



European Commission



THE OUTERMOST REGIONS EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD



CANARY ISLANDS



2.1 million inhabitants

7 447 km²

● Situated in the Atlantic, 1 000 km away from the Iberian Peninsula, the Canary Islands have 2.1 million inhabitants living on 7 main islands.

● They are strategically placed between Europe, America and Africa, offering a privileged position for **cultural and economic exchange**.

● The Canary Islands host **world-class research centres** and universities, making the region a front runner in fields such as **astrophysics, oceanography, renewable energies and biotechnologies**.

● However, there are still some challenges:

the region's GDP per head has been declining over the last years, standing at 74% of the EU average, and the unemployment rate is very high, especially among young people.

WHAT WILL THE NEW EU STRATEGY BRING TO THE CANARY ISLANDS?

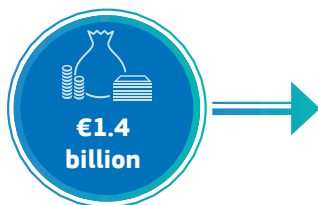
By encouraging the outermost regions to **capitalise on their unique assets**, the strategy will help them create **new opportunities** for their inhabitants, boost **innovation** in sectors like agriculture, fisheries or tourism, while deepening the **cooperation** with neighbour countries. For the Canary Islands, the strategy could help support in particular:

- ✓ A solid **blue economy** sector, by encouraging the development of marine renewable energy, aquaculture and blue biotechnologies and local fisheries
- ✓ **Enhanced mobility, employability and new skills for young people** by financially helping students and volunteers travelling under Erasmus + and the European Solidarity Corps
- ✓ **A hand to researchers and their activities** by facilitating their participation in the EU research programme Horizon 2020
- ✓ **Deeper cooperation** with neighbouring countries and **the region's interests** taken into account upstream when negotiating trade agreements involving specific local productions (such as bananas)
- ✓ Further support to **transport connections**



WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR THE CANARY ISLANDS?

EU funding 2014-2020



Some **expected results** of this support:

- ▶ Doubling the number of businesses cooperating with research centres
- ▶ The entire population covered by high-speed broadband
- ▶ Half of the school population having access to e-learning services
- ▶ Reduction of waiting time for surgical intervention by up to 90 days
- ▶ 32 000 people receiving vocational training and guidance
- ▶ Support to 240 young farmers and 792 farms benefiting from modernisation aid

IN ADDITION:

€127 million under the **European cooperation programme** for Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands

€82.9 million under the **European Maritime Fisheries Fund**

POSEI, the specific agriculture programme for the outermost regions can support the Canary Islands with up to **€268 million per year**

Specificities of other EU policies

The outermost regions benefit from specific or derogating measures, in areas such as agriculture, state aid and taxation, in order to mitigate the impact of their specific constraints and boost economic growth. The Canary Islands in particular, benefit from a special taxation regime, authorising the Spanish authorities to apply, subject to the authorised limits, reductions or exemptions from the 'Arbitrio sobre las importaciones y entregas de mercancías (Tax on imports and deliveries to the Canary Islands) tax scheme.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN THE CANARY ISLANDS



Adaptive optic system for the Gran Telescopio de Canarias

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €2.5 million

The Gran Telescopio CANARIAS is one of the world's largest and most advanced telescopes. The EU funds the design, development and construction of the cutting-edge optic system, software and technical support.



Transport via helicopters with advanced life support

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €7.3 million

The geographical characteristics and population distribution in the Canary Islands result in an uneven access to health care centres. In order to ensure that patients in an emergency situation are given the best treatment, the project financed the contract for 2 helicopter services.