vibrio, enteric viruses). One of the main objectives of the project is to study the influence of agricultural, urban and industrial activities on the microbial and chemical contamination of shellfish and to find indicators to identify the source of pollution. As it is still very difficult to assess a level of sanitary risk due to consumption of shellfish, a large part of control measures lies in local dialogue for risk management with all stakeholders. That is the reason why the department of Environmental and Occupational Health in EHESP, in collaboration with the University of Brighton, will lead a structured cross-border risk perception analysis with numerous stakeholders (from producers to consumers) and a communication process (seminars and conferences). In the social, cultural and political context of both those regions, health risk for the local population is known and established, but cannot be quantified. The research of the EHESP team consists in analyzing all risk perception variants by stakeholders in different contexts, uses and risk management local practices and options. Public seminars for the dissemination of those analyses will be organized with the aim of promoting a collective and cooperative approach and process of local risk management on both sides of the channel.

**Partener(s) concerned:**

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## **Presentation of the European project**

### **Budget :**

Près de 4 450 K euros dont près de 2 250 k euros d'aide du FEDER

**EHESP : 50 K€**

Amount of ERDF funding :

**EHESP : 30 K€**

### **Period :**

**01/09/2012 – 31/03/ 2015**

### **Lead Partner :**

**Université de Brighton**

### **Other partners :**

IFREMER, Brest and Nantes,  
Université de Caen Basse Normandie  
CNRS Université Rennes 1

Université de Brighton, lead partner  
Environment Agency  
CEFAS, scientific research of Weymouth  
Environment Agency Solent & South Downs

### **CONTEXT**

AquaManche (2009-2012) was selected as part of the INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England cross-border European cooperation programme, part-financed by the ERDF. In this project, four partners have developed novel Microbial Source Tracking (MST) tools, and are currently investigating the application of these to four river catchments in the Region. This applied research is supported by a package of activities designed to encourage better communication between environmental scientists and stakeholders in the Region. In collaboration with new partners, the AquaManche team now propose a new project entitled 'RiskManche', to run from 2012 to 2015. Its objectives are ambitious, but will be met by the formulation of well-designed workpackages in various sectors of research, each lead by a recognised expert institution, with support from partner institutions on both side of the Channel.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The project has the ambitious target of testing the most effective tools developed during the previous project on a larger scale in order to develop practical environmental risk assessment and management tools for the control of water-related disease in the Region. The former AquaManche partners will integrate their expertise in MST within a broader coalition of universities, research institutes, environmental protection organizations and commercial water companies in the Region.

RiskManche will provide an important vehicle for a cross-border and importantly, cross-disciplinary approach to protecting the regional aquatic environment.

### **ACTIONS**

The first step consists to prepare the research program. The second step of RISKMANCHE project contains a series of actions for « project management » (action 2.1), for « water and shellfish-contaminants analysis methods development » (action 2.2, September 2012 - April 2013), for risk public health assessment (action 2.3, from January 2013 to March 2015) and risk prediction (action 2.4, from January 2013 to March 2015) for application of results in the scale of the both regions.

The Action 2.4 consists to identify and integrate potentially useful microbial, physicochemical and hydrological parameters into a catchment management tool to support regional River Basin Management Plans in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive. The activities in this Action will relate directly to Action 2.3 in that prediction methods developed in this Action will potentially serve to prevent critical control points of pathogen transmission in 'downstream' matrices.

**Action 2.5 (risk perception and communication)** will run from January 2013 to March 2015 (inc.). Action Leader – Professor Neil Ravenscroft for University of Brighton. All partners will participate in the development of this Action to some extent, though the University of Brighton in the UK, and the **EHESP of Rennes** in France will be the key partners in its formulation and delivery. In the context of shellfisheries and food safety, EHESP Rennes, in collaboration with the University of Brighton will trial a structured cross-border risk communication protocol. In consultation with

*senior academics of EHESP Rennes and the University of Brighton, two students (one from France and one from England) will explore risk communication processes that take place in their part of the cross-border Region. The two students will work together closely through regular email correspondence and cross-border placements to support the effective transfer of useful working practices.*

Action 2.6 (data analysis) will run from April 2014 to March 2015 (inc.). Action Leader Prof. Huw Taylor. All partners will be actively involved in this Action. Data sets will have been discussed at length between partners throughout Phase 2. In Action 2.6 partners will focus on the development and application of appropriate data analysis tools to support the production of clear outcomes appropriate to both the international research community and a variety of regional stakeholders.

