

**Implementation Document 1 – Projects
selection and action sheets**

**INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation
programme 2021-2027**

Interreg



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Part I - Transversal section:

I - The INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation programme 2021-2027:

For the period 2021-2027, the INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation programme will support initiatives that pool know-how and expertise as part of win-win projects based on clear objectives with measurable results.

The projects supported are carried out jointly by project lead partners based in one of the four FCORs (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and/or Saint-Martin) in cooperation with a non-European project holder based in the Greater Caribbean. For the period 2021-2027, the INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation area covers more than 30 Caribbean countries and territories with different statuses (FCORs, overseas countries and territories and ACP countries and territories)¹.

The programme's cooperation area is as follows:



¹ However, project holders based in countries/OCTs that are not part of the cooperation area may be partners in INTERREG Caraïbes projects, in compliance with provisions set by Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, article 22§1.

Projects must contribute to the cooperation strategy defined by the programme partners, which is based on the following priorities and specific objectives:

Priorities	Specific objective	Provisional ERDF credits allocated for projects
P1 - A smarter, more innovative Caribbean	Research, development and innovation	€8,024,055
	SME development and competitiveness	€4,320,645
	Digital connectivity	€1,851,700
P2 - A greener, more resilient Caribbean with low carbon emissions	Energy transition	€1,851,700
	Climate change and natural disasters	€5,555,109
	Circular economy and sustainable waste management	€2,468,937
	Environment and biodiversity	€5,555,109
P3 - A better connected Caribbean		€2,468,937
P4 - A more social and inclusive Caribbean	Training and mobility	€3,703,409
	Social inclusion and the fight against poverty	€2,468,937
	Health risks and the resilience of healthcare systems	€10,492,991
P5 - Cross-border cooperation between Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten		€4,090,616
P6 - Facilitate and optimise cooperation in the Caribbean		€8,871,341

II - DEFINITIONS:

Self-financing	Financial contribution made by a project holder to the project. This may be the project holder's own financial resources, or a loan taken out for this purpose.
Advance	<p>Amount granted to a selected project lead partner to enable the partners to start the project. The request submitted by the lead partner must be reasoned and justified and must not exceed 20% of the amount of the project's ERDF grant. It is paid at the discretion of the Managing Authority, subject to the availability of credits.</p> <p>The advance paid is deducted from the amounts reimbursed to the beneficiary when the first expenditure reports are received.</p>
Export aid	<p>The aim of export aid is to help a company create new outlets and gain market share internationally.</p> <p>It may be directly linked to the quantities exported, and/or take the form of aid to finance setting up and operating a distribution network or other current expenditure linked to the export process.</p> <p>INTERREG Caraïbes aims in particular to support the internationalisation of Caribbean companies, to structure sectors on a regional scale and to facilitate trade between Caribbean territories. However, export aid projects are not eligible for the programme.</p>
Eligible base/Total eligible cost	The eligible base covers all of the project's eligible expenditure/costs as determined at the end of the appraisal. The rate and amount of European co-financing are calculated on the basis of this eligible base.
Lead partner	<p>The lead partner of an INTERREG project must carry out the following tasks, as defined in Article 26 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up a partnership agreement setting out the terms and conditions for implementing the project with the other partners. This agreement includes provisions guaranteeing, among other things, the sound financial management of European funds, including the procedures for recovering unduly paid sums; • Be responsible for implementing the entire INTERREG operation; • Ensure that the expenditure submitted by all the partners has been paid for the project to be implemented and corresponds to the activities agreed by all the partners and that it complies with the document provided by the Managing Authority. <p>The lead partner is financially and legally responsible for the project on behalf of all the partners (he/she submits the application; signs the grant awarding agreement with the Managing Authority, coordinates and ensures</p>

	<p>the conformity of the expenditure submitted for reimbursement etc.); he/she is responsible for its physical and financial implementation and coordinates the various partners.</p> <p>It is therefore essential that the lead partner of an INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 project is located in an FCOR territory and has sufficient and proportionate administrative and financial capacity to carry out these tasks and ensure the proper execution of the operation.</p>
Co-financing	<p>Financial assistance provided to the project by an organisation. A co-financer is not necessarily a project partner.</p> <p>ERDF co-financing is the financial contribution made by the INTERREG Caraïbes programme to selected projects. The rate of this co-financing by the programme may not exceed 85% of the project's eligible base.</p> <p>Consequently, to balance the project's financing plan, 15% of additional resources must be identified, which may take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-financing (public or private); • Co-financing; • Contributions in kind.
Steering committee	<p>A committee bringing together representatives of the programme's institutional partners to select the operations.</p> <p>The steering committee decides on the allocation of grants to applicant projects and decides on their modification and/or deprogramming - except for priority 5 of the programme.</p> <p>A steering committee will be set up specifically for priority 5.</p>
Monitoring committee	<p>A committee bringing together representatives of the programme's institutional partners around strategic elements of the INTERREG Caraïbes programme.</p> <p>The monitoring committee decides on the programme strategy and its modifications, validates the project selection criteria, and is informed of the programme's implementation and assessments.</p>
Technical committee	<p>A committee bringing together the technical representatives of the partnership. It provides technical advice on projects and grant applications and ranks them for selection.</p>
Conflict of interest	<p>For the EU, a conflict of interest arises "where the impartial and objective performance of the functions of a financial player or other person" involved in budget implementation "is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect personal interest". There may be a conflict of interest even if the person in question does not derive any real benefit from the situation; it is sufficient if circumstances compromise the performance of his or her duties in an objective and impartial manner. Nevertheless, these circumstances must have some identifiable and individual link (or a</p>

	definite impact) with concrete aspects of the person's conduct, behaviour or relationships
Contribution in kind	A contribution in kind corresponds to work, goods and services made available free of charge for the purposes of carrying out the operation and which have not been the subject of any payment by the beneficiary, as evidenced by invoices or other documents of equivalent conclusive value.
Total cost of the project	The total cost of the project covers all expenditure/costs relating to the project, whether borne by EU or non-EU partners.
Selection criteria	<p>The project selection criteria cover all the criteria taken into account when deciding whether or not to award a grant to a proposed project. Under INTERREG Caraïbes, a distinction must be made between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissibility and eligibility criteria, which are binary and guide the analysis of the Joint Secretariat during the appraisal process. A project that does not meet the admissibility and eligibility criteria will be rejected; • Qualitative assessment criteria, which guide the technical committee's opinion on the project. There are three types of assessment criteria (transversal, specific and additional) and they are also used to score and rank the applications submitted to the steering committee for its decision.
Relocation	Transfer, in whole or in part, of an identical or similar activity from an establishment located in the territory of a Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement (initial establishment) to the establishment in which the aided investment is made in the territory of another Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement (aided establishment) (see Article 2, point 61a, Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 and Article 9 of Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022).
Direct/indirect expenditure	In contrast to direct expenditure, indirect expenditure is not or cannot be directly linked to an operation, although it is still necessary to carry it out.
DNSH (Do No Significant Harm [to the environment])	<p>The DNSH principle ("do no significant harm") is a principle defined by the Taxonomy Regulation 2020/852.</p> <p>This principle requires that no significant harm be caused to 6 environmental objectives defined in Article 9 of the Regulation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate change mitigation, 2. Climate change adaptation, 3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, 4. The transition to a circular economy, 5. Pollution prevention and reduction, 6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. <p>If the types of action supported by INTERREG Caraïbes 2021/2027 have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle, the programme will ensure that the projects selected are compatible with this principle (or even contribute to one or more of the 6 environmental objectives).</p>

<p>Cooperation area of the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programme</p>	<p>This cooperation area corresponds to the area covered by the programme. This area includes countries and territories with different statuses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCORs: Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Saint-Martin • Overseas countries and territories: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Eustache, Sint Maarten • Third countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela. <p>INTERREG Caraïbes aims to support projects that address the issues and problems shared by the various countries and territories in this area, and therefore facilitate the regional integration of the FCORs and their harmonious development in their vicinity.</p> <p>To be eligible, a project must involve at least one project lead partner based in one of the FCORs, and one partner based in one of the non-EU countries or territories in this area.</p>
<p>ERDF</p>	<p>European Regional Development Fund. Only EU partners in an INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 project are eligible for financial support from the ERDF.</p>
<p>EDF</p>	<p>European Development Fund. The INTERREG Caraïbes Managing Authority benefits from a delegation of credits under the 11th EDF, which can be combined with ERDF credits as part of an INTERREG Caraïbes project. Only non-EU partners engaged in a 2021-2027 INTERREG Caraïbes project and based in one of the following territories may be eligible for financial support from credits delegated under the 11th EDF: Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Saba (NL), Curaçao (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL).</p>
<p>Incentive effect</p>	<p>Aid is deemed to have an incentive effect if the beneficiary has submitted a written request for aid to the Managing Authority before work on the project or activity in question has begun. If the aid granted to the project qualifies as State aid and is made compatible with regulatory provisions by identifying a State aid scheme, one of the conditions of applicability of this scheme may be the incentive nature of the aid granted.</p> <p>The concept of “commencement of work” is defined as follows in Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid</p>

	<p>compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU (which repeals Regulation (EC) no. 800/2008 of 6 August 2008):</p> <p>"either the start of construction work linked to the investment, or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment or any other commitment making the investment irreversible, whichever event occurs first. The purchase of land and preparatory work such as obtaining permits and carrying out feasibility studies are not considered to be commencement of work. In the case of buyouts, the "commencement of work" is the time of acquisition of the assets directly related to the business acquired."</p> <p>Further details on the concept of incentives can be found on the State aid portal of the Europe-en-France website: https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/aides-d-etat</p>
Implementation indicator	Indicator used to measure the specific deliverables linked to the intervention
Outcome indicator	Indicator used to measure the effects of the interventions supported, in particular with regard to the direct recipients, the target population or the users of the infrastructure
NDICI	<p>Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).</p> <p>This is a new financial instrument for the 2021-2027 multi-year financial framework, which brings together the main strands of the EU's external action (replacing the EDF).</p>
New European Bauhaus	<p>European cross-disciplinary initiative that aims to create sustainable, beautiful and inclusive places, products and lifestyles. Three complementary values make up this initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable: promoting climate objectives, circularity, absence of pollution and biodiversity; promoting spaces in harmony with the environment and nature; • enriching: promoting spaces and practices that are inspired by art and culture, which meet the needs of target groups over and above functionality and that emphasis the quality of the experience; • inclusive: promoting diversity, accessibility and affordability, encouraging dialogue between cultures, disciplines, genders and ages. <p>For more information:</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1631781368249&uri=COM%3A2021%3A573%3AFIN</p> <p>https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en</p> <p>https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/articles/le-nouveau-bauhaus-europeen-des-actions-et-des-financements-pour-associer-la-durabilite-au</p>

Completed operation	Operation that has been physically completed or fully implemented and for which all related payments have been made by the beneficiaries and the corresponding public contribution has been paid to the beneficiaries
Partner in an INTERREG Caraïbes project, associated partner and beneficiary partner	<p>The partners of an INTERREG Caraïbes project are organisations that take part in the development, implementation and financing of the project or that assign staff to its implementation. The role of each partner in the project and the benefits expected from the project must be clearly identified.</p> <p>A distinction must be made between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the “beneficiary” partners who will receive an ERDF grant as part of the project; • the “associated” partners who will not receive financial support under the programme. <p>INTERREG Caraïbes project partners must formalise their commitment by signing a letter of commitment (in support of the application) and the partnership agreement (if the project is selected).</p>
Sustainability of operations	<p>Principle defined in Article 65 of regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060 according to which the financial support granted to the project by European funds must be reimbursed if, within five years of the final payment (or within the period laid down in the rules applicable to State aid), the project undergoes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the termination or transfer of a productive activity outside of the NUTS level 2 region in which it received support; • a change of ownership of an infrastructure which gives a business or public body an undue advantage; • a substantial change affecting its nature, objectives or implementation conditions, which would undermine its initial objectives.
OCTs	Overseas countries and territories
FCOR	French Caribbean Outermost Region
Rate of public funding	Percentage of funding from public sources in the overall budget for the operation. Depending on the regulations applicable to the operation, and in particular in the case of State aid, the maximum rate of public aid may be less than or equal to 100%.
Co-financing rate	Percentage of ERDF within the overall budget for the operation. For the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programme, the maximum ERDF co-financing rate is 85% of eligible expenditure. It may be lower depending on the applicable regulations (particularly in the case of State aid), the provisions set out in the action sheets or in the call for project specifications.

Transfer of a production activity	Transfer of a productive activity outside the NUTS level 2 region in which it received support (article 65, paragraph 1(a) of Regulation (EU) no. 1060/2021).
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III - HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS:

For priorities other than priority 5, the members of the INTERREG Caraïbes Monitoring Committee have adopted the following principles and procedures:

1 – How to apply?

The programme has defined two procedures for submitting applications:

1.1 – Call for Projects:

The call for projects is a procedure dedicated to receiving complete projects on the basis of specifications defined jointly with the partnership.

These projects will be appraised by the Joint Secretariat (JS), presented to the Technical Committee for a technical opinion on the applications, and will then be presented to the Steering Committee for decision.

1.2 – Ongoing submission:

Additionally, the submission of complete project proposals is possible throughout the programming. These projects will be appraised by the JS, presented to the Technical Committee for a technical opinion on the applications, and will then be presented to the Steering Committee for decision.

The programme will operate primarily by Call for Projects. In between two periods of Call for Projects, it will be possible to apply through the ongoing procedure.

2 – Who to contact?

- The Joint Secretariat (JS):

The JS of the INTERREG Caraïbes programme is a body that assists the Managing Authority (the Regional Council of Guadeloupe) and the Monitoring and Steering Committees in the performance of their functions by ensuring the operational management of the programme.

It also has, among other functions, the mission to inform and raise awareness among project leads, to appraise projects applying for a European grant in order to assess their admissibility and eligibility, and to analyse them with a view to their presentation to the Technical Committee and then to the Steering Committee. In addition, the JS supports project leads throughout the implementation phase (expenditure reports, audits, etc.) and during the closing phase of the project.

- Regional Contact Points (RCPs):

The Regional Contact Points will be the Joint Secretariat's relays with the programme's partners and will be responsible for informing potential beneficiaries on the programme and its funding opportunities, assisting them until they submit a complete application to the Joint Secretariat as well as assisting them with the physical and financial implementation of their projects. Project lead partners are therefore advised to get closer to them in order to structure their project and elaborate their application. The RCPs also help project lead partners to submit progress reports.

The Regional Contact Points are based on the partner territories, namely: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Saint-Martin and, for non-EU territories, they are based in international organisations with a regional remit (the ACS, the OECS, CARICOM/CARIFORUM).

3 – What documents must be included in the application file?

The final application file submitted to the JS via the information system must contain the following elements:

- A duly completed application form, sent both in French and English;
- The budget annex of the application form;
- A logical framework presenting the proposed project;
- A letter of commitment from the project lead;
- Letters of commitment from the various EU and non-EU partners;
- The various supporting documents requested in support of the application, including: supporting documents relating to the applicants (i.e. Kbis, articles of association of the applicant and all partners) and supporting documents relating to the request for subsidy (i.e. quotes, documents relating to staff expenses).

➤ Focus: I have an idea for a cooperation project. What steps should I take to develop and submit my project?



1- Express and refine the project idea:

Right from the project idea stage, it is important to:

- Assess whether INTERREG Caraiibes is the right tool to support the project:
 - Is the project geared towards solving a challenge or a shared problem in the Caribbean? Is it aligned with the programme's priorities, and does it contribute to achieving the programme's strategy? (see action sheets);
 - Is cooperation a necessity or the right tool for solving the problem or challenge addressed by the project?
- Define and refine the project partnership:
 - INTERREG Caraiibes projects are, by their very nature, cooperation projects; they must be built on a partnership basis and reflect the issues and benefits expected by each party. This point will be assessed during the project analysis.
 - The choice of the project partnership (lead partner, beneficiary partners and associated partners) must take into account the results expected at the end of the project, regulatory requirements (particularly with regard to the administrative and financial soundness of the lead partner), of the complementary nature of the partners etc.



Any institution with an idea for a cooperation project that would like to receive support from INTERREG Caraiibes can submit it on SYNERGIE. They will be asked to create a profile and present their project idea.

On this basis, they will be accompanied by the programme's Regional Contact Points (RCPs) in order to refine the project idea and identify potential partners in the cooperation area.

2- Hold a technical meeting with the Joint Secretariat:

Following this initial exchange, and when the applicant lead partner has a refined pre-project (partnership identified, draft budget drawn up), it is compulsory to request a meeting with the Joint Secretariat. This exchange will make it possible to:

- Refine the draft budget: reminder of the various expectations of the programme and how they are reflected in the draft budget, identification of the Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) and the simplification rules applicable to the project;
- Anticipate the various programme expectations before finalising the project (monitoring indicators, communication, capitalisation, translation etc.);
- Provide access to SYNERGIE-CTE for editing and submitting applications.



This meeting is a compulsory and essential step prior to submitting the application.

