



European Commission

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS



MARTINIQUE



  385 000 inhabitants  1 128 km²

- 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 DOES THE STRATEGY BRING TO MARTINIQUE?

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 Martinique are:

- ✓ Support to the blue economy, through training programmes on fisheries and other blue sectors in the dedicated vocational training centre POLE MER and through the creation of an aquaculture institute;
- ✓ A more dynamic circular economy, through 14 projects, including studies on the reuse of medical utilities and furniture and mobile facilities providing repair services; and through a plan for the prevention and management of waste products and campaigns against food waste;
- ✓ Energy transition with the installation of photovoltaic panels and fuel stations with 100% solar energy for electrical cars;
- ✓ Enhanced cooperation with the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, particularly in the field of risk prevention and management, to benefit from shared expertise in dealing with extreme weather events.



WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR MARTINIQUE?

EU funding 2014-2020



- ▶ The European Regional Development Fund: €352 million + €93.1 million (specific allocation)
- ▶ The European Social Fund: €193 million
- ▶ The Youth Employment Initiative: €15.4 million
- ▶ The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: €130.2 million

IN ADDITION, A SHARE OF:

€64.3 million under the **European cooperation programme** for the Caribbean 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. Martinique in particular, benefits from a specific taxation regime for the consumption in France of locally produced traditional rum as well as from reductions of the dock dues to goods produced locally.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN MARTINIQUE

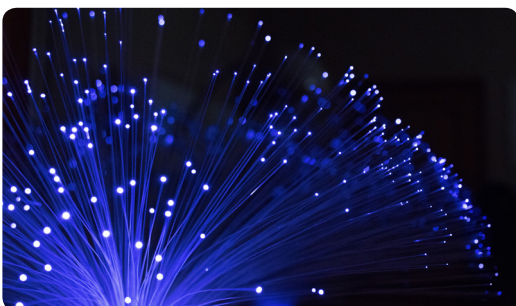


New sustainable bus line

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €66.2 million

This project has financed a priority lane for buses on a 14 km route, the purchase of new buses and 14 new stations, bus shelters and stops. The new bus network improves considerably the conditions of transport of commuters and ensures fast and efficient journeys, while promoting intermodal transport practices and reducing the impact of transport on the local eco-system.



A new high-speed optical fibre broadband network

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €34.5 million

The project helped to deploy a high-speed network in Martinique using the fibre-to-home technology, within the framework of the «France Très Haut Débit» plan. The new network is to be connected directly to individual buildings such as residences, apartment buildings and businesses to provide high-speed Internet access.