

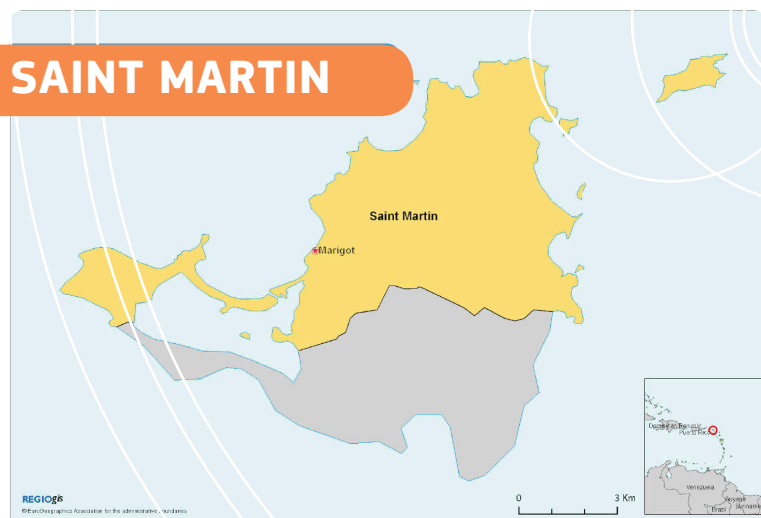


European Commission

THE OUTERMOST REGIONS



SAINT MARTIN



- Saint-Martin is an island of the Caribbean Sea. The Northern part of the island is a French overseas collectivity, 6700 km away from Paris, with 36 000 inhabitants.
- Devastated by hurricane Irma, Saint-Martin needs to rebuild its key infrastructure.
- While its rich biodiversity can help boost tourism, its industry (mainly construction) is relatively weak and poorly structured. The Region currently doesn't offer any University level education training. However, building on **the multilingualism of its population** (French, English and Spanish) the region would like to develop a language education offer.
- Saint-Martin has a young population, heavily affected by unemployment and early school leaving.



36 000 inhabitants



51 km²

WHAT DOES THE STRATEGY BRING TO SAINT MARTIN?

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 Saint Martin are:

- ✓ Greater resilience and adaptation to climate change, through a risk management system for disasters including raising awareness, assessing alert systems and acquiring a meteorological radar to improve weather forecasts;
- ✓ A more dynamic and sustainable circular economy, raising awareness and implementing communication actions on recycling and waste sorting, and carrying out a study for the island to improve waste management;
- ✓ Energy provision through pre-feasibility studies on potential geothermal resources and on electricity interconnection between the islands of Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Kitts;
- ✓ Digital accessibility, by establishing underground optical fibre networks to improve connectivity in all districts and by carrying out prefeasibility studies for digital interconnection between the Leeward Islands.



WHAT DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION DO FOR SAINT MARTIN?

EU funding 2014-2020



- ▶ The European Regional Development Fund: €31.4 million + €7.4 million (specific allocation)
- ▶ The European Social Fund: €20 million
- ▶ The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: €3 million

IN ADDITION, A SHARE OF:

€10 million under the **European cooperation programme** for Saint-Martin/Sint-Maarten

€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. In particular, Saint Martin benefitted from the EU Solidarity Fund to support the reconstruction after the damages caused by the hurricanes that hit the island.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE EU IN SAINT MARTIN

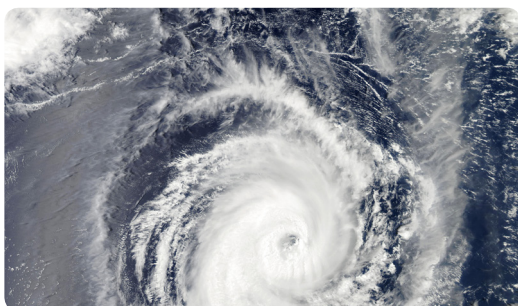


CARIBIX, securing traffic data

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €335 036

CARIBIX develops internet exchange points on Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy and Guadeloupe to order, control and secure data traffic, by also providing a local telecommunication service to operators and users. The project encourages the development of computer technologies in the Caribbean and promotes the reinforcement of new digital uses in the fields of e-health and e-education.



RADAR, improving resilience to climate change

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

EU funding: €1.29 million

The RADAR project enabled the acquisition of a new weather radar to improve the coverage of the Lesser Antilles and therefore the reliability and accuracy of weather forecasts for those territories. It allows for a better coordination of alerts and vigilance instructions, putting in place advanced systems for weather risk management.