

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS

EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD



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PREFACE



As the European Commissioner responsible for coordinating European policies concerning the Outermost Regions, I am delighted to present to you these nine regions, which although geographically far from the European continent, are an integral part of the Union.

Archipelagos off the coast of Africa, isolated islands in the Indian Ocean, strings of islands in the Caribbean basin as well as Amazonian lands, Madeira, the Azores, the Canary Islands, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana are all European lands in the world. Each and every one of them contribute to the greatness and cohesion of the Union.

The European Union recognises both the advantages and constraints of these regions and helps them create the conditions required to enable a more inclusive and sustainable growth. European funds support their efforts to modernise their economies, diversify into new sectors, become more competitive and boost employment. The Union is also helping with reconstruction needs resulting from extreme weather events such as Hurricane Irma, which devastated the island of St. Martin.

However, Europe is not just a source of financial contributions for regional development, employment, agriculture and fishing in these regions. I am convinced that Europe is far more than that: it is the feeling of belonging to a community that unites people and brings them closer, beyond their differences and particularities, in the spirit of the founding fathers.

We therefore need to move beyond observing that these Outermost Regions need economic development, with contributions from the European Union. Rather, we must focus more on their dynamism and remarkable assets. They have unique natural characteristics and are ideally situated for research and experimentation in many domains, such as astrophysics, the circular economy and alleviating the effects of climate change. Their exceptionally rich biodiversity and marine ecosystems offer vast potential for innovation. Finally, because of their geographic location, the Outermost Regions have the potential for regional impact, which deserves to be further exploited by the European Union.

In order to better support these regions, I wanted to renew the strategy in their favour. The Communication adopted by the European Commission in 2017 fully recognises the assets of the Outermost Regions and their contribution to the Union. It is developing a new approach for a strengthened partnership that will better support them in their development, including on an international scale.

The Commission will therefore continue to support the Outermost Regions in the quest for reciprocal contributions: not only economic, but above all, those destined to bring mankind closer and make their differences a source of enrichment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crețu".

Corina CREȚU,
European Commissioner
for Regional Policy

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS: EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD

The EU currently has nine Outermost Regions (ORs), which are an integral part of its territory: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Saint Martin, Réunion, Mayotte (France); the Canary Islands (Spain); and the Azores and Madeira (Portugal). The rights and obligations of the European Treaties apply fully to these regions¹.

Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) recognises that the Outermost Regions differ from the rest of the EU in a number of ways that constrain their economic and social development: their remoteness, their insularity, their small size, their adverse topographical and climatic conditions and their dependence on a limited number of local industries. Under European law this article allows the adoption of specific measures appropriate for the real situations of the ORs.

As well as specific constraints, the ORs also have unique potential and assets which can benefit the Union. They provide a European presence in strategic areas of the world, and have exceptional geographical and geological characteristics which make them useful laboratories for research and innovation in industries of the future such as biodiversity, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, pharmacology, renewable energies, and the space sciences.

THE ORs AND EU POLICY

All community policies apply to the Outermost Regions and contribute to their development.

Firstly, the cohesion policy helps them to move towards the EU's 2020 targets, and to modernise and diversify their economic activities. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), including an additional financial grant to offset the additional charges to ORs and sparsely populated regions in Finland and Sweden, the Cohesion Fund (for the Portuguese ORs) and the European

¹ This differentiates them from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), which have a status of association with the EU as well as various constitutional relations with their Member States (Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

Social Fund (ESF) are key tools that help to structure public and private investments in these regions.

The ORs also benefit from several financial instruments and specific measures that have been introduced in the areas of fisheries (the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund – EMFF) and agriculture (the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD and the Programme of Options Specifically Relating to Remoteness and Insularity – POSEI).

The POSEI Programme provides aid for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products from the ORs and is the first pillar of the common agricultural policy concerning the regions;

The ORs are also heavily involved in territorial cooperation programmes (INTERREG) co-financed by the ERDF, which provide them with an essential tool to strengthen their regional integration. There are six cross-border and trans-national programmes devoted to them for the 2014-2020 period:

- the 'MAC' programme involving Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands, as well as neighbouring West African countries;
- the Interreg 'Saint Martin – Sint-Maarten' programme involving the two parts of the island of St Martin;
- the Interreg 'Mayotte –Union of the Comoros' programme involving Mayotte and the Comores;
- the Interreg 'Caribbean' programme between Martinique, Guadeloupe, St-Martin, and French Guiana, in association with the States of the Caribbean area;
- the Interreg 'Indian Ocean' programme involving Réunion, Mayotte and the neighbouring Indian Ocean states;
- the Interreg 'Amazonia' programme between French Guiana, Suriname and the Amazonian states of north-east Brazil (Amapá, Para and Amazonas).

Other horizontal European programmes offer direct aid or financial instruments that can benefit the ORs; in particular their SMEs, their stakeholders in research and innovation and the

social economy, and their youth. This is particularly the case for Horizon 2020 research programmes and the European programme for SMEs (COSME) or the education, training, youth and sport programme (ERASMUS +). It is in this context, along with the support of the cohesion policy, that smart specialisation strategies support the researchers and innovative businesses of the ORs in their quest for excellence in order to better utilise the comparative advantages of each region.

In addition to these programmes, the investment plan for Europe endowed with EUR 315 billion offers guarantees to risky investments that facilitate the setting up of public-private partnership projects. The doubling of this plan by 2022 offers additional investment support across the EU from which the ORs can benefit (http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/index_en.htm).

In terms of other EU policies, it is worth mentioning that State aid policy recognises the specificities of the ORs in order to ensure they have an adequate environment to develop SMEs and micro-enterprises. Thus, Article 107(3)(a) of the TFEU allows higher aid rates to be applied in the ORs, irrespective of their GDP per inhabitant. In tax matters, the ORs benefit from specific exemptions or terms appropriate for their local situation.

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS EVOLVE...

Under Article 355(6) of the TFEU, the European Council may, from this point forward, at the initiative of the Member State concerned, adopt a decision amending the status of a Danish, Dutch or French Overseas Country or Territory (OCT) in relation to the European Union.

Thus, Mayotte, which became a French department in 2011, chose the OR status. Based on this article of the TFEU, France submitted a status change request to the European Council, who unanimously decided to allow Mayotte to become an Outermost Regions, starting from 1 January 2014.

AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP...

Within the European Commission, the 'Outermost Regions' unit of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy hosts an inter-service group for the coordination of policies affecting these territories. This structure gives the ORs greater visibility and works towards taking their specific difficulties into account and promoting their assets.

This measure is accompanied by an active partnership and concerted action between the services of the Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and the ORs.

The Conference of Presidents of the ORs meets annually in the presence of the European Commission and the European Parliament, in the region which holds the rotating presidency.

Since 2010 an OR Forum has been held every two or three years in Brussels, attended by representatives from the political world, the European institutions, the ORs, the Member States, socio-professionals, and representatives from the academic world and the private sector.



AZORES

MEMBER STATE | Portugal

LOCATION | Archipelago located in the North Atlantic Ocean, approximately 1 500 km west of Lisbon and 3 600 km east of North America.

SURFACE AREA | 2 322 km²

POPULATION | 245 766 inhabitants

DENSITY | 105.9 inhabitants/km²
(25.1 on Corvo Island and 185.1 on São Miguel Island)

MAIN TOWNS | Ponta Delgada, Angra do Heroísmo and Horta



TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

The Azores archipelago is of volcanic origin and is characterised by its green landscapes, rugged coastline and mountainous terrain. Pico mountain (2 351 m), located on Pico Island, is the highest point in Portugal. The marine surface area of the Azores included in its 200-mile marine boundary is 954 496 km², making it one of the largest exclusive economic zones (EEZ) in the European Union. The nine islands are distributed in three natural geographic groups spread over an area of 600 km:

- the eastern group: the islands of São Miguel (the largest) and Santa Maria;
- the central group: the islands of Terceira, Graciosa, Faial, São Jorge and Pico;
- the western group: the islands of Flores and Corvo (the smallest).

The Azores have a mesothermal moist climate with oceanic features. With 24 °C in summer and 14 °C in winter, the average temperature is milder than that of other regions located at the same latitude.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The traditional activities of the Azores are livestock farming for the production of milk (over 30% of Portugal's milk production) and meat, fishing and the agro-food industry (cheese, milk, butter, canned fish, tea, pineapple and wine).

Tourism is also a significant economic activity that offers significant growth rates. Amongst the archipelago's growth activities are oceanography and blue growth, spatial technologies and biotechnology.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Since 1976 the Azores have had the status of Autonomous Region of Portugal, with its own government and a regional parliament, elected by direct universal suffrage, with broad political and legislative competences. The Presidency of the Government has its seat in Ponta Delgada (São Miguel), and the Parliament in Horta (Faial).

