

THEMATIC OVERVIEW 2007-2013 OF THE ERDF-ESF PROGRAMMING

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Thematic overview

March, 30th 2014 edition

OVERVIEW OF THE KEY THEMES OF THE 2007-2013 ERDF-ESF PROGRAMMES ON DECEMBER 31, 2013

With the 2014-2020 programme about to start, the purpose of this analysis is to report back on the implementation of the operational programmes (ERDF and ESF) in France for the 2007-2013¹ period. Performed based on the European thematic coding nomenclature for structural funds which applies to all member states, the analysis is organised in such a way as to make it possible to compare this overview with the thematic approach of the new programmes (please see details of the thematic objectives for 2014-2020, page 5).

This nomenclature is comprised of the **17 themes shown opposite**, presented in more detailed sub-themes, to which each programmed project pertains. Themes 1 to 13 comprise the main areas of involvement for the 2007-2013 programmes and consequently each is covered by a specific information sheet. Themes 14 to 17 are dealt with as part of a more general analysis:

Methodological note

Unless stated otherwise, the data on December 31, 2013, is taken from the Presage infocentre dated January 19, 2014. The totals shown (EU only, unless stated otherwise - ERDF or ESF according to the case in question) are shown in million Euros. **For the European Territorial Cooperation objective (ETC)**, all programmes concerning metropolitan France and/or the overseas territories are taken into account, with the exception of the POCTEFA (France/Spain), Alpine Region, Alcotra (France / Italy), Italy/France Maritime and URBACT programmes, of which the data could not be analysed. The data from the «Caribbean» programme is not broken down by theme. For all of these programmes, only data from projects involving at least one French partner are taken into account, in order to report on the implementation of these programmes on French territory.

Glossary

ERDF : European Regional Development Fund

ESF : European Social Fund

The regional competitiveness and employment objective (hereafter referred to as the « **competitiveness objective** ») : concerns the metropolitan regions- ERDF/ESF

Convergence objective : concerns the outermost regions (OMR) -ERDF/ESF

European Territorial Cooperation objective (ETC): concerns cross-border, inter-regional and transnational cooperation programmes – ERDF

1. Research, technological development and entrepreneurial spirit
2. The information Society
3. Transport
4. Energy
5. Environment and risk prevention
6. Tourism
7. Culture
8. Urban/rural regeneration
9. Improving the capacities of workers, companies and company managers
10. Improving access to employment and sustainability
11. Improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons
12. Development of human capital
13. Investments in social infrastructure
14. Promoting reforms in the fields of employment and social inclusion
15. Improving institutional capacities at a national, regional and local level
16. Reducing costs hindering the development of outermost regions (OMR)
17. Technical assistance

¹ The General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET) has responsibility (as did previously the Delegation for Territorial Planning and Regional Action (Delegation interministerielle à l'aménagement du territoire et l'attractivité régionale - DATAR), for the strategic monitoring of the national strategic reference framework (cadre de référence stratégique national - CRSN) concerning the ERDF - ESF structural funds for the period 2007-2013. A strategic report was produced in 2012 but this needs to be updated as the programming ratio of the funds is now at 99.83%. Nevertheless, we should point out that the payments are only at 48.78% and can be continued until the end of 2015, if the necessary items of proof are supplied by project sponsors. The following analysis is therefore provided subject to these reserves.

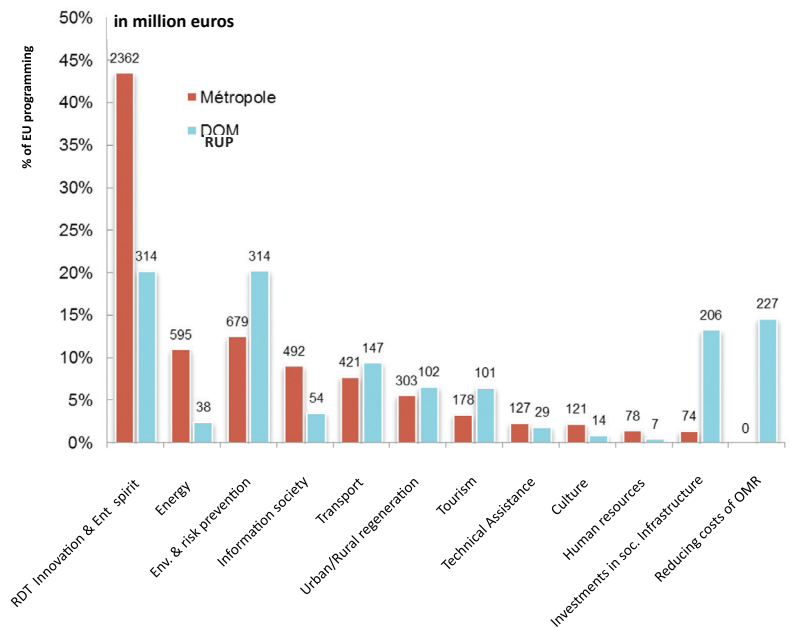


BREAKDOWN OF THE ERDF AND ESF PROGRAMMING FOR THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES

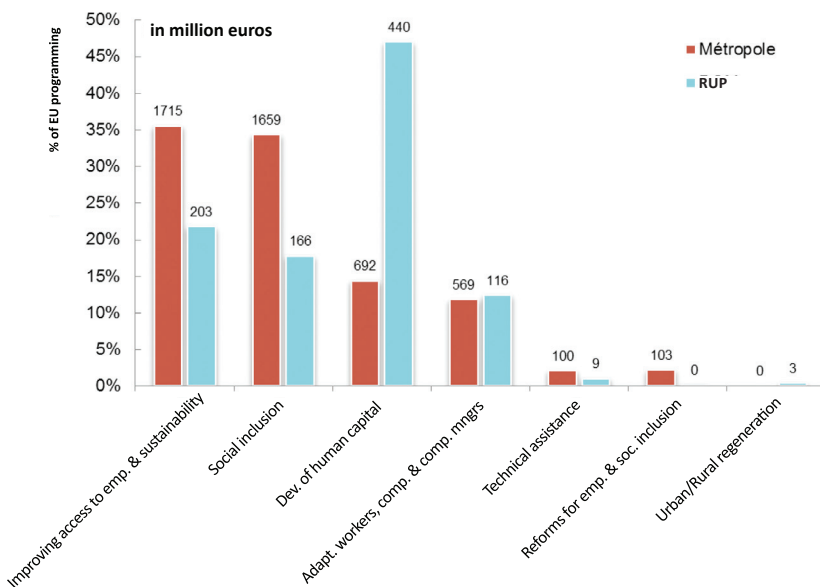
► The trend already noted in 2012 during the preparation of the strategic report on the implementation of the strategic national reference framework and of the 2007-2013 operational programmes was confirmed throughout the whole period: the theme to which most ERDF credits were devoted is «Research, technological development, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» accounting for almost €2.8 billion of programmed ERDF funds, i.e. more than 37% of the EU programming, of which metropolitan France accounts for €2.3 billion of ERDF funds.

► Whether in metropolitan France (€679 million of ERDF funds) or in the outermost regions (OMR) (€314 million of ERDF funds), the «Environment and risk prevention» theme follows next with just over €1 billion in programmed ERDF funds.

The ERDF thematic priorities



The ESF thematic priorities



► However, the regional programming also includes strategic priorities adapted to specific regional characteristics. Thus, the «tourism» category is one of the 5 most highly programmed themes for 6 regions (Auvergne, Corsica, Franche-Comté, Limousin, Martinique, Réunion) and «investments in social infrastructure» is one of the 5 most highly programmed themes for 3 regions.

► A specific budgetary envelope was allocated to the outermost regions for the 7 programming years in order to offset the additional costs engendered by their insularity, their geographical fragmentation or to enable them to deal with climatic conditions. On December 31, 2013, €221 million of ERDF funds had been programmed for this purpose.

