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POLICY DEPARTMENT
STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES **B**



Agriculture and Rural Development

Culture and Education

Fisheries

Regional Development

Transport and Tourism

**RESEARCH FOR REGI
COMMITTEE - ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL
SITUATION IN MARTINIQUE**

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES
POLICY DEPARTMENT B: STRUCTURAL AND COHESION POLICIES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
TERRITORIAL SITUATION
IN MARTINIQUE**

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This document was requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development.

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Abstract

This in-depth analysis was written upon request of the Committee on Regional Development visiting Martinique, an outermost region of the EU, belonging to France. The analysis provides an overview of the region of Martinique, its political, economic and administrative system, and of the Operational Programme for the period of 2014-2020.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EC	European Commission
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESF	European Social Fund
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INSEE	Institut National de la Statistique et des Études et des Études Économique (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies)
OP	Operational Programme
R&D	Research and Development
SME	Small and/or Medium Sized Enterprise
TO	Thematic Objective
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

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1. THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

France (*République française*) is a unitary, semi-presidential, constitutional republic¹ composed of 27 **administrative regions** (*régions*), which are subdivided into 101 **departments** (*départements*), then into 335 **arrondissements**, 2,054 **cantons**, and finally into 36,658 **municipalities** (*communes*)^{2 3}. Out of all administrative regions, 22 are located in metropolitan France (which includes Corsica) and five are located overseas. The overseas regions (*Région d'outre-mer*) include: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Réunion. **The overseas regions enjoy the same status as the metropolitan regions**⁴. According to the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, the total territorial⁵ area of France is 640,679 km² and there are a total of 64,933,400 inhabitants⁶. Since 1st January 2016, France is divided into 18 administrative regions including 13 metropolitan regions and 5 overseas regions.

In brief, France is a **semi-presidential republic**. This means that the government is run by both the President and the Prime Minister. It has a **bicameral Parliament** made up of the National Assembly (*Assemblée nationale*) and the Senate (*Sénat*)⁷. The latter indirectly represents the sub-national authorities' interests to the extent that the Senate is indirectly elected by an electoral body comprising representatives of the Regions, the Departments and the Communes⁸. Besides the executive and legislative branches, France also has a judicial branch with an independent judiciary which does not answer to nor is directly controlled by the other two branches of government.

¹ French Constitution, Title I, art. 3.

² French Constitution, Title XII, art. 72.

³ INSEE, *Circonscriptions administratives au 1er janvier 2015 : comparaisons régionales* (in French), retrieved October 22, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=99&ref_id=t_0203R.

⁴ French Constitution, Title XII, art. 73-74.

⁵ This includes the overseas regions.

⁶ INSEE, *Population par sexe et âge regroupé*, retrieved 22 October, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau_local.asp?ref_id=POP1A&millesime=2011&niveau=1&typgeo=FE&codgeo=1.

⁷ French Constitution, Title IV, art. 24.

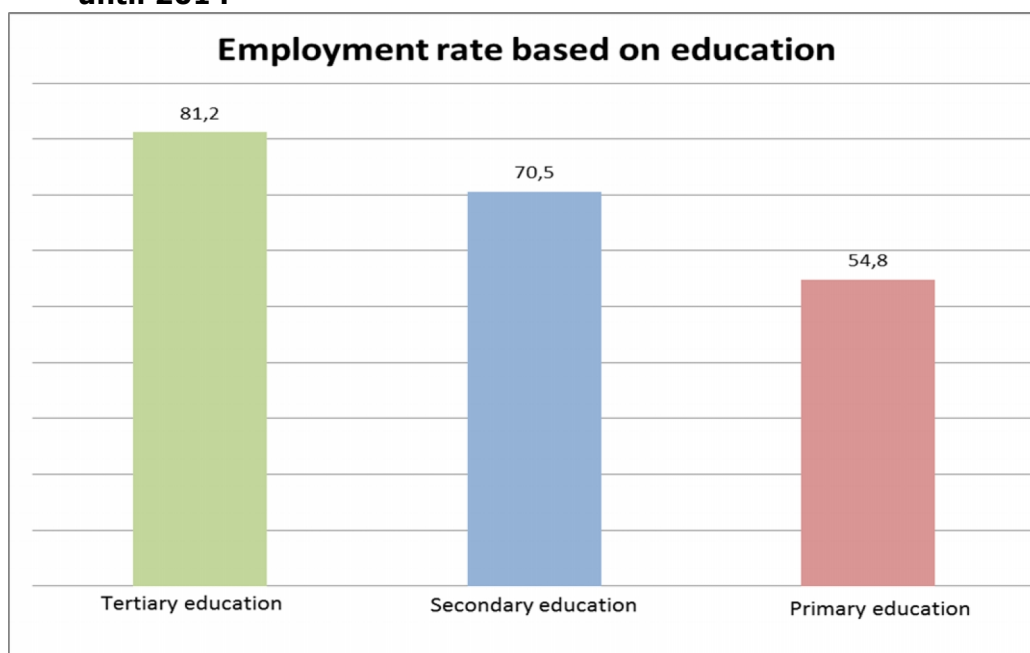
⁸ European Institute of Public Administration, *Division of Powers between the European Union, the Member States and Regional and Local Authorities*, (EU: December 2012), p. 275.

Figure 1: Regions of France

Source: European Commission, DG REGIO

Since the 2008 economic crisis, France has maintained a relatively stable employment rate across ages and gender. France's **employment** rate was consistently close, if not higher in some cases, to the EU28 average. For example, Eurostat⁹ reports that for people in the age group 20-64 years, who have completed either primary and lower secondary education or upper secondary and post-secondary education, the employment rate in France was higher than the average EU28 from 2008 to 2014. Only when looking at people who have completed their tertiary education, one can see a slight drop in the level of employment in comparison to the EU28 average. In spite of this, in France, the level of employment among the people with a university diploma is significantly higher (81.2% employment rate on average from 2008-2014) than that of the rest (54.8% of people with primary and lower secondary education; 70.5% of people with upper secondary and post-secondary education). This statistic is illustrated graphically in Figure 2.

⁹ Eurostat, *Employment and Unemployment - Main Tables*, retrieved October 23, 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/lfs/data/main-tables>.