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

With the support of European programmes, the autonomous region of the Azores is focused on developing its potential in scientific and technological sectors that are of great European and international importance. Such sectors benefit from the region's geographical location and natural conditions, as well as the skills and know-how that already exist or are being developed. This expertise and the excellence of this know-how may still be further strengthened not only in favour of regional socio-economic development, but also at international level and in terms of the services they may provide the whole European Union as a natural laboratory for research and development.

The University of the Azores, created in 1976, now has around 3000 students, distributed in its centres of São Miguel, Terceira and Faial. It is growing stronger in its areas of excellence and international recognition such as sciences and sea and fishing technology, and specifically the study of deep water, underwater mountains, hydrothermal deep sea vents, the environment and

climate change, as well as biodiversity, volcanology/seismology, agro-industrial and marine biotechnology and space technology.

Renewable energies and indigenous resources also contribute to the sustainable development of the Azores. In 2015 the production of electricity from renewable sources (geothermal, wind, hydraulic) reached 35 % in the archipelago and 55 % on the largest island, São Miguel, 44 % of which came from geothermal energy. In the years to come the archipelago will continue to invest in innovation, decarbonisation and improving its energy efficiency, thanks to the contribution of electric mobility and storage solutions for emerging technologies.

It is worth noting, of course, that among the archipelago's strengths is its ability to attract investments, establish infrastructures and develop projects centred on the use of space technology and climate studies. These elements reflect the strategic positioning of the Azores as an important link in the huge European and international chain. For example, the European Space Agency's (ESA) satellite monitoring station in Santa Maria, which has carried out monitoring/tracing and Earth observation services since 2009; the Galileo Sensor Station (GSS), in Santa Maria; the Atlantic Network of Geodynamic and Spatial Stations (RAEGE – Rede Atlântica de Estações Geodinâmicas e Espaciais) station, also in Santa Maria and the one in Flores (which has just started), both of them integrated into the RAEGE and designed to carry out radio astronomy, geodetics and geophysics studies; the ARM facility in Graciosa, which is an observatory and international platform for advanced climate studies in the Atlantic; and the I42PT infrasound station in Graciosa designed to monitor nuclear testing. In this context, the possibility of creating an international centre for research in the Atlantic that would be headquartered in the Azores (AIR Centre) is currently under discussion at international level.

A FORMER FACTORY BECOMES A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Arquipélago – centre for contemporary art

BENEFICIARY | Direção Regional da Cultura

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – PROCONVERGENCIA AÇORES

TOTAL | EUR 12 343 546.88
EU co-funding: EUR 10 232 090.53

PERIOD | 27/07/2011 – 31/07/2014



'The building is impressive as soon as you see it from the outside, but the interior offers even more surprises. The large rooms, the black rock and even the geometrical caves all make the Arquipélago a perfect structure for art exhibitions, where we are seduced not only by the art, but also by the building itself.'

The exhibition we visited is very well done and easy to understand; satire blends with the mundane in caricatures, expression and criticism, with comedy added to the mix. We really enjoyed the visit.'

Ricardo Teja
Marta Sampaio



CONTEXT

The former alcohol production plant in Ribeira Grande, on the island of São Miguel, is being replaced by the new contemporary art centre, Arquipélago, thereby keeping the past alive through modernity. The aim is to promote the town's listed heritage whilst creating a space for contemporary art with a strong experimental dimension. Thus the concept of Arquipélago is based on the building's life as a factory, which is now becoming a 'culture factory': a place where art will be produced and exhibited.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Arquipélago is an interdisciplinary project which aims to create, produce and promote contemporary art. Because of its geographical location right in the middle of the Atlantic, Arquipélago, in collaboration with its local, national and international partners, plays a fundamental role in strengthening local cultural and artistic identity with a global mindset. This art space aims to integrate the nine islands, to symbolise the cultural unity of the Azores and encourage collective participation.

Like an archipelago, the centre will be the convergence and meeting point for different artistic languages using various media: painting, performing arts, photography, video and audio installations. It will also act as a local development and learning hub, by offering educational activities and a documentation centre.

Infos: <http://arquipelagocentrodeartes.azores.gov.pt/>

NONAGON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | NONAGON science and technology park

BENEFICIARY | Direção Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – PROCONVERGENCIA AÇORES

TOTAL | EUR 18837 108.68
EU co-funding: EUR 7 633 409.11

PERIOD | 01/10/2007 – 29/06/2014

CONTEXT

The NONAGON science and technology park is located on São Miguel Island. It is the first in the Autonomous Region of the Azores to position itself as a structuring organisation for technological revitalisation and the training of human capital qualified in the information and communication systems domain, as well as in monitoring and observing the Earth, space and sea.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to create the conditions required to attract companies from other regions, which will bring added value to the regional industrial fabric. It also aims to provide co-working spaces for incubators destined for major technology and innovation events and demonstrations, as well as an auditorium containing 260 spaces equipped with systems for streaming meetings to the whole world.



This project is part of an initiative of the regional government of the Azores, in partnership with the Lagoa municipal authorities. The initiative aims to improve interconnection between the public, private and university sectors, thereby creating a new development model.

Infos: <https://nonagon.pt/>



'Nonagon has enabled UrActive to be close to several companies in a range of areas and has stimulated interaction with local businesses, thus leveraging our partnerships. Furthermore, the Nonagon building offers unique conditions in the region for us to pursue our business.'

Paulo Leite (UrActive)



CANARY ISLANDS

MEMBER STATE | Spain

LOCATION | The Canary Islands are an Atlantic archipelago of seven islands located north-west of the Sahara, 2 000 km from Madrid.

SURFACE AREA | 7447 km²

POPULATION | 2 135 722 inhabitants

DENSITY | 282,25 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Alternates between Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

The archipelago of the Canary Islands is comprised of seven major islands and a collection of islets, and spreads across a 450 km area. Geographically speaking, the archipelago is part of Macaronesia, an originally volcanic zone located north-west of the coast of Africa.

The terrain is very varied. In Tenerife, Mount Teide (altitude of 3718 m) is Spain's highest peak.

The low rainfall and topography of these islands means there are some water points, but no rivers. La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro are the islands most exposed to the influence of the ocean and rain.

The average annual temperature is 20 °C (with small fluctuations) except for in the mountains, where it is lower.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The Canary Islands' traditional activities are the growing of bananas, tomatoes and potatoes, livestock farming, fishing, fish farming, agriculture, viniculture, the agri-food industry, as well as energy and the desalination of seawater.

Their more modern activities are research and development in biomedicine, astronomy and tourism.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

The Canary Islands are part of the Spanish system of autonomous communities within the parliamentary monarchy. They have an independent government and their own Parliament with 60 seats.

They are divided into two provinces: Las Palmas and Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

The University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) specialises in health, oceanography, aquaculture and information and communication technologies.

The University of La Laguna (ULL) specialises in human and social sciences, biomedical engineering, health, energy and the environment.



SUPPORTING RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION IN THE MARINE AND MARITIME SECTORS

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | The design, construction and operation of the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)

BENEFICIARY | Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias (PLOCAN)

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 8 345 854
EU co-funding: EUR 7 093 976.

PERIOD | 2007-2013

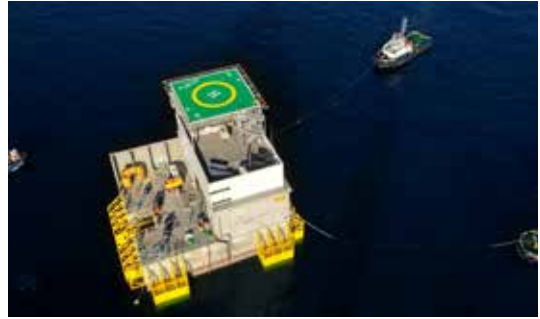
CONTEXT

One of the priorities of the 'Canaries' ERDF operational programme is to make the production base of the Canary Islands more competitive. This means promoting key tools for economic growth, such as optimising, in an environmentally sustainable way, the basic natural resources that fuel the socio-economic system, with a special focus on developing the knowledge economy.

With this in mind, the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) has been designed as a scientific and technological infrastructure using knowledge and technology to develop a new production base in the marine and maritime fields. This initiative is in line with the European Union's 'Blue Growth' strategy, defined in the 'development of the knowledge economy' initiative, with a co-funding rate of 85 %.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PLOCAN is an exceptional technical-scientific infrastructure. It includes unique installations, resources, facilities and services for cutting edge research and development projects. It also facilitates the transmission, exchange and preservation of knowledge, technology and innovation. Its mission is to promote scientific and technological development and innovation in the



marine and maritime field. It does this by accelerating the time to market of its results and products, and encouraging economic growth and employment through deeper, more efficient and environmentally sustainable access to the ocean.