► €9 million were programmed for projects aimed at boosting institutional capacities nationally, regionally and locally, including €6 million in the OMR.

► Most of the **ESF credits** were focused on the following **three themes** : improving access to employment and sustainability (theme 10), improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons (theme 11) and the development of human capital (theme 12). These three themes accounted for almost **€5 billion** (EU) i.e. more than 80% of the programmed ESF budget.

► The importance attached to these themes is due largely to the effects of the economic and social crisis and a wish to provide tailored and targeted responses in the regions. Consequently, initiatives to favour access to employment and social cohesion accounted for more than two thirds of the credits programmed in 17 regions.

MULTIREGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Nine inter-regional ERDF intervention schemes were set up for 2007-2013 for the massifs (hill ranges) and river basins. These schemes, (deployed in parts of the country varying in their surface area and the number of partner regions) accounted in all for more than 200 million in European credits. Although five areas were included as inter-regional aspects of a regional programme (the Garonne basin, the Seine basin, Vosges Massif, Pyrénées Massif, Jura Massif), a solution involving a specific multiregional operational programme (MOP) was adopted for **four areas**: the Massif Central, the Alps Massif, the Loire basin and the Rhône basin.

Over the 2007-2013 period, a trend was noted similar to that applying to the general overall ERDF total: it was the **research, technological development, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit theme** which attracted most of the programming for these four programmes (29%). This was one of the three most

BREAKDOWN OF THE ERDF PROGRAMMING FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE

At the time of the launch of the 2007-2013 programming period, European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) became a separate objective in its own right as part of the cohesion policy and is a key factor in the objective of harmonious territorial development pursued by the European Union. European Territorial Cooperation, (which for the previous programming period was covered by the INTERREG programmes) is comprised of three aspects:

- **Cross-border co-operation** allowing for the implementation of projects in regions with a shared land or maritime border ;
- **Transnational cooperation** encouraging territorial development throughout Europe's major regions ;
- **Interregional cooperation (or pan-European cooperation)** which seeks to promote networking, and exchanges of experience or good practices between various European countries.

► In the outermost regions, which account for 17% of the ESF funds allocated to France for the 2007-2013 period, we note significant investment in priorities focusing on the prevention of and fight against unemployment. Thus, the theme to which most credits were assigned is the development of human capital (approximately **€440 million**, i.e. more than **45% of the ESF programming** in the OMR).

► Slightly less than 2% of the total ESF budgetary envelope was programmed for the theme of «reforms concerning employment and social inclusion», totalling €103 million. This theme was underrepresented in the metropolitan regions.

highly programmed themes in three of these programmes (Alps 48.6%, Massif Central 19.9% and Loire 34.5%). **The «information society» theme** is in second place, accounting for 13% of the total programming for these four programmes.

Environmental issues featured highly: this field accounts for the majority of the programming for **two inland navigation programmes** (Loire 45.2%, Rhône 32.2%), while where **the massif programmes** are concerned, the focus was placed on **tourism** (Alps 15%; Massif Central 22.7%).

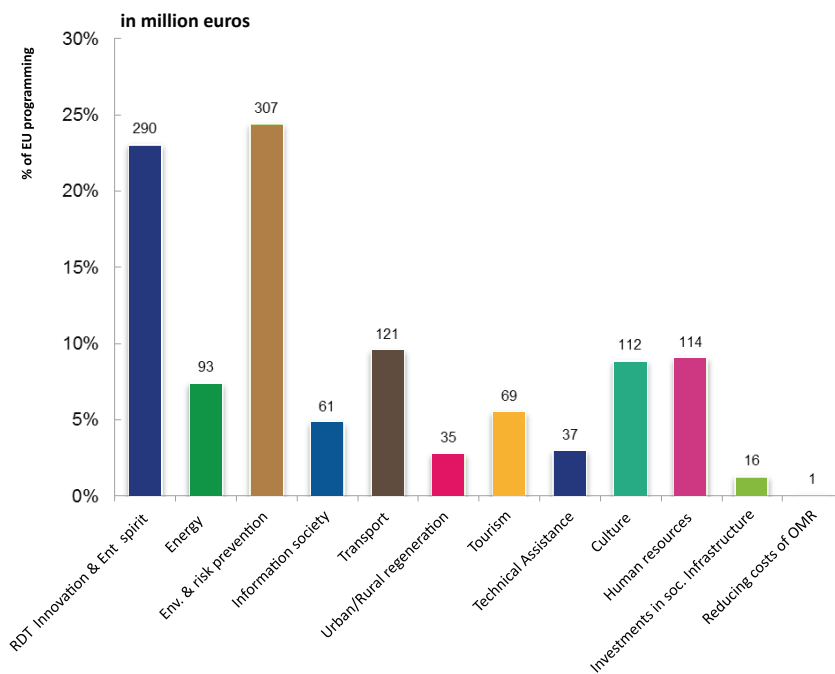
In all, **more than 1,460 projects** were implemented as part of these multiregional programmes. The average level of joint financing per project was €90,000.

Over the 2007-2013 programming period, France was involved in 21 European Territorial Cooperation programmes, all financed by the ERDF:

- **10 cross-border programmes** : Alcotra, Amazonia, Two Seas, France (Manche) - England, France-Switzerland, France-Wallonia-Flanders, Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE), Italy/ France Maritime, POCTEFA (FR/SP/AND) and Upper Rhine (FR/DE).
- **5 transnational programmes** : Alpine Region, Atlantic Area, Northwestern Europe, MED and Southwestern Europe.
- **2 combined programmes (operational programmes including a cross-border and transnational aspect)**: Caribbean and Indian Ocean.
- **4 interregional programmes**: ESPON, INTERACT, INTERREG IVC and URBACT.



The ECT ERDF thematic priorities



- ▶ Over the 2007-2013 programming period **two themes largely dominated** in the ETC field in terms of programmed ERDF funds. These were the themes of «**research and technological development (RTD), innovation and entrepreneurial spirit**» (22%) and «**the environment and risk prevention**» (24%). Together, these two themes represented 46% of the total EU programmed sums, i.e. approximately €600 million.
- ▶ The themes of «Transport», «Energy» and «Culture» follow as the next **most highly programmed themes** at 9.6%, 7.4% and 8.9% of the programmed sums for the ETC theme in France. Although more than 13% of the **transnational programmed sums** was deployed for the «transport» theme, the «tourism» theme accounts for almost 10% of the **cross-border programmed sums**. Indeed, tourism-related issues are chiefly dealt with at a cross-border level: 63% of ETC tourist projects were handled through these types of programmes.
- ▶ The «development of human capital» them is the most highly represented **social theme** in ETC projects and that to which most of the ERDF credits were assigned. This theme accounted for **3%** of the ETC programmed funds, i.e. approximately €37 million. The following six social themes: «increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers», «improving access to employment and sustainability», «improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons», « the development of human capital», «investments in social infrastructure» and «promoting reforms in the fields of employment and inclusion» accounted for just 7.8% in all of the total programmed ERDF sums for ETC, i.e., a total of €98 million.
- ▶ Finally, the themes of «**boosting institutional capacities at a national, regional and local level**» and «**technical assistance**» each accounted for approximately 3% of the total ERDF programmed sums.
- ▶ **Concerning the URBACT programme**, 34 French partners, mostly from towns and cities or public inter-municipal cooperation bodies, are participating or have participated in this programme's exchange and cooperation activities. As a priority, these activities have focused on the themes of promoting an entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and a knowledge-based economy, employment and human capital, an integrated approach to developing urban areas in difficulty or likely to be so (producing comprehensive solutions to difficulties by taking action concerning housing, the economy, the social aspects, culture, etc.), social integration, the urban environment and urban governance and planning. (<http://www.ville.gouv.fr/?urbact,246>)

European Territorial Cooperation makes it possible to finance distinctive project types meeting the specific needs shared by the regions they cover. As an example, this is the case with cross-border mobility or **health projects, educational exchanges, bilingualism projects**, etc.