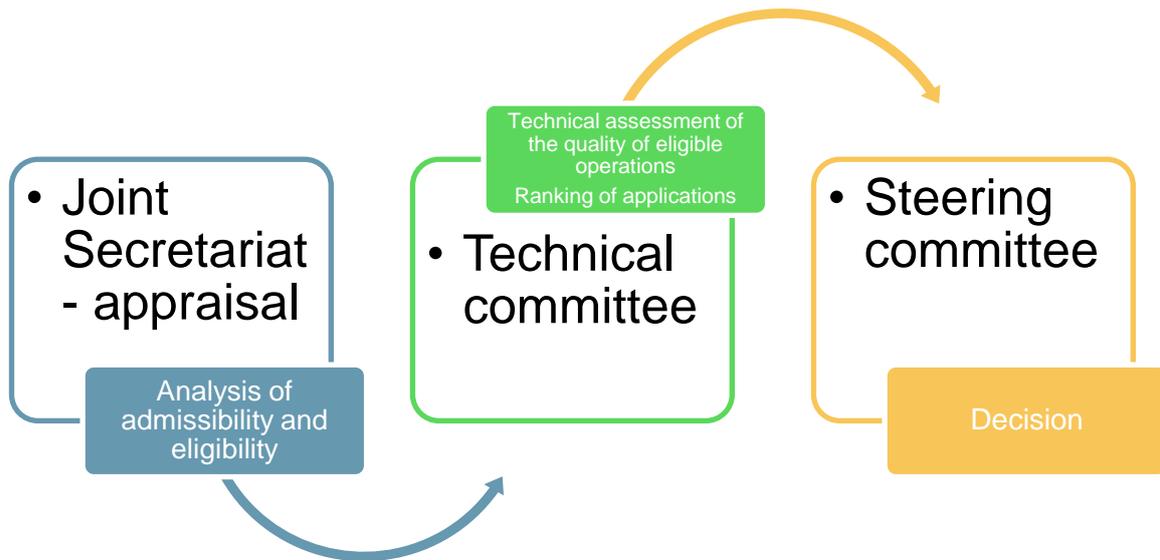
3- Enter and submit the application on SYNERGIE-CTE:

Following the meeting with the Joint Secretariat, the applicant project lead partner edits the application, in French and English, onto SYNERGIE-CTE, then clicks on the “submit” button.

IV - SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 22 and 30 of EU Regulation (2021/1059), the selection of operations is based on an analysis of applications based on non-discriminatory and transparent criteria and procedures.

The selection process for INTERREG Caraiibes 2021-2027 operations can be summarised as follows:



1 Analysis of the operation's admissibility and eligibility:

Initially, as part of the appraisal procedure, the Joint Secretariat examines the applications and ensures that they are both admissible and eligible.

1.1 Admissibility criteria:

In order to be admissible, the project must meet the following criteria:

- The project is submitted via the information system, in accordance with the procedure defined by the programme;
- The application form is submitted in French and English;
- The application form is fully completed;
- The required appendices are attached to the application;
- The standard documents defined for the appendices are respected;
- The letters of commitment from the project lead partner and partners are present, dated and signed;

- The supporting documents relating to the applicants (Kbis, articles of association of the applicant and all partners, capacity of the legal representative to engage the organisation etc.) are submitted;
- Supporting documents for the expenditure detailed in the budgetary annex (i.e. estimates, documents relating to staff costs) are submitted;
- Engagement from the applicant to transmit bank account details specific to the project (or another form for public bodies) is submitted;
- A certificate(s) of non-recovery of VAT for the partner(s) in question is submitted if the project includes expenditure including VAT;
- Documents attesting to the commitment of each public or private co-financer are attached;
- If the project is part of a Call for Projects, the project has been submitted by the deadline
- The final version of the application form is dated and signed by the lead partner.



Please refer to the document “List of supporting documents to be submitted with the application” available on the programme website.

- **Focus: compliance with competitive tendering and reasonableness of expenditure submitted by applicants:**

For organisations subject to public procurement, if a contract has already been awarded, all contract documents must be submitted in support of the relevant expenditure when the application is submitted.

For organisations that are not subject to public procurement, the reasonableness of the costs presented must be assessed.

The Managing Authority has therefore specified the following rules for submitting aid requests:

- For expenditure of up to €40,000 excluding VAT (unit cost): production of at least one proof for presented expenditure*;
- For expenditure of between €40,000 excluding VAT and €215,000 excluding VAT: production of at least two proves for presented expenditure.
- For expenditure in excess of €215,000 excluding VAT: production of at least three proves for presented expenditures.

In cases deemed necessary by the Joint Secretariat, additional proves or quotes may be requested. To be valid, proves for presented expenditure must at least include the following elements: date, description of the expense, company name of the issuing company, price excluding VAT or including VAT (with mention of the VAT rate).

In addition, the estimated documents presented must be comparable, that is to say, they correspond to equivalent expenses between them. They must not come from the same supplier/service provider. They mention, where applicable, discounts or reductions granted on the amount of the expense

The prospective supplier/service provider must not be in a conflict of interest situation with the project holder.

The quotes submitted must be recent (less than 8 months before the date of submission of the application).

Where it is not possible to produce competitive quotes, the project holder must justify this impossibility.



The beneficiary submits their request with the number of proves required depending on expenditure, indicating each time the offer that is the subject of their choice.

When the expenditure submitted by beneficiaries is checked, it will be verified that the amount provided for and agreed for a given investment or service has been respected.

1.2 Eligibility criteria:

➤ Eligibility criteria applicable to projects:

The Joint Secretariat assesses cooperation projects against the following eligibility criteria:

Principle	Eligibility criteria	Regulatory basis
Eligibility regards horizontal principles with to	The project respects fundamental rights and complies with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (dignity, freedom, equality, solidarity, citizenship, justice).	Article 9 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
	The project complies with the principle of gender equality and takes account of gender equality issues and the gender dimension.	Article 9 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
	The project complies with the principle of preventing all forms of discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.	Article 9 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Eligibility with regard to the principle of sustainable development and DNSH of	The project complies with the promotion of sustainable development set out in Article 11 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), taking into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the principle of “no significant harm”.	Article 9 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060 Article 22 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
	The project complies with the principles set out in the Communication of 11/12/2019 on the European Green Deal, as well as in the new EU strategy on adaptation to climate change	

	(Communication of 24/02/2021) and in the legislation resulting from these texts.	
	The project, if it falls within the scope of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, is subject to an environmental impact assessment or a screening procedure and to the assessment of alternatives having been duly taken into account, based on the requirements of said Directive.	Article 22.4 (e) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Co-financing principle	The project complies with the principle of co-financing, which requires a national public or private contribution, and the rate of co-financing allocated to the project under the programme does not exceed 85%.	Article 112 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060; Article 13 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 and the specific rules of the programme
Geographical eligibility	The project must be implemented in the programme cooperation area. Only expenditure incurred by EU project partners outside the EU is eligible for ERDF aid (see specific focus below). All or part of a project may be implemented outside a Member State, including outside the EU, provided that the project contributes to achieving the objectives of the programme.	Article 63 and seq. of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060; Article 37 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 And the specific rules of the programme
	The project must involve <i>at least</i> one project lead partner based in one of the outermost regions covered by the programme, and one non-EU partner from the INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation area.	Article 23.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 And the specific rules of the programme
Temporal eligibility	The project complies with the principle of temporal eligibility. Therefore, expenditure is eligible if it is incurred by the beneficiary and paid during the implementation of operations between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2029. In addition, unless an exception is made under the regulations, the operation is not physically completed or fully implemented before the date of submission of the application for aid under the programme, in accordance with Article 63. 6 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060. Programme rules, particularly in the context of calls for projects, may contain more restrictive rules. In general, operations covered by State aid regulations have specific characteristics in terms of temporal eligibility, linked to the incentive effect.	Article 63 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060 Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022 And the specific rules of the programme

	If the project began before an application for funding was submitted to the Managing Authority, the applicable law has been complied with.	Article 22.4 (f) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
No double funding	The project complies with the general principle prohibiting double European funding: the same expenditure may not be financed twice by the European budget. This rule doesn't apply to aid paid to individuals for study, research, training or education purposes or to direct aid paid to individuals in urgent need, such as the unemployed or refugees. The absence of double funding of the same expenditure must be justifiable, including in the case of lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing.	Articles 188 and 191 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) no. 2018/1046
Eligibility for ERDF support	The project complies with the scope of ERDF assistance.	Article 5 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1058
	The project complies with the exclusions from the scope of ERDF assistance	Article 7 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1058
Strategic eligibility	The project complies with the INTERREG programme and contributes effectively to the achievement of a thematic priority and a specific objective of the programme. A project that contributes to more than one priority or more than one specific objective may be eligible for a specific bonus	Article 22.4 (a) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022 And the specific rules of the programme
	The project falls within the scope of the INTERREG fund in question and is consistent with one of the programme's areas of intervention	Article 22.4 (g) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
	The project does not contradict the strategies defined for the Multi-Year Indicative Programmes supported under the European Union's external funding instruments in the cooperation area	Article 22.4 (b) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Partnership	The project partners shall cooperate in <i>at least</i> two of the following four areas: the development and implementation of INTERREG operations, their staffing and financing	Article 23.4 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Principle of sustainability, viability and non-relocation	The project must comply with the principle of sustainability, viability and non-relocation when it concerns an investment in infrastructure or a productive investment.	Article 65 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
	The project doesn't include activities which are part of a relocated operation within the meaning of Article 2(27) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 or which would constitute a transfer of a production activity within the meaning of Article 65(1)(a) of that Regulation	Article 22.4 (h) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059

Specific rules for investments in infrastructure and/or productive investments	If the project includes investment(s) in infrastructure with an expected lifespan of at least five years, an assessment of the expected effects of climate change is carried out	Article 22.4 (j) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
	The beneficiary has the financial resources and funding mechanisms required to cover operating and maintenance costs in the case of operations involving investment in infrastructure or productive investment	Article 22.4 (d) of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Specific rules if the project and/or expenditure concerns a Member State for which the Commission considers that it has failed to fulfil an obligation under the treaties	The project is not directly subject to a reasoned opinion issued by the Commission concerning an infringement under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which jeopardises the legality and regularity of expenditure or the implementation of operations	Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (ex-article 226 TEC) Article 22.4 (i) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059
Eligibility in relation to national regulations	The project complies with current European and national regulations. In particular, the project complies with the rules defined at national level by Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022 setting out the national rules for the eligibility of expenditure. Where applicable, for works, structures or development projects carried out, an impact study must be submitted in accordance with article R.123-3 of the French Environment Code	Article 63.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060; Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022



A project that does not meet these cumulative eligibility criteria will not be submitted to the Technical Committee for its opinion or to the Steering Committee for a decision. It will only be submitted for information regarding its rejection.

- Eligibility criteria applicable to costs and expenditure presented as part of the project:

Expenditure presented as part of the project is also analysed for eligibility.

This paragraph sets out the transversal principles relating to eligible and ineligible expenditure and costs. Specific features may be added to these general principles for each action sheet; similarly, the specifications for the Call for Projects may set out additional criteria.

Generally speaking, in accordance with European regulations and the national decree on the eligibility of expenditure, expenditure is eligible if:

- It relates, directly or indirectly², to an eligible project, which falls within the framework and meets the objectives and conditions set by the programme;
- It relates to the costs of launching or launching and implementing the project, in whole or in part;
- It is carried out and paid for by the beneficiary within the eligibility period laid down in the legal act granting European aid³;
- They must comply with the categories of eligible expenditure and the methods set out in the programme and the grant awarding act and its appendices⁴;
- They do not fall within the categories of costs and expenditure considered ineligible, as detailed below, and they comply with the specific eligibility rules laid down for certain categories of expenditure by Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022 and by national regulations;
- They are justified in accordance with the procedures defined by Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022 and by the specific rules of the programme.



In support of these general principles concerning eligible expenditure, the Implementation Document II - practical focus details the specific rules and procedures for justifying expenditure.

² Eligible costs correspond to an operation's direct or indirect expenditure. For the period 2021-2027, and as detailed in the "SCO and simplification rules" focus, the Managing Authority states that indirect expenditure will only be eligible if it is taken into account by applying a Simplified Cost Option (indirect expenditure presented on an actual basis will not be eligible). As part of the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programme, indirect expenditure corresponds to the category "office and administrative costs" defined in Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and will be covered by applying a flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs.

³ The period set out in the awarding act takes into account:

- The eligibility period for expenditure set out in European regulations, i.e. expenditure is eligible if it is incurred by a beneficiary between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2029. This expenditure may be paid after 31 December 2029;
- Regulatory provisions (European or national) specific to the operation, in particular in the case of State aid providing for the application of the principle of the incentive nature of the aid;
- The period over which the beneficiary plans to carry out the operation;
- Specific rules defined in the specifications of the Calls for Projects or defined by the Managing Authority to meet programme management objectives (for example, rules governing the period during which the operation is carried out).

⁴ As part of an INTERREG project, a partnership agreement is signed between the lead partner and their partners. In particular, it sets out the operation's financing plan, the respective obligations of the signatories, the procedures for repaying aid and handling disputes, as well as the responsibilities of the parties in the event of a procedure to recover undue payments. This agreement is appended to the decision awarding the aid

Pursuant to European regulations, national legislation and the rules defined by the programme authorities, the following costs and expenditure are not eligible:

Type of cost or expenditure	Details or exceptions	Regulatory basis
Purchase of land	<p>The purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10% of the total eligible expenditure for the operation in question is not eligible.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for abandoned sites or former industrial sites containing buildings, this limit is raised to 15%; - these provisions don't apply to operations involving environmental protection. 	Article 64.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Export aid*	<p>Aid directly linked to the quantities exported, and/or used to finance the establishment and operation of a distribution network or other current expenditure linked to the export process, is not eligible.</p> <p>As a general rule, operations to provide export assistance for a company are not eligible for support under the programme.</p>	Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 Specific rules of the programme.
Non-contractual fines and financial penalties	Not eligible	Article 38.3 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Exceptional expenses	Exceptional expenses falling under account no. 67 of the general chart of accounts are ineligible	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Depreciation costs for which no payment has been made, as evidenced by invoices	<p>Depreciation costs for which no payment has been made, as evidenced by invoices, may be considered eligible if the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the programme's eligibility rules allow it; b) the expenditure amount is duly supported by documentary evidence having equivalent probative value to that of invoices relating to costs due where such costs have been reimbursed in the form referred to in Article 53(1)(a); c) the costs relate exclusively to the period during which the operation is supported; d) public grants didn't contribute to the acquisition of depreciated assets. 	Article 67.2 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Relocation and transfer of activities	<p>Expenditure and activities in support of relocation are not eligible.</p> <p>Similarly, expenditure and activities that would constitute transfer of a production activity are not eligible.</p>	Article 66 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060 Article 22 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059

Indirect expenditure	<p>Indirect expenditure presented on an real basis will not be eligible.</p> <p>Indirect expenditure will only be eligible if declared under the category “office and administrative costs” and calculated by applying the following SCO: flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs.</p>	Specific rules of the programme
Expenditure incurred via purchasing departments	In general, expenditure made via purchasing departments is not eligible unless the lots in the markets have been subject to an audit by the national audit authority prior to the aid request.	Specific rules of the programme
Dividends	Dividends excluding staff costs for non-salaried managers of SMEs are not eligible	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Donations	Not eligible	Article 38.3 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Depreciation on investments and other allowances	<p>Depreciation on investments and other allowances are not eligible.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - depreciation of intangible and tangible fixed assets under account no. 6811 of the general chart of accounts 	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Business in difficulty	<p>Expenditure in favour of a business in difficulty, within the meaning of Article 2(18) of Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014, unless this is permitted under de minimis aid or temporary State aid rules established to deal with exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The Managing Authority may define specific points for appraisal in internal procedures (Implementation Document Vol2).</p>	Article 7 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1058
Equipment	Small items of equipment (computers, cameras etc.) are only eligible as part of the project if they are directly, totally and exclusively assigned to the project. The Managing Authority is the sole judge of the appropriateness of funding this type of equipment and the beneficiary must guarantee very precise monitoring of the use of this equipment prior to the project, if necessary.	Specific rules of the programme
Events	<p>Operations of a purely event-based nature, or to promote the area (fairs, competitions, festivals, concerts etc.) are not eligible for support under the programme.</p> <p>A project may, however, include event-related expenditure and activities, provided that these contribute to achieving the programme's network-building strategy.</p>	Specific rules of the programme

