

# THE OUTERMOST REGIONS

## EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD



### MARTINIQUE



  385 000 inhabitants  1 128 km<sup>2</sup>

- Located in the Caribbean area, 7000 km from Paris, Martinique has a population of 385 000 inhabitants.
- Its **exceptional geographical position** between Europe, the Caribbean and the Americas offers the opportunity for regular exchanges with other countries and continents.
- Martinique's GDP per head is among the highest in the Caribbean area, despite being affected by a **high unemployment rate, an ageing population and early school leaving**.
- The island has a **unique biodiversity**. **Tourism** has a clear potential although the island suffers from lack of infrastructure. The agri-food sector is crucial to the economy, with the export-oriented production of bananas and rum. The region has also a valuable expertise in the management and prevention of natural risks.

## WHAT WILL THE NEW EU STRATEGY BRING TO MARTINIQUE?

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 Martinique, 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;
- ✓ **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)
- ✓ A more competitive **agri-food sector** with modernised production processes;
- ✓ **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
- ✓ Further support to **transport connections**



## WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR MARTINIQUE?

### EU funding 2014-2020



Some **expected results** of this support:

- ▶ 100.000 households with new access to broadband
- ▶ Increased production of renewable energy
- ▶ 2400 enterprises supported in developing business plans
- ▶ Creation of new facilities to host deprived elderly persons
- ▶ 54,000 people participating in targeted training courses, especially young people
- ▶ Support to 133 young farmers and 560 farms benefiting from modernisation aid

### IN ADDITION

**€64.3 million** under the **European cooperation programme** for the Caribbean area

**€131 million** under the **European Maritime Fisheries Fund** for the French outermost regions

**POSEI**, the specific agriculture programme for the outermost regions can support the French outermost regions with **up to €278 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. Martinique in particular, benefits from specific taxation regime for the consumption in France of locally produced traditional rum as well as from the exemption or reduction of the dock dues to goods produced locally.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN MARTINIQUE



### **New hospital platform resistant to high intensity earthquakes**

**EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**EU funding:** €34.6 million

Martinique is located in an area of high seismic risk and the construction of a new hospital platform in line with new standards of seismic protection is of high importance for the region.

The project foresees the construction of essential assistance units able to work in extreme conditions and a helipad area for the transport of patients.



### **Construction of a new waste water treatment plant**

**EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**EU funding:** €300 000

The operation consists in the construction of a new waste water treatment plant in the district of Taupinière at Diamant.

The project will reinforce the capacity of wastewater treatment infrastructures in the island and contribute to better public health and protection of bathing areas.