Where health is concerned, the Caribbean programme has set up an inter-Caribbean HIV I/AIDS monitoring centre. The purpose of this project is to boost cooperation between the regions and local authorities of the Caribbean in their fight against this virus. A comprehensive solution is therefore being sought to reinforce the fight against and prevention of epidemics and eventually to drive down infection rates within the region (**total ERDF sum: €5,731,423**)

Regarding cross-border mobility, the «PEEF» project (Polo d'eccellenza Educazione e Formazione) undertaken as part of the Alcotra programme (France-Italy (Alps)) aims to contribute to building European identity and citizenship among young people through initiatives which encourage mobility, dialogue, meetings and the discovery of others and which at the same time build a sense of belonging to a specific region.

«PEEF» also involves educational establishments at all levels which have set themselves the goal of improving bilingualism and trans-Alpine exchanges (**total ERDF sum: €6,312,181 ; Year 2009**).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

On December 31, 2013, ERDF technical assistance accounted for €219.7 million of programmed funds, deployed firstly via the dedicated aspects of each operational programme (€181 million) and secondly via the Europ'Act national technical assistance programme for a sum of 39 million (please see the panel opposite).

Technical assistance activities cover:

- **Strategic coordination and information and communication activities** (networking, sharing of best practices, seminars, working groups, etc.) which represented 54% of the programmed credits of the Europ'Act programme. At a regional level, they represented 34% of the technical assistance credits of the operational programmes in metropolitan France and 15% of two of the four overseas programmes.
- **Technical support activities** (studies, evaluation, guides, etc.) which on the contrary are chiefly predominant in the «technical assistance» aspects of the regional programmes. Regarding the Europ'Act programme, although these activities are less represented than the first ones they nevertheless account for more than 46% of the programmed credits.

A «technical assistance» budgetary envelope is also provided as part of the **ESF programming**, totalling €108.6 million. **Technical support** activities also dominated here (88% of the ESF technical assistance credits for the competitiveness objective and 78% for the convergence objective).

The objective of the **Europ'Act** national technical assistance programme is to ensure a more effective implementation of the cohesion policy through the coordination and strategic management of operational programmes, support for stakeholders concerned by the management and organisation of European funds, in addition to communication and publicity concerning this policy, its priorities and its results. The programme covers the three objectives («regional competitiveness and employment», «convergence», «European territorial cooperation»). In all, 80% of the activities are initiated and proposed at a national level, and 89% of the projects are put forward by public bodies.

Examples of activities :

Financed as part of the Europ'Act programme, the «DISCOVER the European programmes» and «PREPARE the 2014-2020 generation of European programmes» collections seek to provide the various key players involved in the European cohesion policy in France with ideas aimed at reinforcing and improving the monitoring and management of the European programmes.



APPENDIX 1: REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE ERDF AND ESF PROGRAMMING FOR THE «REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES

REGION/programme	ERDF		ESF		TOTAL	
	Number of projets	EU total	Number of projets	EU total	Number of projets	EU total
ALSACE	587	74.35	1 643	128.99	2 230	203.34
AQUITAINE	1 348	377.30	3 043	198.97	4 391	576.27
AUVERGNE	1 442	233.32	1 856	105.14	3 298	338.47
BASSE-NORMANDIE	807	173.72	1 670	102.50	2 477	276.23
BOURGOGNE	1 252	175.55	2 380	109.47	3 632	285.02
BRETAGNE	712	262.48	3 199	190.08	3 911	452.56
CENTRE	1 565	212.37	1 901	137.82	3 466	350.19
CHAMPAGNE-ARDENNE	1 211	178.53	1 252	75.49	2 463	254.02
CORSE	782	157.75	509	21.69	1 291	179.44
FRANCHE-COMTE	752	141.20	1 721	85.80	2 473	227.00
GUADELOUPE	702	360.54	720	197.74	1 422	558.28
GUYANE	573	296.20	601	96.02	1 174	392.22
HAUTE-NORMANDIE	606	206.91	2 828	196.27	3 434	403.18
ILE-DE-FRANCE	585	142.72	7 854	543.44	8 439	686.16
LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON	1 962	237.17	3 118	155.68	5 080	392.84
LIMOUSIN	1 294	108.74	1 113	51.34	2 407	160.09
LORRAINE	1 643	291.99	2 386	128.74	4 029	420.74
MARTINIQUE	896	384.90	654	108.58	1 550	493.48
MIDI-PYRENEES	2 656	432.68	4 847	194.31	7 503	626.99
NORD-PAS-DE-CALAIS	1 943	656.53	5 521	487.71	7 464	1 144.24
PAYS DE LA LOIRE	1 256	291.13	2 751	251.22	4 007	542.34
PICARDIE	969	198.41	2 239	133.54	3 208	331.95
POITOU-CHARENTES	1 509	187.17	2 476	129.83	3 985	317.00
PROVENCE-ALPES-COTE D'AZUR	1 741	328.99	2 986	295.48	4 727	624.47
REUNION	1 414	608.81	795	538.57	2 209	1 147.37
RHONE-ALPES	1 848	360.53	4 308	362.84	6 156	723.37
National part of the ESF	-	-	731	756.88	731	756.88
Europ'Act Programme	229	366.79	-	-	229	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	32 284	7 080.00	65 102	5 784.15	97 386	12 864.15

In all, the 2007-2013 programming period for the European funds made it possible to support almost 100,000 projects, including 32,284 for the ERDF and 65,102 40 for the ESF.

APPENDIX 2: THEMATIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2020

For the new 2014-2020 programming period, the European funds will be deployed based on 11 thematic objectives defined in the rules. These include a list of priorities from which each French region chooses its own according to the specific local requirements.

TO1 : Research, technological development and innovation
TO2 : ICT (access, use and quality)
TO3 : The competitiveness of SMEs
TO4 : The transition to a low carbon footprint economy
TO5 : Climatic change and risk prevention and management
TO6 : The environment

TO7 : Transport
TO8 : Employment and mobility
TO9 : Social inclusion and the fight against poverty and discrimination
TO10 : Education and lifelong learning
TO11 : Institutional capacities

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (RTD), INNOVATION AND AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT



As a key aspect of the 2007-2013 programme, the field of «research, technological development, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit» is a priority theme in the use of the ERDF. Among other things this covers the financing of RTD activities in research centres, infrastructure, technology transfers or activities to aid SMEs.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



«Although the use of these products (plant health products) provides benefits for agriculture, it can nevertheless have a negative effect on human health and the environment»
Pr. Philippe Jacques, ProBioGEM, Lille 1 University, PHYTOBIO project coordinator

«PHYTOBIO” - The development and promotion of new plant health products to combat plant diseases by organic means



France-Wallonia-Flanders



Lille 1 University



€947,788 ERDF



2009-2014

The project brings together various research teams from France, Flanders and Wallonia who are developing and studying new biomolecules. Whether for organic farming or conventional agriculture, the quest for new and environmentally friendly means to combat plant diseases, has become a priority. The partners in the project have chosen to place the priority on achieving a more sustainable form of agriculture. To do so, they discover and produce new biopesticides and/or plant defence enhancers and encourage their use by both farmers and private individuals. The resulting benefits for the population are considerable in terms of employment, health and well-being.

