



European Commission

## THE OUTERMOST REGIONS



### FRENCH GUIANA



248 000 inhabitants



83 846 km<sup>2</sup>

- 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, transport, education and health facilities, 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 STRATEGY BRING TO FRENCH GUIANA?

By encouraging the outermost regions to capitalise on their unique assets, the strategy seeks to support these regions in creating new opportunities, boosting innovation and jobs in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, climate change and circular economy, and deepening cooperation with neighbour countries. Two years on, the main developments in French Guiana are:

- ✓ The implementation of strategies promoting a sustainable and more innovative economy based on the green and blue economies in favour of biodiversity, agro-industries and sustainable tourism, and the selection of 350 projects in these areas;
- ✓ Support to the development of the regional blue economy and the creation of a loan scheme of €4.7 million euro for small operators, including the fisheries sector;
- ✓ Energy transition through the construction of electricity installations based on biomass to cover an energy demand of 40 Megawatt by 2030;
- ✓ Employment and education, through a framework agreement to develop a bachelor degree course in the field of aerospace industry and a project to place 300 young people in local businesses;
- ✓ Digital accessibility, by linking up to a submarine optical fibre cable connecting Europe and Latin America.



## WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR FRENCH GUIANA?

### EU funding 2014-2020



- ▶ The European Regional Development Fund: €286 million + €52.1 million (specific allocation)
- ▶ The European Social Fund: €132 million
- ▶ The Youth Employment Initiative: €11.2 million
- ▶ The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: €112 million

#### IN ADDITION, A SHARE OF:

**€19 million**  
under the **European cooperation programme** for the Amazonia area.

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

Up to **€278 million per year** of possible funding under **POSEI**, the specific agriculture programme for the outermost regions, for the French outermost regions altogether.

### Specificities of other EU policies

The outermost regions benefit from specific or derogating measures, in areas such as regional development, agriculture, fisheries, State aid and taxation, in order to mitigate the impact of their specific constraints and boost economic growth. French Guiana in particular, benefits from reductions of the dock dues to goods produced locally as well as from a specific taxation regime for the consumption in France of locally produced traditional rum.

## EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN FRENCH GUIANA



### RenfoRéSAP - Strengthening the Network of Protected Areas of the Guiana Plateau

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND / INTERREG

**EU funding:** €496 500

The project, implemented together with Suriname, aims at supporting the sustainable development of the Guiana Shield ecosystem – one of the largest tropical rainforests in the world – in the context of climate change. The project aims to improve the capacity of conservation area managers to support local development such as ecotourism, and to combat threats such as illegal gold panning.



### Access points to the network in Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

**EU funding:** €2.56 million

The project designed and installed a local optical fibre infrastructure to develop the digital network in the town of Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, and more widely in western French Guiana. Today, the whole town is connected.