



European Commission



THE OUTERMOST REGIONS EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD



FRENCH GUIANA



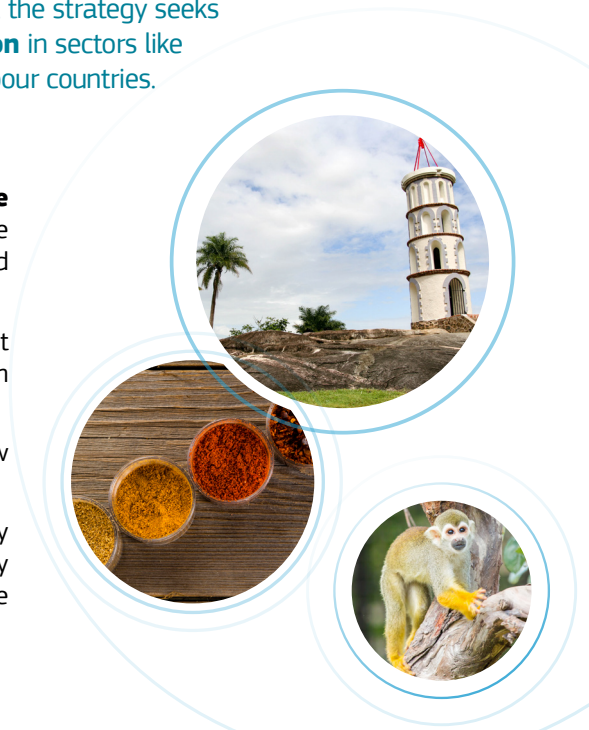
248 000 inhabitants 83 846 km²

- French Guiana is situated in the South American continent, 7000 km away from Paris and has 248 000 inhabitants.
- Sheltering a large tropical forest, French Guiana has **strong natural assets**: untapped land reserves, minerals, fisheries and a **unique biodiversity**.
- The region also hosts the **French Guiana and European Space Centre**. **This is Europe's main spaceport, and is therefore of primary, strategic importance for independent access to space.**
- **Unemployment and early school leaving** are among the most important challenges. The region has an exceptional demographic growth: its population is due to double by 2040.
- **The lack of basic infrastructures** such as water and waste management systems, education and health facilities, transport, generates sanitary and social risks. Long borders with Brazil and Suriname are difficult to control and create many challenges related to **illegal immigration**, crime and illegal gold mining.

WHAT DOES THE NEW EU STRATEGY BRING TO FRENCH GUIANA?

By encouraging the outermost regions to **capitalise on their unique assets**, the strategy seeks to help them create **new opportunities** for their inhabitants, boost **innovation** in sectors like agriculture, fisheries or tourism, while deepening the **cooperation** with neighbour countries. One year on, the main developments in French Guiana are:

- ✓ The implementation of strategies promoting a sustainable and **more innovative economy** based on the sectors of the future, including the green and blue economy in favour of biodiversity, agro-industries and sustainable tourism, and the selection of 350 projects in these areas;
- ✓ **Support for researchers** through the Horizon 2020 «FORWARD» project aimed at strengthening their presence in European and international innovation networks and their ability to participate in research projects;
- ✓ **Enhanced competitiveness** through a business support policy offering new financial instruments, particularly for small and very small businesses.
- ✓ A **circular economy supported** by the establishment of a regional strategy and an action programme for the establishment of a waste observatory and information campaigns on waste prevention and management, and the development of the circular economy.



WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR FRENCH GUIANA?

EU funding 2014-2020



Some **expected results** of this support:

- ▶ Reaching a 3-year survival rate for most newly created businesses
- ▶ 70% of the population living in remote areas covered by communication networks
- ▶ 16 300 additional daily users of collective public transport;
- ▶ 90% of the population with access to drinking water
- ▶ Support to 9000 young people in their job search
- ▶ 350 farms benefiting from modernisation aid.

IN ADDITION:

€19 million
under the **European cooperation programme** for the Amazonia 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. French Guiana in particular, benefits from a 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 PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN FRENCH GUIANA



La maison de la forêt et du bois

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €2.3 million

The 'maison de la forêt et du bois' (The Forest and Wood House) is a structure aimed at the development of the wood sector, the prosperity of its companies, and the implementation of eco-certified products. The establishment promotes the enhancement of the advantages of wood material in construction and Amazonian Environmental Quality standards.



The University of French Guyana - Campus of Troubiran

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €28 million

The EU financed the upgrade of the university's infrastructure to welcome a growing population of students. The campus of Troubiran will also host research teams and start-ups.

The university offers courses on biodiversity management, territorial management, tropical infectiology and on French Guiana's society. The campus has a natural ventilation system and a photovoltaic power plant.