Help with setting up personal assistance services in the Cronenbourg district



Alsace



Ténor SARL



€8,800 ERDF



2012

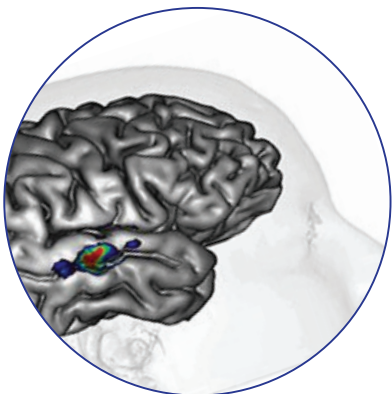
This project seeks to support movable and fixed asset investments in companies located in sensitive districts of Alsace's urban areas. By proposing personal assistance services in sensitive areas provided by personnel from these same districts, the limited company Tenor SARL is fulfilling a twofold objective by providing support for economic development in sensitive urban areas and helping to improve autonomy and independence for elderly, dependent and/or disabled people.



«Our company is six years old and we are very pleased to announce that our turnover is rising by 30 to 50% each year.»

Mohamed Faress, manager of Ténor SARL

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Creation of the Institut des Neurosciences de la Timone in Marseille



Provence-Alpes-Côte-D'azur



Université de la Méditerranée



€764,379 ERDF

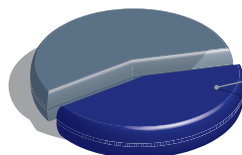


2009

«Support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was decisive to quickly finance the shared-access technology platforms» Guillaume MASSON, Research Manager at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

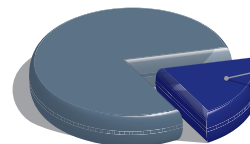
This project to set up the Institut des Neurosciences de la Timone in Marseille seeks to establish a neuroscience research cluster in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (the Provence-Alps Riviera area), making it possible to pool the resources of existing laboratories. This organisation includes approximately 200 people in a neuroscience research cluster, the key goals of which are to understand the workings of the brain, action affecting the brain and stimulation of the brain's operation.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



44 %
€ 2 362.4 M

Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Research and technological development, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit"



20 %
€ 318.8 M

Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Research and technological development, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit"

The ERDF jointly financed 12,857 projects on this theme, i.e. approximately 1,800 projects each year. On average, an RTD, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit project required just over €208,000 ERDF. Support for companies featured highly among these projects, as did support for innovation and the knowledge-based economy.

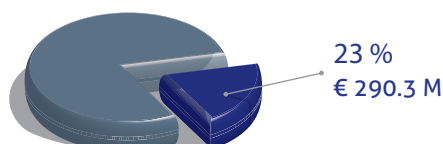
The «research, technological development, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» theme is the one most frequently programmed in metropolitan France, representing almost 44% of the programmed ERDF funds, i.e. more than €2.3 billion ERDF.

It should be noted that the programmed ERDF funds are less concentrated in outermost regions where the theme represents 20% of the ERDF budgetary envelope, i.e. €340 million. It is the second most highly programmed theme after the «environment» theme.

In metropolitan France, the ERDF mainly supported RTD infrastructure (equipment and facilities, instrumentation, high-speed IT networks between research centres, etc.) and specific technical skill centres in addition to RDT activities (almost €1 billion ERDF in total). On the other hand, in the OMR, actions related to this theme were focused on other types of investments in companies (business areas, starter units, bridging buildings, etc.) to a total of €155 million ERDF (i.e. almost 50% of the theme).



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the Europe territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "Research and technological development, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit"

With 368 projects performed during the 2007-2013 programming period, the «research and technological development, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» theme was the most significant in terms of projects accomplished with regard to the ETC objective. It accounts for 20% of all of these projects.

The cross-border and transnational programmes respectively accounted for 40% and 38% of these projects, while the percentage of projects performed under this theme by pan-European programmes was approximately 10%. This theme is in first place in terms of the financial sums involved (21.25% of the total ERDF for ETC), i.e. more than €290 million. It accounted for approximately 25% of the total budgetary envelope programmed for transnational programmes and 24% for cross-border programmes, and for the pan-European INTERREG IVC programme.

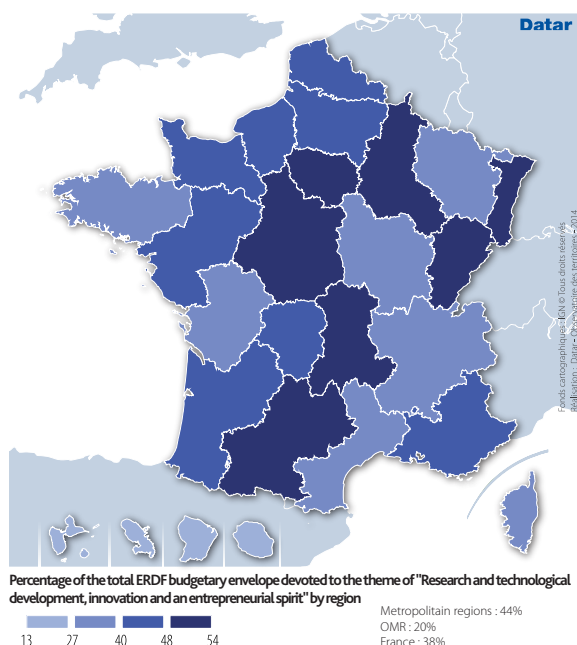
However, this last fact should be considered in light of the circumstances, as in terms of the total programmed sum this theme is in second place for this programme, unlike certain cross-border programmes (Two Seas and France-Wallonia-Flanders) and transnational programmes (Northwestern Europe) for which this theme is in third place.

One should note greater support from the ERDF for transnational programmes for an average sum of €1.1 million compared to €850,000 per cross-border project. In comparison, the projects of the INTERREG IVC programme benefited from €114,000 of ERDF funds for this theme.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	1.76	2
Deux Mers	24.61	15
France (Manche) – England	35.83	28
France-Switzerland	6.25	26
France-Wallonia-Flanders	25.37	41
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	14.83	18
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	15.92	18
Cross-border subtotal	124.56	147
Atlantic Area	36.43	41
Northwestern Europe	36.80	17
Mediterranean (MED)	35.39	32
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	46.15	52
Transnational subtotal	154.77	142
Indian Ocean	6.53	40
Combined subtotal	6.53	40
INTERREG IVC	4.44	39
Pan-European subtotal	4.44	39
OVERALL TOTAL	293.12	368



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In metropolitan France, this theme accounted for more than 50% of the ERDF programming for four regions: Alsace (51%), Centre (54%), Ile de France (51%) and Midi-Pyrenees (52%). More particularly, in the Midi-Pyrenees region (where the ERDF had one of the largest budgetary envelopes for the programming period) a total of 1,089 projects were financed under this theme, for total ERDF funding of approximately €226 million.

In the OMR, more than 26% of the ERDF budgetary envelope for Guiana was focused on the theme of «RTD, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» for a total of €75.37 million. In this region, this theme was the one attracting the most ERDF credits. Although in Reunion €105.86 million were programmed for the theme of «RTD, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit», this sum accounted for 20% of the total budgetary envelope for this region.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	38.04	328
Aquitaine	168.95	515
Auvergne	95.66	717
Basse-Normandie	82.29	371
Bourgogne	61.36	448
Bretagne	80.74	302
Centre	98.35	762
Champagne-Ardenne	88.02	603
Corse	57.59	107
Franche-Comté	68.15	278
Guadeloupe	81.80	295
Guyane	75.37	226
Haute-Normandie	99.04	347
Ile-de-France	73.59	370
Languedoc-Roussillon	94.75	565
Limousin	50.84	522
Lorraine	108.35	796
Martinique	50.89	201
Midi-Pyrénées	226.91	1089
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	276.62	1022
Pays de la Loire	125.02	247
Picardie	90.20	349
Poitou-Charentes	68.36	439
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	140.73	804
Réunion	105.86	597
Rhône-Alpes	131.36	569

In all, In all, the «research, development, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» theme was the most highly programmed for the period, accounting for 38% of the programmed budgetary envelope under the «Competitiveness» and «Convergence» objectives.

AND AFTERWARDS...