The initiative provides greater time and space to observe and explore the ocean, to study the processes that affect its conservation (such as global climate change or pollution) and their associated anthropogenic risks. It also allows the development of sustainable use of the ocean's resources and an improved understanding of its marine ecosystems and their evolution. Similarly, and in a process closely linked to knowledge generation, a decision has been made to promote the design and development of associated technologies in both the public and private spheres. In particular, this will facilitate development of new concepts for oceanic platforms: underwater robotics, new technologies for surveillance of the marine environment, sensors, new materials that can withstand the unique marine conditions and prototypes for supplying renewable energy resources.

This global measure aims to initiate, facilitate and accelerate research on participation by national groups and centres in large-scale projects and international programmes, as well as the collaboration of public and private sectors. The purpose is to provide the scientific community with unique facilities and effective, added-value services, and to encourage multidisciplinary, clustering and transfer of knowledge between public and private research groups, in order to benefit society as a whole.

Info: <http://bit.ly/2y9poMx>

Info: <http://www.plocan.eu/index.php/en/>



'ERDF financing has given PLOCAN an opportunity to develop an European infrastructure of excellence in an outermost region, allowing its latent potential to flourish in the marine and maritime field.

Furthermore, such financing 'made it possible to organise high-quality and large-scale international projects of excellence, promoting not only the relations but also the continuous flow of information with other European regions, cooperating with centres of excellence with similar strategies of intelligent specialisation, especially in Atlantic Europe, but also in transatlantic initiatives.'

D. Octavio Llinás, Director of PLOCAN

INVESTING IN PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | To support vocational and ongoing training at the Villa de Agüimes Integrated Vocational Training Centre (CIFP)

BENEFICIARY | Dirección General de Formación Profesional y Educación de Adultos del Gobierno de Canarias

FUNDING | European Social Fund (ESF)

TOTAL | EUR 62 064 875
EU co-funding: EUR 52 755 144

PERIOD | 2007-2013

CONTEXT

This project is connected to the regional operational programme 'to invest in education, skills development and life-long learning', which was developed by the Education Council and universities of the government of the Canaries. This programme was set up in September 2015. It co-funds advanced vocational courses, with 85 % of the co-funding coming from the ESF. This line of funding aims to support advanced vocational training programmes with high employment potential. The objective is to meet the European goal to reduce premature drop-out from school, boost the importance of education and training systems for the work market, and reduce unemployment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Villa de Agüimes CIFP, one of the educational centres financed through this operational programme, is located within an area where high numbers of people are unemployed or lack training. Through this project training groups have been co-financed for professional categories in hospitality and tourism, sociocultural and community services, information and communication technology, and energy and water.



Information and communication protocols have been established for the centre's entire educational community, in accordance with instructions provided in the regulations that govern European structural and investment funds.

Co-financed actions in the centre are particularly innovative because the courses correspond to cutting-edge and emerging sectors in the Canary Islands, such as renewable energies, information and communication technology, and hospitality and tourism.

This project is consistent with the policies developed by the Autonomous Community of the Canaries, and laid out in the 2013-2016 Professional Training Plan for the Canaries. These objectives will be pursued in the plan currently being devised for the 2016-2019 period, with a strategy aiming to give all Member States of the European Union a smart, sustainable and integrated economy with high levels of employment. Investing in high-quality vocational courses that meet the demands of the Canary Islands is a clear and concrete manifestation of this objective.

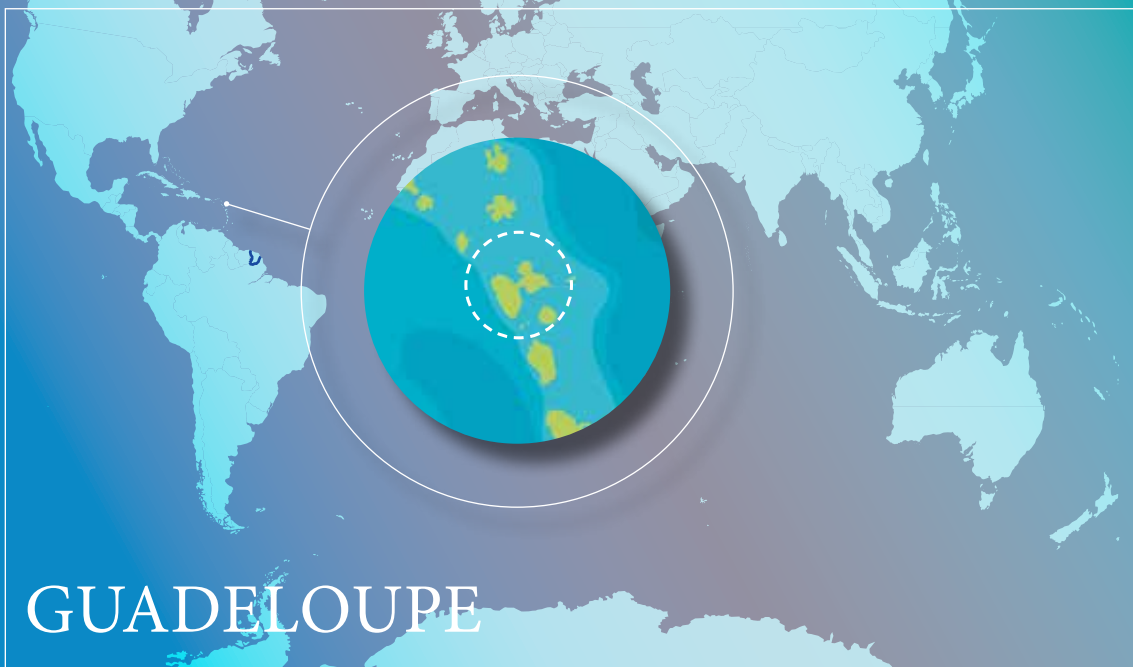
Info: <http://bit.ly/2yWn9Jp>



'The aim of this Operational Programme is to adapt the training offers to the real needs of the Canary Islands job market and to adapt to economic and technological changes, in order to facilitate access to employment and job security. To that end we are carrying out actions involving traditional economic elements but also key and emerging areas for the Canary Islands economy.'

The actions to be co-financed at the Villa de Agüimes Integrated Vocational Training Centre are very innovative, due to the co-financed courses which are from groups of professions related to renewable energies (electricity and water), information and communication technologies, and an emerging sector in the Canary Islands (due to tourism), which is hospitality and tourism. The educational projects implemented in recent years made the centre a benchmark in the southeast of the island in the development of these types of vocational training courses.'

Manuel Jorge Pérez, General Director
of Vocational Training and Adult Education



GUADELOUPE

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | Archipelago located in the Lesser Antilles arc between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Guadeloupe is 6800 km from Paris.

SURFACE AREA | 1705 km²

POPULATION | 429 849 inhabitants (2016)

DENSITY | 245 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Basse-Terre

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

Located in the heart of the Caribbean-Antilles arc, between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, Guadeloupe is the largest of the French Antilles islands. The Guadeloupean archipelago is formed of five groups of islands. Basse-Terre to the west and Grande-Terre to the east together form 'mainland' Guadeloupe, although they are separated by a narrow channel (the 'Rivière Salée'). Around this 'butterfly' of land lying on the sea, the archipelago of Les Saintes (Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas) and its neighbours, the islands of la Désirade and Marie-Galante, can be found.

Guadeloupe is one of the Caribbean's most popular tourist destinations. It is characterised by rugged terrain offering diverse landscapes (mountains, rivers, and white and black sandy beaches, etc.) despite its small area. Basse-Terre is higher and covered by a very dense forest dominated by the active volcano of Soufrière (1467 metres high). It is home to the 7th largest French national park. Grande-Terre, however, is a low-altitude limestone plateau with diametrically opposed vegetation.



The archipelago has a tropical climate tempered by maritime influences and trade winds. The average annual temperature is 26°C.

Due to its geographical characteristics, Guadeloupe is classed in seismic zone 5 according to France's seismic zoning map.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Guadeloupe's economy is principally focused on agriculture, industry and tourism.

Its traditional activities include the export of bananas, sugar, rum and melons. Melon production is a good example of successful diversification.

In addition to the agri-food industry, tourism and services are two of Guadeloupe's other main sectors of activity. Renewable energies and applied research (CIRAD, INRA and UAG, etc.) are recognised as future sectors.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

An overseas department since the law of 19 March 1946, Guadeloupe is divided into two arrondissements (Basse-Terre and Pointe-à-Pitre). A mono-departmental region since 1982, it is distinguished by the existence of a double executive (a departmental council and a regional council).

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

Guadeloupe is home to the University of the Antilles and Guyana (UAG – Fouillole and Saint-Claude campus). The Guadeloupe centre includes the faculties of science and medicine.



