

Example Case Study: COSCO

Many coastal communities that rely on tourism spend a fortune cleaning seaweed and algae from their beaches. Traditionally they have treated this flotsam as refuse and hauled it off to dumps. More recently, though, experts across the continent have been wondering if Europe's seaside regions are throwing away a valuable natural resource.

Could seaweed be recycled? The CosCo project through INTERREG IIIC unites nine partners from five countries who are now together developing ingenious economic ways to do just that: save money and cut waste while conserving the environment.



The project is exploring strategies and technology for cleaning beaches, such as specialised machinery; and developing and marketing new products made from seaweed and algae.

Dozens of promising uses

Seaweed can be used for insulation in buildings or as cat litter. There are also many other promising applications such as in medicine, cosmetics, packaging and agriculture – and even food.

The problem of what to do with flotsam is shared right across Europe's seaside regions, just as the fresh ideas and expertise on its potential uses are distributed far and wide. INTERREG IIIC and CosCo have helped bring together experience and knowledge.

Like all the best INTERREG IIIC projects, it brings great practical ideas to the communities who need them most, in order to improve the value of their public services and their quality of life.

"It makes sense with regard to both the environment and the economy," said Melanie Fadel, EU coordinator for the Klutzer Winkel Authority in Northern Germany, which is the lead partner of the CosCo project. "The aim is to strengthen the regional economy, create new jobs and improve the conditions for tourism."

CosCo has a budget of 1.56 million euros, of which 1.0 million is provided by INTERREG IIIC.

www.interreg3c.net

INTERREG IIIC North
Joint Technical Secretariat
Investitionsbank Schleswig-
Holstein
Grubenstraße 20
18055 Rostock, Germany
Phone +49 381 45484 5279
Fax +49 381 45484 5282
email north@interreg3c.net

INTERREG IIIC East
Joint Technical Secretariat
City of Vienna
Museumstraße, 3/A/III
1070 Vienna, Austria
Phone +43 1 4000 76142
Fax +43 1 4000 9976141
email east@interreg3c.net

INTERREG IIIC South
Joint Technical Secretariat
Generalitat Valenciana
Calle Cronista Carreres, 11 -4A
46003 Valencia, Spain
Phone +34 96 315 33 40
Fax +34 96 315 33 47
email sud@interreg3c.net

INTERREG IIIC West
Joint Technical Secretariat
Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de
Calais
24, Boulevard Carnot – 3e étage
59800 Lille, France
Phone +33 3 28 38 11 11
Fax +33 3 28 38 11 15
email west@interreg3c.net