Exchange rate fluctuations	Costs linked to exchange rate fluctuations are not eligible	Article 38.3 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059
Legal and litigation costs	Legal and litigation costs, as defined by the French Code of Criminal Procedure, which do not fall within the scope of technical assistance within the meaning of Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 are not eligible	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Costs relating to out-of-court settlements and interest on arrears	Costs relating to out-of-court settlements and interest on arrears under contracts for the execution of works, the delivery of supplies or the provision of services, with economic consideration in the form of a price or a right of use, are not eligible	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022
Taxes, duties and “octroi de mer”	Taxes, specific duties (in particular: customs IT tax, goods tax) and regional “octroi de mer” are not eligible.	Specific rules of the programme
Interest charges	Exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - subsidies granted in the form of interest subsidies or contributions to guarantee premiums 	Article 64.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Rolling stock	Rolling stock (with the exception of vehicles directly linked to and necessary for the project) is not eligible. Clarification: The purchase of rolling stock is eligible only insofar as it is directly, totally and exclusively assigned to the project. The Managing Authority is the sole judge of the appropriateness of funding this type of equipment and the beneficiary must guarantee very precise monitoring of the use of this equipment prior to the project. If this equipment is not used for the project throughout its lifetime, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the duration of the project, calculated in accordance with good accounting practice, are deemed eligible.	Specific rules of the programme
Floating and flying equipment	Expenditure relating to the purchase and/or depreciation of floating equipment (i.e. ships) and/or flying equipment (i.e. aircraft) is not eligible. Only expenditure relating to the fitting out of floating or flying equipment, except from upgrading to standards, may be eligible for support under the programme.	Specific rules of the programme
Operation completed before the request for aid is submitted	An operation physically completed or fully implemented before the application for funding under the programme is submitted, regardless of whether or not all the related payments have been made, is not eligible.	Article 63.6 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Financial penalties outside the contract	Not eligible	Decree no. 2022-608 of 21 April 2022

Small research consumables	Small non-depreciable consumables are considered by the programme to be indirect expenditure. For this reason, they are only eligible in the form of SCOs (7% of eligible direct costs), under the expenditure item "office and administrative costs".	Specific rules of the programme
Sustainability of operations involving investment in infrastructure or productive investment	<p>Expenditure linked to investment in infrastructure or productive investment must comply with the principle of sustainability.</p> <p>Consequently, the expenditure will have to be reimbursed if, within five years of the final payment to the beneficiary or within the period set out in the rules applicable to State aid, as the case may be, the operation is subject to one of the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the termination or transfer of a productive activity outside of the NUTS level 2 region in which it received support; b) a change of ownership of an infrastructure which gives a business or public body an undue advantage; c) a substantial change affecting its nature, objectives or implementation conditions, which would undermine its initial objectives. <p>The Member State may reduce the period laid down in the first paragraph to three years in cases concerning the maintenance of investments or jobs created by SMEs. Reimbursement for non-compliance with this Article shall be proportionate to the period of non-compliance.</p>	Article 65 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060
Permanent civil service staff	Staff expenses relating to permanent civil servants from national related agencies are not eligible. Only expenses for contractual staff dedicated to the operation are eligible.	Specific rules of the programme
Value-added tax (VAT)	<p>VAT is not eligible, except in cases where it is definitively and genuinely borne by the beneficiary and linked to the operation.</p> <p>The beneficiary must provide proof of this from the first Euro.</p>	<p>Article 64.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060</p> <p>Specific rules of the programme</p>



Following appraisal, ineligible expenditure presented as part of a project which meets the above eligibility criteria will be excluded from the eligible amount.

➤ **Focus: categories of eligible expenditure under INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027:**

In accordance with Articles 39 to 44 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059 and the specific rules of the programme, the categories of eligible expenditure under INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 are as follows:

- Staff costs;
- Office and administrative costs/indirect expenses;
- Travel and accommodation costs;
- Costs related to the use of external expertise and services;
- Equipment costs;
- Infrastructure and works costs;
- Communication and capitalisation costs.

With regard to contributions in kind, in accordance with Article 67.1 of Regulation (EU) no. 1060/2021, contributions in kind in the form of the execution of works or the provision of goods, services, land and buildings for which no payment has been made, as evidenced by invoices or other documents of equivalent probative value, may be eligible where the following conditions are met:

- a. the public aid paid for the operation including contributions in kind does not exceed the total amount of eligible expenditure, excluding contributions in kind, as established at the end of the operation;
- b. the value attributed to the contributions in kind does not exceed the costs generally accepted on the market in question;
- c. the value and implementation of the contribution in kind can be independently assessed and verified;
- d. in the case of the provision of land or buildings, a payment for the purposes of a rental contract of an annual nominal amount not exceeding one currency unit of the Member State may be made;
- e. in the case of contributions in kind in the form of unpaid work, the value of this work is determined on the basis of the verified working time and the remuneration applicable to equivalent work.

The value of the land or buildings referred to in point (d) of the first sub paragraph of this paragraph shall be certified by an independent qualified expert or by a duly authorised official body and shall not exceed the limit laid down in Article 64(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1060/2021.



As part of the operation's financing plan, the applicant shall present the estimated expenditure broken down into these different categories.

➤ **Focus: Simplification rules and use of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs):**

For the period 2021-2027, the Managing Authority is implementing a simplification strategy based in particular on the use of the simplified cost options provided for in regulations.

There are various forms of SCOs:

flat rate	lump sum	scale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option makes it possible to cover certain specific categories of eligible costs, clearly identified beforehand, by applying a percentage, determined in advance, to one or more other categories of eligible costs. • <i>example</i>: flat rate of 7% to cover indirect expenditure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option consists of covering all or part of the eligible costs of an operation based on a pre-established lump sum, according to the pre-defined arrangements in terms of activities and/or implementation. • <i>example</i>: holding a seminar for at least 50 participants for €15,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option can be used when it's possible to define quantities linked to an activity and standard scales of unit costs. • <i>example</i>: consultancy for very small businesses defined at €350/day

Applicants for support from the programme will be accompanied by the Joint Secretariat during a meeting prior to the submission of the application in order to jointly define the procedures for justifying certain costs and the most appropriate options to be applied to their project.

At the project preparation stage, the project lead partners should work on their budget projections in preparation for their meeting with the Joint Secretariat. The choice of the most appropriate options for the project will be made based on these projections and the relevant justification.

The table below sets out the different rules that apply and the options available depending on the expenditure in question:

Type of expenditure	Possible ways of taking into account
Staff costs	Two possible methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Application of an SCO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ flat rate of 20% of expenditure directly linked to the project that isn't staff expenditure; ○ scale of 1607 hours if taken into account on the basis of an hourly rate (except when there is a collective agreement that sets another scale); – On an actual basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ only staff expenditure with a fixed rate of assignment to the project will be eligible; ○ only expenditure relating to staff assigned to the project at a rate of more than 15% will be eligible under the programme.
Travel and accommodation costs	Application of a scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – if the organisation has its own scale: use of the organisation's scale; – if the organisation doesn't have a scale:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ civil service scale, for travel in France (in one of the outermost regions and/or in mainland France); ○ scale applicable to missions by European Union officials (used within the framework of Europ'Aid), for travel outside France.
Equipment costs	Two possible methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – application of an SCO: 40% of staff costs (also includes travel and accommodation costs); – On an actual basis
Infrastructure and works costs	
Communication costs	
Costs related to the use of external expertise and services	
Indirect expenditure/office and administrative costs	Exclusive application of an SCO: flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs



The meeting with the Joint Secretariat at the project definition stage will help define the methods for taking into account the various costs envisaged for the project, which will have to be applied at the application submission stage on the programme's information system (IS). Access to the IS will be open to lead partners once these elements have been approved.

➤ **Focus: Rate of public funding and co-financing rate**

Determining the amount of ERDF funding that can be allocated to a project is based on a detailed analysis of the project's characteristics, the amount of public funding from which the project partners have also benefited, and the total amount of eligible expenditure for the project. It will be adjusted depending on the funding already granted.

<p>In principle, the following thresholds apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum rate of co-financing from the INTERREG Caraïbes programme: 85% - Maximum rate of public funding: 100% for public bodies and associations, this rate may be lower for companies in accordance with state aid regulations

The co-financing rate and the rate of public funding, which will be approved and included in the funding agreement, will apply to the project's total eligible expenditure. Where State aid is applied, the rate of public funding may differ between the beneficiary partners.

Depending on the activities planned under the cooperation project and by the partners, the main aid schemes utilised under the programme are as follows:

- Notification-exempt framework scheme relating to aid for businesses taking part in European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) projects - no. SA.64779
- Notification-exempt framework scheme relating to regional aid (AFR) for the period 2022-2027 - no. SA.103603
- Notification-exempt framework scheme relating to aid for SMEs for access to funding for the period 2014-2023 - no. SA.59107
- Notification-exempt framework scheme relating to aid for SMEs for the period 2014-2023 - no. SA.100189
- Commission Regulation (EU) no. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU to de minimis aid (the period of application of which was extended until 31 December 2023 by Commission Regulation (EU) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020)
- etc.

Other schemes may also apply to projects supported by the programme.

A summary table of the main aid schemes (non-exhaustive) that can be used for each theme can be found at the following website:

https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/liste_aidesdetat_maj220819.xlsx

Following the publication of [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021](#) amending Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, and the validation of the new [regional aid map for the period 2022-2027](#), certain aid schemes have been created or amended⁵.

The list of amended schemes is available in the concordance table (current and old scheme numbers) [here](#). A list of amended schemes for Overseas territories is also available [here](#).



Compliance with State aid regulations will therefore be subject to a specific analysis at the appraisal stage in order to determine:

- **Whether the European aid granted can be classified as State aid;**
- **If applicable, the scheme and/or regulatory provisions applicable to the beneficiary(ies) and the project. The applicable scheme may stipulate that European aid must have an incentive effect*, in which case it is imperative that the beneficiary has submitted a written request for aid to the Managing Authority before work on the project or activity in question has begun.**

⁵ See <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/aides-d-etat/regimes-d-aide>

➤ **Focus: what expenditure incurred outside the EU is eligible under the programme?**

- *Use of ERDF on non-EU territory:*

Non-EU partners are not eligible for an ERDF grant under the INTERREG Caraiibes programme. Expenditure incurred by non-EU partners will not be eligible for ERDF support, whether it is incurred in EU or non-EU territory.

However, EU partners have the possibility of incurring expenditure in non-EU territory. Such expenditure shall then be eligible for ERDF support, subject to compliance with national and community rules on eligibility of expenditure (in particular Articles 63 to 68 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059), the previously detailed provisions on eligible and non-eligible expenditure and provided that they are incurred in the framework of a project that contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the INTERREG Caraiibes programme.

In addition, pursuant to Article 38.5 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1059, such expenditure incurred in another currency shall be converted into Euros on the basis of the Commission's monthly accounting exchange rate in force during the month in which the expenditure was submitted for verification.

- *Articulation with external financing from the European Union:*

As the Managing Authority benefits from an envelope of 11th EDF credits delegated by the European Commission as part of the INTERREG Caraiibes programme. Therefore, it is possible for partners located on one of the territories listed hereafter to apply for an EDF grant from the INTERREG Caraiibes authorities to co-finance their activities: Antigua and Barbuda; The Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Saba (NL), Curaçao (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL).

The application for an EDF grant will only be eligible if submitted within the framework of an INTERREG Caraiibes project, led by an EU-based project lead partner, formalised according to the application form validated by the programme authorities, and submitted according to the above-mentioned submission procedures. Thus, a non-EU partner in an INTERREG Caraiibes project will be able to apply for an EDF grant using the EDF Annex to the application form provided for this purpose.

For the 2021-2027 programming period, a link between ERDF credits of the INTERREG Caraiibes programme and NDICI credits will be sought for.

2 *Technical assessment of the quality of the operation:*

2.1 *Technical committee analysis procedure:*

Secondly, acceptable applications that meet the eligibility and legality requirements will be qualitatively assessed by the programme partners in order firstly to define with objectivity an opinion on the project and secondly to rank and prioritise the projects⁶. Three types of criteria will be examined, namely:

- Transversal criteria applicable to all applications;
- Criteria specifically defined for each programme theme, with regard to the programme's intervention strategy;
- Additional criteria.

Transversal and thematic criteria will be rated (from 1 (very unsatisfactory) to 4 (very satisfactory)), weighted by criterion, formalised by each programme partner, and consolidated by the Technical Committee.

Transversal and thematic criteria are used to define thresholds that will guide the opinion on the project:

- Should the project score below 1.5 on each of these criteria, it will receive an unfavourable opinion;
- Should the project score between 1.5 and 2.5 on each of these criteria, it will be adjourned;
- Should the project score above 2.5 on each of these criteria, it will receive a favourable opinion.

Operations with a favourable opinion will be prioritised based on their score.

The consolidated score and opinions of the Technical Committee on the operations will be sent to the members of the Steering Committee to facilitate decision-making on granting of INTERREG funding and the programming of operations. Assisted by the Joint Secretariat, the Technical Committee will also prepare the draft agenda of the Steering Committee, prioritising the projects presented for decision.

This agenda distinguishes:

- the projects presented to the Steering Committee for information:
 - projects whose appraisal has concluded that they are ineligible;
 - projects adjourned by the Technical Committee (projects whose score is insufficient);

⁶ "In order to optimise the contribution of Union funds to the achievement of the objectives of the Programme", Art 73 of Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060.

- for decision by the Steering Committee:
 - projects with a favourable opinion, presented by theme and prioritised by descending score;
 - projects with an unfavourable opinion (excluding grounds of ineligibility).

2.2 Assessment criteria used by the technical committee:

➤ Transversal criteria:

Applicable to all operations, these criteria help assess the operational quality and the structuring dimension of the project, the relevance of the partnership and the added value of the cooperation, and the prospects for capitalising on the cooperation area.

These transversal criteria, grouped into sub-groups, are as follows:

Operational quality and structuring dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project contributes to a broader strategy at European (e.g.: REACT EU, ERASMUS+, LIFE+, Cosme, the European Digital Programme (EDP), Horizon Europe, the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative, the Connecting Europe Facility, European external funding strategies and programmes), national, regional (e.g.: Smart Specialisation Strategies of territories, donor strategies), and/or territorial levels in the cooperation area	2	The project mentions the European, national and regional strategies to which it contributes. In particular, it sets out the planned interactions, in terms of objectives, actions and beneficiaries. Where appropriate, it specifies the possibilities for co-financing. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 11.3 of the application form.
The project clearly identifies the target groups and links together all the groups (and in particular final beneficiaries and users) from the design phase to the implementation phase of the project	2	The project indicates which target groups will be involved in the various project actions. As far as possible, it specifies age groups. The Programme also pays particular attention to gender equality. The project will also indicate how the target groups will be identified and how they will be utilised at the various stages of the project cycle. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.2 of the application form.

<p>The project anticipates its social, economic and environmental benefits</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>No ex-ante impact assessment is required. However, the project must demonstrate the expected impacts of its actions for the territory.</p> <p>It is expected that both positive and negative effects are anticipated (in this case, it is relevant to specify the measures envisaged to limit negative effects).</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.5 of the application form.</p>
<p>The reverse scheduling of activities is proportionate to the goals of the programme</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The project details the activities planned over the life of the project. These must be consistent with the planned objectives and the resources required.</p> <p>Particular attention must be paid to ensuring that the timetable is realistic, so that all the actions can be completed within the planned time frame.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 7 of the application form.</p>

Cooperative partnership and win-win dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
<p>The choice of the lead partner and the partners involved in the project is relevant, proportionate to the objectives pursued by the project and structuring (the partners have expertise in the field in question, the partners are federating, complementary)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The project will justify the composition of the consortium set up to implement the project.</p> <p>In particular, it will indicate the role of each member in the project and their added value. It will specify the consortium's operating procedures to ensure that the project is carried out collectively.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 9.1; 15.3 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
<p>The lead partner and partners involved in the project and its implementation have proven experience (in the management and implementation of INTERREG or FCR type cooperation projects, or in the management and implementation of European projects) to carry out the project</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The project must describe the experience of the various members of the consortium in managing comparable projects (regional cooperation projects or European projects).</p> <p>In particular, they have the engineering skills for ambitious projects, carried out in an international context and in accordance</p>

		<p>with rigorous administrative and financial rules.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 15.5 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
The lead partner and the partners involved in the project and its implementation have sufficient administrative and financial capacity to carry out the project	2	<p>The lead partner and the partners involved in the project have the human resources and procedures (particularly public procurement) to manage a project financed by European funds.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 15.6 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
The project has a win-win dimension for all the territories involved (realistic cooperation dimension and the benefits expected by each partner are clearly identified)	2	<p>The project must explain how the various partners and territories benefit from the implementation and results of the actions carried out. As a reminder, the Programme does not fund humanitarian or export projects.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 6.2 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
The activities planned by each partner are detailed and complementary, the level of involvement of the partners in the implementation of the project and the expected results of the project is proportionate	3	<p>The project clearly indicates the role entrusted to each partner and the activities that will be entrusted to them. This allocation is based on the respective added value of the consortium members, whether technical or geographical.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 7; 9.1 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
The value of cooperation to address the subject of the project is clearly demonstrated and/or the results of the project could not or only partially be achieved without cooperation	3	<p>The added value of cooperation must be demonstrated by the project, both in terms of the project's objectives (regional aspect of the issues to be addressed) and in terms of the activities to be carried out (regional aspect of the activities to be implemented to meet the needs of the different territories).</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 5 and 6.1 of the application form.</p>

Projects involving studies:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
<p>The professionals who are in charge of conducting the study provide guarantees as to the quality of the result of the study produced (profile and legitimacy of the consultants, etc.) and/or provisions are provided for this purpose</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The project undertakes to select a qualified service provider to carry out the studies. In particular, it will indicate which types of profile and/or organisation are envisaged, and which requirements will be specified in the terms of reference. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.6 of the application form.</p>
<p>The study has a win-win dimension for all project partners (Does it cover all project partners within its scope, at least in a comparative manner or through exchange of good practices?)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The project must indicate whether the study to be carried out covers all the project partners within its scope or in a comparative manner or through exchange of good practices. If certain partners are not covered by the study, the project must explicitly justify this. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 6.2; 9.6 and 16.3 of the application form.</p>
<p>Upon completion, the study will produce concrete impacts for the territories (Will the deliverables be made available to the public? Does the study include the implementation of pilot actions upon its completion?)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The Programme pays particular attention to the impact of funded projects. For example, the project must not fund a study with no expected operational impacts for the territory (does the study provide for the implementation of pilot actions on completion?), or possible use for the public (will the deliverables be made available to the public?) To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.6 of the application form.</p>

Capitalisation and sustainability of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project takes into account available knowledge and brings added value compared to existing initiatives	1	The project must specify the level of knowledge on the subject in question. It must demonstrate how the knowledge generated will be new and that the actions carried out will not be a repetition of actions already carried out in the past. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.3 of the application form.
The expected results of the action are sustainable from a financial point of view (How will the activities be financed at the end of the grant?), an institutional point of view (Will there be structures allowing the continuation of the activities at the end of the action? Will there be local "ownership" of the results of the action?) and/or political point of view (What will be the structural impact of the action, e.g. will it result in better laws, codes of conduct, methods?)	3	The project must explain how the results obtained will be sustained. This includes, for example, the assurance of a financial relay (the project will explain how the activities will be financed at the end of the grant), institutional support (the project will indicate how ownership of the results of the actions is ensured and whether there are structures in place to enable the activities to continue after the action has ended) and/or political support (the project will explain what the structural impact of the action will be - for example, will it result in better laws, codes of conduct, methods, etc.). To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 10.2 of the application form.
The results of the project can be duplicated by other organisations or initiatives (the possibility of reproducing, extending or disseminating the results of the action) and/or the project has provisions to this effect	2	The project will indicate whether its results can be duplicated by other players; it will present the possibilities for reproducing, extending or disseminating the results of the action. It will specify how the results will be distributed. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 10.3 of the application form.