Action 2.7 (project dissemination) will run from September 2013 to March 2015. Action Leader Prof. Huw Taylor. All partners will be actively involved in this Action. Action 2.7 is closely linked to the activities of Action 2.5 and will include regular liaison with environmental and public health stakeholders in the Region. The Action will also support the production of a regularly updated bilingual website, bi-annual project newsletters, and press releases to the print and broadcast media of the Region, as appropriate.

## The RISKMANCHE project: a project that comes within the framework of the European INTERREG IVA France (Channel) – England programme

### Focus on the Interreg IV A France (Channel) – England 2007-2013 European Programme

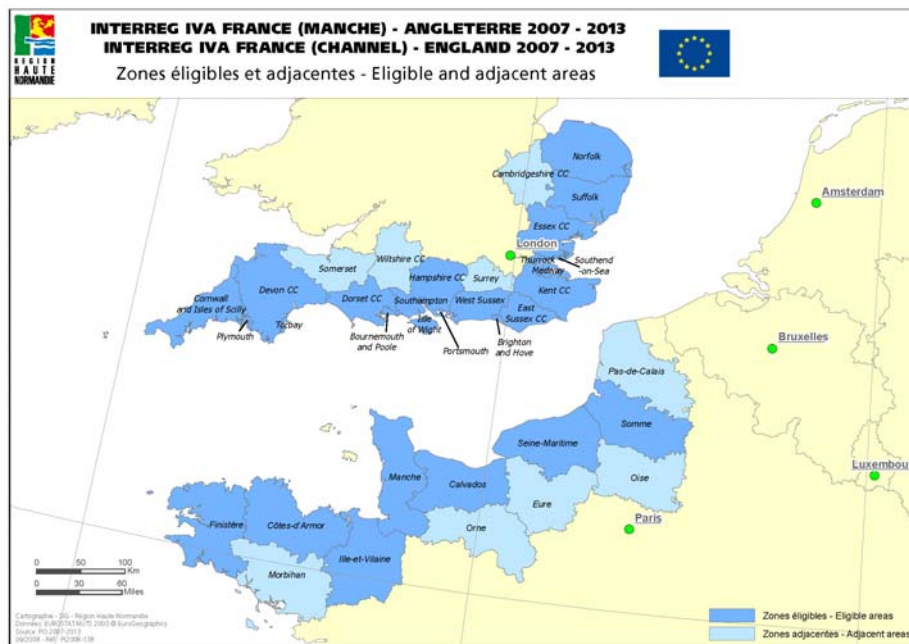
To develop cooperation between European regions, the European Union has created the INTERREG programme. The principle: **support cooperation projects** by giving grants.

The Haute-Normandie Region was the "Managing Authority" for the Interreg III A Franco-British cooperation programme that ended in 2006 and is continuing this role for the next France (Channel) – England 2007-2013 programme, which has a **budget of 173.5 million euros**.

The point is to encourage closer working relations between French and English neighbours by funding projects that seek to **"enhance the establishment of a space of common citizenship and of the sense of belonging to a cross-border area and to a specific identity"**.

Projects must involve at least one partner from either side of the Channel to qualify for a grant.

The programme covers the area below:



The Haute-Normandie Region has been tasked with managing this programme.

The programme is structured around 4 priorities:

- PRIORITY 1: Cross-cutting structuring projects
- PRIORITY 2: Economic development
- PRIORITY 3: Cohesion, culture, tourism
- PRIORITY 4: Sustainable development, the environment

The RISKMANCHE comes under the 4 priority of the programme, which aims at "Sustainable development, the environment".



[www.interreg4a-manche.eu](http://www.interreg4a-manche.eu)