A NEW TERMINAL TO IMPROVE REGIONAL TRANSPORT

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Construction of the regional air terminal

BENEFICIARY | GUADELOUPE PÔLE CARAIBES airport company

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 20 028 000
EU co-funding: EUR 9 950 986

PERIOD | 2011 – 2014

CONTEXT

Construction of the new regional terminal of Pointe-à-Pitre Le Raizet (Guadeloupe Pôle Caraïbes) Airport aims to help develop the Guadeloupe region by encouraging new opportunities for commercial and tourist exchanges in its immediate environment: the Caribbean. This terminal, with an annual capacity of around 400 000 passengers, offers airlines optimum conditions for organising medium and small capacity flights.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Designed as a regional hub, this new terminal allows for improved air traffic between France and the Antilles. With expected growth of +2% per year over the coming years, it allows up to 20% additional capacity to be made available for infrastructures to accommodate long haul flights. This will strengthen Pointe-à-Pitre Le Raizet Airport's essential status for transport between Europe and the Antilles.



The first phase of the work began with construction of the new parking area for regional aircraft. The air terminal was then built, including a check-in hall and a boarding hall.

This new facility can accommodate 7 regional ATR aircraft and 2 medium-haul aircraft. It is designed to offer maximum accessibility to passengers. With a surface area of just over 5000 m², the new terminal is a single-storey building. It is equipped with all the latest airport technology, including 10 manual check-in points, self-service machines, and an automatic bag drop giving passengers greater independence during check-in.

BETTER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN THE ARTISAN SECTOR

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Design - Construction of the Guadeloupe University of Artisan Professions

BENEFICIARY | Guadeloupe Regional Council

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 17 638 767
EU co-funding: EUR 10 054 097

PERIOD | 2009 - 2012

CONTEXT

The construction of the Guadeloupe Regional University of Artisan Professions (Université Régionale des Métiers et de l'Artisanat / URMA) is part of a broader regional policy for professional training. Located in Saint-Claude, in the heart of the Cité de la connaissance (Knowledge City), the URMA offers a wide range of training for young apprentices and students, but also for heads of artisan companies and their employees.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Covering an area of 6 577 m², the URMA can accommodate up to 825 apprentices, allowing them to train and obtain CAP vocational qualifications, professional diplomas, technician's diplomas, Masters qualifications or even the title of small business entrepreneur, in various domains such as the arts, fashion, services to individuals, the culinary professions or hygiene.

The URMA gives Guadeloupe a new structure for excellence, offering everyone the opportunity of technical and professional training and teaching at any stage of life. Moreover, the improved material conditions for vocational training in the artisan professions will help crafts for the tourism market to develop.



FRENCH GUIANA

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | French Guiana is located to the north-east of the South American continent, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, Suriname to the west and Brazil to the south and east. It is part of the Guyana plateau, which stretches from Venezuela to Brazil.

French Guiana is 7500 km from Paris.

SURFACE AREA | 83 846 km² (86 504 km² IGN)

POPULATION | 262 527 inhabitants (2016)

DENSITY | 3 inhabitants/km²

SPECIAL FEATURES | Most of the population lives by the coast and along the main rivers whilst the inland area of the territory is under-populated and landlocked.

CAPITAL | Cayenne

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

Globally, the region is part of a former continental plateau extending from the State of Amapá (Brazil) to Venezuela, taking in Suriname and Guyana.

A low-altitude coastal band, formed by recent sediments, runs along the coast, with a variable width. This area was originally occupied by savannas, forests and occasionally by mangroves by the sea.

Further inland the plateaux result in the formation of waterfalls and rapids, and terrain generally composed of small hills. With the exception of the coastline, the country is covered with thick jungle (94%). The plateau is traversed by large rivers punctuating the Guianese coastline.

Its location close to the equator gives French Guiana a humid equatorial climate: two dry seasons (February-March and August-November) alternate with two rainy seasons (December-January and April-July).

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

French Guiana's economic activity is focused along the coastline where the largest towns are located (Cayenne, Kourou, Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, Remire-Montjoly and Matoury). Today, it is still structured around traditional sectors (agriculture and fishing, etc.), along with significant tertiary activity. In addition, since the 1970s, Guiana's Space Centre has been carrying out research and development activities based on the latest technologies.

Today, French Guiana's economic development challenges revolve around the development and structuring of several major sectors, including the development of biodiversity, the emergence of the wood-energy industry and the strengthening of the mining sector (principally gold mining).

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

French Guiana has been a (single) territorial collectivity since 1 January 2016.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

Formerly the University Centre of French Guiana, the University of French Guiana has been fully up and running since 1 January 2015. Anchored in its territory, the university offers courses in response to the socio-economic challenges faced by French Guiana: tropical health, biodiversity, enhancing natural resources, interculturalism, multilingualism, and social inclusion, etc.

French Guiana hosts research teams from the majority of national organisations (CNRS-IRD-CIRAD-BRGM-IFREMER).



INNOVATIVE SEAFOOD PRODUCE SEEN AS MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHING

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Construction and fitting out of a new processing plant for seafood products

BENEFICIARY | S.A. COGUMER

FUNDING | The construction of the plant was financed by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The equipment in the plant was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 4 847 763 for the construction of the plant
European co-financing: EUR 1 454 003
EUR 1 853 582 for equipment in the plant
European co-financing: EUR 1 000 000

PERIOD | 05/10/2012 – 30/06/2015.

CONTEXT

SA COGUMER has been promoting Guyanese small-scale fishing products since 2002.

As the largest operator in Guyana for the sale of produce from small-scale fisheries, it is an important company for the aquatic products sector, and for the Guyanese agribusiness sector as a whole.

Focused so far on primary transformation activities in local small-scale fishing activities, COGUMER SA decided in 2013 to create a range of innovative products, so-called second transformation products, that respond to new trends in the market.

These innovations have thus opened up new opportunities for local fishing.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2013, COGUMER SA submitted a request for funding to the authorities in charge of the management of European funds (ERDF and EFF) for the construction of a new production plant for processed seafood products. The implementation of this project must allow the company to expand the range of products it offers and to similarly expand its market by answering the demand for a new, younger clientèle.

The new plant, located at Port du Larivot, has been operational since October 2016. It produces a range of seafood products marketed under the brand 'La Cuisine de Lucette' [Lucette Cuisine], which highlights the unique culinary know-how in Guyana. This new range is enjoying ever increasing success, as evidenced by its presence at many international shows, such as the Foire Internationale in Paris.

Info: <http://cogumer.fr/>

ELECTRIFICATION OF HAMLETS ALONG THE UPPER MARONI RIVER IN THE COMMUNE OF MARIPASOULA

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Electrification in rural areas (measure 321D)

BENEFICIARY | Western Guiana Community of Municipalities

FUNDING | EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)

TOTAL | EUR 9 308 886
EU co-funding: EUR 897 965

PERIOD | 09/2010 – 10/2015

CONTEXT

The commune of Maripasoula is located along the Maroni River, which marks the border with Suriname, in the south-west of the department of French Guiana. It is the largest commune in France (18 360 km²) and has a population of 10 984 people (INSEE, 2014). Around two thirds of these live in the town; population growth was 7.7 % a year between 2009 and 2014, a rate three times the departmental average and 19 times the national average. Because of Maripasoula's isolation and the distance separating it from the Guianese electricity network, the people of the town are supplied by an independent electricity network connected to a thermal power plant.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project has helped bring electricity to five isolated sites, or 'hamlets', inhabited by Amerindian populations and located upstream of the town of Maripasoula. A solar power plant has been built in Pidima, and four hybrid solar/thermal power plants have been erected on the Antecume-Pata, Twenké-Taluen, Cayodé and Elahé sites. In total, 265 households benefit from this electrification.

These villages have no means of producing electricity, except for a few solar facilities supplying schools and teachers' homes, and a small diesel production unit installed in Antecume-Pata by a village association.

The proportion of electricity produced by the hybrid solar-thermal plants, coming from solar energy, accounts for the majority at 60 - 80%. Back-up thermal production is provided by small diesel generators in the 30 – 75 kVA range. Electricity distribution to users is exclusively low voltage, via an overhead network on metal poles.