Figure 2: Average Employment Rate (Based on Education) in France from 2008 until 2014**Source:** Eurostat

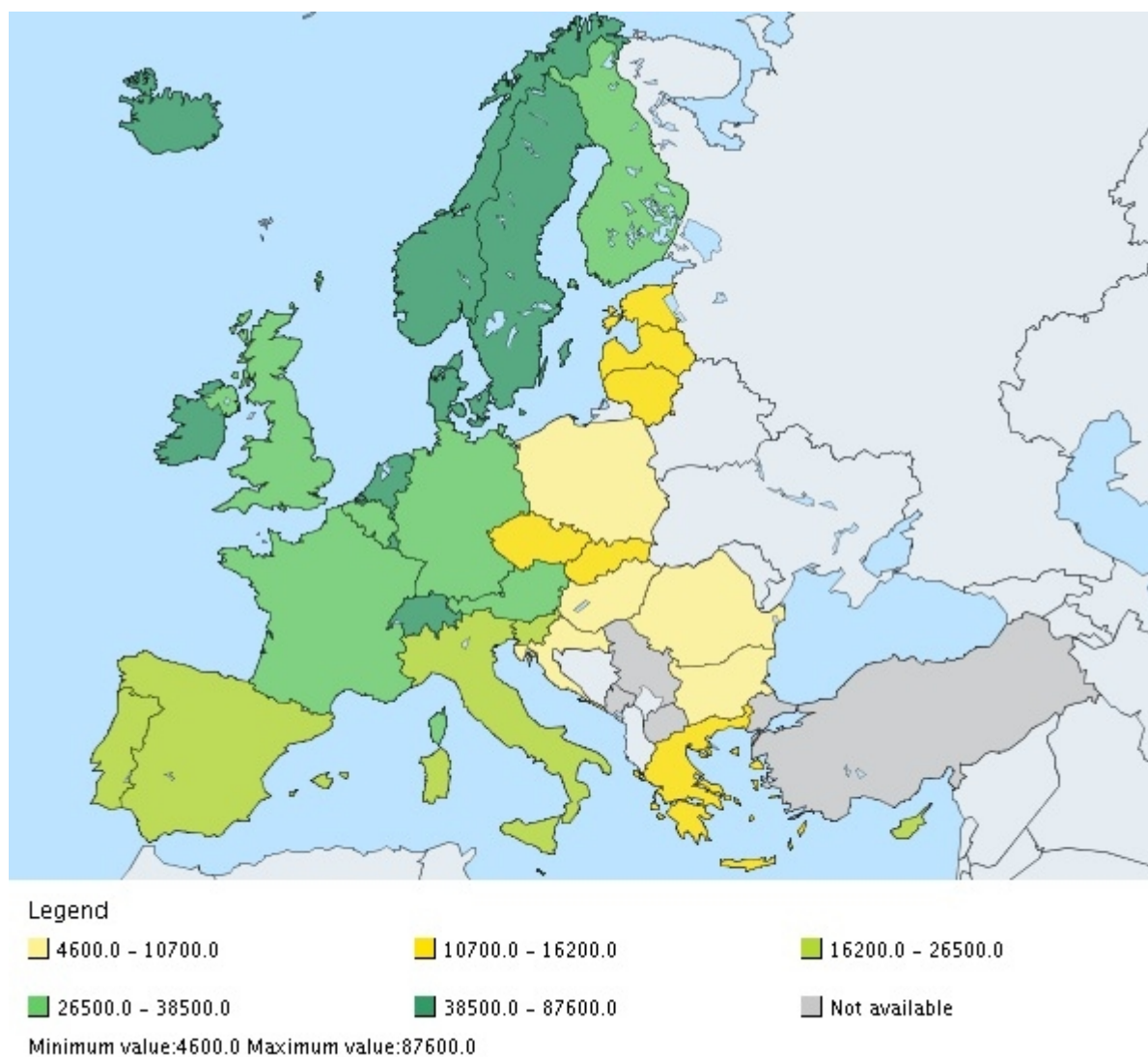
In macroeconomic terms (as seen in Figure 3), France is one of the highest grossing countries in the EU. On average, its GDP per capita surpasses the EU28 by €5,000 or €6,000¹⁰. Although France is doing better than most Eastern European and South European countries, its GDP per capita is slightly surpassed by other mainland Western European countries (e.g. Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, and The Netherlands). In comparison with the Scandinavian countries, as well as with the UK and Ireland, France's GDP is lagging even farther behind¹¹. Furthermore, France has used 2% of its GDP to fund R&D¹². This is 0.2% higher than the EU average and 1% lower than the country's national EU 2020 target for R&D¹³.

¹⁰ According to Eurostat based on data gathered for the years 2008 to 2014.

¹¹ According to Eurostat and INSEE data gathered for the year 2014.

¹² According to the latest data from 2013.

¹³ Eurostat, as cited in European Commission - DG REGIO, *France: Country Profile; Key Indicators*, (Brussels: May 2015), retrieved October 23, 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/factsheets/2015/country-profile-key-indicators-france.

Figure 3: GDP at market prices

Source: Eurostat
Copyright: @EuroGeographics

Table 1: Political Context in France

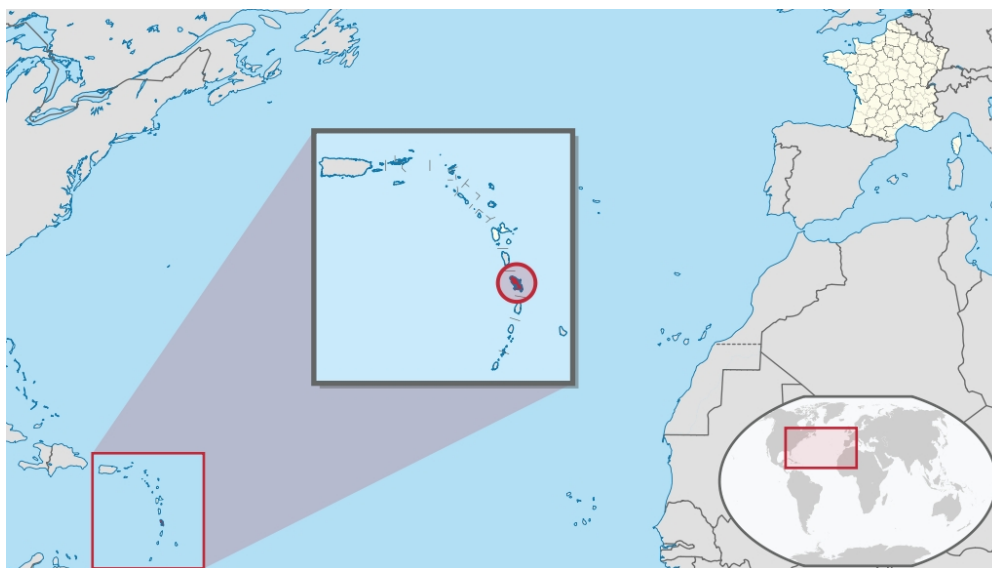
Political summary	
Presidential elections	Next one: April or May 2017; Last one: 21–22 April and 5–6 May 2012;
Legislative elections	Next one: June 2017; Last one: 10 and 17 June 2012;
Head of State	François Hollande (assumed office 12 May 2012);
Prime Minister	Manuel Valls (assumed office 1 April 2014)

2. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL SITUATION IN MARTINIQUE

a. Key Facts and Figures

Martinique is an island in the Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean Sea, with a land area of 1,128 km²¹⁴ and a population of 386,326 inhabitants¹⁵. Like Guadeloupe (in the Caribbean), Saint Martin (Caribbean sea), Mayotte (Indian Ocean), Réunion (Indian Ocean), and French Guiana, Martinique is an overseas region of France, and an outermost region of the EU. The island itself consists of one overseas department.

Figure 4: Geographic Positioning of Martinique



Source and Copyright: Wikimedia Commons

Martinique is located in the Caribbean Sea about 450 km northeast of the coast of South America and about 700 km southeast of the Dominican Republic. Martinique is part of the archipelago of the Antilles. Furthermore, it is directly north of St. Lucia, northwest of Barbados, and south of Dominica. The coast of Martinique is difficult for navigation of ships. The peninsula of Caravelle clearly separates the north Atlantic and south Atlantic coast.