➤ **Thematic criteria:**

These criteria are specific to each specific objective and are detailed in each action sheet.

➤ **Additional criteria:**

These criteria, which apply to all operations, enhance the scores of projects incorporating specific measures to meet the cross-cutting objectives of the European Union (compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, sustainable development, environment and

climate, non-discrimination, inclusion of people with disabilities, gender equality, etc.) or whose objectives and activities contribute to achieving the programme's strategy beyond the priority for which they are applied.

Each criterion is scored between 0 (the project doesn't contribute to this criterion) and 1 (the project contributes to this criterion).

These additional criteria, grouped into sub-groups, are as follows:

Horizontal principles:

Evaluative questions	Criteria details
<p>The project limits environmental impacts and integrates environmentally friendly methods, both in the design and management of infrastructure and equipment, and in the delivery of services.</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it intends to reduce negative environmental impacts and how it intends to promote environmentally friendly methods, both in the design and management of infrastructure and equipment, and in the delivery of services.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.1 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project ensures, through additional positive action, compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it intends to support the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union through concrete actions. This Charter can be viewed at the following link: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf</p> <p>In particular, it will specify the objectives sought and the actions planned.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.2 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project integrates, through additional positive actions, the gender dimension (gender equality)</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it intends to support gender equality. In particular, it will specify the objectives sought and the actions planned.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.3 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project prevents any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, in particular in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>	<p>The project will indicate the measures taken or planned in order to ensure strict compliance with the principle of non-discrimination. In particular, it will specify the measures, the organisation's strategies or actions planned or implemented to</p>

<p>(UNCRPD) and/or measures, strategies from the organisation involved in the project, or actions are implemented in order to prevent discrimination (development of policies regarding employment, integration of issues regarding the prevention of discrimination into strategies for disseminating project results etc.)</p>	<p>prevent discrimination (recruitment policies, integration of issues regarding the prevention of discrimination into strategies for disseminating project results etc.)</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.4 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project provides, through additional positive actions, the accessibility of the project and/or activities to people with disabilities (e.g.: accessibility of websites and digital applications, appropriate arrangements, actions specifically targeting the accessibility issue etc.)</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it intends to support the project's accessibility and its activities (e.g.: accessibility of websites and digital applications, appropriate arrangements, actions specifically targeting the accessibility issue etc.).</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.4 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project foresees a strategic use of public procurement (environmental clauses, social clauses, incentives for innovation)</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how the public procurement rules used can support economic, social, and environmental issues that are essential for the cooperation area (e.g. environmental clauses, social clauses, incentives for innovation)</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in sections 12.1; 12.3 and 12.4 of the application form.</p>

Sustainable development principle:

Evaluative questions	Criteria details
<p>The project ensures, through additional positive actions not to cause significant harm (DNSH)* or provides for mitigation measures, on the following dimensions: climate change mitigation and adaptation, preservation of aquatic and marine resources, circular economy, pollution prevention and reduction, protection and restoration of biodiversity.</p>	<p>The DNSH principle states that no significant harm be caused to 6 environmental objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate change mitigation, 2. Climate change adaptation, 3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, 4. The transition to a circular economy, 5. Pollution prevention and reduction, 6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. <p>Specific positive actions planned as part of the project that contribute to this principle and to one or more of these dimensions may also be promoted.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.1 of the application form.</p>

<p>The project integrates an eco-communication and/or eco-event policy</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it integrates respect for the environment into its communication strategy and the events it organises. In particular, it will specify the actions taken to reduce its impact on the environment. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.1 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project integrates the negative impact of travel (encouraging the rationalisation of unnecessary travel, limiting the number of people making trips, giving priority to video conferencing, organising distance training, measures to compensate for the negative environmental impacts of the project, etc.)</p>	<p>The project will indicate how it intends to limit the need to travel within the cooperation area (encouraging the rationalisation of unnecessary travel, limiting the number of people making trips, giving priority to video conferencing, organising distance training, measures to compensate for the negative environmental impacts of the project etc.) and how, failing that and as a minimum, it proposes to compensate for this travel. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.1 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project integrates citizen dialogue, consultation and transparency in the choice of technologies</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it integrates, in its objectives and actions, citizen dialogue, consultation and transparency in the choice of technologies (particularly for projects involving research and innovation activities) To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.5 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project integrates environmental education activities</p>	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it envisages specific environmental education activities. In particular, it will specify the objectives and actions put in place, as well as the target groups and the way in which they are to be reached. To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 12.1 of the application form.</p>

Projects involving the creation or renovation of infrastructure:

<p>Evaluative questions</p>	<p>Criteria details</p>
<p>The project aims to build infrastructure resilient to disasters and the impact of climate change</p>	<p>If the project includes the construction of infrastructure, it will indicate how it intends to ensure that the effects of climate change (in particular, rising temperatures and an increase in violent episodes) are taken into account.</p>

	To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.
The project anticipates the potential negative impacts related to creation and/or renovation of sites (noise pollution, waste, air quality, etc.) and favours the use of good practices in carrying out the work.	<p>If the project includes construction or renovation sites, it will indicate whether and how it takes into account potential negative impacts on neighbours and the environment (noise pollution, waste, air quality etc.) In particular, it will specify the objectives and actions put in place to limit these effects.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.</p>
The project anticipates the potential negative impact of the construction of new infrastructure (carbon impact, heritage, landscape, biodiversity, ecological corridors, land use)	<p>If the project includes construction or renovation sites, it will indicate whether and how it takes into account potential negative impacts on the environment (carbon impact, heritage, landscape, biodiversity, ecological corridors, land use). In particular, it will specify the objectives and actions put in place to limit these effects.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.</p>
The project prefers the renovation of existing infrastructure to the creation of new infrastructure	<p>In view of the environmental impact of the construction sector, it is recommended that wherever possible priority be given to renovation work rather than the construction of new infrastructure.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.</p>
The location of the infrastructure integrates the issues of space saving and control of travel.	<p>In view of the environmental impact of the construction and transport sectors, it is recommended that wherever possible, premises should be located close to traffic flows and take up as little land as possible.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.</p>
The project contributes to the guidelines of the New European Bauhaus*	<p>The project will indicate whether and how it will take account of and contribute to this European initiative.</p> <p>Actions aimed at and enabling changes guided by the values of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion in the daily lives of citizens, for example in buildings and public spaces, in fashion or</p>

	<p>furnishings (materials used, etc.) may also be promoted.</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 9.7 of the application form.</p>
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Structuring dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions	Criteria details
<p>The project contributes to one of the cross-cutting dimensions identified by the programme, namely: strengthening the resilience of territories, supporting the blue economy, strengthening connectivity</p>	<p>In its objectives and planned actions, the project will indicate how it intends to contribute to the project’s cross-cutting dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening the resilience of territories (i.e. their ability to absorb external economic, social and environmental impacts) • supporting the blue economy in all its dimensions, in line with the guidelines of the European Strategy for a Sustainable Blue Economy (https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/sustainable-blue-economy_en) • strengthening connectivity between territories (in particular, digital connectivity) <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 11.3 of the application form.</p>
<p>The project contributes to one or more of the programme’s specific objectives in addition to the one to which it applies</p>	<p>In its objectives and planned actions, the project will indicate whether and how it contributes to other specific objectives of the programme (e.g.: a project positioned under the connectivity/transport objective which includes a dimension relating to the preservation of biodiversity).</p> <p>To analyse this criterion, please refer to the information entered in section 11.3 of the application form.</p>

3 Decision by the Steering Committee on the programming of the project:

The Steering Committee set up by the Monitoring Committee will decide on the programming of the operations presented.

It makes three types of decision on the applications and operations submitted to it:

- Favourable;
- Unfavourable;
- Adjourned.



The steering committee has full authority to decide on the programming of the operations presented.

As a reminder, in accordance with decision no. 155970 of the Conseil d'Etat dated 25 September 1995, the award of a grant does not constitute a right for those who meet the legal conditions for obtaining it.

V - MORE PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/@interregcaraibes1116>

INTERREG Caraïbes website:

<https://interreg-caraibes.eu/le-programme-interreg-caraibes-2021-2027>

PART II - ACTION SHEETS:

ACTION SHEET 1: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION



PRIORITY 1 - A SMARTER, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE COMPETITIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to research, development and innovation

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Networking of those involved in research, development and innovation and supporting their actions in a sustainable way on shared issues
- Strengthening the development and dissemination of research results on shared issues, and in particular supporting innovation initiatives within Caribbean businesses and technology transfer between the worlds of research and business
- The development of complementary expertise to be promoted in the field of research and innovation - in many sectors of interest to the Caribbean (energy, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism etc.)

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- A more resilient Caribbean region thanks to appropriate responses to the economic, social and environmental challenges shared by the partners in the Caribbean area
- A more diversified Caribbean economy and stronger regional economic integration

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Collaborative research projects carried out by those involved in the cooperation area, contributing to the promotion of scientific opportunities of excellence in the Caribbean and/or meeting the specific needs of the territories, economies and communities of the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative R&D projects, knowledge-producing actions, development of test processes and experiments, development of pilot sites, feasibility or opportunity studies on the vulnerability of infrastructures, on the availability of resources or potential in areas of common interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, these projects focus on networking research work and scientific and technical skills, in order to build permanent links between research and horticultural production sectors, or to establish fruitful collaboration between Caribbean banana producers (dessert banana production is a major component of the Caribbean economy) who share the same challenges, the main one being to reduce the environmental impact of this activity (i.e. use of
Strengthening research and innovation capacity and networking of those involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and/or developing, and 	

in R&D&I in the Caribbean area	strengthening the capacities of networks of observatories, research centres and universities, instruments and measurement tools common to the Caribbean area to share good practices and strengthen skills in areas of common interest	inputs: plant protection products, fertilisers).
Setting up strategic frameworks conducive to a stronger R&D&I ecosystem in the cooperation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and dissemination of research results, training on intellectual property issues, organisation of meetings between those involved, etc. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean area in terms of research, development and innovation will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
FCOR	S3	Website ⁷
FCOR	Strategy of Caribbean players	Website ⁸
FCOR	Strategy of those involved in the blue economy	Website ⁹
FCOR	Strategy of those involved in the green economy	Website ¹⁰
European	Atlantic maritime strategy	Website ¹¹

⁷ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/articles/la-s3-cest-quoi>

⁸ <http://lab-innovation.cget.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/S3%20-%20Martinique.pdf>

<http://lab-innovation.cget.gouv.fr/content/Strat%C3%A9gie-R%C3%A9gionale-dInnovation-Sp%C3%A9cialisation-Intelligente-SRI-SI-de-Guadeloupe>

² <https://perspectives-cblacp.eu/focus-caraibes-aperçu-economique-et-immersion-dans-la-stratégie-de-la-blue-economy/#:~:text=FOCUS%20SUR%20LA%20STRAT%C3%89GIE%20DE%20BLUE%20ECONOMY%20DES%20CARA%C3%8FBES&text=Selon%20la%20Banque%20mondiale%2C%20l,de%20l%20C3%A9cosyst%C3%A8me%20oc%C3%A9anique.%20%20BB>

¹⁰ <https://www.businessfrance.fr/caraibes-l-environnement-place-au-c%20%93ur-des-strategies-de-relevance-economique>

¹¹ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/strategie-maritime-atlantique-promouvoir-la-cooperation-dans-les-regions-atlantiques#:~:text=La%20Strat%C3%A9gie%20maritime%20Atlantique%20regroupe,et%20maritime%20de%20la%20zone.>

European	Horizon Europe Programme	Website ¹²
European	New European Area for Research and Innovation (ERA)	Website ¹³
European	EMFF	Website ¹⁴
European	ERDF	Website ¹⁵

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- Researchers and research fellows, students and PhD students;
- Higher education and research establishments;
- Innovative companies;
- Research and innovation support organisations (i.e. local development agencies, clusters, incubators, technology parks);
- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

Not applicable.

¹² <https://www.horizon-europe.gouv.fr/presentation-du-programme-horizon-europe-24104>

¹³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/policies/european-research-area/>

¹⁴ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/fonds-europeens/fonds-europeen-pour-les-affaires-maritimes-et-la-peche-FEAMP#:~:text=p%C3%A9riode%202014%2D2020%20%3A-,Le%20fonds%20europ%C3%A9en%20pour%20les%20affaires%20maritimes%20et%20la%20p%C3%Aache,eur os%20de%20cr%C3%A9dits%20du%20FEAMP.>

¹⁵ <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/pac-fonds-europeen-agricole-pour-le-developpement-rural-feader#:~:text=Le%20Fonds%20europ%C3%A9en%20agricole%20pour,est%20consacr%C3%A9%20au%20d%C3%A9veloppement%20rural.>

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project partnership has a collaborative character: at least 1 laboratory/1 company or 2 companies	1	The project must involve a partnership of at least 1 laboratory and 1 company, or 2 companies. The aim is to promote collaborative innovation.
The project includes a component on social innovation: response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation.	1	The project must respond to current social needs (social innovation) such as housing, health, the fight against poverty, exclusion or discrimination. These innovations may concern the product or service itself, or the way it is organised or distributed. The aim is to help increase people's social rights.
The project is part of a targeted research approach: it has the potential to generate economic and/or societal value from the results; it provides for a method/work programme specifically dedicated to the use and transfer of results between research and higher education institutions, companies, those involved in training, certified innovative clusters	2	The project must enable new knowledge to be acquired, while meeting a specific practical aim or objective (targeted research). The aim is to encourage research and innovation.
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and incentive for job creation	3	The project must be innovative (product/service/use innovation, process and organisational innovation, marketing and sales innovation, business model innovation, technological innovation, social innovation) and must create jobs. The aim is to encourage innovation and job creation in the territories.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects linked to key themes for the cooperation area, such as biodiversity, digital technology, renewable energy, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risks, health and social innovation, are supported under this specific objective in order to support the dynamics of cooperation in terms of economic development and to maximise synergies with priorities 2 and 4 of this programme.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
ISRea1	Collaborative R&D projects supported	The number of collaborative R&D projects supported, with a view to supporting collaborative innovation. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Financing agreements and accomplishment report completed by the project lead partner. Documents explaining the accomplishments associated with the project.

RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO07	Research organisations participating in collaborative research projects	The number of research organisations supported to participate in collaborative research projects. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme.	Number of research organisations supported: laboratories and research institutes, not the university to which they may be attached.	Letter of commitment and partnership agreement, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR1	Research organisation whose R&D&I capabilities have been strengthened through participation in cross-border cooperation activities	Number of research organisations whose research, development and innovation capabilities have been strengthened through participation in cross-border cooperation activities. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Letter of commitment, partnership agreement and justification of how research, development and innovation capabilities have been strengthened.