Açores

Madeira

Canárias

Saint-Martin

Guadeloupe

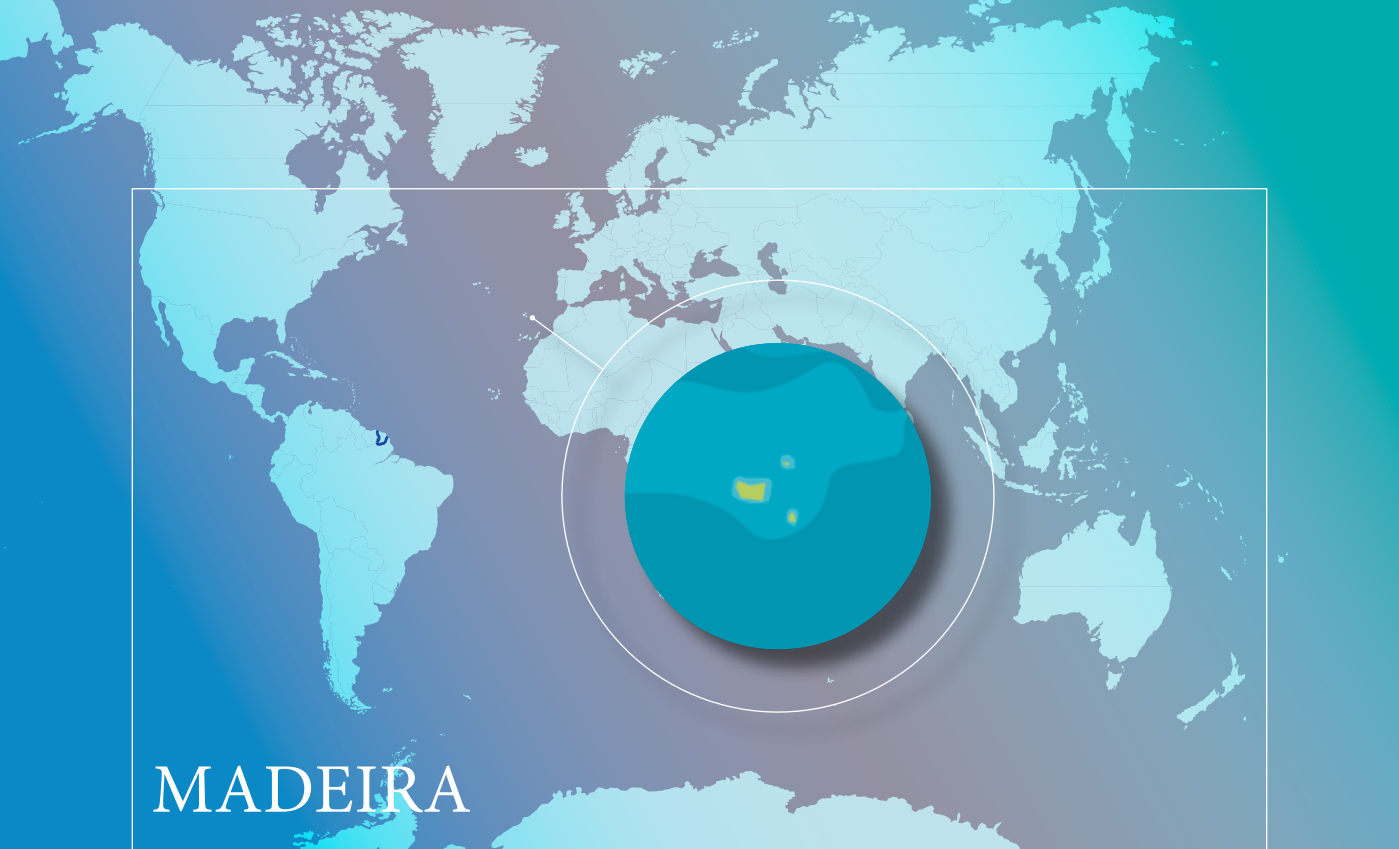
Martinique

Guyane



Mayotte

La Réunion



MADEIRA

MEMBER STATE | Portugal

LOCATION | Atlantic archipelago located 900 km south-west of Portugal (1 000 km from Lisbon) and 550 km west of the African coast (Agadir)

SURFACE AREA | 801.52 km²

POPULATION | 256 424 inhabitants

DENSITY | 319.9 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Funchal

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

The archipelago is formed of two main islands – Madeira and Porto Santo – and two groups of small islands: the Desertas Islands (a legally protected zone since 1990; classed as a nature reserve in 1995) and the Selvagens Islands (legally protected since 1971 as Portugal's first nature reserve. It was recognised in 1992 by the Council of Europe at the same time as the Desertas Islands nature reserve).

The archipelago has a very diverse terrain.

The topography of the island of Madeira is very rugged with its highest point being Pico Ruivo (1861 m high).

As for the island of Porto Santo, it has a very different terrain. It is very flat and has a 9 km-long golden sandy beach.

With regard to its climate, Madeira enjoys an average annual temperature that varies between 16°C and 22°C. Precipitation rates can be high, particularly on the north coast. In Porto Santo, average rainfall is much lower than on the island of Madeira. The Desertas Islands and the Selvagens Islands have an arid climate.



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Madeira's economy primarily relies on the services sector, predominantly tourism, which constitutes its main source of revenue.

The main traditional agricultural products are bananas, sugar cane, flowers and wine. The species traditionally fished are predominantly tuna and black scabbard, caught through artisan fishing practised on small boats that, for the most part, are deteriorating.

Madeira's industry is relatively small and fairly limited: aside from the artisan-type traditional industry associated with embroidery, tapestry and the manufacture of wicker goods, which is now more export-oriented, there are also food, drinks and tobacco-related industrial activities.

The International Business Centre of Madeira (Centro Internacional de Negócios da Madeira – CINM), also known as the Free Zone of Madeira (Zona Franca de Madeira) is comprised of three main investment areas: the industrial

free zone (Zona Franca Industrial), the International Shipping Register (Registo Internacional de Navios – MAR) and international services (Serviços Internacionais). These three sectors play a major role in the diversification and modernisation of the archipelago's economy.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Since 1976 Madeira has been an autonomous region of the Republic of Portugal and had its own politico-administrative regime: the independent regime. It has its own governmental bodies: a 'legislative assembly' and a 'regional government'. The Government's regional office is located in Funchal.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In terms of local governments, into which Portugal is democratically organised, Madeira is divided into municipalities (municípios) and parishes (freguesias). According to current administrative divisions, it comprises 11 municipalities and 54 parishes.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

The autonomous region of Madeira has one university: the University of Madeira (UMa). UMa is home to 4 research centres and houses other research facilities that are currently developing scientific activities in several fields. One of these facilities, the Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute (M-ITI), is particularly important.



PROTECTING THE POPULATION AGAINST FLOOD RISK

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Intervention on the end sections of the main rivers in Funchal

BENEFICIARY | Secretaria Regional dos Assuntos Parlamentares e Europeus

FUNDING | Cohesion Fund, Thematic Operational Programme for Territorial Valorisation

TOTAL | EUR 76 349 835
EU co-funding: EUR 70 357 732

PERIOD | 01/10/2012 – 23/12/2015

CONTEXT

On the island of Madeira, addressing the vulnerabilities and risks caused by torrential rain and flooding in critical zones has become a priority, particularly following the bad weather in February 2010. The project includes a set of structural interventions that the regional government has put in place in order to minimise and alleviate the effects of flooding and guarantee the systematic use of risk prevention and management mechanisms.

The aim is to provide better protection for the population, the built heritage and economic activities in low-lying areas of the city of Funchal (up to around 40 m), which regularly suffers flooding from the rivers running through it.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project contributes to preventing and minimising environmental risks associated with the specific characteristics of the Autonomous Region of Madeira, given that floods are a major natural hazard for the island. It will also be used to exploit the temporary deposit of inert matter in the urban environment, as well as to strengthen maritime protection to the east of the João Gomes and Santa Luzia rivers.

The project responds to the requirements defined by the Madeira Island Flood Risk Evaluation Study (EARAIM) and includes interventions to improve the hydraulic function of the main rivers in Funchal, to protect the seafront zone in the east of the city, and to protect and repair the site of the temporary embankment built after the bad weather in 2010.

The most significant part includes three construction contracts, including the end section of the S. João River, the end sections of the Santa Luzia and João Gomes rivers and repairs to the infrastructures affected.

Info: <http://bit.ly/2gsUsNE>



'The city of Funchal is now more beautiful and is also safer. During heavy rain the river banks are protected and catastrophes can therefore be averted.

It is also an excellent place for leisure and family outings.'

Carmo Cabral

Nice area, very modern with good pedestrian zones and green spaces, next to Funchal's old Marina.

This is a place that must not be missed on a visit to Madeira, not only because of its contribution to Funchal's beautiful landscape, but also because of the safety that it has provided for both Madeirans and visitors.'

Hugo Castanha



RENOVATION OF NETWORKS OF DRINKING WATER, RESIDUAL WATER AND RAINWATER IN FUNCHAL

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Renovation of networks of drinking water, residual water and rainwater in the eastern part of the city of Funchal

BENEFICIARY | Municipality of Funchal

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) - 2007-2013 Economic Potential Development and Territorial Cohesion Programme for the Autonomous Region of Madeira

TOTAL | EUR 11 284 624.33
Co-financing from the EU: EUR 9 575 513.47

PERIOD | 13/05/2009 – 15/06/2015

CONTEXT

The municipality of Funchal has undertaken the renovation of its networks of drinking water, residual water and rainwater in the eastern part of the city. The main objective of this work is to tackle drinking water wastage as a result of the obsolescence of the pipeline system, which is more than fifty years old. Moreover, this work will help to lower the cost of wastewater treatment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The aim of the project is to renovate and replace about 25 km of drinking water supply networks and almost 24 km of drainage systems for residual water and rainwater in the eastern part of Funchal. This is namely the area between the Estrada Visconde Cagongo and the Rua Bela de São Tiago, as well as between the Rua da Pedra Sina and the Rua 31 de Janeiro, in total an area of nearly 140 hectares.