As part of the 2014-2020 programming phase, the challenges concerning small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be taken into account in thematic objective 3 (TO3) (improving the competitiveness of SMEs) while thematic objective 1 (TO1) will be focused on «research, technological development and innovation». The emphasis placed on these themes during the 2007-2013 period will be even greater during the new programming period. Indeed, European rules require that a minimum of 60 to 80% (according to the category of regions concerned) of the ERDF budgetary envelope must be deployed for four themes, among which the two above-mentioned themes are included.

THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The «information society» theme is a priority theme for the ERDF. The ESF is involved in this theme in a number of highly specific projects, on an as-needs basis. With its multidisciplinary nature, this theme plays something of a leverage role concerning development, and actively contributes to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. For this reason, the ERDF is involved in the following areas: financing high-speed and very high speed broadband networks, access to information and communication technology, support for services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-administration, e-education) and companies (organisation of the digital sector, take-up of tools and resources by the companies comprising the industrial fabric in the various areas of activity).



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Sustainable mobility information network for the Alpine area – AlpInfoNet

 Alpine region



Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Infrastructure, Transport and
Technology of Bavaria

 €2,278,376 ERDF



2012-2015


More and more tourists are keen to travel in Europe without using their car. They need reliable information about the available transport solutions and the mobility possibilities once they have arrived at their destination. The «AlpInfoNet network» seeks to supply travellers with information about sustainable transport methods beyond the regional and national borders. With the support of the Alpine Convention, the Austrian, French, German, Italian and Slovenian partners are working on defining needs and solutions to be provided to ensure that a network providing information about sustainable mobility solutions in the Alpine area can be launched, making it possible to improve and link existing transport and tourism information systems.

Encouraging access to the Internet throughout the whole Côtes d'Armor area

 Bretagne



Conseil général des Côtes d'Armor

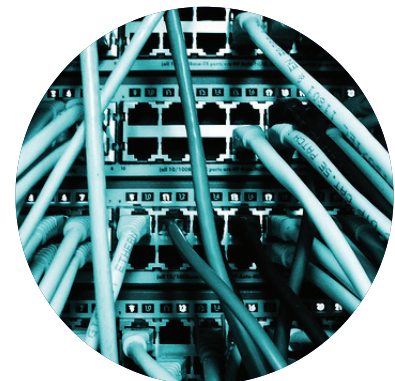
 €5,990,000 ERDF



2012

This project seeks to extend high-speed broadband to the whole of the département of the Côtes d'Armor with the aim of reducing the digital divide. To do so, it has set itself the following objectives:

- Covering areas which are not served with high-speed broadband (blank signal reception spots) and promoting Internet access throughout the whole territory;
- Setting up local loops (the part of the line connecting the operator to the user) in the urban areas of Saint-Brieuc and Lannion to supply the main public services and business areas;
- And finally to guarantee a collection infrastructure throughout the whole territory which is accessible on an equitable basis.



1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



«At the Beaumont-le-Roger school, a total of 30,000 connections were recorded between October 2012 and June 2013” Nathanaelle Guillermin, Conseil général de l’Eure.

Development, implementation and deployment, of a Digital Work Space for schools in the département of the Eure



Haute-Normandie



Conseil général de l’Eure



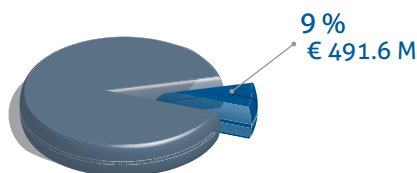
452 578 € FEDER



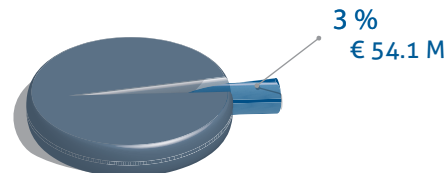
2012

This project allowed for the deployment of a **Digital Work Space (DWS)** within the 56 junior schools of the département of the Eure. In practical terms, this is a kind of portal which can be configured with a range of resources including a diary/calendar, message board, address book, e-mail, in addition to documentary and educational resources. The main advantage of this DWS is that it can be designed as a custom tool, and each school is therefore free to make its own choices concerning the educational content, enabling it to fully exploit this platform to the full. What’s more, the DWS requires no special technical skills and is accessible to all.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "The information society"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "The information society"

The ESF was involved in 84 projects financed as part of the national part of the ESF programme for an average sum per project of approximately €60,000 of ESF funding.

For the ERDF, in all more than 2,400 projects were implemented in the information society field, i.e. approximately 340 projects per year. Most of these projects were performed **in metropolitan France**: almost 2,300 projects for which the contribution from the European Union (ERDF) was between €4,000 and €7 million (particularly for telephony infrastructure projects).

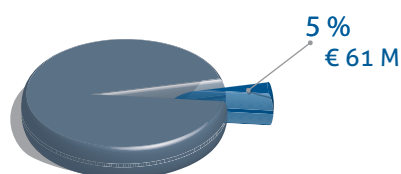
In **metropolitan France**, 9% of the programmed credits went to supporting projects in the information society field, i.e. a total of €491.6 million ERDF. In the **outermost regions**, this theme only represented 3% of the total ERDF programmed sums, i.e. a total of €54.1 million.

For the 2007-2013 period, the ESF’s involvement in the information society field was limited to €4.88 million (as part of the ESF’s national aspect) with this theme not being a priority for this fund.

Generally, most of the investments supported action to develop services and applications for citizens (€141.7 million) or the deployment of telephony infrastructure (€118 million).



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "The information society"

Over the 2007-2013 programming period, 5% of the ERDF budgetary envelope programmed for the ETC objective was made available for this theme (i.e. €61 million). A total of 82 projects were performed with the aim of advancing the information society, including 37 through transnational projects, i.e. approximately 45% of the total number of projects deployed for this theme.

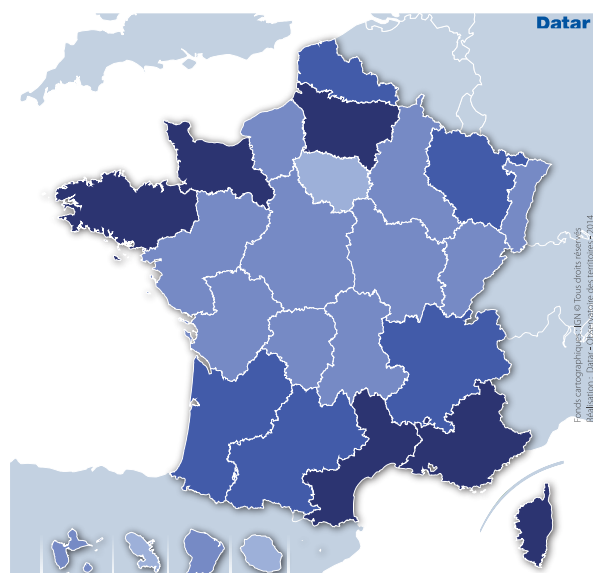
The transnational dimension of this theme is justified in view of the wide geographical perimeters for programmes of this type, requiring among other things greater interconnection. Indeed, the establishment of cooperation networks, which is a common objective of the transnational programmes, can be made a reality thanks to the deployment of projects concerning information and communication technology. Cross-border and interregional programmes also play a major role in the development of the information society. The INTERREG IV C in particular devoted more than 11% of its budgetary envelope to projects in this field. This theme was chosen by all of the cooperation projects studied.