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify and budget for the strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) that will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with these expected changes in R&D&I, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the projects supported will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects, dissemination;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- technology transfer;
- starting production and marketing;
- making people aware/dissemination of research results to the economic sector, public decision-makers and/or the general public and civil society
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between businesses, research centres and universities, focusing on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	7,061,168.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective. The estimated budget takes account of the dividing lines between the SOs, and the programme has adopted a broad definition of resilience (environmental, social and economic), covering projects on social innovation, innovation in health and innovation in the field of renewable energy etc.
030. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between business focusing on the circular economy	1,323,969.00	This area of intervention contributes 40% to the climate objective. The estimated budget takes account of the dividing lines between the SOs, covering R&D&I projects relating to the circular economy (i.e. sargassum, plastic sea).
026. Support for innovation centres, including business-to-business, research bodies, public authorities and business networks mainly benefiting SMEs	441,323.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 2: DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITIVENESS AND STRUCTURING OF SECTORS



PRIORITY 1 - A SMARTER, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE COMPETITIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to SME development and competitiveness

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Structuring economic sectors of great interest to the Caribbean area
- The digital, energy and environmental transition of SMEs
- The growth and competitiveness of SMEs in the cooperation area through the development of a business-friendly environment on a Caribbean level
- Strengthening the internationalisation of Caribbean businesses to contribute to balanced economic growth

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Greater diversification of Caribbean economies
- Greater economic, social and environmental resilience of Caribbean territories
- A more economically competitive cooperation area

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, knowledge-producing actions and networking actions for those involved in the cooperation area, with the aim of seeking synergies between the territories in a process of structuring sectors on a wider scale than that of each of the territories in key sectors with high potential for the cooperation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity studies • Studies on the levers and obstacles of convergent economic development of Caribbean economies in sectors of common interest • Development of regional sector strategies, • Networking, development of economic cooperation networks, monitoring and economic observatories in the Caribbean to improve knowledge of players and business opportunities, and to help structure sectors 	For example, these projects aim to promote the gradual introduction of a unified business law in the Caribbean to enable the development of inter-regional cooperation and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social innovation projects backed by those involved in the social and solidarity economy to address shared social and environmental issues • Setting up joint labels, standards and specifications to facilitate the structuring of sectors and trade in areas of common interest (e.g.: agricultural and organic production) 	stimulate the economies of the various State partners: or help structure the Caribbean artistic and cultural sector and develop the employability of artists, by promoting and publicising the area's artistic creations.
Setting up strategic frameworks to facilitate trade within the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of technical standards, harmonisation of business law and reduction of barriers to trade • Actions for the effective promotion, use and deployment of intellectual property rules 	
Collective business support and strengthening of skills aimed at reinforcing the growth and competitiveness factors of Caribbean businesses and supporting them in their digital, energy and environmental transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of skills, exchange of good practices and support for businesses in the cooperation area in the following areas: business creation, facilitating the processes of entrepreneurial discovery, innovation and technology transfer, digital, energy and environmental transition • Development of regional strategic plans, regional training on shared thematic issues and areas of common interest 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of development, competitiveness and structuring of sectors will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
FCOR	S3	Website ¹⁶
FCOR	Strategy of Caribbean players	Website ¹⁷
FCOR	Strategy of those involved in the blue economy	Website ¹⁸

¹⁶ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/articles/la-s3-cest-quoi>

¹⁷ <http://lab-innovation.cget.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/S3%20-%20Martinique.pdf>

<http://lab-innovation.cget.gouv.fr/content/Strat%C3%A9gie-R%C3%A9gionale-dInnovation-Sp%C3%A9cialisation-Intelligente-SRI-SI-de-Guadeloupe>

¹⁸ <https://perspectives-cblacp.eu/focus-caraibes-aperçu-economique-et-immersion-dans-la-stratégie-de-la-blue-economy/#:~:text=FOCUS%20SUR%20LA%20STRAT%C3%89GIE%20DE%20BLUE%20ECONOMY%20DES%20CARA%C3%8FBES&text=Selon%20la%20Banque%20mondiale%2C%20l,de%20l'%C3%A9cosyst%C3%A8me%20oc%C3%A9anique.%20%C2%BB>

FCOR	Strategy of those involved in the green economy	Website ¹⁹
European	Atlantic maritime strategy	Website ²⁰

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions; consular chambers and observatories;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Associations and businesses (particularly SMEs), professional organisations, trade organisations, economic development agencies;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

Not applicable.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
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¹⁹ <https://www.businessfrance.fr/caraibes-l-environnement-place-au-c%C5%93ur-des-strategies-de-reliance-economique>

²⁰ <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/strategie-maritime-atlantique-promouvoir-la-cooperation-dans-les-regions-atlantiques#:~:text=La%20Strat%C3%A9gie%20maritime%20Atlantique%20regroupe,et%20maritime%20de%20la%20zone.>

<p>The project is consistent with the innovation strategies of the territories (S3 for the FCORs, in particular: the development of new products or services with higher added value, helping companies access promising markets).</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The project must be aligned with the <u>objectives</u> of the various territorial innovation strategies (i.e. S3, SRDEII, SRESRI). The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.</p>
<p>The project contributes to the digital, ecological and energy transition of Caribbean territories and economies, and/or to strengthening the food security of territories</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The objectives and actions planned under the project take into account the challenges of digital, ecological and/or energy transition, and/or food security. The extent to which these objectives are taken into account by the project and the way in which the project contributes to them will be assessed.</p>
<p>The project includes a component on social innovation: response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The project must respond to current social needs (social innovation) such as housing, health, the fight against poverty, exclusion or discrimination. These innovations may concern the product or service itself, or the way it is organised or distributed. The aim is to help increase people's social rights.</p>
<p>The project carries out actions likely to facilitate economic exchanges at cooperation area level</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The details presented on the project's actions make it possible to identify concrete objectives to respond to the challenges of facilitating trade between Caribbean States and territories, whether this involves, for example, improving knowledge of the business context, encouraging interaction between economic circles, or any other action facilitating knowledge of the prospects for trade, existing obstacles or economic outlets for specific economic activities. (etc.)</p>
<p>The project is innovative for the cooperation area and incentive for job creation</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The project must be innovative (product/service/use innovation, process and organisational innovation, marketing and sales innovation, business model innovation, technological innovation, social innovation) and must create jobs. The aim is to encourage innovation and job creation in the territories.</p>

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects linked to key themes for the cooperation area, such as biodiversity, digital technology, renewable energy, the circular economy, adaptation to climate change and risks, health and social innovation, are supported under this specific objective in order to support the dynamics of cooperation in terms of economic development and to maximise synergies with priorities 2 and 4 of this programme.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives.

The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various French FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners,
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked

	and action plans	Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	jointly during the project.	by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISRea 2	Support schemes for supported businesses	Number of support schemes for supported businesses. . In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number	Financing agreements and accomplishment report completed by the project lead partner. Documents explaining the accomplishments associated with support for the scheme.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 2	Companies benefiting from business support schemes	Number of businesses benefiting from business support schemes. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Support plan, and any document to explain the accomplishments associated with supporting businesses through the scheme. Completed by the project lead partner.

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with these expected changes in terms of economic development and competitiveness of SMEs, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects, dissemination;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- technology transfer;

- starting production and marketing;
- business plan to structure the sector;
- pooling and optimising existing equipment and infrastructure or engineering the development of new infrastructure;
- raising the industry's profile in the territories;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between businesses, research centres and universities, focusing on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	475,271.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective. The estimated budget takes account of the dividing lines between the SOs, a broad definition of resilience (environmental, social and economic) and the dimension of technology transfer and cooperation between public and private sectors. This includes projects to support the structuring of economic sectors in order to reduce dependence on imports, and to promote projects involving cooperation between the private sector (particularly SMEs) and universities and research centres.
021. Business development and internationalisation of SMEs, including productive investment	1,425,813.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
023. Developing skills for intelligent specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and the ability of businesses to adapt to change	950,542.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
024. Advanced support services for SMEs and SME groups (including	1,901,084.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

management, marketing and design services)		
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Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 3: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY



PRIORITY 1 - A SMARTER, MORE INNOVATIVE AND MORE COMPETITIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to digital connectivity

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Strengthening digital connectivity within the cooperation area;
- Better access to new information and communication technologies;
- Answers to the questions of the cost of Internet access, quality of service and the transition to very high speed;
- Reducing the digital divide in the Caribbean.

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Strengthened regional cooperation and organisation and increased trade and economic development of the territories;
- A harmonious and strengthened Caribbean integration into the information and communication society;
- A more resilient Caribbean region in the face of major challenges

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks and expert assessments to strengthen the deployment of high-quality, efficient and resilient infrastructure and networks in the cooperation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional strategic plans for the concerted development of digital connectivity and strengthening the resilience and sustainability of infrastructure and networks • feasibility or market studies for the deployment of high-quality, resilient and low-cost digital infrastructure 	These projects may, for example, aim to arrange, control and secure data traffic, providing a better local telecommunications service for operators and users; and to reduce disparities in access to IT technologies and the

<p>Setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening skills on the proper use of digital technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions aimed at reducing the digital divide and enabling the rational use of digital technology • Exchange of good practices and development of strategic frameworks for the introduction of common guidelines on the issue of digital connectivity • Exchange of good practices and development of strategic frameworks for data collection and use in areas of common interest in the cooperation area • Exchange of good practices and actions aimed at strengthening the use of digital technology to support the ecological transition of territories and to meet the major challenges of the cooperation area 	<p>development of this field in the Caribbean</p>
<p>Expert assessments, networking and support actions for those in Caribbean territories to improve the Caribbean's integration into the information and communication society, increase the competitiveness of companies in this sector and improve the response of players to shared challenges (e.g. natural and health risks, trade development, training, health and social inclusion)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital research and innovation in the Caribbean • Organisation of training, workshops, master classes, creation of directories, provision of information, creation of services to strengthen the competitiveness of companies in the sector • Pilot actions to strengthen the digitisation of local public players. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of digital connectivity will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
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European	Digital Europe Programme (DEP)	Website ²¹
European	Connecting Europe Facility 2 (CEF2)	Website ²²

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions; consular chambers and observatories;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Associations and businesses (particularly SMEs), professional organisations, trade organisations, economic development agencies;
- User associations;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

The programme will give priority to projects that include citizen dialogue, consultation and transparency in the choice of technologies. It will also ensure that projects (for FCORs) comply with the European directive on the accessibility of websites and digital applications (Web Accessibility Directive, WAD).

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

²¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

²² <https://eufundingoverview.be/funding/cef-connecting-europe-facility#:~:text=The%202nd%20generation%20of%20the,billion%20is%20managed%20by%20HaDEA.>

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project takes into account the challenges of the location of infrastructure on the territory and data sovereignty and security.	2	The sovereignty and security of digital data is an important issue for all territories. Lead partners must take this issue into account in their projects. Projects must also take into account the location of digital infrastructure in the territories to ensure that the project is relevant and feasible.
The project is consistent with regional strategies and schemes (specific strategies and schemes implemented in territories or in areas covered by international organisations)	1	The project must be aligned with the <u>objectives</u> of the various regional strategies and schemes (i.e. S3, SRDEII, SRESRI, SDTAN). The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and incentive for job creation	3	The project must be innovative (product/service/use innovation, process and organisational innovation, marketing and sales innovation, business model innovation, technological innovation, social innovation) and must create jobs. The aim is to encourage innovation and job creation in the territories.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects specifically targeting digital connectivity and actions in this sector are supported under this specific objective in order to support the dynamic of cooperation on this theme and maximise synergies with priorities 1 (SO 1 and 2) and 4 of this programme.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the FCORs;
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO01	Companies receiving support (including: micro, small, medium, large)	The number of companies receiving any type of support from the ERDF, whether State aid or not. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Companies. Public operators are counted when they operate in a competitive environment. Transport operators and training companies are also considered to be companies.	Inclusion of the SIRET number (company identification) in the IS, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO02	Companies supported by grants	The number of companies receiving support in the form of direct non-repayable financial aid, solely conditional on the completion of projects (grants). In the context of INTERREG	Companies. Public operators are counted when they operate in a competitive	Inclusion of the SIRET number (company identification) in the IS, filled in by the project lead partner

		Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	environment. Transport operators and training companies are also considered to be companies. A company can only be counted once per programme (on the basis of its SIRET number).	and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 3	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving digital connectivity and reinforcing good digital practices	Number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving digital connectivity and reinforcing good digital practices. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Documents explaining territories benefiting from projects aimed at improving digital connectivity: preliminary diagnosis, technical report drawn up at the end of the project
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in digital connectivity, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects, dissemination;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- technology transfer;
- starting production and marketing;
- business model to support the development of the project's activities;
- data traffic assessment (quantitative and qualitative);
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
018. IT services and applications for digital skills and digital inclusion	407,374.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	1,222,122.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
013. Digitisation of SMEs (including e-commerce, e-business and networked business processes, digital innovation centres, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	407,374.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 4: RENEWABLE ENERGY



PRIORITY 2– A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT CARIBBEAN WITH LOW CARBON EMISSIONS

1 The programme's approach to energy transition

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Reduction in energy consumption
- Reduction in imports of fossil fuels
- Wider use of the territories' energy resources
- Lower energy production costs
- Aligning the targets for renewable energy sources with those of Directive (EU) 2018/2001

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Sustainable energy transition for Caribbean territories
- Greater energy autonomy for the cooperation area

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, expert assessments, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in the energy transition (both in terms of strengthening the production, storage and distribution of energy from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of regional or local strategies for the development and storage of renewable energies, i.e. solar and thermal energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal energy, marine energy, biomass, biogas and anaerobic digestion, hydrogen etc. • Capitalisation, meetings and networking of those involved, characterisation of the means of financing the energy transition etc. with a view to strengthening feedback between Caribbean players on both technical production and operating solutions and support policies 	For example, these projects aim to contribute to the development of the use of geothermal energy in the States and territories of the area; or to carry out studies relating to the preliminary exploration of geothermal deposits on these islands and the opportunity of their development thanks to

renewable sources, and reducing energy consumption and increasing energy performance and efficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving data on energy sources and the potential of these resources, as well as on consumption on the various islands and the composition of the energy mix Sharing good practices and capitalising on the regulatory provisions put in place to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, infrastructure and transport Campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of fossil fuel consumption, and to increase public acceptance of renewable energies 	an inter-island interconnection network.
Development of electricity production and distribution capacity from renewable energy sources at the level of several Caribbean territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot actions aimed at deploying renewable energy sources, including mature technologies, and support for the exploitation of renewable energy potential in the Caribbean, in line with the territories' energy roadmaps. In particular, the following technologies will be supported under the programme: solar and thermal energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal energy, marine energy, biomass, biogas and anaerobic digestion. Project to support the competitiveness of companies in the sector Pilot actions aimed at deploying new solutions for storing energy produced from renewable sources, Pilot actions aimed at deploying joint instruments to improve the energy performance of the territories 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of renewable energy will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Clean energy for EU islands	Website ²³
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ²⁴

²³ <https://commission.europa.eu/news/focus-eu-islands-and-clean-energy-transition-2021-07->

²⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

European	Water framework directive	Website ²⁵
European	Biodiversity strategy for 2030	Website ²⁶
European	EU forest strategy for 2030	Website ²⁷

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Associations and companies, professional organisations;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- The programme will give priority to projects that include citizen dialogue, consultation and transparency in the choice of technologies.
- Nature-based solutions (i.e. actions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an effective and adaptive way, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity) will be favoured.
- The implementation of this specific objective is envisaged in compliance with the "polluter pays" principle, according to which the costs resulting from pollution prevention, reduction and control measures must be borne by the polluter.
- In the specific case of biomass projects, the programme will ensure that these actions don't have negative impacts on air, soil, water, carbon reservoirs and biodiversity. The sustainability criteria of the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) will be respected, in particular by assessing the impact on air quality of this increase in the use of biomass.

²⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/good-quality-water-in-europe-eu-water-directive.html>

²⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/biodiversity/#2030>

²⁷

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/forest-strategy_en

- In the specific case of hydrogen projects, the programme will ensure that the hydrogen is truly green and based on non-combustible renewable energies (which excludes fossil fuels). The Hydrogen Strategy (COM(2020) 301 final) prioritises renewable hydrogen, with low-carbon hydrogen only being considered as a transitional technology, and all technologies in the sector must comply with the DNSH principle.
- For wind, marine and hydropower projects, the programme will ensure that projects comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project takes into account strategic documents and contributes to existing strategies (in particular: the Multi-year Energy Programming strategies of the territories)	1	The project must be aligned with and contribute to the objectives of the various existing strategic documents (i.e. S3, SRDEII, SRESRI). The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.
The project contributes to the deployment and installation of new energy production capacity from renewable energy sources and/or the selected project significantly accelerates the implementation/deployment of energy production capacity from renewable energy sources.	3	The aim is to increase the use of renewable energy in the territories.
The project includes the implementation of pilot actions	2	The aim is to test and assess the effectiveness of new strategies/technologies before rolling them out on a larger scale. This minimises the risks and reduces the costs associated with implementing a larger-scale solution.
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and incentive for job creation	3	The project must be innovative (product/service/use innovation, process and organisational innovation, marketing and sales innovation, business model innovation, technological

		innovation, social innovation) and must create jobs. The aim is to encourage innovation and job creation in the territories.
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To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects linked to the implementation of frameworks conducive to the development of renewable energy sources, and to the increase in production and distribution capacities for electricity produced from renewable sources are supported under this specific objective, in conjunction with priority 1 of this programme, which can support R&D&I projects and the structuring of those involved in the renewable energy sector.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Number of pilot actions jointly developed and implemented. The aim of a pilot action developed jointly may be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, and experimentation or transfer of practices. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Pilot actions	Formalised pilot actions, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report
ISR 4	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects to strengthen their energy transition	Number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects to strengthen their energy transition. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number	Documents explaining territories benefiting from projects aimed at strengthening the energy transition: preliminary diagnosis, technical report drawn up at the end of the project
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with these expected changes in terms of renewable energy solutions and energy transition, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on project results (new public policies, manufacturing processes, deployment of a new renewable energy sector at the end of the project);
- dissemination;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of renewable energy solutions;
- evaluation of the impact (of the scheme, on the one hand, and for the territory and the partner territories of the project, or even cooperation area with a view to capitalising on it, on the other)
- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned as part of the project
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
050. Renewable energies: biomass to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions	264,793.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective. The significant reduction in GHGs is assessed if the objective of the measure relates to the production of electricity or heat from biomass, in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001; and if the objective of the measure is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in installations through the use of biomass by at least 80% compared to the greenhouse gas emission reduction method and the relative reference indicator for fossil fuels set out in Annex VI to Directive (EU) 2018/2001.

047. Renewable energy: wind power	407,374.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
048. Renewable energy: solar energy	407,374.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
051. Renewable energy: marine energy	203,687.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
052. Other types of renewable energy (including geothermal energy)	611,061.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
053. Intelligent energy systems (including intelligent ICT systems and networks) and associated storage systems	101,844.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	40,737.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 5: CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS



PRIORITY 2– A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT CARIBBEAN WITH LOW CARBON EMISSIONS

1 The programme's approach to climate change and natural disasters

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Increased capacity to adapt to climate change in the territories of the cooperation area
- Increased capacity to prevent and respond to risks and disasters
- Greater Caribbean resilience on the major issues of water management and food sovereignty

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Less vulnerable Caribbean territories, economies and communities which are more resilient to climate change and natural disasters
- Increased response capacity and resilience of Caribbean territories, economies and communities to natural hazards

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the capacities of those involved in the cooperation area, deployment of joint instruments to strengthen the prevention, preparedness and adaptation of Caribbean territories to climate change and major risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating, equipping and networking scientific observatories, warning and forecasting systems • Capitalising on actions and work already carried out, disseminating good practices • Dedicated training and networking for scientific networks and public decision-makers; • Regional programmes to prevent or adapt to climate change and to manage major risks, encouraging the development of concerted and structured strategies (planning, risk management, sectoral adaptations, actions to 	For example, these projects aim to respond effectively to the essential needs of the Caribbean people exposed to natural hazards and the effects of climate change; or to create a regional geoscientific research platform to better understand these telluric hazards by developing innovative marine

	<p>harmonise the various building standards: cyclone- and earthquake-resistant, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot initiatives at a very early stage of adaptation to climate change, enabling economic and social systems to become more resilient • Infrastructure or equipment shared by several small territories in the Caribbean to help prevent risks or make territories more resilient; • Campaigns to raise awareness, preventative information, joint exercises and training for the general public and civil society 	<p>technologies, exchanges of know-how and inter-island collaboration in interaction with the best French, European and American specialists.</p>
<p>Setting up strategic frameworks and strengthening the response capacities and the resilience of Caribbean territories, economies and people in the event of an emergency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies, joint instruments and networks to improve emergency response and coordination • Infrastructure or equipment projects shared by several small Caribbean territories to provide a better response in the event of disasters and a better response to their consequences • Pooling of material and human resources, platforms for pre-positioning response equipment, organisation of operational response to emergencies, training initiatives for those involved in major risks (rescue professionals, risk managers, etc.), including multi-disciplinary and inclusive care for victims, etc. • Dedicated training, awareness-raising and preventive information initiatives, joint exercises for decision-makers, the general public and civil society aimed at strengthening the capacity of local players. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of climate change and natural disasters will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
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European	Atlantic maritime strategy	Website ²⁸
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ²⁹
European	Biodiversity strategy for 2030	Website ³⁰
European	EU forest strategy for 2030	Website ³¹

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Research centres and universities;
- Auxiliaries of the public authorities responsible for civil protection (such as the French Red Cross, national societies or the Caribbean Red Cross);
- Associations and NGOs;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- Nature-based solutions (i.e. actions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an effective and adaptive way, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity) will be favoured.

²⁸

<https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/strategie-maritime-atlantique-promouvoir-la-cooperation-dans-les-regions-atlantiques#:~:text=La%20Strat%C3%A9gie%20maritime%20Atlantique%20regroupe,et%20maritime%20de%20la%20zone.>

²⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

³⁰ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/biodiversity/#2030>

³¹

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/forest-strategy_en

- The implementation of this specific objective is envisaged in compliance with the "polluter pays" principle, according to which the costs resulting from pollution prevention, reduction and control measures must be borne by the polluter.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project is consistent with territorial development planning processes, and with local and national strategies and plans (earthquake plan, special intervention plan, coastline management strategies etc.) and with the relevant strategies of intergovernmental organisations.	1	The project must be aligned with the objectives of local and national strategies and plans (earthquake plan, special intervention plan, coastline management strategies etc.) and with the relevant strategies of intergovernmental organisations. The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.
If the project includes the acquisition of equipment (first aid, forecasting) and location tracking of equipment and stock, the issues of stock planning, perishable goods and location are anticipated and controlled.	2	This involves presenting the forecast elements relating to the storage of equipment and/or perishable goods. In terms of location, the potential beneficiary must demonstrate either their project's feasibility, or the way in which it intends to work to ensure that its objectives in this area are achieved. The aim here is to ensure that the equipment acquired can be used in accordance with the objectives of the project and the cooperation.
The project includes and provides for the sharing of knowledge between public decision-makers, academics and scientists, the private sector (businesses, insurance companies) and civil society	2	The aim is to ensure the dissemination of knowledge/information between the various players involved, and therefore improve coordination and collaboration between them. The transparent dissemination of information also helps to stimulate innovation.
The project includes several components linked to risk management (prevention, preparation and/or adaptation)	1	The more components (prevention, preparation and/or adaptation) the cooperation approach covers, the higher the score awarded on the basis of this criterion.

The project includes pilot actions to reduce the vulnerability of populations and/or to strengthen the resilience of territories to climate change	2	The aim is to test and assess the effectiveness of new strategies/technologies before rolling them out on a larger scale. This minimises the risks and reduces the costs associated with implementing a larger-scale solution.
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To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects aimed at strengthening and networking Caribbean players with a view to building resilience to risks and climate change and increasing response capacity in the event of an emergency, will be supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which can support R&D&I projects on these same issues.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives.

The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners;
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
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ISRea3	Measures supported to protect the population from climatic and natural hazards	Number of measures supported to protect the population from climatic and natural hazards. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number	Description of the measures put in place and expenditure associated with their implementation. Supporting documents relating to communication and/or publicity about these measures.
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 5	Population benefiting from protection measures against climatic and natural hazards	Number of people benefiting from protection measures against climatic and natural hazards. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Population estimates specified in the risk maps for risk areas. Impact study and assessment/implementation report issued by the lead partner detailing the relevant population estimate
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in terms of adapting to climate change and disaster risk prevention, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of prevention, adaptation to climate change, risk response and resilience;
- maintenance of equipment and stock (food or materials), upkeep and updated management in terms of population changes etc.
- protocol and operational plan in the event of a disaster (identification of dedicated human resources, funding, etc.)
- post-disaster continuity, recovery and repair plans;
- dissemination, promoting, raising awareness among civil society, public decision-makers and the economic sector;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 *Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective*

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	122,212.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
058. Climate change adaptation measures and prevention and management of climate-related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches)	1,833,186.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
060. Climate change adaptation measures and prevention and management of climate-related risks: others, such as thunderstorms and droughts (including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management)	3,360,841.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.

systems, infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches)		
061. Risk prevention and management of non-climatic natural risks (e.g. earthquakes) and risks related to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches	794,381.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 6: CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT



PRIORITY 2– A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT CARIBBEAN WITH LOW CARBON EMISSIONS

1 *The programme's approach to the circular economy and sustainable waste management.*

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Creating waste management solutions in the cooperation area
- Structuring waste management channels in the Caribbean
- Developing projects to modernise waste management and treatment in line with the principle of the circular economy

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Better waste management in the Caribbean
- The transition of Caribbean territories, economies and populations towards a circular and resource-effective economy (integrating issues of waste prevention, sustainable supply, short supply chains, eco-design of products, waste reuse etc.)

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those in the sector for more sustainable waste management at Caribbean level and the transition to a circular and resource-effective economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies, diagnoses and assessments aimed at improving data on the various waste sources, the treatment potential in the various Caribbean territories, and the strategies and guidelines of authorities and institutions; • Definition of local public strategies for the development of the circular economy, waste management and the reduction of non-recycled waste. • Capitalisation, meetings between players, training with a view to strengthening feedback between Caribbean players on both technical production and operating solutions and support policies 	For example, these projects aim to finance a study and develop pilot actions to set up a sustainable waste treatment system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking of those involved in the sector and structuring sectors at Caribbean level 	
Pilot schemes and actions to improve the management and reuse of waste in the Caribbean area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing of feasibility studies, pilot projects, development of deposit schemes, recycling and repair workshops, etc. aimed at promoting the implementation of operational projects for the treatment, reuse and use of waste deposits in the Caribbean • Pilot actions to collect and reuse waste from the plastic sea or sargassum beachings. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of the circular economy and waste management will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ³²
European	Biodiversity strategy for 2030	Website ³³
European	EU forest strategy for 2030	Website ³⁴

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions; Consular chambers;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Associations and companies, professional organisations;
- etc.

³² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

³³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/biodiversity/#2030>

³⁴ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/forest-strategy_en

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- Nature-based solutions (i.e. actions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an effective and adaptive way, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity) will be favoured.
- The implementation of this specific objective is envisaged in compliance with the "polluter pays" principle, according to which the costs resulting from pollution prevention, reduction and control measures must be borne by the polluter.
- The Operational Programme (OP) will ensure that the principle of waste hierarchy is respected, as well as the use of bio-sourced materials in the recycling of construction waste.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project is coherent and in line the objectives of regional and territorial waste prevention and management strategies and schemes	1	The project must be aligned with the <u>objectives</u> of regional and territorial waste prevention and management strategies and schemes. The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.
The project includes the implementation of pilot actions	2	The aim is to test and assess the effectiveness of new strategies/technologies before rolling them out on a larger scale. This minimises the risks and reduces the costs associated with implementing a larger-scale solution.
The project makes an effective contribution to waste reduction	2	Where actions are specifically implemented with a view to reducing waste. The project shall present a forecast estimate of this contribution to waste reduction based on an assessment of the waste produced at the time the application is submitted and shall

		clearly explain how its actions will enable this volume to be reduced.
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and incentive for job creation	3	The project must be innovative (product/service/use innovation, process and organisational innovation, marketing and sales innovation, business model innovation, technological innovation, social innovation) and must create jobs. The aim is to encourage innovation and job creation in the territories.
The dynamics of the project integrate complementarity between territories in order to enhance existing assets and expertise	1	The project takes account of existing infrastructure and activities in the partner territories and incorporates diagnosis elements into the design of its intervention strategy.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 *Dividing lines with other funds*

3.1 *Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?*

Projects involving the networking of those involved in the circular economy, setting up strategic frameworks conducive to strengthening the circular economy and sustainable waste management, and pilot actions on these same issues are supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which can support R&D&I projects on these same issues, and/or create conditions conducive to technology transfer on these issues.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 *What other funding could you apply for in this area?*

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;

- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Number of pilot actions jointly developed and implemented. The aim of a pilot action developed jointly may be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, and experimentation or transfer of practices. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Pilot actions	Formalised pilot actions, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report
RRC79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 6	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at strengthening their transition towards a circular	Number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at strengthening their transition towards a circular economy and improving sustainable waste management. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Documents explaining the territories benefiting from projects aimed at strengthening their transition towards a circular economy and improving sustainable waste management: preliminary diagnosis, technical

economy and improving sustainable waste management		report drawn up at the end of the project
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How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in terms of the transition to a circular economy and more sustainable waste management, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- dissemination and appropriation by the final beneficiaries (associations and social and solidarity economy players in particular);
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- changing public policies to move towards a circular economy and more sustainable waste management
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of waste management and the circular economy;
- assessing the impact (for the sector on the one hand, and for the territory(ies) on the other)
- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned as part of the project
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	543,166.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
067. Household waste management: prevention, reduction, sorting, reuse and recycling measures	814,749.00	This area of intervention contributes 40% to the climate objective.
071. Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials	543,166.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
046. Support for entities that provide services contributing to the low-carbon economy and climate change resilience, including awareness-raising measures	814,749.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 7: ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY



PRIORITY 2– A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT CARIBBEAN WITH LOW CARBON EMISSIONS

1 The programme's approach to the environment and biodiversity

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Better environmental protection (protected marine areas, protection of mangroves, nature parks etc.)
- More rational and sustainable development of the environment in its various forms
- Restoring lost ecosystem services

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- More resilient Caribbean ecosystems
- Protected and preserved Caribbean biodiversity (cradle of the world's biodiversity (flora and fauna))
- Better recognition of the Caribbean's natural heritage

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in Caribbean biodiversity, its potential and the threats to it, with a view to its protection, restoration and rational and sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and establishment of joint strategies and/or legislative and regulatory frameworks for the protection, management and restoration of ecosystem services, biodiversity and the environment • Strengthening the capacities of local operators, • Studies and decision-support projects for political decision-makers, • Creation/strengthening of networks of players to improve management of shared issues, for example a network to prevent and monitor coral bleaching on a Caribbean level • Drawing up guidelines to manage protected species and areas 	For example, these projects aim to set up a Fisheries Information System (SIH), to complement the regional effort focused on the study, monitoring and conservation of protected and/or endangered species

Implementation of joint instruments for the protection, management and restoration of Caribbean ecosystems and ecosystem services:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns to raise awareness of the issues involved in protecting biodiversity and to support changes in populations and economic structures, • Pilot actions to improve cohabitation between wildlife and human activities • Setting up protected areas in the Caribbean region, particularly in “corridors”, breeding and nursery areas frequented by a species or group of species • Pilot actions to regulate and eradicate invasive species • Pilot actions for the protection and restoration of fauna, flora, environments and ecosystem services • Pilot projects or larger-scale projects to combat the mass stranding of sargassum 	
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1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of the environment and biodiversity will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ³⁵
European	Biodiversity strategy for 2030	Website ³⁶
European	EU forest strategy for 2030	Website ³⁷

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions;

³⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

³⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/biodiversity/#2030>

³⁷ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/forest-strategy_en

- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Research centres and universities;
- Nature reserve conservatories;
- Associations and NGOs;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- Nature-based solutions (i.e. actions aimed at protecting, sustainably managing and restoring natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an effective and adaptive way, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity) will be favoured.
- The implementation of this specific objective is envisaged in compliance with the "polluter pays" principle, according to which the costs resulting from pollution prevention, reduction and control measures must be borne by the polluter.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project is consistent with and contributes to local and national schemes and strategies (National Biodiversity Strategy, Regional Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity; Regional Ecological Coherence Plan for Guadeloupe (i.e. green and blue belts)).	1	The project must be aligned with the objectives of various local and national schemes and strategies (National Biodiversity Strategy, Regional Plan for Natural Heritage and Biodiversity; Regional Ecological Coherence Plan for Guadeloupe). The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.

The project includes the implementation of pilot actions	2	The aim is to test and assess the effectiveness of new strategies/technologies before rolling them out on a larger scale. This minimises the risks and reduces the costs associated with implementing a larger-scale solution.
The project includes actions to restore natural habitats or reduce sources of degradation and/or the project contributes to the fight against invasive exotic species (two of the main causes of overseas biodiversity erosion)	3	Analysis of the actions planned as part of the project will make it possible to identify which of these objectives are being pursued by the project partners. The aim is to assess both the existence of this type of action and the impact they may have on the issue of biodiversity erosion in the Caribbean.
The dynamics of the project integrate complementarity between territories in order to enhance existing assets and expertise	1	The project takes account of existing infrastructure and activities in the partner territories and incorporates diagnosis elements into the design of its intervention strategy.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects involving the networking of those involved in Caribbean biodiversity, setting up strategic frameworks conducive to its protection, restoration and rational development, and pilot actions on these same issues are supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which can support R&D&I projects on these same issues, and/or facilitate technology transfer on these issues.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives.