'Funchal's drinking water network was very old, which caused a lot of waste. Nowadays, the population will not tolerate the waste of such an important resource, for both financial and environmental reasons. What's more, this area of the city had no drainage system, so driving on rainy days was very difficult, besides the safety issues.. Funchal is better prepared to face climate change!'

Laura Marrafa

Completion of this project will reduce the water loss rate, which currently impacts upon the distribution network in the area, from 50% to less than 15%. It will also help to significantly improve the water supply for the population, both in terms of quantity and quality.

Info: <http://bit.ly/2fy5k5o>



MARTINIQUE

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean), Martinique is 6850 km from Paris

SURFACE AREA | 1 128 km²

POPULATION | 376 847 inhabitants

DENSITY | 344 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Fort-de-France



TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

With its varied and rugged terrain, Martinique is a land of contrasts.

Its more mountainous and wetter northern part is dominated by Mount Pelée (1400 m high).

In the south, the terrain is less rugged and has alternating plains and rounded hills. The jagged coastline boasts many bays and inlets. Martinique has 48 islets, fragile ecosystems and reservoirs for plant species.

It has a tropical, warm and humid climate, tempered by the trade winds. The archipelago's average annual temperature is 26 °C.

Martinique, like the other islands of the Lesser Antilles, is exposed to cyclonic and seismic phenomena.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Martinique is an agro-export economy, mainly due to its traditional areas of production (banana and cane production). The diversification of its production areas and improvement of its production structures are a priority.

The traditional activities are undergoing change: bananas, the island's main export product, remain at the mercy of international competition in this globalised sector; thanks to its controlled destination of origin the export of rum, the 20th anniversary of which was celebrated in 2016, has experienced significant growth on a global level, and particularly within Asian markets. This expansion reflects the quality of the product and efforts undertaken by professionals.

In terms of the agro-food sector, there are a growing number of innovative entrepreneurial initiatives, thanks to the technological support of the Regional Agro-food Cluster of Martinique and the Martinique Technopole, as well as the dynamism of agricultural diversification sectors.

Other sectors such as the craft industry, building and public works, services and some leading edge items, create Added Market Value (AMV) in the GDP.

New and innovative sectors such as biodiversity, professional services, and information and communication technologies (ICT) provide opportunities for the increasingly better qualified youth.

Tourism, hospitality and the cruise industry, after a crisis period, have been modernised to cope better with the global flows of tourists from the EU and North America. The increased number of port visits is proof of new interest in the Martinique territory, which should be sustained.

At the same time, the ongoing modernisation of the port (in particular, the trade port and cruise terminal) and airport infrastructures highlights the dynamism of various sectors and contributes to enhancing Martinique's attractiveness.



POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Since 1 January 2016 Martinique's administrative organisation has evolved and now comprises a new body, the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique, which replaces the regional and departmental councils by assuming their responsibilities. As such, there are now only three management levels: 1) the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique, 2) agglomeration communities and 3) municipalities. The territory comprises 4 arrondissements: Saint Pierre (North Caribbean); Trinité (North Atlantic); Fort-de-France (centre) and Le Marin (south).

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

Martinique is home to one of the centres of the University of Antilles, which includes the medicine, law and economics faculties; the International Research, Exchange and Cooperation Centre for the Caribbean and Americas (CIRECCA); as well as the Study and Research Group in Creole and Francophone Areas (GEREC-F). Martinique also has a university hospital, which has been equipped with a new technical facility since the start of 2017. A major project for treating cancerous diseases is currently underway with the installation of a cyclotron which will be equipped with a (Positron Emission Tomography) PET scanner. The cyclotron will benefit not only the Martinique territory, but also a number of States and OCTs in the Caribbean by providing radioisotopes. This equipment, which should be operational by December 2018, will make it possible to foster the emergence of cooperation projects with the member states of the OECS (Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States), as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

ACQUISITION OF A CYCLOTRON FOR BETTER QUALITY CARE

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Installation of a cyclotron in Martinique

BENEFICIARY | Martinique University Hospital

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 11 602 080

Request for ERDF funding in progress.

PERIOD | 2017 – 2018

CONTEXT

In the face of the high cancer rates in Martinique (almost 1700 new cases per year) and in the States of the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States), it was necessary to equip Martinique University Hospital with effective nuclear medicine facilities. For this operation, the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique decided to support the acquisition of a cyclotron and the construction of the building where it will be housed, while the State will finance the complementary imaging equipment (PET – Positron Emission Tomography).

The improvement of diagnostic methods should provide better care for patients, but also facilitate treatment for cardiac and neurological conditions. It will also be a tool for intensifying research regarding inflammatory or infectious diseases, as well as studies for typing degenerative diseases.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is highly anticipated by the population and the medical community. It will facilitate access to quality care for the people of Martinique and their Caribbean neighbours. It will improve health security and help unite health professionals around scientific collaboration, cancer research and functional imagery projects.



There is already a steering committee, consisting of the Regional Health Agency (ARS), the Martinique University Hospital (CHUM), the General Social Security Fund (CGSS), the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique and representatives of the OECS.

The steering committee has decided to install a tool which can produce all the radio-isotopes required for the operation of hospitals in the Caribbean and for biomedical research. For this reason, they have chosen a medium power cyclotron (15-18 MeV). This solution guarantees immediate access in Martinique to modern diagnostic methods and cancer treatment.

Thanks to this equipment, the Martinique University Hospital in Fort-de-France can not only accommodate patients from Caribbean islands where this technique is not available, but it can also provide for Guadeloupe if the cyclotron breaks down or requires prolonged maintenance, as well as for other islands wanting access to medical imaging equipment (Barbados, Antigua, etc.).

The cyclotron will be housed in a complex of around 1000 m², along with the radiochemistry laboratory and the nuclear medicine department. It will be installed on the La Meynard site and should be operational in December 2018.

MAKING BROADBAND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Very high speed internet for Martinique

BENEFICIARY | Territorial Collectivity of Martinique

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 140 000 000
EU co-funding: EUR 26 000 000

PERIOD | 2016 - 2022

CONTEXT

Thanks to the Liane regional network, in 2016 Martiniquans had very good broadband coverage: 99.8% of the population and over 80% of enclaved rural zones.

Nevertheless, in Martinique as in other overseas territories, broadband internet access is more expensive and does not work as well as that sold in mainland France.

Moreover, very high speed internet services are very limited in Martinique. To date, the three main hospitals, five pilot high schools, certain local authorities, telecoms operators and two economic activity zones are fully equipped with and already use fibre-optic.

For the general public, there is no FTTH (Fibre to the Home) service in Martinique. Only in the city of Fort-de-France and the town of Schoelcher is private investment planned by the provider Orange.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Territorial Collectivity of Martinique will support the deployment of very high speed internet (via fibre-optic), prioritising the zones where it will be least expensive and then progressively expanding to others. In 2018, thanks to 1780 km of fibre optic cable, 59% of the population should have access to a minimum speed of 30 Mbits/s.

This project will be supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. It tackles two objectives: to make territories and businesses more competitive by providing them with a better internet connection, and to improve internet coverage in areas where it is currently poor.

In concrete terms, the project includes two types of measures: firstly, the construction and use of very high speed FTTH (Fibre to the Home) infrastructures, forming a neutral network which is open to all operators, and secondly, the construction and use of bandwidth-boosting infrastructures in territories with a digital divide.



MAYOTTE

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | Situated in the south-west of the Indian Ocean, between the African continent and Madagascar, at the north end of the Mozambique Channel.

Mayotte is located 8050 km from Paris.

SURFACE AREA | 374 km²

POPULATION | 235 132 inhabitants (2016)

DENSITY | 663 inhabitants/km²

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE | Legally Dzaoudzi, but the headquarters of the departmental council and administrative offices are located in Mamoudzou.

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

Situated 295 km east of Madagascar and 67 km south-south-west of the Union of the Comoros, Mayotte is comprised of several islands and islets, the two largest being Grande-Terre and Petite-Terre, which are set among a 160 km-long coral reef surrounding a 1 100 km² lagoon. The coral reef protects almost all of Mayotte from tidal currents and provides shelter for boats and ocean fauna. The lagoon, with an average width of 5 to 10 km, reaches a depth of roughly 100 metres in places.