The island is volcanic in origin, lying along the subduction fault where the North American Plate slides beneath the Caribbean Plate. Martinique has eight different centres of volcanic activity.

The north of the island is mountainous. It features four ensembles of volcanoes (*pitons*) and mountains (*mornes*): the Piton Conil on the extreme North, which dominates the Dominica Channel; Mont Pelée, an active volcano; the Morne Jacob; and the Pitons du

¹⁴ INSEE, *Circonscriptions administratives au 1er janvier 2015* (in French), retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=23&ref_id=tertc01202.

¹⁵ INSEE, *Population selon le sexe et l'âge au 1er janvier 2014* (in French), retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=23&ref_id=poptc02104.

Carbet, an ensemble of five extinct volcanoes covered with rainforest and dominating the Bay of Fort de France at 1,196 metres¹⁶.

The south is more easily traversed, though it still features some impressive geographic features. Because it is easier to travel and because of the many beaches and food facilities throughout this region, the south receives the bulk of the tourist traffic. The beaches from Pointe de Bout, through Diamant (which features right off the coast of Roche de Diamant), St. Luce, and the department of St. Anne and down to Les Salines are popular.

The official language on the island is French, but many inhabitants speak Martiniquan Creole, a subdivision of Antillean Creole.

According to the results of the most recent census, there are 98.2% French citizens on the island. Only 1.8% of the population is foreign. The biggest ethnic group is composed of the Haitians (2,185), followed closely by Saint-Luciens (2,101)¹⁷. Moreover, around 77% of citizens are living in cities with more than 10,000 inhabitants and 78% in the urban area¹⁸.

Figure 5: Map of Martinique



Source and Copyright: Map Data ©2015 Google

¹⁶ Explore Volcanoes, *Mont Pelée: Martinique*, Maple Creative ©2010, retrieved 26 October, 2015, <http://www.explorevolcanoes.com/Martinique-caribbean-volcano.html>.

¹⁷ INSEE, *Population selon la nationalité au 1er janvier 2011* (in French), retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=23&ref_id=poptc02501.

¹⁸ General Council of the Department of Martinique (972), *Regional Council Martinique*, retrieved 26 October, 2015, <http://www.conseil-general.com/en/regions/french-regional-councils/regional-council-martinique.htm>.

Table 2: Summary of Martinique's Key Facts and Figures

Flag	
Area	1,128 km ² (INSEE, 2015)
Population	386,326 inhabitants (INSEE, 2014)
Population density	~342 inhabitants per Km ²
GDP	€8.35 billion (INSEE, 2012) Ranked 23rd out of 27 French regions
Unemployment rate	19.4 % (Eurostat, 2014) Higher than the Eurozone-19
EC Regional Innovation Scoreboard	Moderate innovator (2014)

Sources: INSEE, Eurostat, European Commission

b. Government and administrative structures

As one of the five French overseas departments, created by the law of 19 March 1946, Martinique is both an overseas region and overseas department of France, with the same government institutions as areas on the French mainland. The law of March 2, 1982 has transformed this territorial area into one of the twenty-six regions of France. Since the adoption, the 7th of August 2015, of the law on the new territorial Organisation of the Republic, Martinique is now one of the 17 great regions of France.

Martinique is divided into four arrondissements, 34 communes, and 45 cantons¹⁹. The administrative center of Martinique is located in Fort-de-France, and the Prefect (Préfet) of Martinique is Ange Mancini as of 2007.

On January 24th, 2010, during a referendum²⁰, the Inhabitants of Martinique approved in 68, 4 % the passage in a "unique (only) community ", within the framework of the article 73 of the French Constitution, this one replaces and exercises the skills of the General Council and the regional council.

Since the 1st January 2016, this Caribbean island is governed by a joint territorial Community, which means powers currently managed by the Regional Council and the General Council are taken on by the new body, the new territorial Community of Martinique (*la nouvelle Collectivité Territoriale de Martinique*).

The creation of the territorial community of Martinique (CTM) is undoubtedly one of the most important reforms of recent years. It meets the objective of simplification of the institutional landscape. The reform also aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public action, to clarify the responsibilities between the different communities and to introduce greater coherence in their interventions.

¹⁹ General Council of the Department of Martinique (972), *Regional Council Martinique*, retrieved 26 October, 2015, <http://www.conseil-general.com/en/regions/french-regional-councils/regional-council-martinique.htm>.

²⁰ "Guyane Et Martinique: "Qui" à La Collectivité Unique." Vie Publique. January 25, 2010. Accessed January 29, 2016. <http://www.vie-publique.fr/actualite/alaune/guyane-martinique-oui-collectivite-unique.html>.

The CTM has jurisdiction over:

- Economic development
- The Health and Social Development
- Territory planning
- The cultural and scientific development
- Regional cooperation

The administrative organization is the following:

- **The Assembly of Martinique:** 1 President, 4 Vice Presidents and 46 councillors elected for six years.
- **The Executive Council:** 1 President and 8 Executive Councillors coming from the Assembly. The President of the Executive Council prepares and implements the deliberations and decisions of the Assembly of Martinique. He is responsible for his administration and manages the staff of the community.

Each year, the Chairman of the Executive Board reports to the Assembly, by presenting a special report on the state of Martinique, including the situation of the local authority, the state of implementation of the decisions taken by the Assembly and the community's financial situation

- **The Economic, Social, Environmental, Culture and Education's Council:** its composition has still to be specified by a decree of the French Republic's State Council later on.

Situation in Martinique after the December 2015 local election

On December 13th 2015, Alfred Marie Jeanne's pro-independence list won , with the support of Yan Monplaisir of the local Republican Party, the territorial elections in Martinique with 54,14 % in the face of the list of Serge Letchimy 45,86 % (former President of the Regional Council and member of the Progressive party of Martinique)

On December 18th, 2015 Alfred Marie-Jeanne was elected executive president of Council of the Territorial Community of Martinique.

According to French newspapers²¹, Marie - Jeanne's election does not signal the start of the road towards secession. Marie-Jeanne's independentist movement (MIM, Mouvement d'Indépendance de la Martinique) has committed to "respect" Martinique's current "statutory framework." This means secessionists will not seek to establish an independent state over the 2015-2021 term: beyond that date, time will tell. The winning list says it will try to develop the potential of Martinique's new government body. Under their agreement, Marie-Jeanne and Monplaisir have committed themselves to implement a "new economic model" in the island and to assist "social and economic recovery," as well as to "go back to a healthy and balanced management of public finances."

²¹ Le Monde 15.12.2015.

This will be the second time that Marie-Jeanne, 79, will be leading the government of Martinique. The pro-independence politician led the Regional Council from 1998 to 2010 before being defeated by Letchimy.

Martinique and the EU

As stated in articles 349 and 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), there are specific measures in place to support the development of the most remote regions of the European Union, known as the outermost regions (ORs): Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Reunion, **Martinique**, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain). Martinique is the 3rd largest outermost regions of the European Union, after Madeira and the Canary Islands. The purpose of this support is to compensate for the constraints arising from the geographical remoteness of these regions.