The average support provided by the ERDF per project for this theme was approximately €744,000. This sum is higher for the transnational programmes (€1 million per project). On the other hand, it is relatively low for the pan-European INTERREG IVC programme (€145,000).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	0.75	1
Deux Mers	4.28	4
France (Manche) – England	3.03	4
France-Switzerland	3.06	1
France-Wallonia-Flanders	0.28	5
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	2.78	5
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	1.93	5
Cross-border subtotal	16.11	25
Atlantic Area	5.63	16
Northwestern Europe	18.12	8
Mediterranean (MED)	5.40	3
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	7.86	10
Transnational subtotal	37.02	37
Indian Ocean	5.55	4
Combined subtotal	5.55	4
INTERREG IVC	2.33	16
Pan-European subtotal	2.90	16
OVERALL TOTAL	61.02	82



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



Percentage of the total ERDF budgetary envelope devoted to the theme of "The information society" by region



Metropolitan regions : 9%
OMR : 3%
France : 8%

Source : Infocentre PRESAGE, 2014

In metropolitan France, on average this theme represented 9% of the regional programming (ERDF sums). Eight programmes devoted more than 10% of their investments to the information society. In Corsica for example, almost 18% of the regional ERDF budgetary envelope was used to support actions in the information society field, totalling €28 million ERDF.

In the OMR, a very low percentage of each regional budgetary envelope was devoted to this theme (3% on average). It was in Guadeloupe that the highest percentage of the budgetary envelope was used for the information society field (5.7% for a total of approximately €20 million ERDF).

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projets programmed for the theme
Alsace	4.67	10
Aquitaine	39.27	58
Auvergne	14.03	123
Basse-Normandie	22.84	76
Bourgogne	13.43	36
Bretagne	29.93	31
Centre	11.46	145
Champagne-Ardenne	8.38	66
Corse	28.02	285
Franche-Comté	7.29	43
Guadeloupe	20.69	25
Guyane	15.57	20
Haute-Normandie	9.30	32
Ile-de-France	3.38	20
Languedoc-Roussillon	30.10	139
Limousin	5.33	48
Lorraine	27.98	96
Martinique	13.68	42
Midi-Pyrénées	35.49	265
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	54.84	178
Pays de la Loire	16.37	120
Picardie	24.72	88
Poitou-Charentes	13.49	89
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	40.03	227
Réunion	4.18	48
Rhône-Alpes	33.66	178

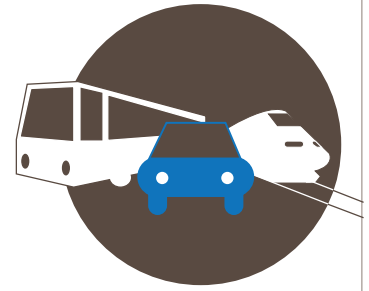
AND AFTERWARDS...

For the 2014-2020 period, the challenges related to information and communication technology will be included as part of thematic objective 2 (TO2) «improving the access to, use of and quality of information and communication technology».

This objective is one of the fields covered by European rules which require that a minimum of 60 to 80% (according to the category of regions concerned) of the ERDF budgetary envelope must be mobilised for four themes.

TRANSPORT

Numerous actions under the «transport» theme were supported by the ERDF during the 2007-2013 period. The fields covered do not fall within the scope of the ESF. Financing issued under this theme chiefly concerned rail transport, urban transport, cycling trails, ports or airports in addition to multimodal transport.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



«The key objective of the project is to facilitate travelling by public transport through the regions of the Atlantic Area in order to be more environmentally friendly» Mark Dowd, Chairman of Merseytravel.

START-Connecting



Atlantic Area



Merseytravel – United Kingdom



€4,840,911 ERDF



2009-2011

START is the acronym for Seamless Travel across the Atlantic area Regions using sustainable Transport. The main aim of the project is to facilitate trips using collective transport methods across the regions of the Atlantic Area, in an environmentally friendly manner. This involves greater intermodality and clearer information at the entry points to the various regions (airports, ports and rail hubs). A total of 14 partners from the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal initiated the START project. They are seeking to develop a wider transnational network including other local and regional authorities in addition to other organisations to guarantee enhanced accessibility to the different regions.

Extension of line A of the tram system for the Clermont Ferrand urban area as far as the Vergnes district.



Auvergne



Syndicat Mixte des Transports en Commun de l'Agglomération Clermontoise



€3,000,000 ERDF



2011

This project includes the extension of Line A of the tram system from the Champratel district to the Vergnes district. Covering a distance of 1.7 km, this extension to the tram line has opened up the northern part of Clermont-Ferrand in line with the principles of sustainable development. The northern suburbs now have direct access to the city centre by means of a clean public transport system. This work on the tram system is accompanying the urban regeneration work in Champratel and Les Vergnes and will be serving the district of La Plaine. These districts will also benefit from added economic and commercial dynamism with the addition of a business area. The extension of the line A will also provide improved access to facilities such as the Gabriel-Montpied stadium, the Flamina swimming pool and also the Institut des Métiers.



1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Adapting the infrastructure in the port of Cherbourg to the arrival of new industries



Basse-Normandie



Ports Normands Associés



€6,000,000 ERDF

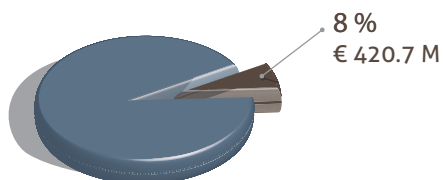


2012

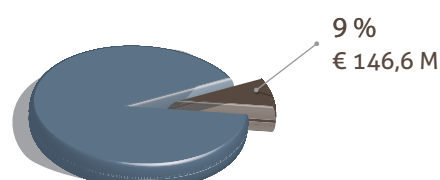
«The ERDF has significantly facilitated the upgrading of a strategic resource [extension of the Quai des flamands] for the siting and development of renewable marine energy, a promising new industry in Lower Normandy » Jean-Michel Sévin, General Manager of Ports Normands Associés.

The goal of this project is to extend the Quai des flamands with a view to expanding the port of Cherbourg. This extension is a necessity for the creation of an industrial port complex and the siting of wind farms which will eventually make it possible to create jobs. This extension contributes to the objectives of the Operational Programme to achieve an increase in freight traffic of 20% and to protect the future of the port community and its different trades which are towing, boatage, pilotage and handling.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the competitiveness objective devoted to the theme of "transport"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the convergence objective devoted to the theme of "transport"

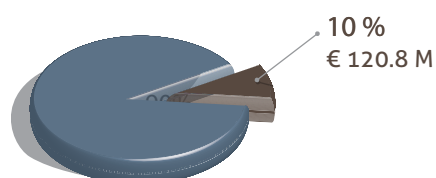
During the 2007-2013 programming period, 8% of the programmed ERDF credits in metropolitan France focused on the «transport» theme, i.e. a total of €420 million. We find an equivalent percentage in the outermost regions in which 9% of the ERDF credits were devoted to this theme with an investment of more than €146 million over the period.

586 projects were supported by the ERDF, i.e., 83 projects per year. Among these, 69 projects were carried out in the outermost regions, chiefly in Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guiana. Support from the European Union for these types of projects ranged from €9,000 (for urban transport projects, with a total cost of €20,000) to €10 million (particularly for rail transport projects with a total cost of €58 million)

Generally speaking, we are seeing the intensive use of ERDF credits for multimodal transport, with almost €120 million of ERDF funds programmed for the competitiveness objective and €70 million of ERDF funds for the convergence objective. Furthermore, the ERDF was used for projects concerning airport infrastructure, up to a total of €22.16 million: this was the case in the outermost regions, particularly in Guadeloupe, where €9 million were provided for such projects. These investments are in line with the specific requirements of the OMR. In the regions of metropolitan France, the ERDF was not used for airport projects. On the other hand, we find support for a number of projects concerning the creation of cycle trails (22 projects totalling €3.5 million) in the Champagne-Ardenne and Pays de la Loire regions for example.



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation devoted to the theme of "transport

During the 2007-2013 programming period, 76 projects were implemented via the ETC programmes where transport was concerned. With 36 and 33 projects respectively, the cross-border and transnational programmes account for almost 90% of these projects (particularly the Northwestern Europe, France-Switzerland and MED programmes).