The main island, Grande-Terre (364 km²), shelters Mamoudzou, Mayotte's economic capital and headquarters of its departmental council and administrative offices. Despite having a relatively smooth terrain Grande-Terre is characterised by the presence of its many peaks, such as Mount Benara or Mavingoni (660 m), Mount Choungui (594 m), Mount Mtsapere (572 m) and Mount Combari (477 m). The second island, Petite-Terre, has a surface area of 124 km². It is home to the cities of Dzaoudzi and Pamandzi, which is where the airport is located.



The archipelago also comprises a series of islets: Mtsamboro (2 km²), Mbouzy (84 ha) Bandrele and Sable Blanc, among others.

The region has a tropical marine climate, with average temperatures fluctuating between 23 and 30 °C and humidity rates often exceeding 85%. The warm and wet rainy season spans from November to April/May; the average temperatures for this season vary between 27 and 30 °C. The dry season, from May to October, is much cooler, with temperatures varying from 22 to 25 °C. The prevailing winds, depending on the dry and wet season, are the south-west trade wind and the north-west monsoon. The sea temperature hovers at around 25.6 °C. Cyclone storms, which gain momentum along their path by exchanging heat with warm sea water, can have devastating effects.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Mayotte's economy is principally based on agriculture (2/3 of the surface of the archipelago) and the predominance of the tertiary sector (2/3 of jobs and wealth generated). Mayotte does not have mineral or energy resources, but relies on a few small industries in the construction and public works sector. Fishing remains a craft activity and its development would require exploitation beyond the lagoon, which is not yet systematic. The traditional sectors (food-producing agriculture, small handicraft and trade activities) that correspond to subsistence and often multiple-job activities still constitute a niche of employment for part of the population.



The tourist sector presents high potential; however, the lack of infrastructure is still a hindrance to the sector's success.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Mayotte is the 101st department of France, and the departmental council exercises the powers conferred on the regions. As of 1 January 2014, it also has the European Union (EU) status of an Outermost Region (OR), in accordance with Article 349 of the treaty on the functioning of the EU.

Mayotte has 17 communes and 13 cantons. In most cases, each of the 17 communes comprises several villages. Unlike other departments, which are made up of several districts, Mayotte does not officially contain any districts. Its territory may, however, be considered the equivalent of a single district, the administrative centre of which is based in Mamoudzou.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

Mayotte is home to a university centre for training and research. It has four departments, 710 students and 300 student teachers. There are plans to build a marine centre of excellence that will provide use of an analysis and research laboratory.

In the field of agriculture, Mayotte is part of the Agricultural Innovation and Dissemination Network (RITA).

'NARISOMÉ, LET'S LEARN TOGETHER' OR HOW TO BOOST YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN MAYOTTE

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Narisome, let's learn together: an initiative for the remobilisation and discovery of professions for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

BENEFICIARY | Auteuil Océan Indien Agepac Mayotte

FUNDING | European Youth Employment Initiative/ European Social Fund (YEI/ESF)

TOTAL | EUR 1 395 095
EU co-funding: EUR 1 283 500

PERIOD | from 01/12/2015 to 30/11/2017

CONTEXT

Young people have been severely affected by the economic crisis. In January 2013, the unemployment rate for young people in the EU was 23.6 %, more than twice that of adults. Some 7.5 million European youth (between the ages of 15 and 24) are unemployed and not pursuing any studies or training (NEET: Not in Employment, Education or Training). Reducing the drop-out rate to below 10 % is one of five main objectives being pursued within the European Union for the 2014-2020 period.

The situation is particularly worrisome in the 13 French regions, including Mayotte. Not only is it a problem for those concerned, it is also a situation that risks seriously affecting social cohesion within the department, and by extension, the European Union, and one that may have negative long-term repercussions on economic potential and competition.

The support that the European Union is now providing through its 'Youth Employment Initiative' is a great opportunity for local actors working in the youth training and employment sector in Mayotte.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

'Narisomé' is a program implemented by the AGEPAC which aims to remobilize young people (16-25 years of age) by working on motivation, self-confidence and socialization. The aim is to promote the acquisition of a set of cross-disciplinary skills, to develop an action plan for the young person's professional project and to thus validate and secure the young person's path to employment.

Narisomé is a 480-hour training programme for young NEETs¹ with a session every 2 months and an enrolment of 28 participants. Under the scheme, transportation and snacks are provided for trainees.

The results for 2016 were as follows²:

- Number of young people: 141;
- Positive outcomes: 48 % (employment and training);
- Further professional employment path: 42 % (internship);
- Continuation of the plan for 2 additional months: 13 %.

Info: <http://bit.ly/2gOvB2Y>

1) NEET: Not in employment education and training

2) Source Apprentis d'Auteuil Mayotte - Rapport d'activité *

A NEW HOSPITAL FOR BETTER HEALTH COVER

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Construction of the Petite Terre hospital

BENEFICIARY | Mayotte Hospital

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 27 049 000

Cofinancement européen: 17 324 000 EUR

PERIOD | February 2014 – December 2019

CONTEXT

In Mayotte there was no after-care and rehabilitation service. This gap was only filled by using the after-care and rehabilitation structures in Réunion. The strategic challenge for the island of Mayotte was therefore to create an after-care and rehabilitation unit in Petite Terre, to meet the following five objectives:

- optimise the medicine and surgery technical facilities by allowing rapid discharge and qualitative management of patients,
- prevent and limit the motor and cognitive after-effects of traumatic or medical conditions,
- reduce the handicap rate by assisting the social rehabilitation and reintegration of patients,
- reduce the recourse to after-care and rehabilitation structures in Réunion for patients from Mayotte,
- create a mobile team for return home and homecare services.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This operation allows after-care and rehabilitation to be integrated into a wider structuring project for Mayotte Hospital, and the partial rebalancing of the care offer between the two main islands.



The project allows relocation of the Dzaoudzi capacities (except for medical beds) and the clustering of hospital primary care (Labattoir and Pamandzi dispensaries), as part of the creation of a new healthcare cluster.

It permits treatment of patients suffering with chronic kidney disease, with the opening of a self-dialysis centre. And it proposes reserved land for future extensions or new activities.

In figures, the project will equip Petite Terre with:

- 40 adult after-care and rehabilitation beds: 20 for functional rehabilitation and 20 for after-care,
- 10 child after-care and rehabilitation beds for functional rehabilitation,
- 5 day-patient after-care and rehabilitation spaces: 3 for adults and 2 for children,
- 1 technical rehabilitation platform,
- 6 maternity beds, birth and consultation unit,
- 1 duty care centre with 4 examination cubicles,
- 1 general and specialist surgery.



RÉUNION

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | Located in the Indian Ocean, approx. 800 km east of Madagascar and 200 km west of Mauritius, the island of Réunion, along with the island of Mauritius and Rodrigues, forms the Mascareignes Archipelago. Réunion is 9400 km from Paris

SURFACE AREA | 2512 km²

POPULATION | 850 996 inhabitants (2016)

DENSITY | 339 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Saint-Denis

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

Réunion has 210 kilometres of mainly rocky and alluvial coastline, apart from the 25 kilometres of white sandy coral beach and 14 kilometres of black sand located to the west and south.

Characterised by steep terrain, the island is home to one of the world's most active volcanoes: the Piton de la Fournaise (2631 m high). The island's peaks, cirques and ramparts have been classed as UNESCO natural heritage sites since 2010.

Réunion has a tropical climate tempered by the trade winds. The presence of high mountains causes significant microclimatic differences; on the one hand, in terms of precipitation with the rainy wind-exposed eastern coast and a relatively dry western coast (protected by the terrain), and on the other hand, in terms of temperatures with warm coastal areas and relatively cool areas of higher altitude.

Average annual temperatures are 21 to 32 °C on the coast and 12 to 22 °C in the mountains.



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Réunion's traditional activities are agriculture (mainly sugar cane, meat and milk), fishing, the import-substitution industry and the building and public works sector.

Its more modern activities include tourism, the agri-food industry, biomedical research, technologies concerned with the growing of micro-algae and the solar energy industry.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

Réunion is an overseas region.

This mono-departmental region has a departmental council and a regional council.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

Its main university disciplines are law, economics and management, humanities and human sciences and science, technology and health.

In 2014-2015, 19 212 students were enrolled in higher education.



HELPING REDUCE THE WATER RESOURCE DEFICIT ON THE WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Irrigation of the west coast)

BENEFICIARY | Réunion Departmental Council

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the main extraction works (water intake) and adduction works (galleries, Mon Repos reservoir and main or master pipes). European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for distribution (irrigation antenna)

TOTAL | EUR 925 000 000

ERDF: EUR 300 000

EAFRD: EUR 125 000

PERIOD | Between 1989 and 2016.

CONTEXT

The leeward western side of the Island of Réunion is sheltered from precipitation brought in by the trade winds so rain there is relatively rare. In 2012, 10 000 mm of precipitation fell in the east. This was 20 times more than in the west, which had 500 mm of rainfall in the same year.

