

Summary of the main EU, International, national and regional funds, programmes and advisory tools for the EU Outermost Regions.

EU advisory and support tools available to outermost regions

- **InvestEU Advisory Hub**

Description: The InvestEU Advisory Hub is the central entry point for project promoters and intermediaries seeking advisory support and technical assistance related to centrally managed EU investment funds. The Advisory Hub supports the identification, preparation, development, structuring, procurement and implementation of investment projects; enhances the capacity of promoters and financial intermediaries to implement financing and investment operations; and supports awareness raising and preparatory activities for investment areas that show a clear market gap.

Weblink: https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme/investeu-advisory-hub_en

- **Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS)**

Description: JASPERS helps cities and regions deliver high-quality projects. Experts provide independent, hands-on support in strategies, programmes and projects to make EU-funded investments that promote growth and pave the way to a greener, more connected and more innovative Europe. JASPERS assistance is free of charge for local authorities and promoters.

Weblink: <https://jaspers.eib.org/>

- **TAIEX REGIO Peer2Peer**

Description: TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer helps organise short-term exchanges with one or more peers from other EU countries to meet specific learning needs. TAIEX-REGIO help staff from eligible bodies get answers to their questions on thematic aspects of the EU Regional and Urban Policy or on cross-cutting issues related to the management and control of the programmes. The REGIO Peer2Peer Communities offer a platform to develop a longer-term dialogue with peers from several EU countries on topics of common interest to allow for in-depth analysis and co-creation.

Weblink: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/how/improving-investment/region-peer-2-peer_en

- **Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P)**

Description: The S3 Platform assists EU countries and regions to develop, implement and review their Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). The role of the S3 Platform is to provide information, methodologies, expertise and advice to national and regional policy makers, as well as promote mutual learning, trans-national co-operation and contribute to academic debates around the concept of Smart Specialisation.

Weblink: <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

- **Green Advisory Services for Sustainable Investments Support (Green Assist)**

Description: Green Assist is a new advisory initiative which aims at building up a pipeline for green investment projects that have a high impact. These projects target sectors of the natural capital and circular economy, but also non-environmental sectors. Project promoters, financial institutions or other project partners may benefit from advisory services by distinguished experts. Experts are selected from an established pool ("Roster of experts") or, for specific demands, recruited from other advisory services (e.g. capacity building, studies). Advisory services are provided entirely free of charge.

Weblink: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life/green-advisory-service-sustainable-investments-support-green-assist_en

- **Fi-compass**

Description: Fi-compass is a platform for advisory services on financial instruments under EU shared management, provided by the European Commission in partnership with the European Investment Bank. Fi-compass is designed to support EU shared management managing authorities and other interested parties, by providing practical know-how and learning tools on financial instruments. These include 'how-to' manuals, factsheets and case study publications, as well as face-to-face training seminars, networking events, and video information.

Weblink: <https://www.fi-compass.eu/>

Key EU funds and programmes with explicit references to the Outermost regions

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

Description: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. In 2021-2027 it will enable investments in a smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe that is closer to its citizens. The ERDF Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as exemptions to allow ERDF investments in airport infrastructure, disposal of waste in landfill and treatment facilities for residual waste in these regions.

Weblink: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en

- **European Social Fund + (ESF +)**

Description: The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. For the period 2021-2027, the ESF+ will continue to provide an important contribution to the EU's employment, social, education and skills policies, including structural reforms in these areas. The ESF+ Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions such as additional funding for these regions as part of the financial envelope strand under shared management.

Weblink: <https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>

- **Cohesion Fund (CF)**

Description: The Cohesion Fund is a key EU funding instrument that supports investments in the field of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure (TEN-T). The Cohesion Fund provides support to Member States with a gross national income (GNI) per capita below 90% EU-27 average to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU. For the 2021-2027 period, it concerns several countries and, among them Portugal (France and Spain are not eligible for CF). The specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions applicable to ERDF are also applicable to CF, under the same Regulation.

Weblink: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/cohesion-fund_en

- **POSEI**

Description: The programme of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity (POSEI) supports the European Union's Outermost Regions which face specific challenges due to remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography or climate. It also supports those that are economically dependent on only a few products. It aims to guarantee the provision of essential agricultural products for consumption by reducing the costs related to distance. Furthermore it contributes in the development of livestock and crop-diversification sectors and maintain and develop the competitiveness of traditional agricultural activities.

Weblink: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/outermost-regions-and-small-aegean-islands/posei_en

- **European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD)**

Description: The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is the funding instrument of the second pillar of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It aims to reinforce the 'first pillar' of income support and

market measures by strengthening the social, environmental and economic sustainability of rural areas. The EAFRD finances the EU's contribution to rural development programmes (RDPs). The EAFRD Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as higher contribution rates of the fund for these regions.

Weblink: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/cap-funds_en

- **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**

Description: The EMFAF supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably. The EMFAF Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as higher rate of public aid (85%) for projects implemented in these regions.

Weblink: https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en

- **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**

Description: The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services. CEF investments focus on energy, transport and digital transition. CEF Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions and the multi-annual work programmes of the Connecting Europe Facility include higher co-financing rates for the outermost regions.