EU law and all the rights and duties associated with EU membership apply to the Outermost Regions and consequently to **Martinique**, except for cases where there are specific measures or derogations. As regards added value tax (VAT) and excise duties, Martinique as well as the other ORs of the EU fall outside the territorial scope of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax^[6], and Council Directive 2008/118/EC of 16 December 2008 concerning the general arrangements for excise duty. These specific measures are designed to address the challenges faced by the Outermost Regions because of their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products. **The ORs benefit from Cohesion Policy funding through the ERDF and the ESF²².**

In 2012, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the role of cohesion policy in the outermost regions of the European Union in the context of EU 2020²³. In this resolution it has been stated that cohesion policy has to remain one of the main instruments for reducing disparities in the EU's regions in general and in the ORs in particular, stressing the need to enable the ORs to be integrated into the EU internal market and to assert themselves in their respective geographical areas.. Parliament considered that the ORs should be classified as least-developed regions regardless of their GDP, and that the cofinancing rate under the Structural Funds should be 85% for all instruments providing aid for outermost regions

Table 3: Martinique's administrative division;

Arrondissement of Fort-de-France	- contains the island's capital: Fort-de-France - composed of 16 cantons and 4 communes
Arrondissement of La Trinité	- composed of 11 cantons and 10 communes
Arrondissement of Le Marin	- composed of 3 cantons and 12 communes
Arrondissement of Saint-Pierre	- composed of 5 cantons and 8 communes

Source: INSEE

²² European Commission - DG Regio, *Regional policy & outermost regions*, retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/outermost-regions/#3.

²³ European Parliament resolution of 18 April 2012 on the role of Cohesion Policy in the outermost regions of the European Union in the context of EU 2020 (2011/2195(INI)).

c. The economy

The overview of Martinique's economy illustrates that its core activities are mostly in the services sector, followed by trade and construction. Within the service sector, tourism is very important to the local economy. This can be seen at the level of registered companies in Martinique, out of which two thirds are related to hotels, restaurants and related services. On the other hand the inflation rate is quite high and the island remains mostly dependant on imports. In terms of GDP per capita related to PPS (purchasing power standard), in 2010 Martinique presented a value of 76, while France registered a value of 108, the EU27 average being of 100²⁴.

The economic situation in Martinique was described as 'fragile' by the INSEE. Over 96% of companies and enterprises have fewer than 10 employees and less than 1% has 50 or more employees. The services are the dominant industry. They include 66% of all establishments and employ 41% of the salaried workforce. The public sector itself also has a significant weight in terms of staff: it concentrates 42% of total employees. Employment in agriculture, industry and construction are modest, the number of establishments does not reach 10% in these areas²⁵.

In Martinique, the GDP per capita is one of the highest in the Caribbean, after Barbados: 21,131 EUR per capita. It represents 76.4% of national GDP per capita. Despite this fact, the island has the highest unemployment rate in comparison with the metropolitan French regions, but the lowest out of the other overseas French regions. This is illustrated in Figure 6 and Figure 7 below.

²⁴ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-46_en.htm.

²⁵ European Commission - DG Regio, Regional policy & outermost regions, retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/outermost-regions/#3.

Unemployment rate by NUTS 2 regions

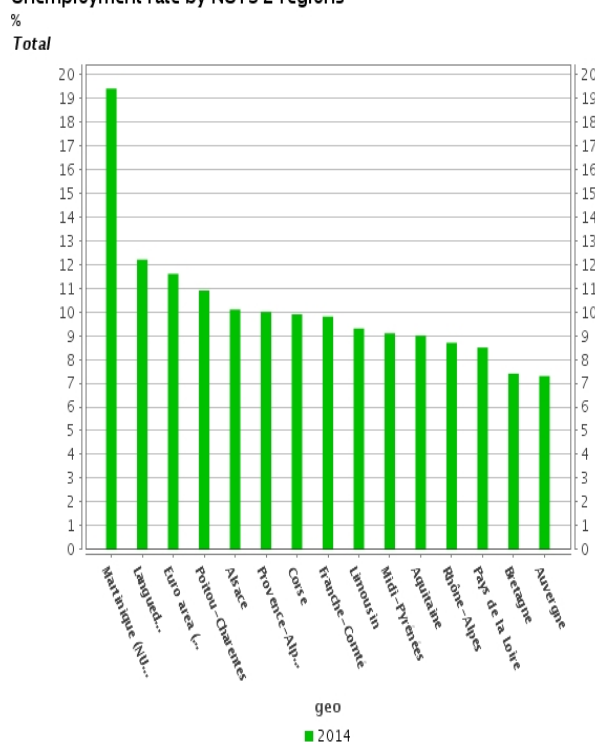


Figure 6. Unemployment Rate (comparison Martinique and France's metropolitan regions);
Source: Eurostat 2014

Unemployment rate by NUTS 2 regions

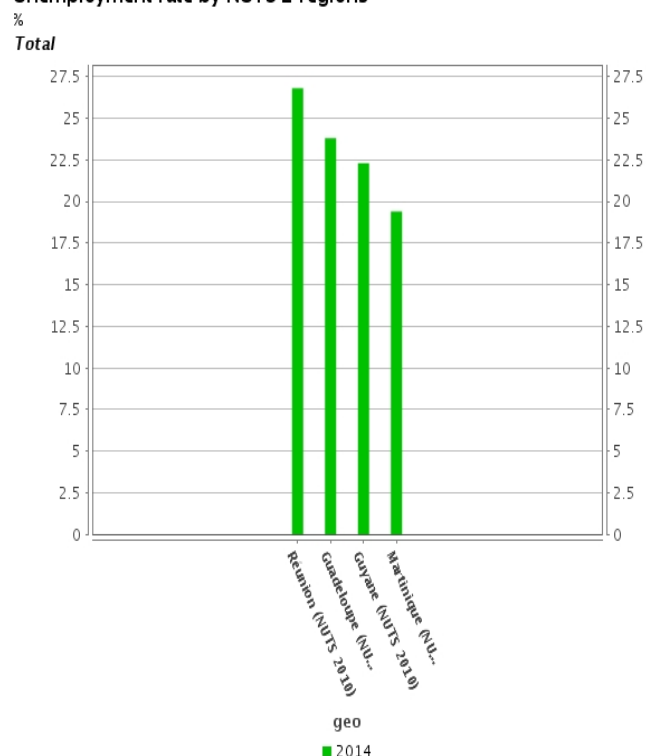


Figure 7. Unemployment Rate (comparison between Martinique and France's overseas regions²⁶);
Source: Eurostat 2014

d. Population and labour market

As stated previously, Martinique has 386,326 inhabitants. The island comprises only 0.6% of the population of France. The biggest population group according to age is that between 15 and 65 years (250,009 or 66% of the island's population)²⁷. Also according to the INSEE, the three most populated cities are Le Robert, Fort-de-France, and Le Lamentin.

The main sectors of activity are as presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Main activity sectors in Martinique

Activity Sector	Sector's share in paid employment	
	Martinique	France
Trade; Automobile and motorcycle repair	11,5	12,7
Scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support services	10,3	12,0
Other Service Activities	7,7	5,4
Construction	5,2	5,9
Transportation and Storage	4,7	5,6

Source: INSEE

²⁶ No data available for Mayotte.