The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);

- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Number of pilot actions jointly developed and implemented. The aim of a pilot action developed jointly may be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, and experimentation or transfer of practices. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Pilot actions	Formalised pilot actions, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 7	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving the preservation and/or	Number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving the preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and the environment. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes,	Number	Documents explaining the territories benefiting from projects aimed at improving the preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and the

	restoration of biodiversity and the environment	this support must contribute to the programme's expected results		environment: preliminary diagnosis, technical report drawn up at the end of the project
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How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in biodiversity preservation, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- dissemination and appropriation by the final beneficiaries (associations and populations in particular);
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of preserving biodiversity and species, and assessing the impact of these solutions;
- actions aimed at changing public policies, processes and habits;
- assessing the impact of the pilot actions put in place;
- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned as part of the project
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	122,212.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
079. Protecting nature and biodiversity, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure	2,933,098.00	This area of intervention contributes 40% to the climate objective.
080. Other measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the field of preserving and restoring natural areas with a high potential for absorbing and storing carbon, for example by rewetting moorland, capturing landfill gas etc.	3,055,310.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective. The forests and oceans in the cooperation area are natural areas with a high potential for absorbing and storing carbon. Actions aimed at preserving and restoring will therefore be able to target this area of intervention.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 8: SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS



PRIORITY 3 - A MORE CONNECTED CARIBBEAN

1 *The programme's approach to sustainable mobility and strengthening connections*

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- The harmonious development of connections between Caribbean territories
- The development of internal transport networks in the area
- Enhancing the sustainability and resilience of transport modes

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- A Caribbean that exploits and benefits more strongly from its geostrategic position (particularly with regard to maritime trade routes), and with enhanced economic development;
- Greater intra-regional trade in people and goods.

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustrations
Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of players with a view to strengthening maritime, air and land connectivity between the territories of the Caribbean area and with the major global networks, and with a view to improving quality, resilience and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional strategic plans to improve maritime, air and land connectivity and open up the area, and to share knowledge in the field of maritime surveillance; • Support for the introduction of legislative and regulatory frameworks conducive to the concerted development of transport services at regional level; • Pre-feasibility studies for transport infrastructure projects and expert assessments that could be pooled to limit additional costs; • Projects to improve existing infrastructure or develop existing links to strengthen connections between Caribbean territories 	For example, these projects aim to establish cooperation between airlines in order to improve air services in the Caribbean, or to network all transport operators, importers, exporters, producers and services dedicated to maritime trade between islands by means of a secure, electronic platform linked to the customs information systems of the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players to make Caribbean mobility more resilient, sustainable and of better quality 	port of embarkation and the port of destination.
Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks and networking players with a view to facilitating more sustainable mobility in the territories of the Caribbean area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of good practices and the emergence of common guidelines on the issue of regional connectivity and transport; • Strategic, legislative and regulatory frameworks and initiatives to promote sustainable mobility in Caribbean territories, taking into account their specific characteristics and the various impacts (particularly socio-economic) associated with these developments • Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players with a view to structuring and/or developing more sustainable and resilient mobility in the Caribbean (air, sea and land transport) 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of sustainable, intelligent and cross-border mobility will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ³⁸
European - national version	National Plan for Reducing Emissions of Atmospheric Pollutants	Website ³⁹
European - national version	Public policies to reduce air pollution - Environmental noise	Website ⁴⁰

³⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

³⁹ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/plan-national-reduction-des-emissions-polluants-atmospheriques-prepa-periode-2022-2025>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques-reduire-pollution-lair> -
<https://outil2amenagement.cerema.fr/le-plan-de-prevention-du-bruit-dans-l-r1301.html> -
https://www.mobiliseyourcity.net/sites/default/files/2020-04/MYC_PMUD_Mod%C3%A8le_TdR_FR_Finale_Avril2020.pdf

	prevention plan (PPBE) - Sustainable urban mobility plans (PMUD)	
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2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Associations and companies, professional organisations;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- The programme will ensure compliance with the European guidelines set out by the National Plan for Reducing Emissions of Atmospheric Pollutants (Article 6 NEC Directive 2016/2284) and/or the Air Quality Plans, Noise Plans and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs).
- With regard to maritime transport projects, the programme will give priority to projects aimed at limiting pollution in the sector. It will ensure compliance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- The programme could pay particular attention to the issue of tourist flows, which are essential to the Caribbean economy but also generate a great deal of environmental pollution (particularly from cruise ships).

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
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the project is consistent with transport organisation and planning plans: global travel plans, urban travel plans, operational transport organisation programmes, etc.	1	The project must be aligned with the objectives of the transport organisation and planning plans. The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.
The project incorporates aspects related to sustainability of transport and environmental conservation	2	Analysis of the actions planned as part of the project will make it possible to identify which of these objectives are being taken into consideration by the project partners. The aim is to assess the existence of discussions on these issues and/or the existence of measures that could have a positive impact on the sustainability of transport and environmental conservation.
The project takes account of existing infrastructure and equipment to offer new connectivity solutions.	2	The project takes account of existing infrastructure and activities in the partner territories and incorporates diagnosis elements into the design of its intervention strategy in order to offer new solutions.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 *Dividing lines with other funds*

3.1 *Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?*

Projects involving the networking of those involved in transport, setting up strategic frameworks conducive to strengthening connections between territories and developing more sustainable connectivity between and within Caribbean territories are supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which can support R&D&I projects and/or facilitate technology transfer on these issues; and priority 2 which can support initiatives to develop renewable energies, make territories more resilient in the face of climate change, strengthen the circular economy and sustainable waste management, and protect and preserve Caribbean biodiversity.

If your project involves one of the areas listed above, be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
ISRea4	Projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or enhancing the sustainability of transport in the Caribbean area	Number of projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or enhancing the sustainability of transport in the Caribbean area. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Financing agreement and accomplishment report. Documents explaining the accomplishments associated with the project.
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when

	adopted by organisations	support must contribute to the programme's expected results	of being completed.	the lead submits the report.
ISR 8	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or the sustainability of transport	Number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or the sustainability of transport. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Documents explaining the number of territories benefiting from projects aimed at improving connectivity and/or the sustainability of transport: preliminary diagnosis, technical report drawn up at the end of the project

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes to improve connections in the cooperation area, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- dissemination and appropriation by peers or final beneficiaries (users and populations in particular);
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of connection and mobility, including setting up new projects and applying for additional funding;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised

joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
046. Support for entities that provide services contributing to the low-carbon economy and climate change resilience, including awareness-raising measures	814,749.00	This area of intervention contributes 100% to the climate objective.
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	1,357,915.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
109. Multi-modal transport (non-urban)	543,166.00	This area of intervention contributes 40% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 9: TRAINING AND MOBILITY



PRIORITY 4 – A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to training and mobility

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Strengthening the dynamics of mobility in the field of education and vocational training at Caribbean level and reinforcing the internationalisation of formal and vocational training courses
- The development of cooperation and the strengthening of skills within the region, as vectors for economic development and employment (particularly for young people)
- The mastery of linguistic and intercultural skills for beneficiaries

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Reduced unemployment (particularly among young people) through the development of entrepreneurship and the mastery and reciprocal use of languages in the Caribbean, particularly for students and young professionals
- Greater access to high-quality, inclusive education, training and lifelong learning services
- Economic diversification of Caribbean territories

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Exchange and mobility projects in the fields of formal and vocational training, for example with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions aimed at creating an ERASMUS-type exchange programme for students and teachers between schools and universities in the Caribbean (together with the Erasmus + programme, which mainly involves mobility towards continental Europe, projects supported by INTERREG Caraïbes could support student mobility within the Caribbean between the FCORs and non-European territories). 	For example, these projects aim to address the vulnerability of young people, promote Caribbean multilingualism, support innovation, promote centres of expertise, and offset the decline in secondary and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange and mobility projects for professionals, jobseekers and people undergoing vocational retraining in the Caribbean area 	higher education enrolments through a policy of attracting students and researchers from the Caribbean
Implementation of joint instruments to strengthen training, particularly in languages, in the Caribbean area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up a range of training courses in languages for specific purposes (such as FOS, Français sur Objectifs Spécifiques) in relevant professional sectors in the Caribbean: tourism, trade, business law, etc. Setting up training courses aimed in particular at setting up new sectors and/or developing certain sectors in order to better meet the common challenges of the cooperation area (in particular: waste management, ecological transition, etc.) Setting up joint distance learning and online teaching platforms (MOOCs). 	
Networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in education and training in the Caribbean area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players (together with the Erasmus + programme). Cooperation projects in the field of education, apprenticeships, higher education, integration of young people or continuing training within the cooperation area etc. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of formal training and integration of young people will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Strategy for the marine environment	Website ⁴¹
European	Interventions supported by ESF+ funding	Website ⁴²
European	Interventions supported by ERASMUS+ funding	Website ⁴³

⁴¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/strategy-for-the-marine-environment.html>

⁴² <https://fse.gouv.fr/le-programme-national-fse>

⁴³ https://commission.europa.eu/education/set-projects-education-and-training/erasmus-funding-programme_en

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and local public administrations and institutions; Consular chambers;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Universities, engineering schools, business schools, higher education institutes;
- Adult vocational training centres;
- Vocational colleges (e.g. catering colleges) and apprentice training centres;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

The programme will pay particular attention to ensuring that the projects it supports are well coordinated with the interventions supported by ESF+ and ERASMUS+ funding

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project targets themes and sectors of activity in line with the needs of territorial industries and the strategies of organisations (e.g. territorial diplomacy, development and internationalisation of certain industries, etc.)	3	The planned training courses respond to issues identified for the territory or contribute to the implementation of a territorial strategy.

The project combines training with immersion activities	1	Combining training with immersion activities helps improve the effectiveness and relevance of the training, by making it easier to acquire knowledge, develop skills and put learning into practice.
The project includes certification at the end of the training	1	Offering certification at the end of training helps to recognise the skills acquired and improve employment opportunities

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects aimed at strengthening training and mobility, both in the field of formal and vocational training, are supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which may support training, master classes and skill enhancement projects specifically targeting those involved in digital connectivity.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives.

The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
ISRea5	Supported exchange and mobility projects	Number of supported exchange and mobility projects	Number	Financing agreement and accomplishment report. Documents explaining the accomplishments associated with the project.
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 9	Beneficiaries of supported exchange and mobility projects	Number of beneficiaries of the supported exchange and mobility projects	Number	Estimated number of beneficiaries and impact study and assessment/implementation report issued by the lead partner detailing the estimated number of beneficiaries in question

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in education and training, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of education and training;
- dissemination to the relevant education and training establishments and institutions, etc;
- deployment or dissemination of training;
- setting up joint training pathways;
- training and mobility plans;
- evaluating the impact of the training pathways put in place on the macro-economic and social fabric of the Caribbean;
- promotion of training pathways and exchange schemes;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
140. Support for alignment with the labour market and transitions	1,222,125.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
141. Support for workforce mobility	1,629,500.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
151. Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure)	1,222,125.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 10: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY



PRIORITY 4 – A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to social inclusion and the fight against poverty

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Marginalised groups benefiting from better support across borders
- More effective inclusion and anti-poverty policies across the Caribbean, and greater capacity and skills for players and specialist NGOs
- Greater resilience of social systems and a better capacity to respond to problems linked to poverty and exclusion affecting the cooperation area (access to healthcare, capacity to respond to natural risks in particular).

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- More inclusive and socially resilient Caribbean societies and economies
- Stronger economic and human development in the cooperation area

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, expert assessments, networking and strengthening the capacities of the relevant public players in the Caribbean States, of overseas countries and territories and outermost regions to improve social inclusion and increase the social resilience of Caribbean societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of regional strategic plans in the field of inclusion, the fight against poverty and social innovation and resilience • Diagnoses, mapping of players, with a view to supporting the exchange of good practices, networking and strengthening the capacities of public players and relevant organisations in the Caribbean States, overseas countries and territories and outermost regions; the emergence of common guidelines and the development of shared initiatives on issues linked to inclusion and the fight against poverty within the cooperation area. • Support for strengthening the capacities of local operators in these fields and development of 	

	regional training in the fields of inclusion, social work, social innovation and the social and responsible solidarity economy.	
Support for the structuring and development of certain sectors with a view to greater social inclusion and better socio-economic integration in the Caribbean territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the structuring and development of specialised cultural sectors to facilitate social inclusion. For example, actions aimed at seeking synergies between territories to help structure specialised industries based on Caribbean talent (in the fashion or film sectors, for example). • Support for the structuring, development and promotion of cultural heritage and craft skills to facilitate social inclusion • In connection with the challenges of connectivity, as part of the support for inclusive digital development, the senior population could be targeted in particular. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of social inclusion and the fight against poverty will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European - national version	National Plan for Reducing Emissions of Atmospheric Pollutants	Website ⁴⁴
European - national version	Public policies to reduce air pollution - Environmental noise prevention plan (PPBE) - Sustainable urban mobility plans (PMUD)	Website ⁴⁵
European	Interventions supported by ESF+ funding	Website ⁴⁶

⁴⁴ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/plan-national-reduction-des-emissions-polluants-atmospheriques-prepa-periode-2022-2025>

⁴⁵ <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/politiques-publiques-reduire-pollution-lair> -
<https://outil2amenagement.cerema.fr/le-plan-de-prevention-du-bruit-dans-l-r1301.html> -
https://www.mobiliseyourcity.net/sites/default/files/2020-04/MYC_PMUD_Mod%C3%A8le_TdR_FR_Finale_Avril2020.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://fse.gouv.fr/le-programme-national-fse>

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and territorial public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit;
- Training establishments;
- Public and private bodies organising the culture and tourism sectors (i.e. trade associations, professional chambers);
- NGOs and associations;
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

- The programme will pay attention to ensuring that the projects it supports are well coordinated with the interventions supported by ESF+ funding.
- It will also ensure the guidelines of the National Plan for Reducing Emissions of Atmospheric Pollutants (Article 6 NEC Directive 2016/2284) and/or the Air Quality Plans, Noise Plans and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) are incorporated.
- For all interventions related to tourism, particularly with regard to natural heritage, the Programme will ensure that environmental issues are taken into account and may consider incorporating environmental eligibility criteria.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
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The project partners report on their knowledge of inclusion in overseas territories and in the partner States of the cooperation area	1	The diagnostic elements on which the project's strategy is based are consistent with the situations observed in the territories and States affected by the project. The project's operational objectives are consistent and relevant to the challenges of inclusion.
Actions are planned to enable people experiencing exclusion to find new employment and/or actions to help businesses become more inclusive	2	Analysis of the actions planned as part of the project will make it possible to identify which of these objectives are being pursued by the project partners. The aim is to assess both the existence of this type of action and the impact they may have on the employability of people experiencing exclusion.
The project contributes to social innovation: it provides a response to new social needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation	1	The project must respond to current social needs (social innovation) such as housing, health, the fight against poverty, exclusion or discrimination. These innovations may concern the product or service itself, or the way it is organised or distributed. The aim is to help increase people's social rights.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 *Dividing lines with other funds*

3.1 *Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?*

Projects aimed at improving social inclusion and social resilience in the Caribbean are supported under this specific objective, in addition to priority 1 of this programme, which may support projects in terms of social innovation, or contributing to the implementation of digital solutions adapted to the needs of the Caribbean population (particularly the ageing population).