Weblink: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en

- **Horizon Europe:**

Description: Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. Horizon Europe Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as the inclusion of the outermost regions in the 'widening countries' list, making them eligible to the dedicated component of the programme 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area'.

Weblink: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

- **Programme for the Environment and Climate (LIFE)**

Description: The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. It supports projects in the fields of Nature and Biodiversity and Circular Economy and Quality of Life, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and Clean Energy Transition. Under the LIFE Programme, BESTLIFE2030 (Grant Scheme for biodiversity in EU Overseas) supports projects that promote the conservation of biodiversity, including marine biodiversity, and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the Union's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. It provides small grants (maximum value of 100.000EU) and only 5% co-financing will be required from applicants.

Weblink: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en and <https://bestlife2030.org/>

- **Digital Europe**

Description: The Digital Europe Programme is designed to bridge the gap between digital technology research and market deployment. It provides funding for projects in five crucial areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills and ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society. Digital Europe Programme regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as the specific consideration of geographical distribution across the Union, including bridging the geographical digital divide, including the outermost regions, in the award criteria.

Weblink: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/digital-europe-programme_en#about-the-programme

- **Erasmus+**

Description: Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. It places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life. It supports priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan and the European Skills Agenda. Erasmus+ Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions and includes international mobility opportunities for these regions and their neighbouring countries.

Weblink: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

- **Creative Europe**

Description: Creative Europe invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors. The main objectives of the programme are to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, and to increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector. The Creative Europe Regulation recognises the specificities of outermost regions and take them into account.

Weblink: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe/about-the-creative-europe-programme>

- **Single Market Programme (SMP)**

Description: The Single Market Programme (SMP) is the EU funding programme to help the single market reach its full potential and ensure Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It pools crucial activities financed under several previous programmes to provide a more coherent and agile financing framework. The Single Market Programme Regulation includes specific provisions to match the particular needs of the outermost regions, such as specific eligible actions in outermost regions (implementation of phytosanitary programmes in outermost regions and the provision of statistical indicators on outermost regions).

Weblink: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/single-market-programme/overview_en

- **Interreg Amazonia**

Description: The Interreg Amazonia programme enables cooperation projects to be set up between EU outermost regions (French Guiana) and third countries (Brazil, Suriname and Guyana).

Weblink: <https://www.europe-guyane.fr/>

- **Interreg Caribbean**

Description: The Caribbean cooperation programme aims to strengthen cooperation between EU outermost regions (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint-Martin) and Caribbean territories and states (more than 40).

Weblink: <https://www.interreg-caraibes.com/>

- **Interreg Indian Ocean**

Description: The Interreg Indian Ocean programme aims to strengthen cooperation between EU outermost regions (La Réunion, Mayotte) and territories in the Indian Ocean basin.

Weblink: <https://regionreunion.com/sites/interreg/>

- **Interreg Mozambique Channel**

Description: The Interreg Indian Ocean programme aims to strengthen cooperation between EU outermost regions (La Réunion, Mayotte) and territories in the Mozambique channel (Comoros, Seychelles, Madagascar, Tanzania and Mozambique)

Weblink: <https://www.interreg-canalumozambique.com/services-en-ligne/aides-et-subventions/appels-a-projets>

- **Interreg MAC**

Description: The Interreg MAC programme aims to strengthen cooperation between EU outermost regions (the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands), and seven third countries in the Macaronesia basin (Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal and São Tomé and Príncipe).

Weblink: <https://www.mac-interreg.org/>

- **Interreg Atlantic Area**

Description: The new Interreg Atlantic Area Programme renew the commitment with the Atlantic regions (Spain, France, Ireland, Portugal) in the support of innovative initiatives that contribute to the growth of this area, solving common challenges across border through the implementation of joint actions, exchange of good practices and contribution to new or current policies.

Weblink: <https://www.atlanticarea.eu/page/77>

International cooperation opportunities

- **Indian Ocean Commission**

Description: The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organisation comprising five member states. The Commission promote diversified cooperation for the sustainable development of the Indian Ocean region: integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, environmental education, health, governance, maritime safety, agroecology, culture, etc.

Weblink: <https://www.commissionoceanindien.org/en/>

- **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States**

Description: The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an International Inter-governmental Organisation dedicated to regional integration in the Eastern Caribbean. Regional Integration is when countries in proximity who share physical or cultural characteristics with each other, come together to achieve common goals. Some common goals would be to make trade easier with each other, share resources or solve problems together.

Weblink: <https://www.oecs.org/en/>

- **Atlantic International Research center (AIR)**

Description: The Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre) is an international collaborative organisation that promotes an integrative approach to space, climate, ocean and energy in the Atlantic (including Portuguese and Spanish outermost regions). The AIR Centre is driven by and at the same time supports emerging technological innovations and advances in data science.

Weblink: <https://www.aircentre.org/>

National opportunities

France:

- **Aides territoires**

Description: Aides territoire helps local authorities and stakeholders to finance and support the development of their projects on their territories. It provides a list of the funding and advisory opportunities offered by several providers in France for different types of stakeholders (public authorities, businesses, organisations, etc).