This theme occupies third place in terms of total EU funds programmed (9.6% of the ERDF total ETC) i.e. more than €120 million. Transport projects attracted the highest average ERDF support per project (at €1.59 million) in comparison to all of the other themes (excluding technical assistance).

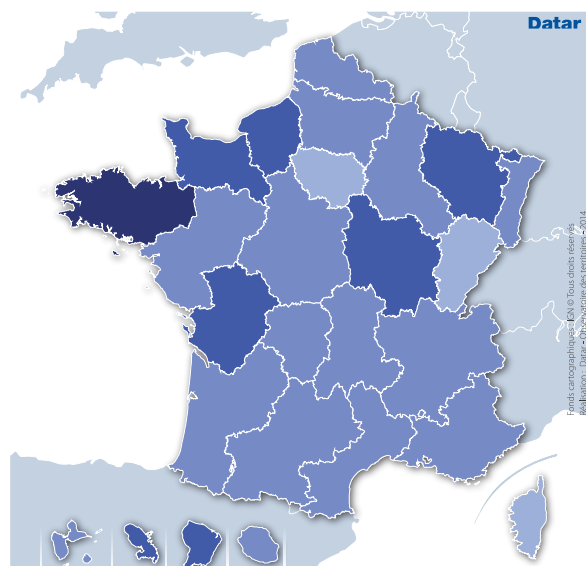
We should note even higher levels of support for transnational projects, which on average benefited from €2.55 million of ERDF funding per project, compared to €990,000 of ERDF funds on average per cross-border project. The total ERDF sum invested in pan-European projects (INTERREG IVC) in the transport field is relatively low (€107,000 of ERDF funding on average per project).

Finally, transport was the leading programming area for the **France-Switzerland programme** in terms of the amount of funding programmed (31.52%). This field is the second most highly funded theme for the **Northwestern Europe programme** (19.61% of the programmed budgetary envelope, particularly for multimodal transport projects) and for the **Upper Rhine programme** (16% of the programmed budgetary envelope, chiefly for cycle trail projects).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	0.25	2
Deux Mers	17.71	7
France (Manche) – England	-	-
France-Switzerland	8.10	16
France-Wallonia-Flanders	1.09	1
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	0.77	2
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	7.81	8
Cross-border subtotal	35.73	36
Atlantic Area	10.00	7
Northwestern Europe	54.39	15
Mediterranean (MED)	15.43	9
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	4.45	2
Transnational subtotal	84.27	33
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	-
INTERREG IVC	0.75	7
Pan-European subtotal	0.75	7
OVERALL TOTAL	120.76	76



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



Percentage of the total ERDF budgetary envelope devoted to the theme of "Transports" by region

0 1 9 20 32

Metropolitan regions : 8%
OMR : 9%
France : 8%

In metropolitan France, six regions devoted more than 10% of their budgetary envelope to «transport» projects (Lower Normandy, Burgundy, Brittany, Lorraine, Upper Normandy, Poitou-Charentes). In the Brittany region, a number of major projects accounted for 32% of the ERDF budgetary envelope for the region's programmes, totalling €83.8 million, concerning in particular rail transport projects, with the result that transport tops the list of ERDF programmes in Brittany. In some regions, this theme accounted for a much smaller percentage (Franche-Comté, Ile-de-France, Corsica). This is partly explained by European requirements to concentrate funds and the regions' wish to identify priority themes to maximise the leverage effect of the funds.

In the OMR, the «transport» theme featured highly in Martinique and Guiana which respectively programmed 20% and 12% of their ERDF budgetary envelope for this theme, i.e. more than €75 and €35 million of ERDF funds invested. In Reunion, this theme accounted for only 2% of the budgetary envelope, for the financing of port and airport infrastructure

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	3.90	11
Aquitaine	13.86	21
Auvergne	11.63	11
Basse-Normandie	21.55	17
Bourgogne	18.16	54
Bretagne	83.86	31
Centre	11.08	2
Champagne-Ardenne	9.49	34
Corse	1.42	4
Franche-Comté	-	-
Guadeloupe	26.92	20
Guyane	35.74	22
Haute-Normandie	27.93	17
Ile-de-France	-	-
Languedoc-Roussillon	4.10	3
Limousin	4.58	8
Lorraine	32.53	45
Martinique	75.37	25
Midi-Pyrénées	38.04	38
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	41.42	47
Pays de la Loire	24.60	46
Picardie	2.30	5
Poitou-Charentes	32.02	15
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	12.03	16
Réunion	8.54	4
Rhône-Alpes	21.62	93

AND AFTERWARDS...

During the 2014-2020 programming period, support for transport will partially be provided through thematic objective 7 (TO7), «promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in the main infrastructure network». This objective is not a priority in metropolitan France.

Furthermore, the field of sustainable urban transport will be covered by the scope of thematic objective 4 dedicated to the move to a low carbon economy.

ENERGY

The «energy» theme is only a priority for the ERDF and features highly as part of European Territorial Cooperation programmes. In the energy field, most of the projects which have been financed have focused on renewable energy (biomass and solar energy) and on energy efficiency through the thermal rehabilitation of social housing. This theme also covers the wind power and hydro-electric power sectors.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



ELIH-Med - Energy efficiency in low income homes in the Mediterranean region



Mediterranean programme (MED)



National Agency for New Technology, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, Latium (Italy)



€6,992,797 ERDF



2011-2014

ELIH-Med is a strategic project including partners from seven countries of the North Mediterranean who have worked together to improve energy efficiency and encourage energy savings in «low rent households» in the Mediterranean area. Focusing on this type of household is essential to meet the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, these households comprise between 30 and 40% of all Mediterranean households and the energy performance of these buildings is generally poor. They are not usually taken into account when drawing up energy efficiency policies and their occupants have only limited access to credit.

The installation of solar panels on the roof of the Rivière Salée sports centre



Martinique



Syndicat Mixte d'Electricité de la Martinique



€241,704 ERDF



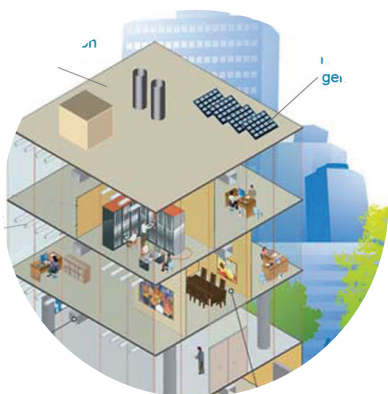
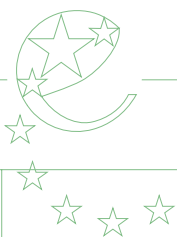
2009

The installation of 1,296 solar panels jointly financed by the ERDF on the roof of the Rivière Salée sports centre, has made it possible to limit greenhouse gas emissions and more than 100 homes are now supplied with clean energy. This project is not limited to just producing energy. It has also made it possible to create a genuine research laboratory for the Syndicat Mixte d'Electricité de la Martinique's teams. Among other things, for the first time ever it has been able to launch pilot studies into solar energy in tropical climates. The project therefore provides a better knowledge of solar energy as a resource to be able to plan and improve energy production, and to anticipate faults and breakdowns in the world's tropical regions.



«The joint-financing of the solar power infrastructure by the European funds has provided our research team with the perfect environment in which to carry out its studies» Laurent BELLEMARE, Syndicat Mixte d'Electricité de la Martinique.