²⁷ INSEE, *Population selon la nationalité au 1er janvier 2011* (in French), retrieved 26 October, 2015, http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=23&ref_id=poptc02501.

In accordance with the INSEE reports²⁸, the agricultural sector is facing a decline in banana plantation yields; it is having trouble managing the consequences of the massive use of Kepone²⁹ (also known as Chlordecone, a controversial insecticide now prohibited) or combating declining sugarcane production. Agriculture is the basis for the economic development of the Martinique with the introduction of sugar cane plantations since the 17th century. Production for export, sugar cane dominates the economy until the second half of the 20th century, when the sugarcane area and the number of sugar mills and distilleries have significantly declined. The early 20th century saw the development of banana cultivation into the leading export crop from the 50s. Alongside these sugarcane and banana farms, there are many small and medium diversified farms that for twenty years undergoing major changes: while many of them disappear, others are modernizing and becoming more professional by offering diversified production (farming, market gardening, arboriculture, etc.). The Martinique Agriculture occupies 30% of the surface of the island, employs 12% of the active population and provides 6% of the gross regional product. Banana, vegetables, sugar cane and pineapples are the four main productions. Fishing in Martinique essentially follows traditional methods and is carried out primarily along its coasts. According to a 2007 study³⁰, fishing activities represented less than 1% of the island's GDP and 1.2% of employment and the social burden of fishing exceeded its contribution to the island's economic activity.

Furthermore, the construction sector is particularly affected by the decline of public procurement, because of its heavy reliance on it. Tourism activities hardly grow despite efforts to revive the sector. The narrowness of the market and insularity remains a brake on the industry. The rum production sector however shows positive results with increased production. Finally, the main contribution in the value added produced in the island comes from the tertiary sector. Indeed, non-market services represent 37.6% of the wealth produced and market services 30.5%.

e. Main regional challenges

One of Martinique's main challenges is its ageing population; in 2030, this overseas region will be one of the five French departments with the largest percentage of elderly persons in France. Combined with this, the island is facing the emigration of its young population, the unemployment rates are worrying, reaching a figure of 60% among the youth below 27 years old and 20% among the population aged 15-64. According to the data in 2012, from an active population of 323 528, the portion of inactive population reached 154 642, while the active population was 168 886.³¹

Another problem is the very low school registration rates among the 15-29 youth, one the highest among the French regions. Combined with the emigration of graduates, Martinique is facing a low level of qualified labour force (25% with a baccalaureate or higher qualification, compared with 36.5% on the mainland)³², while the labour market has little demand for qualified manpower and shows a low ratio of local managers. Entrepreneurial

²⁸ INSEE, *En résumé - Martinique* (in French), retrieved 26 October, 2015, <http://www.insee.fr/fr/regions/martinique/default.asp?page=faitsetchiffres/presentation/presentation.htm>.

²⁹ See Le Monde (in french) : http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2010/06/22/aux-antilles-le-scandale-sanitaire-du-chlordecone_1376700_3244.html.

³⁰ Briefing note on the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Martinique for the Committee on Fisheries delegation, 28 February 2007 to 5 March 2007.

³¹ Region Martinique. "– La vision stratégique et le plan d'action opérationnel" Region-martinique.mq. 2010. Accessed January 29, 2016. http://www.region-martinique.mq/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2--Strategie-Regionale-de-Innovation-Martinique-2012-VISION_HD.pdf.

³² Ibid.

initiatives and strategies are taken on all France mainland, leaving less opportunities for an entrepreneurial culture in Martinique.

Martinique has insular restraints, it has a restricted internal market, being dependent on the outside which generates excessive supply and transport costs. In addition, the coast of Martinique is difficult for navigation, making it a closed economy.

Martinique relies mostly on the service sector with 79% of jobs bringing 72% of the added value, the new industrial sector, mostly focused on agri-food, counts for 7% of jobs. There is an important weight of micro businesses (2/3), local SMEs are reluctant to innovate because they are directly dependent of companies with R&D centres in France.³³

Even though Martinique has one university and a regional university hospital, there is a lack of academic courses in Science and Technology (S&T) domains and low return rate of Martinique students trained outside the Island.

The research staff is limited (0.13% of the labour force) and lower than the EU average (0.97%). There are no participation of Martinique in large-scale research projects. The island suffers from a lack of coordination for engaging stakeholders in research projects because most of the research centres and decisions remain on France.³⁴

As far as environment policy³⁵ is concerned, the Martinique region has the lowest recycling rate in France with 6 % of the Municipal Solid Waste generated in 2008.³⁶

f. Health Situation

Martinique is the latest country in the region to confirm reports of the autochthonous or local transmission of the worrying mosquito borne Zika virus. From December 2015 to 17 January 2016, 1 255 suspected cases and 102 confirmed cases were reported by the local health authorities³⁷.

The **Pan American Health Organisation**³⁸ (PAHO) says the French speaking Caribbean nation is the 11th country in the Americas to report the virus this year and the 12th to report local transmission.

According to Dr Joy St. John, Director of Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control at the **Caribbean Public Health Agency**³⁹ (CARPHA) "In the last decade, the Caribbean has been wrestling with wave after wave of vector borne diseases. During the last two years the region has seen unrelenting outbreaks of Chikungunya, and more recently Zika."

Symptoms of the Zika virus include fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting from several days to a week. Severe illness requiring hospitalisation is uncommon. In some countries of the Americas, increase in neurological

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ [Study](#) on Regional Policy and Climate Change in Outermost Regions , Policy Department B: Structural and Cohesion Policies, 2011.

³⁶ Municipal waste management in France, European Environment Agency, February 2013.

³⁷ [Epidemiological update](#): Outbreaks of Zika virus and complications potentially linked to the Zika virus infection, 29/01/2016, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

³⁸ <http://www.paho.org/hq/>.

³⁹ <http://carpha.org/>.

disorders and neonatal malformations have been observed by the World Health Organisation⁴⁰ (WHO).

On 1st February 2016, the WHO's Emergency Committee⁴¹ convened regarding clusters of microcephaly cases and other neurologic disorders in some areas affected by Zika virus advised that it constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) but there should be, so far, no restrictions on travel or trade with countries, areas and/or territories with Zika virus transmission.

There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available. The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites. The virus is known to circulate in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific.

The European Centre for Disease prevention and Control⁴² indicates that there is no evidence of transmission Zika virus in Europe to date and imported cases are rare.

⁴⁰ World Health Organisation. "WHO to Convene an International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Zika Virus and Observed Increase in Neurological Disorders and Neonatal Malformations." WHO.int. January 28, 2016. Accessed January 29, 2016. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/emergency-committee-zika/en/>.

⁴¹ WHO [statement](#), 1st February 2016.

⁴² European Centre for Disease Control. "Zika Virus Infection." Ecdc.europa.eu. Accessed January 29, 2016. http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/zika_virus_infection/Pages/index.aspx.

3. EU COHESION POLICY 2014-2020

a. Objectives and funds - French context

For the 2014-2020 programming period, France manages a total of 40 operational programmes (OPs) under EU Cohesion Policy. Of these, 27 programmes receive funding from both the ERDF and the ESF. Seven of the remaining thirteen OPs receive funding from the ERDF, while six programmes receive funding from the ESF⁴³.