Weblink: <https://aides-territoires.beta.gouv.fr/>

- **BPI**

Description: Bpi France is a one stop shop for entrepreneurs. It finances and supports businesses - at every stage of their development - through loans, guarantees, innovation aid and equity capital. In doing so, Bpifrance supports the public policies pursued by the State and the Regions. It provides both funding and advisory tools.

Weblink: <https://www.bpifrance.fr/>

- **Adie**

Description: Adie finances, advises and supports entrepreneurs in setting up and developing their businesses.

Weblink: <https://www.adie.org/>

- **Fonds vert**

Description: The Fonds vert helps local authorities in France to boost their environmental performance, adapt their areas to climate change and improve their living environment.

Weblink: <https://aides-territoires.beta.gouv.fr/programmes/fonds-vert/>

- **Recovery and Resilience Plan of France**

Description: The France Relance plan, which aims to speed up the country's ecological, industrial and social transformation, proposes concrete measures aimed at individuals, businesses and associations, local authorities and administrations.

Weblink: <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance>

Portugal:

- **Banco Português de Fomento**

Description: The Banco Português de Fomento aims to support national economic and social development by creating and providing innovative, competitive and appropriate solutions to the needs and challenges of the business ecosystem, boosting entrepreneurial capacity, investment and job creation, and promoting the country's sustainability and economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Weblink: <https://www.bpfomento.pt/pt/>

- **Turismo de Portugal**

Description: Besides overseeing the tourism phenomenon and developing the national sectoral policies and strategies in Portugal, Tourism Portugal also provides financial support to the development of companies related to tourism and tourism animation, focusing on sustainability through incentive programmes and thematic funding lines

Weblink: <https://business.turismodeportugal.pt/pt/Paginas/homepage.aspx>

- **IAPMEI**

Description: IAPMEI helps stakeholders in Portugal to find the most suitable financing for their companies or projects. IAPMEI aims to promote competitiveness and business growth through the management of instruments and programs aimed at strengthening SME innovation, entrepreneurship and business investment.

Weblink: <https://financiamento.iapmei.pt/inicio/home>

- **Fundo Ambiental**

Description: The Fundo Ambiental provides several funding opportunities that range from climate change mitigation and adaptation to waste management and circular economy. The main aim of this funding tool is to promote a more sustainable society by inducing changes in all sustainability-related relevant areas.

Weblink: <https://www.fundoambiental.pt/home.aspx>

- **Recovery and Resilience Plan of Portugal**

Description: The Recovery and Resilience Plan of Portugal provides funding opportunities to a broad type of areas within the relevant pillars of the 2030 European Strategy, namely, green transition, digital transformation, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic development through productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, also focusing on territorial cohesion.

Both the Azores (<https://portal.azores.gov.pt/en/web/drpfe/prr>) and Madeira (<https://www.idr.madeira.gov.pt/Portal/Conteudo.aspx?IDMenu=216&IDSubMenu=218&Path=218&jmenu=2>) have their regional websites for the submission of applications for the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Weblinks: <https://recuperarportugal.gov.pt/candidaturas-prr/>

Spain:

- **Enisa**

Description: Enisa provides financial support to small and medium-sized companies in Spain that want to promote their innovative entrepreneurship projects.

Weblink: <https://www.enisa.es/>

- **CERSA**

Description: They are aimed at all SMEs who need financing for a viable business project and want to benefit from the advantages of the guarantee of a mutual guarantee society (MGS), either because they do not have sufficient guarantees to obtain a loan from financial institutions.

Weblink: <https://www.cersa-sme.es/garantias-y-avales/avales-para-pymes/>

- **CDTI**

Description: promotes innovation and technological development in Spanish companies. It is the entity that channels applications for aid and support for Spanish companies' R&D&I projects at national and international level. The CDTI's objective is to contribute to the improvement of the technological level of Spanish companies.

Weblink: <https://www.cdti.es/index.asp>

- **Instituto de Crédito Oficial**

Description: The Instituto de Crédito Oficial is a public business entity, attached to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation through the Secretary of State for Economy and Business Support. Its main objective is to contribute to sustainable growth, employment generation and wealth distribution.

Weblink: <https://www.ico.es/web/guest/inicio>

- **Recovery and Resilience Plan of Spain**

Description: The reforms and investments in the plan will help Spain become more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. To this end, the Spanish recovery and Resilience Plan consists of 112 investments and 102 reforms. They will be supported by €69.5 billion in grants. 40% of the plan will support the climate objectives and 28% of the plan will foster the digital transition.

The Canary Islands have developed their Regional Recovery and Resilience Plan, with over one hundred specific lines of action set out in this document, which, in addition to strengthening health and social and health services, establishes the need to preserve essential public services, the maintenance and recovery of employment, among other objectives.

Weblinks: <https://planderecuperacion.gob.es/documentos-y-enlaces> and <https://www.planderecuperaciondecanarias.es/>