



ESF project "Territorial Centre of Economic Cooperation" (TCEC)

France

Key facts

NAME OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Regional operational programme 'French Guyana' - CCI 2014FR05SFOP003

TARGET GROUPS



Guyanese citizens, unemployed population, especially unemployed youth

BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Ancrage Guyane

PROJECT DURATION

01/07/2016 – 21/12/2018 (no activities registered)

COORDINATOR

Prefecture of French Guyana



communication.ancrageguyane@gmail.com

BUDGET

EUR 482,770.54

ESF contribution

EUR 263,582.00

Other contribution



PROJECT/ORGANISATION WEBSITE



<https://ancrageguyane.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100013867427273>

PARTNERS

Prefecture, local government, municipalities, business and community association.

Activities implemented

PROJECT IN NUMBERS



2015/6

Ancrage wins the call of interest, becomes a TCEC and receives its first ESF funds



8%

Proportion of French Guyana's economy dedicated to the social and solidarity economy'



2019

Ancrage is unable to meet its debts and files a bankruptcy report



3

Number of persons working for Ancrage until 2019

MAIN PROJECT TASKS

- Structuring a network of over 20 public and private actors dedicated to professional integration of Guyana's youth in the local economy and social inclusion.
- Coordinating and galvanising the stakeholders' network by delivering management and financial counselling to local businesses. Setting up a common physical space with social incubator functions – the *Hangar (L'entrepôt)* – shared by several beneficiaries.
- Organising meetings and after-works to bring together employers and job-seekers. Helping the local population to secure a place on the job market by providing them with training seminars to acquire new professional competences and to be able to grasp opportunities. Handing information about social benefits and programmes, such as partial unemployment compensation.
- Driving a coordinated social policy on the scale of the territory. Identifying economic difficulties and possibilities in the SSE sector.

Project journey: from conception to delivery

INITIAL STAGE

CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The project is located in French Guyana, an overseas territory severely affected by structural underdevelopment and unemployment (22% in 2018). The French government tackles these issues through the perspective of the *Social and Solidarity Economy Act* (2014), which created the new hybrid status of **'Territorial Centre of Economic Cooperation'** (TCEC) – voluntary networks of stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society, seeking to reconcile economic activity with social equity and initiate local sustainable development. Ancrage was created in 2009 as an association. Hence it was well placed to bid for TCEC status in 2015.



PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

It aimed to strengthen the skills of socio-economic stakeholders and associations by encouraging social dialogue and networking. **The main goal is to federate the actors involved in social inclusion on the Guyanese territory by moderating the network and hosting events.** Thanks to counselling and supervision, the beneficiaries of the project should be able to structure themselves and develop new techniques and management skills.

PROJECT PHASE

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED, AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The main challenge faced was **insufficient management skills of the Ancrage staff.** The organisational structure, originally an association, failed to professionalise. They required the help of a specialised HR firm, which helped them to acquire the competences they were supposed to give to their own beneficiaries on issues such as legal counselling, internal organisation, etc. They also encountered **corporate governance difficulties:** almost all the administrative staff members resigned at the same time in February 2019. Finally, they suffered from **local competition with similar structures,** which also apply for public funds dedicated to social and solidarity economy's developmental projects.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The key success for Ancrage was their numerous 'After work' events, which they organised to allow their beneficiaries to meet and exchange good practices. They host the **'Day of Territorial Initiatives for Employment', a job-dating event promoting professional integration.** They welcomed approximately 200 persons, dispatched between four different areas: professional counselling, recruitment, training, and businesses initiatives.

RESULTS, IMPACTS

KEY RESULTS AND SUCCESS FACTORS

Ancrage filed for official bankruptcy report in May 2019. It was unable to meet their debts and to produce any activity report. It is then very difficult to assess the results achieved during the activity period of Ancrage.



IMPACT ON CITIZENS, AS WELL AS ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM IN GENERAL

From the testimony of the civil servants interviewed (Prefecture, DIECTE), **there is only a limited impact observed nor expected on the administrative system in general.**

REFLECTIONS

LESSONS LEARNT: THE ROLE OF ESF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ESF appears essential to the enhancement of capacity building and development of innovative projects in French Guyana. Yet, structural factors, linked to the Guyanese economy or the actors' management competences, still burden the overall expected results.



The 'Hangar', Ancrage's headquarters
Source: @Ancrage/Facebook

Personal experiences



'Without the European Union, we would be nothing but a complete impoverished territory.'

– **Rodolphe Alexandre**, President of the Territorial Collectivity of French Guyana (source: French Senate's audition, June 2019)

'We fear that the specificities of our overseas territories will not be acknowledged.'

– **Delphine Lasselin**, Director of the Territorial Collectivity of French Guyana's European Affairs division (source: French Senate's audition, June 2019)

The study "Progress Assessment of the ESF Support to Public Administration" (PAPA) aims to present specific cases of ESF-funded public administration reform and capacity building initiatives. The contractor prepared 30 case studies and factsheets on ESF supported projects funded in 17 beneficiary countries of Thematic Objective 11 during the programming period 2014-2020.

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PPMI

Find out more about the project by following the link <http://bit.ly/PAPA-PPMI> or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera.

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