According to official DG REGIO reports, France has been allocated around **€15.9 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding which are distributed as follows:

- **€3.41 billion** for less developed regions (Outermost Regions Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane, Réunion and Mayotte)
- **€4.25 billion** for transition regions (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Picardie, Basse-Normandie, Lorraine, Franche-Comté, Poitou-Charentes, Limousin, Auvergne, Languedoc-Roussillon and Corsica)
- **€6.35 billion** for more developed regions (Haute-Normandie, Ile-de-France, Champagne-Ardenne, Alsace, Bretagne, Pays de la Loire, Centre, Bourgogne, Rhône-Alpes, Aquitaine, Midi-Pyrénées, and Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur)
- **€1.1 billion** for European Territorial Cooperation
- **€443.3 million** special allocation for the Outermost Regions
- **€310.2 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative⁴⁴

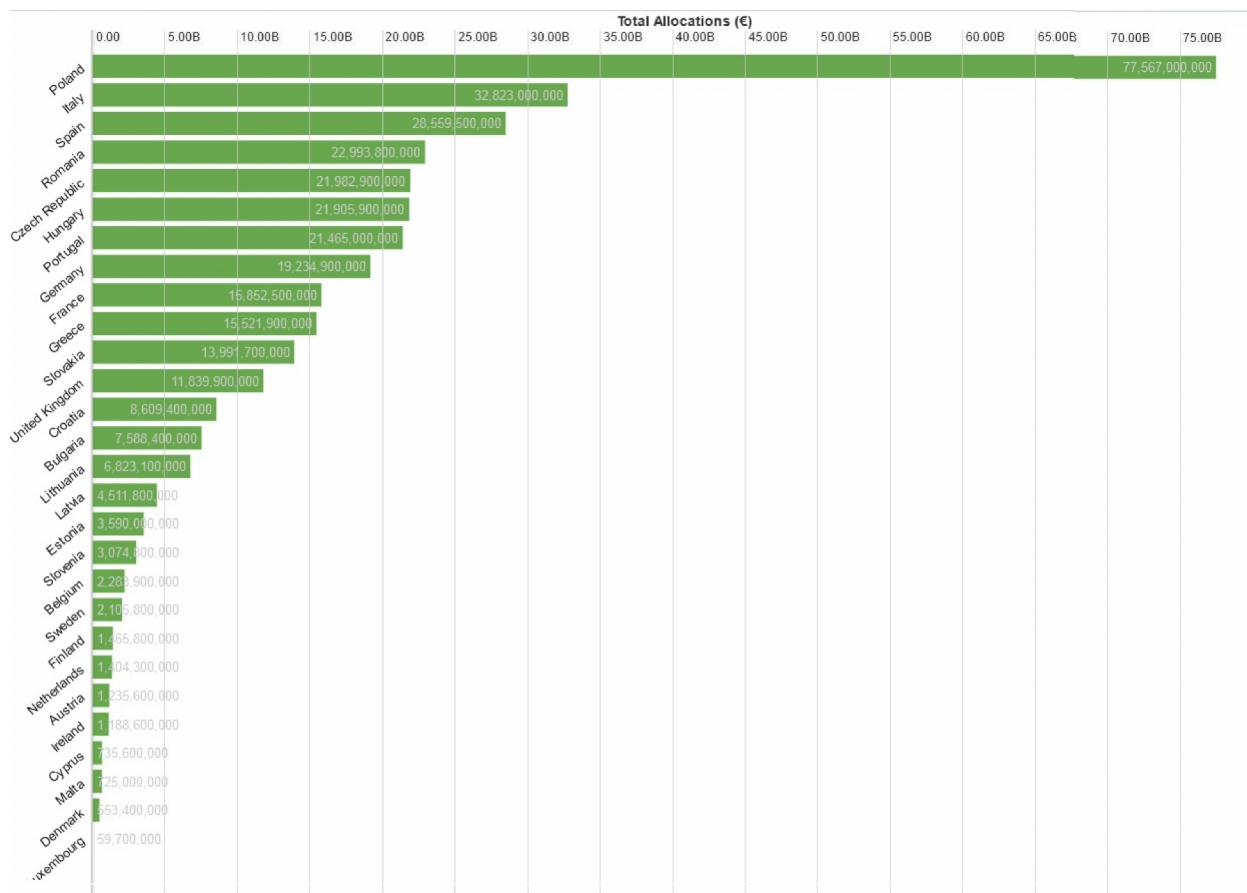
Of this ESF in France represents a minimum of **€6 billion** (41.7%). The actual share will be set in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF. To see a list of all allocations across the Member States, please consult Figure 8 below.

The funds will co-finance a total number of 75 programmes, distributed as follows:

- 1 national EAFRD framework
- 2 national programmes co-financed by EAFRD
- 27 rural development programmes co-financed by EAFRD
- 32 regionalised programmes co-financed by ERDF and ESF
- 2 regionalised programmes co-financed by ERDF
- 2 regionalised programmes co-financed by ESF
- 5 multiregional programmes co-financed by ERDF
- 1 national technical assistance programme co-financed by ERDF and ESF
- 1 national programme for Employment and Inclusion co-financed by the ESF
- 1 national European Youth Employment initiative programme co-finance by the ESF
- 1 national programme for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

⁴³ European Commission - DG REGIO, *Cohesion Policy and France*, (August 2014).

⁴⁴ Ibid.

Figure 8: Allocation of Funds for 2014-2020 across EU28

Source: European Commission, DG REGIO⁴⁵

Priorities for France are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The Partnership Agreement covers four funds: the ERDF, the ESF, the EAFRD, and the EMFF⁴⁶. These priorities are expected to include (see Table 5).

France will finance investments following the 11 thematic objectives (TO) defined in the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The breakdown by TO and funding can be found in Table 6 below.

⁴⁵ European Commission - DG REGIO, *Total EU allocations per MS for 2014-2020*, retrieved 28 October, 2015, <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/EU-Cohesion-Funding/allocations/qhyc-wubq>.

⁴⁶ European Commission, *Summary of the Partnership Agreement with France*.

Table 5: France's Priorities 2014-2020

Increase private R&I investment in general and in knowledge intensity in particular
Enhance business innovation and competitiveness, especially SMEs and enhance the transfer from research to business.
Develop the e-economy, in particular e-services and IT applications.
Promote entrepreneurship, access to finance and advanced business services for SMEs.
Increase the employment rate through measures to improve the adaptability of workers and actions in favour of the most vulnerable groups.
Promote the adaptability of workers and fight against unemployment through enhanced functioning of the public employment service and a greater investment in human capital.
Increase the employment rate of specific groups and maintain the link to the employment of people at risk of poverty and exclusion.
Stimulate higher energy efficiency, especially in industry, transport and buildings.
Increase energy production from renewable sources.
Improve risk prevention and management and improve performance on Natura 2000 and biodiversity
For the outermost regions:
1. develop endogenous potential and promote diversification,
2. improve accessibility,
3. protect the environment and in particular water resources,
4. improve the inclusion of young people and vulnerable groups in the labour market,
5. improve services to the population including social and educational services,
6. improve administrative capacity.

