

Interreg



France (Channel Manche) England



Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services

CPES

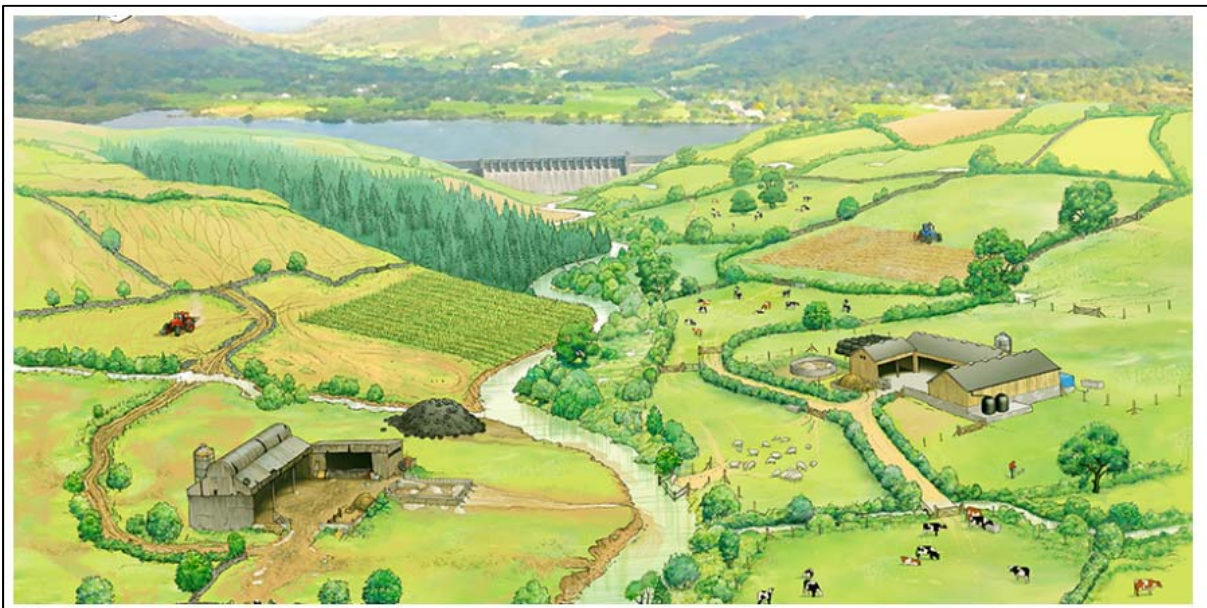
European Regional Development Fund

MULTIMILLION-EURO EU PROJECT TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN SOUTH OF ENGLAND

Only 30 to 40% of waters entering the English Channel are classified as 'Good Ecological Status', largely due to high levels of nitrate and phosphate in the water. The cross-border project, Channel Payment for Ecosystem Services (CPES), aims to reduce nutrients by implementing six pilot schemes across the channel area.

The Interreg France (Channel) England programme is working with several members of the the Arun and Western streams Catchment Partnership on a €4 million European project to improve the water quality in rivers and lakes in the south of England and north of France.

CPES promotes improvements in land management practices by offering financial incentives to farmers and land managers to encourage them to implement environmentally friendly methods, such as ploughing orientation, targeted use of fertilizers and tree planting, all of which reduce the run-off of nutrients into rivers and other water bodies.



Graphic highlighting bad practice (left) versus best practice (right) in a farmed landscape. CPES case studies aim to promote best practice to protect and enhance the water environment.

Incentives are funded through the establishment of a market with downstream users who benefit from cleaner water, water companies, supermarkets and tourism businesses for example.

Six pilot areas, including the Western Rother in the South Downs National Park and the Lac au Duc in Brittany, and will target 90 farms and land managers, as well as 18 water quality companies.

The project will encourage the wider implementation of PES schemes by using six pilot sites to develop a resource toolkit which will be made available to water companies and land managers among others. The toolkit will act as a template for commercially sustainable PES schemes across the UK and France.

The CPES case study areas offer an exciting opportunity to work with partners from both the UK and France to find a sustainable way of improving the quality of the water entering the English Channel. The CPES project started in 2017 and will last for three and a half years.

For more information please visit the CPES website at <https://www.cpes-interreg.eu/en/cpes-project/the-project>