Agricultural development of the western micro-region is thus hindered by lack of water, both in terms of diversification and in terms of continued sugar cane farming.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Departmental Council supports development of the agricultural sector, particularly by creating large irrigated areas, which are key tools for securing, boosting and diversifying local agricultural production.



The project to irrigate the west coast is the leverage needed for agricultural and socio-economic development in the micro-region of the west, transferring 97 mm³ of water per year from areas where there is often a great excess of water (particularly the eastern micro-region). The project uses comprehensive, sustainable and supportive management of the island's water resources. It therefore meets several major objectives:

- To irrigate 7150 ha of agricultural land (71 mm³ per year), helping to secure and create hundreds of farms,
- To bring additional water to communities with a resource deficit: Le Port, La Possession, Saint-Paul, Trois-Bassins and Saint-Leu, for domestic and industrial needs (17 mm³ / year, population of 250 000),
- To protect the fragile and heavily exploited water resources of the western micro-region, contributing in particular to replenishing the Galets river groundwater (9 mm³ / year).

The project has therefore allowed large-scale hydraulic development: Four water intakes have been created in the Mât and Fleurs Jaunes rivers (Salazie), and the Bras de Sainte-Suzanne and the Galets river (Mafate), as well as 30 km of underground tunnels to supply eight irrigation antennas.

NANOMEDICINES FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF CANCERS

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | To design and develop nanovectors using 'green chemistry'

BENEFICIARY | TORSKAL company

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 448 498
EU co-funding: EUR 246 955

PERIOD | 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2016

CONTEXT

TORSKAL is a company which develops innovative solutions in chemotherapy. It specialises in the nanomedicine sector, a field of research which is already established in both academia and hospitals. However there are currently few applications, due to regulatory constraints and the difficulty of conducting validated clinical tests.

But in recent years, the global nanomedicine market hasn't stopped developing; it has grown from USD 43.2 billion in 2010 to USD 248.3 billion in 2014. In 2019 growth in this market should reach USD 528 billion.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TORSKAL designs nanotheranostics: nanomedicines used for the targeted diagnosis and destruction of cancer cells. To do this, the company draws on local biodiversity, using plants endemic to Réunion.

Made up of nanoparticles, these nanomedicines will offer an alternative to chemotherapy. Their action, contained at cellular level (because of the size of the nanoparticles), allows targeted treatment, compared to chemotherapy whose side effects on the body can be considerable.

Moreover these nanoparticles, produced from molecules extracted from plants, are an advantageous substitute for the toxic solvents normally used in nanotechnology.

Info: <http://www.cyroi.fr/pepiniere-entreprise/sas-torskall/>



SAINT MARTIN

MEMBER STATE | France

LOCATION | Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean)

Saint Martin is 6 700 km from Paris.

SURFACE AREA* | 51 km²

POPULATION* | 36 457 inhabitants

DENSITY* | 672 inhabitants/km²

CAPITAL | Marigot

TOPOGRAPHY/CLIMATE

The northern part of the island is the biggest and most mountainous (small hills). The peninsula of the Terres-Basses, formed of a plateau and the three Mornes Rouges, is linked by the Sandy Ground coastal barrier beach.

The Pointe des Canonniers is the most westerly point of the European Union's territories. The climate is tropical and tempered by maritime influences and trade winds. The average annual temperature is 26 °C.

Like the rest of the area, Saint Martin is exposed to significant seismic activity and extreme climate phenomena. In September 2017, Hurricane Irma destroyed almost all infrastructures on the island.

* French part of the island



ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Saint Martin's economy relies on:

- traditional activities such as commerce, the building and public works sector and the services sector;
- more modern activities, including luxury tourism, leisure tourism and gastronomic tourism.

POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS

This island's political administration is divided between the French area in the north (Saint Martin) and the Dutch area in the south (Sint Maarten).

Saint Martin has been a French overseas collectivity since 15 July 2007. Previously, it depended administratively on the overseas department of Guadeloupe, of which it formed a municipality and the 3rd arrondissement with Saint Barthélemy, which also became an overseas collectivity.

UNIVERSITIES/SPECIALITIES

The education system is limited to kindergarten, primary and secondary schools.



TRAINED LEADERS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | 'Extracurricular leader' professional qualification certificate

BENEFICIARY | Saint Martin GRETA

FUNDING | European Social Fund (ESF)

TOTAL | EUR 77 827
ESF contribution: EUR 66 153

PERIOD | 02/2016 – 09/2016

CONTEXT

The demand to accommodate pupils in extracurricular activities is growing. The Caisse territoriale des œuvres scolaires (CTOS), which manages extracurricular activities, has welcomed 1600 pupils since the start of the new school year in 2016, compared to 1100 last year. Consequently more extracurricular leaders are needed.

Extracurricular leaders work before or after school and sometimes during lunch breaks with children aged 3 to 12 years. They work under the authority of the establishment head, and within the framework of the projects and organisation defined by them.

The extracurricular leader must have a perfect understanding of the special nature of extracurricular time, be able to prepare a leisure facilitation project for children, and master the necessary technical tools for leading activities.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This training initiative is part of the Territorial Collectivity's 2015-2016 Territorial Professional Training Programme. It started on 1 February 2016, with 15 trainees at the St Martin and St Barthélemy GRETA training centre, and ended on 17 June 2016. Eleven trainees took the exams to qualify and all obtained their diploma, giving this training a 100% success rate.

A NEW SCHOOL COMPLEX TO MEET SECONDARY EDUCATION NEEDS

PROJECT PROFILE

PROJECT | Construction of the Robert Weinum school complex

BENEFICIARY | Collectivity of Saint Martin

FUNDING | European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

TOTAL | EUR 16 370 490
EU co-funding: EUR 6 442 000

CONTEXT

With the rapid growth of the school population (24 % of the total population in 2016) and growing infrastructure needs, the authorities of the Collectivity of Saint Martin have decided to create a new school complex in Grand Case, including a secondary school with capacity for 400 pupils and a high school with capacity for 554 pupils.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The new Robert Weinum school complex is located in La Savane and opened on 4 July 2016. As stated by the president of the Saint Martin Territorial Council: 'This work is a significant step forward for the young people in the territory.'

As highlighted by the Prefect delegated to the State representative in the collectivities of Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin, the new school complex could not have been built without financial aid from the State and the European Union. The whole project cost around EUR 16.5 million and received 6.5 million from the EU, as well as 8.4 million from the State.



The new school complex is designed to accommodate a total of 900 pupils (400 secondary school and 554 high school pupils). It has around 25 classrooms, three language laboratories, two IT rooms, eight science laboratories and a complex entirely dedicated to teaching sports, as well as a dining hall where half-board pupils can eat a balanced breakfast and lunch.

Demonstrating the usefulness and effectiveness of this project, 776 pupils (88 in the first year of secondary school and 688 in high school) were already being taught there in 2016, and 995 pupils are expected for the new school year in 2017 (183 in the first and second years of secondary school and 772 in high school).

Parts of this school complex were affected by Hurricane Irma, which damaged almost all of the infrastructures and homes on the island. The European Union will be mobilised to support the reconstruction effort.

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS IN FIGURES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATISTICS

	Population (2015)	Per capita GDP (EU28=100) (2015)	Unemployment (2016)	Youth unemployment (15-24 years) (2016)*	Female unemployment (2016)*
Azores	245 766	68	11.2	41.5	9.5
Canary Islands	2 135 722	74	26.1	51.3	27.8
Guadeloupe	429 849	69	23.9	46.7	25.3
French Guiana	262 527	53	23.2	43.9	24.7
Madeira	256 424	72	13	50.5	11.9
Martinique	376 847	78	17.6	44.3	17.5
Mayotte	235 132	32	27.1	54.5	31.8
La Réunion	850 996	71	22.4	44	22

* 2016 data except for the Azores and Madeira (2014)

The demographic data for Guadeloupe include Saint Martin (population of 36 457 in 2013)

Source: Eurostat

AMOUNTS ALLOCATED BY THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS ERDF, ESF AND EAFRD FOR THE 2014-2020 PERIOD IN THOUSANDS OF EURO

2014-2020	ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) ¹	ESF (European Social Fund)	EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)
Canary Islands	997,7	162,4	157,5
Guadeloupe	521,9	233,9	174,0
Martinique	445,1	195,5	130,2
French Guiana	338,1	138,3	112,0
Reunion Island	1 130,5	516,8	385,5
Mayotte	148,8	65,5	60,0
St Martin	38,6	15,8	*
Azores	825,0	314,7	295,3
Madeira	274,4	129	179,4
Grand Total	4 720,0	1 772,0	1 493,9

* The amounts are allocated to Saint Martin under the rural development programme of Guadeloupe

¹) Regional Operational programmes

European Commission

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