Table 6: Allocation: breakdown by thematic objective and fund⁴⁷

Thematic Objective	ERDF	ESF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
1. Strengthening research, technological development & innovation	1,542	0	303	0	1,845
2. Enhancing access to, use, and quality of information and communication technologies	1,032	0	78	0	1,111
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	1,605	0	2,869	241	4,716
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	1,711	0	348	17	2,077
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	331	0	3,151	0	3,483
6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	1,008	0	3,263	278	4,550
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	424	0	0	0	424
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	44	2,041	112	17	2,216
9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	313	1,911	1,012	0	3,237
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	121	1,832	112	0	3,237
11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration	0	15	0	0	15
Technical assistance	289	225	130	35	679
Total	8,426	6,026	11,384	688	26,426

⁴⁷ All amounts are expressed in millions of Euros; the figures presented here are estimates; for a detailed account consult the official document: European Commission, *Summary of the Partnership Agreement with France*; it can be found online at http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-france-summary_en.pdf.

b. Objectives and funds - Martinique

Martinique belongs to the category of **less developed regions** (GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average). Martinique operates two OPs funded through ESI funds, illustrated in the table below. For 2014-2020, the European funds are an important leverage effect combined with the national contribution of France. It is clear now for Martinique and all Overseas Regions in general that Cohesion Policy has become the EU's principal investment policy and is closely aligned to the objectives of Europe 2020

Table 7: Operational Programmes in Martinique

Title	Total OP budget	EU Allocation
Regional programme Martinique Conseil Régional 2014-2020	€1,115,751,695	€520,951,695
Operational Programme ESF Martinique Etat 2014-2020	€164,229,333	€124,700,000

Source: European Commission

On August 8, 2014⁴⁸, the European Commission adopted the French Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 programming that validates the field of intervention of the Structural Funds (ESF) and European Investment Funds (ESIF). Adopted on 18/12/2014 the Operational Programme (OP) for Martinique⁴⁹ is aimed to boost economic growth and contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 targets. It should help the region to increase growth and employment, through increasing the regional innovation capacity, the competitiveness of the private sector, the ICT connectivity, the social inclusion and the territorial cohesion. More than one third of the overall budget is allocated to research, innovation, competitiveness of SME, ICT and to energy transition. Also, more than 13% of the budget is allocated to lifelong training actions focused on the less skilled people⁵⁰.

All these EU funds should be implemented through an innovative governance tool set up by a Convention⁵¹ signed on 4 December 2015 by the Island's authorities, the "Public Interest Group/Groupement d'Intérêt Public (GIP): "Martinique Europe Performance". This innovative management tool meets the local political will to maintain an active partnership with the EU and France mainland but also to ensure an effective and efficient management of EU funds. This common management tool must still be approved by the French Government.

⁴⁸ Accord de partenariat France : <http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/Des-programmes-pour-qui-pour-quoi/Programmes-2014-2020#/regional/fiche/martinique>.

⁴⁹ Programme Opérationnel FEDER-FSE Martinique Conseil Régional 2014-2020, décision CE C(2014)10168, 18 déc. 2014.

⁵⁰ European Commission - DG REGIO, *Regional programme Martinique Conseil Régional 2014-2020*, (January 2015), retrieved 4 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/france/2014fr16m0op011.

⁵¹ Création du GIP «[Martinique Europe Performance](#)».

The OP focuses on the following priorities⁵²:

- **Rising investments and efforts in applied research** and increasing the **innovation capacity of regional businesses**, in accordance with the fields identified in the **Smart Specialisation Strategy**;
- **Increasing the size of companies** and their durability
- **Improving broadband access** as a factor of competitiveness and social inclusion;
- **Improving energy efficiency** and offering **better public transport**;
- **Improving water and waste management**, prevention, conservation and protection of the environment by a sustainable and effective use of the island's resources
- Offering **more and better social, health and educational infrastructure** to local population
- **Lifelong learning measures** will improve the skills of the poorly-qualified people, with a focus on young people from disadvantaged or marginalised groups. Training will help people acquire new skills and upgrade existing ones;
- **Reducing additional costs for SMEs** and in the transport sector due to the remoteness of the region.

The objectives of the ESF programme are to increase the proportion of unemployed people involved in a follow-up process to find a job, with a particular focus on young people and school dropouts, as well as on people far away from the labour market.. Development strategies will be led by local communities, making the OP more responsive to the specific needs of the island⁵³.

The ESF programme has three main priorities⁵⁴:

- **Workers' employability**, in particular that of young people, will be improved through better-quality planning for jobs and skills. Safeguarding the ability of workers to adapt to labour market changes and restructuring will also keep them in jobs. More support will be provided to jobseekers, especially young people, NEETS and people who live far from available jobs. This priority has 47% of the ESF budget;
- **Social exclusion and discrimination** will be addressed by improving and increasing ways that people can integrate into the job market. Funding is also earmarked for increasing capacity in social and health services, and staffing services more efficiently and with more qualified personnel. A particular feature of Martinique's social inclusion priority, which has 48% of the budget, is that projects will be chosen in line with community-led local development strategies;
- Finally, to improve the **overall education level** of the workforce and further tackle social exclusion, 4% of the OP budget will help reduce early school-leaving rates from 17% to 9.5% and promote equal access to elementary education.

According to the data gathered so far in the Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2014, Martinique has spent between 90%-120% of the GDP on R&D expenditure in the public sector⁵⁵, but it has spent a much lower amount (<50%) of the GDP on R&D expenditure in

⁵² European Commission - DG REGIO, Regional programme Martinique Conseil Régional 2014-2020, (January 2015), retrieved 4 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/france/2014fr16m0op011.

⁵³ European Commission - DG REGIO, Operational Programme ESF Martinique Etat 2014-2020, (December 2014), retrieved 5 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/france/2014fr05sfop004.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ European Commission, *Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2014*, (Belgium, 2014), p. 53.

the business sector⁵⁶. Furthermore, according to the same study, between 50%-90% of SMEs produce in-house innovations in Martinique⁵⁷.

As far as the main challenges and perspectives offered by the Operational Programme for Martinique (2014-2020) are concerned, it is still too early to assess and measure the impact of such new plan but the expected results by 2023 are the following:

- Offering new access to ICT services to more than 100.000 households.
- To increase by 30 MW the production of renewable energy.
- To help to more than 2400 enterprises in their investments plans.
- To increase by more than 30,000 tons the waste treatment capacity
- To finance around a hundred of tourist development areas
- To create more than 2,000 square meters of spaces to host deprived elderly persons.
- To increase job chances of more than 3,500 disadvantaged unemployed people

On 2/12/2015, The Commission adopted **the 'Interreg'⁵⁸ 2014-2020 programme** for the Caribbean, with a total budget of EUR 86 million, of which EUR 64.2 million is from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The programme covers the outermost regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Saint Martin, and around 40 third countries and overseas countries and territories (OCTs) in the Caribbean basin. The programme's objective is to increase the area's economic attractiveness, respond to common environmental and health challenges and promote the region's cultural capital.

c. **RiS3 Strategy - Martinique**

France had a national initiative of diagnosing all of its regions and identifying each of their strengths and weaknesses that could be taken into account in developing regional strategies. The Regional Innovation Strategy (RIS)⁵⁹ is a reference tool for structuring public support for boosting innovation. In France, the RIS were driven by three ambitions:

- A strategic approach based on a shared diagnosis of the assets and weaknesses of the territory, as part of a dialogue with all the socio-economic partners as well as local and regional stakeholders;
- The desire to impose a broader vision of innovation in all its forms;
- The ambition to constantly improve coordination between national, local and European policies that foster innovation.