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 *What other funding could you apply for in this area?*

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);
- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;

- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO087	Organisations cooperating on a cross-border, transnational or interregional scale within the framework of the supported projects	Number of partner and sub-partner organisations officially involved in the project. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Cooperating organisations. Cooperating doesn't necessarily mean benefiting from direct financial support: it can also mean benefiting from collective action, promotional actions and networking.	Partnership agreement, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR10	Organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened	Number of organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened through their participation in cross-border cooperation	Number	Letter of commitment, partnership agreement and justification of how institutional

through their participation in cross-border cooperation activities	activities. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	capabilities have been strengthened.
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How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in social inclusion and the fight against poverty, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised;
- dissemination to relevant establishments and institutions;
- deployment or dissemination of training;
- setting up joint training pathways;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
163. Promotion of social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most destitute and children	1,629,498.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	1,086,332.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 11: HEALTH RISKS AND THE RESILIENCE OF HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS



PRIORITY 4 – A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to health risks and the resilience of healthcare systems

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- The internationalisation of care pathways, complementarity between the territories and States of the Caribbean, to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of healthcare and long-term care systems across borders
- Renewed and strengthened measures to combat transmissible diseases, as part of a One Health approach
- Better quality of healthcare

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Greater resilience of Caribbean healthcare systems
- Better capacity to respond to public health issues affecting the cooperation area.
- Strengthening the capacities of health and healthcare systems to respond to crises linked to climatic and natural events

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in the healthcare sector to make territories and populations more resilient to health risks (as part of a One Health approach) and to strengthen healthcare systems in the Caribbean (including the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up strategic, regulatory and legislative frameworks conducive to a simplified patient care pathway in the Caribbean; • Exchanges and joint work on the regulation of medicinal products; • Exchanges of good practice, joint training, investments in “cross-border” healthcare infrastructure etc. with the aim of strengthening the capacities of national healthcare systems; 	For example, these projects aim to promote the healthcare pathway that hospitals in the French American Territories (FAT) offer to Caribbean countries, or to strengthen national and regional animal disease surveillance systems and their networking, based on

<p>prevention of these risks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and strengthening networks and monitoring and alert systems for human, animal and plant health • Development of regional training in the healthcare field. • Sharing of good practice on healthcare pathways and health policies, work on the complementary features of medical specialisations; • Strategies, roadmaps and networking of players to improve prevention, care and response to shared healthcare issues and problems in the Caribbean region, in particular sickle-cell anaemia, obesity, the ageing population etc. 	<p>exchanges between those involved in the network (chief veterinary officers in the Caribbean, universities, diagnostic laboratories, research institutes, regional and international organisations in the area) via strategic guidance meetings (steering committee), working groups, expert missions and training courses.</p>
<p>Implementation of joint instruments for better prevention of health risks, particularly in the face of specific or salient problems in the Caribbean region, and to improve the resilience of health systems:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and information campaigns on chronic and transmissible diseases, raising awareness of how diseases are transmitted, informing the public about epidemic risks, screening campaigns, mosquito control campaigns run by the public authorities for vector-borne diseases, etc. • Concerted initiatives to maintain healthcare coverage and improve access to healthcare and healthcare pathways. For example: targeted screening campaigns, raising awareness among foreign populations by adapting prevention and awareness tools etc. • Capitalisation and dissemination actions to share the results of pilot initiatives. • Projects to promote the development of telemedicine practices 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of healthcare and healthcare systems will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
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European	Interventions supported by ESF+ funding	Website ⁴⁷
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2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the target audiences are, in particular:

- National, regional and territorial public administrations and institutions;
- International organisations with a regional remit, particularly relevant health organisations (see CARPHA);
- Research centres and universities;
- Public and private health establishments;
- Public and private health training institutions;
- NGOs and associations (including patient associations)
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

Not applicable.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
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⁴⁷ <https://fse.gouv.fr/le-programme-national-fse>

The project contributes to social innovation: it provides a response to new social needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation	1	The project must respond to current social needs (social innovation) such as housing, health, the fight against poverty, exclusion or discrimination. These innovations may concern the product or service itself, or the way it is organised or distributed. The aim is to help increase people's social rights.
The operation is consistent with the partners' priorities including regional strategic documents relating to the health sector, particularly in terms of training.	1	The project must be aligned with the partners' priorities including the regional strategic documents relating to the health sector, particularly in terms of training. The aim is to ensure consistency between the various regional policies to facilitate their implementation.

To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 *Dividing lines with other funds*

3.1 *Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?*

Projects aimed at strengthening the resilience of health systems in the Caribbean, better prevention of health risks and the networking of those involved in the sector are supported under this specific objective. This complements priority 1 of this programme, which may support projects in the fields of R&D&I, social innovation or the introduction of appropriate digital solutions, as well as priority 4, which could support the development of training on a Caribbean level and strengthening social inclusion.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 *What other funding could you apply for in this area?*

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in the French outermost regions (particularly funding from the State and regional authorities);

- The ERDF-ESF+, EAFRD and EMFAF OPs of the various FCORs for 2021-2027;
- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners.
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
ISRea6	Supported initiatives to protect against health risks	Number of supported initiatives to protect against health risks. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number	Formalised initiatives, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR11	Population benefiting from supported initiatives to protect against health risks	Number of residents benefiting from supported initiatives to protect against health risks. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of residents	Population estimate specified in the risk maps for risk areas. Impact study and assessment/implementation report issued by the lead partner detailing the relevant population estimate

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In line with the expected changes in health and access to healthcare, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- capitalising on the results of projects;
- dissemination to health establishments, associations of healthcare professionals or patients, etc.;
- deployment or dissemination of training;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- implementation of solutions to the issues raised in terms of health and access to healthcare;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
160. Measures aimed at improving the accessibility, efficiency and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)	9,233,832.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	2,308,458.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

ACTION SHEET 12: CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN SAINT-MARTIN AND SINT-MAARTEN



PRIORITY 5 - STRENGTHENED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN SAINT-MARTIN AND SINT-MAARTEN

1 The programme's approach to cross-border cooperation between Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- The development of joint initiatives by public players and stakeholders of cross-border cooperation
- Providing solutions to the difficulties of cross-border cooperation and improving collaboration between the two territories

The expected longer-term impacts are the strengthening the technical and institutional links between the two parts of the island on issues of common interest.

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support the following types of action:

Types of action

Drafting the cross-border territorial strategy (which may include aspects relating to governance and promotion of this strategy)

Implementation of selected cross-border cooperation projects in line with the defined cross-border territorial strategy

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, and in accordance with the territorial strategy defined by the stakeholders, the complementarity and contribution of the cooperation projects to the existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of cross-border cooperation between Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten will be assessed.

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

For this SO, the main target audiences are:

- National, regional and territorial public administrations and institutions;
- Public and private bodies;
- NGOs and associations
- etc.

They may be refined in line with the cross-border territorial development strategy between Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten.

2.2 Location of operations

This specific objective is being implemented in the cross-border cooperation area between Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten, in line with the cross-border cooperation strategy between the parties, which will be the reference document for the implementation of this priority.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

In accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2021:

- This strategy will detail:
 - The geographical area concerned by the strategy;
 - An analysis of the needs and development potential of the area, including economic, social and environmental interconnections;
 - A description of an integrated approach to meet the identified needs and development potential of the area;
 - A description of the participation of partners in the development and implementation of the strategy.
 - It will be developed and adopted jointly by the authorities of Saint Martin and Sint Maarten, and constitutes a prerequisite for the execution of projects under priority 5 of the INTERREG Caraïbes programme 2021-2027.
- The projects that will be supported under this priority must comply with the cross-border territorial strategy that will be developed by the parties.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects may be assessed on the basis of specific criteria which will be defined in line with the cross-border territorial strategy.

3 Dividing lines with other funds

3.1 Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?

Projects under this SO target the bi-national island of Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten and must contribute to the cross-border territorial strategy defined by the stakeholders. Projects designed to meet the needs of the Caribbean cooperation area will be able to sign up for funding under the programme's other priorities.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 What other funding could you apply for in this area?

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- All the relevant sectoral programmes in force for the territory of Saint-Martin
- The 2021-2027 ERDF OP for Saint-Martin;
- The regional strand of the NOP ESF+ 2021-2027.

4 Indicators

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO76	Integrated territorial development projects	Number of projects supported involving several stakeholders as part of integrated territorial development strategies.	Number of projects	Grant awarding agreement, partnership agreement, filled in by the project lead partner and

				checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO75	Supported integrated territorial development strategies	Number of supported integrated territorial development strategies	Contributions to strategies	Strategy filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Number of pilot actions jointly developed and implemented. The aim of a pilot action developed jointly may be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, and experimentation or transfer of practices. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Pilot actions	Formalised pilot actions, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report

How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

Indicator RCO075 refers to the territorial strategy which is a prerequisite for the implementation of projects under this priority 5.

Indicator RCO076 refers to the number of cooperation projects supported by INTERREG Caraïbes pursuant to this strategy.

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme's objectives.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 *Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective*

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
169. Territorial development initiatives, including the preparation of territorial strategies	4,499,677.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	28. Other approaches - Rural areas

ACTION SHEET 13: COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



PRIORITY 6 – FACILITATE AND OPTIMISE COOPERATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

1 The programme's approach to facilitate and optimise cooperation in the Caribbean

1.1 Objectives and expected changes

The results expected at the end of the programme are as follows:

- Strengthening operational and strategic relations between economic, institutional and political players in the Caribbean area
- Development of international initiatives by public players and stakeholders in regional cooperation that complement the territories and States of the Caribbean.
- Development of structuring projects for Caribbean territories

The impacts expected in the longer term are as follows:

- Consolidation of regional cooperation
- Development and economic diversification of the Caribbean

1.2 Types of action eligible for support

This programme objective aims to support different types of action that can contribute to achieving the changes expected for the cooperation area. These types of action are set out in the table below:

Types of action	Examples	Illustration
Setting up strategic frameworks, networks and thematic platforms to support Caribbean cooperation on common issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting a strategy for the Caribbean basin that may enable cooperation to be steered strategically and players to be networked; • Expert assessments aimed at better identifying the obstacles to cooperation, initiatives and technical assistance mechanisms designed to remove the obstacles to regional and cross-border cooperation (B-solution type); • Creation and management of thematic platforms to promote the strategic management of cooperation. These thematic platforms would focus on areas of common interest for the Caribbean area 	For example, these projects aim to facilitate political dialogue between the countries and territories they represent, to exchange practices and harmonise their knowledge and know-how in order to be more effective, or to develop concerted actions and cooperation projects
Networking, mobility and strengthening of skills for those involved in cooperation in the Caribbean area and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for structuring, promoting and strengthening the skills of the programme's Regional Contact Point networks in order to contribute to wider cooperation actions whose 	

strengthening the partnership dynamic	<p>scope could be extended; actions aimed at strengthening promotional methods and information sharing between the programme's partners;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in regional cooperation, particularly on subjects of major interest to the Caribbean area (training on the operation and use of cooperation instruments (e.g.: NDICI, OAD, INTERREG etc.), strategic frameworks and the regional cooperation environment (post-Cotonou, Economic Partnership Agreements etc.) • Staff exchange and/or mobility programmes, staff secondment schemes, setting up local offices to facilitate joint work processes between territories in the area. 	
Strengthening the links between the various sources of funding and networking donors to provide better support for structuring projects in the Caribbean area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives aimed at strengthening the link between the ERDF/EDF and the ERDF/NDICI. • Actions aimed at facilitating the use of funding to complement the ERDF and external European funding (international donors, development agencies etc.). 	
INTERREG Caraiibes start-up facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory missions, support in the search for partnerships, with a view to structuring a cooperation project that contributes to achieving the objectives of an INTERREG Caraiibes thematic priority. 	

1.3 Complementarity with other local, national and European support schemes for the sector

When analysing the applications, the project's complementarity and contribution to existing strategies and programmes in the Caribbean region in terms of cooperation in the Caribbean will be assessed. In particular:

Scale of the strategy	Title	Useful resources
European	Multi-year integrated regional and national programmes financed by NDICI and/or OAD funds in the Caribbean area	Website ⁴⁸

⁴⁸ <https://www.touteurope.eu/l-europe-et-moi/l-instrument-europeen-pour-le-voisinage-le-developpement-et-la-cooperation-internationale-ndici/>

2 Funding rules, eligibility and selection criteria

2.1 Target audience

The target audiences are, in particular:

- Public players involved in regional cooperation;
- Potential project lead partners in the context of European territorial cooperation
- Authorities managing ERDF, EDF (then NDICI) funding
- Donors active in the Caribbean and development agencies;
- NGOs and civil society players (including Regional Multi-Stakeholder Networks);
- etc.

2.2 Location of operations

The entire cooperation area is involved.

2.3 Eligibility rules and conditions specific to this SO:

Not applicable.

2.4 Assessment criteria specific to the SO:

When the Technical Committee assesses the project, in addition to the transversal criteria and additional criteria detailed in the transversal section, projects that fall within the scope of this SO will be assessed with regard to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting	Criteria details
The project correctly identifies the authorities and governance bodies associated with the sector in question	2	An analysis of the actions planned, the partnership and the bodies involved in implementing the project makes it possible to assess the extent to which the relevant authorities and governance bodies are involved and/or integrated into the project's intervention strategy.
The project will include institutional communication/ communication aimed at the relevant regional organisations and governance bodies	1	The aim is to ensure that information is properly distributed and that the relevant regional organisations and governance bodies have an overall view of the various projects in the territory.

On completion, the project will strengthen the capacities of those involved and the organisations in the sector in question	2	The aim is for the project to contribute to a long-term learning process for the various players and organisations in the sector in question, so that they can improve their practices.
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To analyse these criteria, please refer to the information entered in section 11.2 of the application form.

3 *Dividing lines with other funds*

3.1 *Is this the right specific objective of the programme to finance your project?*

The projects submitted under this specific objective aim to identify the obstacles to regional cooperation and create the conditions to strengthen it. Themes of major interest for the area may be targeted for this purpose and stakeholders may be involved in order to facilitate cooperation in this area. Cooperation projects designed to address a specific issue within a given theme will be supported under the programme's other priorities.

Be sure to read the corresponding measure sheets to determine which specific objective is most relevant to your cooperation objectives.

3.2 *What other funding could you apply for in this area?*

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme imposes specific requirements in terms of cooperation and project structuring. It complements other schemes that can also support similar objectives. The actions supported under this specific objective are therefore planned to be consistent with the following schemes and programmes:

- The regional cooperation strategies of the Programme's partners;
- multi-year integrated regional and national programmes financed by NDICI and/or OAD funds in the Caribbean area;
- The [2021-2027 Amazonia ICP \(for the Guiana Shield area\)](#), and its four strategic objectives: A smarter Guiana (SO1), a Greener Guiana (SO2), a more social Guiana (SO3), INTERREG Specific Objective (ISO1) for a better cooperation governance

4 *Indicators*

The projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes Programme must contribute to the collection of data to monitor the programme's achievements and results.

Under this specific objective, **the indicators to which projects must contribute** are as follows:

ID	Indicator	Definition	Unit of measurement	Supporting documents expected
RCO83	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by the projects supported. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Number of strategies/action plans produced and developed jointly during the project.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCO87	Organisations cooperating on a cross-border, transnational or interregional scale within the framework of the supported projects	Number of partner and sub-partner organisations officially involved in the project. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, the projects supported must contribute to the results expected by the programme	Cooperating organisations. Cooperating doesn't necessarily mean benefiting from direct financial support: it can also mean benefiting from collective action, promotional actions and networking.	Partnership agreement, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	The number of strategies and action plans jointly developed by organisations. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number of joint strategies/action plans completed or in the process of being completed.	Formalised strategy or action plan, filled in by the project lead partner and checked by the manager when the lead submits the report.
ISR 10	Organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened through their participation in cross-border cooperation activities	Number of organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened through their participation in cross-border cooperation activities. In the context of INTERREG Caraïbes, this support must contribute to the programme's expected results	Number	Letter of commitment, partnership agreement and justification of how institutional capabilities have been strengthened.
ISR12	Thematic platforms set up to promote strategic management of cooperation	Number of thematic platforms set up to promote the strategic management of cooperation	Number	Description of the measures put in place and expenditure associated with their implementation. Supporting documents relating to communication and/or publicity

				about these measures.
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How can this obligation be incorporated into preparing and implementing INTERREG cooperation projects?

The indicators RCO083 and RCR079 count the number of joint strategies or action plans developed and implemented as part of the projects supported. In concrete terms, a jointly developed strategy aims to establish a targeted way of achieving a goal-oriented process in a specific area, and an action plan translates an existing jointly developed strategy into action.

When preparing their project, project lead partners must identify which strategy(ies) and/or action plan(s) will be developed and implemented, in line with the objectives of their project. This expectation can be the subject of actions specifically set out in the action plan and therefore benefit from the co-financing allocated. It is therefore advisable to anticipate this point at the project preparation stage to ensure that the operation contributes to the programme’s objectives.

In line with the expected changes in governance, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed in the context of the supported projects will be able to pursue the following objectives in particular:

- ways of strengthening regional cooperation and the consultation mechanisms to be put in place;
- capitalising on the results of projects, dissemination;
- long-term cooperation between programme partners;
- change of scale/expansion of the partnership;
- etc.

In terms of contribution to the indicators, monitoring implies the transmission of specific supporting documents in order to guarantee the reliability of the values entered into the information system during the implementation of the operation. In this way, and at the latest on completion of the operation, the supporting documents will be collected, including the formalised joint strategy or action plan. The lead partner may be contacted again to provide information on the implementation of the strategy or action plan in the year following completion of the project.

5 Additional information on the interventions of the specific objective

Each operation receiving funding under this specific objective must be consistent with one of the areas of intervention listed below. It is therefore essential that project partners are able to identify the relevant area of intervention as early as possible in the development of their project.

Area of intervention	Estimated budget	Comments/points to watch out for
171. Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State	9,758,475.00	This area of intervention contributes 0% to the climate objective.

Other information for Joint Secretariat:

Forms of financing	01 - Grant
Territorial implementation mechanism	33 - Other approaches - No geographical targeting

Appendix 1: summary table of amendments to this Implementation document I

Document version - Date updated	Action sheet in question	Page	Main changes to sections or sheets	Date of entry of application under appraisal and into technical committee
Version 1	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	7 December 2023