As far as Martinique is concerned by the RiS3 Strategy, the island presents a high potential in agronomy and agri-food sectors and an innovation potential in domains of excellence: tourism, biodiversity, agri-environment and agro-processing, health, natural hazards and fishery and aquaculture resources.

The **touristic potential** of the island is clearly undeniable and it remains an important source of foreign exchange although it may still lag behind other Antilles destinations due

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 54.

⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 56.

⁵⁸ [Interreg](#) - The EU invests 65 EUR million to boost regional and transnational cooperation in the Caribbean - 2/12/2015.

⁵⁹ [National Research and Innovation Strategy](#), 2009 General Report.

to lack of sufficient infrastructure or poor accommodation facilities. However, the sector employs approximately 11 000 people and accounts for about 9% of GDP. The island receives more than half a million tourists per year, mostly French tourists.⁶⁰

In view of exploiting its tourism potential, Martinique has presented a contract of projects for the period 2012-2022. According to this contract, 400 projects could be developed counting on an investment of 810 031 000€, with a return on investments expected to reach 2 billion euros throughout the duration of the contract.

Moreover, Martinique offers a unique diversity in terms of **flora and fauna**, with approximately 1000 indigenous species out of which 40% being endemic to the Caribbean and 3% to Martinique. Also, 40% of its territory is covered by forests and its numerous rivers provide 90% of its water supplies.⁶¹

On the other hand, Martinique disposes of one of the best **health systems** in the region, setting a clear path for excellence in this area.

Furthermore, Martinique presents high potential in the **agriculture sector**. According to an article published in 2011 on the site of the Ministry of Agriculture, Martinique consecrates 15% of its agricultural land to harvesting sugar cane. 60% of its production is directed to distilleries. Agriculture is the sector with most of the projects developed since 2007 through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (more than 1800 projects)⁶². On the other hand, agriculture and agronomic research are the sectors perceived by local authorities of high potential for innovation and are mentioned in the Smart Specialisation Strategy.

In Martinique, the RIS was developed by a committee composed of several institutions and partners among which the Regional Council, the Martinique Regional Delegation for Research and Technology (DRRT), the Regional Directorate for Industry, Research and Environment (DRIRE) TECHNOPOLE MARTINIQUE and the Martinique Association for the Promotion of Industry (AMPI).

The Regional Innovation Strategy⁶³ for Martinique identified at least seven research centres on the following areas: health, sea, agricultural resources, energy, engineering, risks, and biopole.

Following diagnosis of the region's potential, several thematic priorities of the Strategy were identified:

- Biodiversity, Agro-environment and Agro-processing
- HSS (Humanities and social sciences)
- Health
- Natural hazards
- Fishery and aquaculture resources

⁶⁰ Euromonitor International. "Travel and Tourism in Martinique." Euromonitor.com. January 2015. Accessed January 29, 2016. <http://www.euromonitor.com/travel-and-tourism-in-martinique/report>.

⁶¹ Derné, Marie-Claude, Philippe Durance, and Marc Mousli. "Martinique 2025 - Bâtir Un Schéma De Développement économique." Laprospective.fr. July 2009. Accessed January 29, 2016. <http://www.laprospective.fr/dyn/francais/memoire/LipsorMartinique2025.pdf>.

⁶² Départements D'Outre-Mer. "Des Emplois Agricoles Surtout Familiaux." Agreste Primeur, November 2011. Accessed January 29, 2016. http://www.agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf_primeur270-2.pdf.

⁶³ "Summary of French Regions' Regional Innovation Strategies." January 2012. Accessed January 29, 2016. http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/20182/141136/Summary_FR_Regions.pdf/5caaa6b8-924f-4a3d-aa0a-d90e736081c9.

According to the Smart Specialisation Strategy for Martinique⁶⁴, high potential sectors, such as agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, services or tourism were chosen.

Following the assessment of Martinique's innovation ecosystem, five challenges were identified:

- Building a culture of innovation
- Promoting innovation initiatives as competitiveness factors
- Building social innovation to overpass issues triggered by societal changes
- Further building the innovation ecosystem
- Implement an operational governance

Martinique has developed strategies and aims at developing the entrepreneurial innovative culture. Below, some of the Smart specialization projects⁶⁵ conducted in the region.

Table 8: S3 Priorities for Martinique

Description	Capabilities	Target Markets	EU Priorities
Natural hazards, crisis management, captors	1. Services 2. Other professional, scientific & technical activities	1. Services 2. Other professional, scientific & technical activities	1. Public health & security 2. Public safety & pandemics
Bio diversity, agro environment and agro processing.	1. Agriculture, forestry & fishing	1. Manufacturing & industry 2. Food, beverage & tobacco products	1. Nature & biodiversity 2. Biodiversity
Methods and tools of social regulation, analysis of social relations, diagnosis tool such as ELVIE method	1. Services 2. Other professional, scientific & technical activities	1. Services 2. Other professional, scientific & technical activities	1. Specific local policy priority
Digital services and software for tourism and health	1. Information & communication technologies (ICT) 2. Computer programming, consultancy & related activities	1. Tourism, restaurants & recreation	1. Digital Agenda 2. e-Health (e.g. healthy ageing)

Source: Smart specialisation platform

⁶⁴ Stratégie régionale de l'Innovation : [la vision stratégique et les plans d'actions opérationnels](#).

⁶⁵ [Smart Specialisation Platform](#) for Martinique.

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ANNEX I: EXAMPLES OF PROJECT FROM MARTINIQUE, 2007-2013 LIST CAN BE AMENDED ACCORDING TO OTHER INTERESTS/NEEDS

High-tech help for brain trauma patients

Description: A unique e-health research system is being successfully tested in an intensive care unit on the Caribbean island of Martinique. Developed with support from EU funds, it calls on sophisticated information technology (IT) to improve the quality of care for brain-injured patients.

Fund: ERDF for the 2000 to 2006 and the 2007 to 2013 programming periods

Total Investment: €5,000,000

EU Investment: €2,450,000

Bringing high-speed broadband to Martinique

Description: Almost half a million people who live on the Caribbean island of Martinique had uneven access to broadband telecommunications links, but a programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has brought the technology to most parts of the island.

Fund: ERDF for the 2007 to 2013 programming period

Total Investment: €35,557,193

EU Investment: €7,000,000

New public transport network to facilitate access to the major cities of Martinique

Description: Two new priority lines to ensure fast and efficient journeys, while promoting intermodal transport practices, and ensuring that the local eco-system is preserved. The “*Transport Collectif en Site Propre de Martinique Phase II*” (TCSP) project completes and extends the investments of the 2000- 2006 programming period, which consisted in preparatory works set out to extend and rebuild two new bus lanes.

Fund: ERDF

Total Investment €317,557,914

EU Investment €66,200,000

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