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Retrofitting 53 low income homes for energy efficiency and establishment of the La Montagnette energy laboratory in Ugine (73)



 Rhône-Alpes

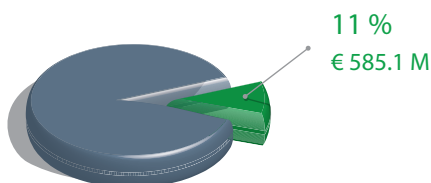
 OPH D'Ugine

 € 318 000 ERDF

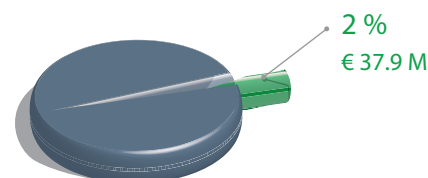
 2012

This energy-efficient retrofitting operation is an experimental scheme making it possible to test various energy-efficient retrofitting ideas on the same site, for detached homes, with a view to reaching BBC level (the BBC Effinergie Renovation label). It is also part of a larger energy laboratory project the purpose of which is to test performance and monitoring indicators. In addition to its coherence with energy efficiency and sustainable government objectives, the project also plays an evaluation role.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the competitiveness objective devoted to the theme of "Energy"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the convergence objective devoted to the theme of "Energy"

Over the 2007-2013 period, almost 5,000 projects were supported by the European Union in the energy field. In particular, we should mention a high level of interest in energy efficiency projects (accounting for more than 2,100 projects), with solar energy being strongly represented (more than 1,700 projects). On average, more than 750 projects per year are performed with the support of the European Union via ERDF, with an average total per project of €600,000 (total cost) of which 130,000 is funded by ERDF.

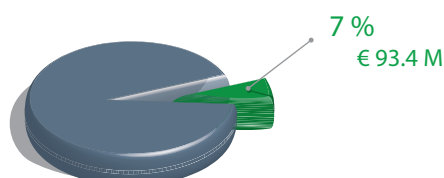
In metropolitan France, 4,670 projects were programmed in the energy field. Most of these projects concerned energy efficiency (2,069 projects). **In the outermost regions**, 228 projects were supported, most of which concerned renewable energy and particularly solar power (146 projects).

The percentage of the ERDF budgetary envelope devoted to the «energy» theme totalled 11% for the «competitiveness» objective, at €595 million, and 2% for the «convergence» objective with a total of €37.9 million invested.

In the outermost regions, just over €18 million were programmed for solar energy projects. Similarly, €15.5 million were devoted to energy efficiency projects.



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "Energy"

Between 2007-2013, 72 ETC projects were performed in the energy field. This theme had a particularly high «transnational» aspect to it: indeed, over half of the projects (more than 55%) were performed as part of transnational programmes, accounting for almost 12% of the «transnational» programming.

Promoting renewable energy and improving energy efficiency are strategic objectives of the Mediterranean programme: more than 20 % of the programmed budgetary envelope was deployed to these ends.

Among the cross-border programmes, the France (Manche) — England programme (9 projects) followed by the Upper Rhine programme (7 projects) accounted for most of the projects under this theme. Indeed, each of these programmes included a priority aspect specific to sustainable development, accounting for respectively 9% and 10% of their budgetary envelope in this area, i.e. €12.7 million and almost €5 million.

The average ERDF support per project was relatively high (€1.3 million). This support was higher for transnational projects (€1.80 million) compared to cross-border projects (€860,000) and pan-European projects (€186,000). The Northwestern Europe transnational programme, which received the largest ERDF contribution over the 2007-2013 period, benefited on average from €3.68 million of ERDF funds in the energy field. Furthermore, the energy theme is second-placed in the Mediterranean programme, (as a percentage of the programmed budgetary envelope) as a result of an explicit wish during the programming period to focus on strategic projects based around this theme.

Programmes	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	0.08	1
Deux Mers	0.60	2
France (Manche) – England	12.74	9
France-Switzerland	-	-
France-Wallonia-Flanders	0.35	2
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	1.18	2
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	4.86	7
Cross-border subtotal	19.81	23
Atlantic Area	5.98	8
Northwestern Europe	29.44	8
Mediterranean (MED)	30.71	16
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	5.77	8
Transnational subtotal	71.89	40
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	-
INTERREG IVC	1.67	9
Pan-European subtotal	1.67	9
OVERALL TOTAL	93.36	72



FOCUSING ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

In metropolitan France, energy efficiency projects accounted for more than €360 million, i.e. more than 60% of the ERDF sums programmed for the theme. This enthusiasm for energy efficiency is explained partly by the existence from the very beginning of the programming session of significant requirements in the regions for the renovation of social housing and secondly by changes in 2009 to European regulations¹ which in France resulted in an extension of eligibility for energy efficiency financing. In particular, the circular of June 22, 2009 from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Regional Planning on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the housing sector² specified the planned national framework. Thus, ERDF programming in this field multiplied fourfold from 2010 onwards, increasing from 14.3 to more than €64 million of ERDF funds programmed between 2009 and 2010.

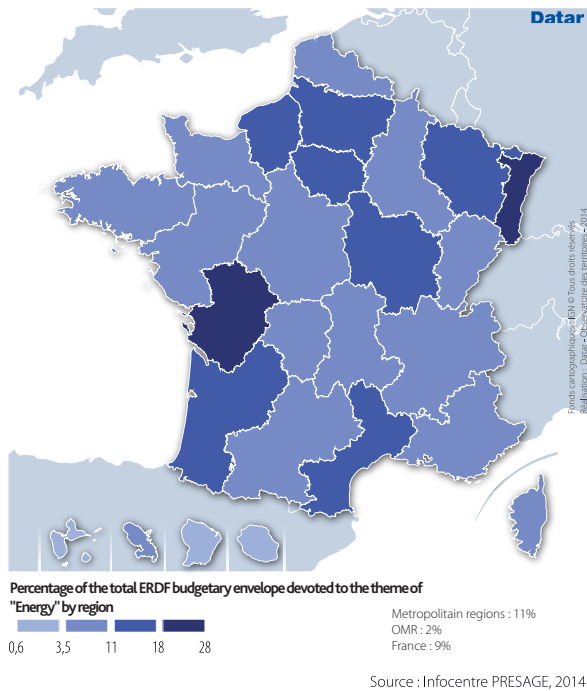
On July 31, 2012, seven operational programmes underwent configuration changes in the energy field, usually in relation to support for energy efficiency projects for social housing, which became eligible in 2009.

With regard to the use of ERDF funds in the energy efficiency field, the example of the Paris region is particularly noteworthy. In all, in 2012, 14 projects were programmed for a total eligible cost of €40.6 million of which €10 million came from ERDF. Out of the 14 projects, two concerned the upgrading of wood-fired boilers, distributing heat to homes with connection to a local school nearby. The estimated number of low income homes concerned by these 14 projects was 3,953, i.e. +263% compared to the original target of 1,500 homes. The breakdown of credits by département (county) reveals a high concentration in the département of Seine-Saint-Denis with 30.23% of programmed ERDF credits, followed by Seine et Marne (20.67%), Val d'Oise (17.30%), Val de Marne (14.47%) and Essonne (14.02%). This breakdown is explained in particular by the projects financed to improve energy efficiency in social housing, of which 23.42% are situated in Seine-Saint-Denis, 22.02% in Val d'Oise, 20.33% in Seine et Marne, 19.86% in Val de Marne and 14.37% in Essonne.

1. RULE (EC) No 397/2009 FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL of May 6, 2009 modifying rule (EC) no. 1080/2006 concerning the European Regional Development Fund regarding the eligibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in the housing sector.

2. Circular from the Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning on June 22, 2009 concerning the implementation of operations relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy in the housing sector.

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In **two regions of metropolitan France**, more than 20% of the regional ERDF budgetary envelope was devoted to the «Energy» theme (in Alsace, totalling €15.4 million and in the Provence Alps Riviera area totalling €28.3 million). This is higher than the national average of 13% of the ERDF budgetary envelope for each region devoted to this theme, for a total programmed sum of €633 million.

In the **OMR**, the energy theme was not very highly represented, accounting for less than 5% of each programme in this area. In Martinique and Réunion, €17 and €15 million were devoted to this theme. In the first region, the purpose of the investments was to meet energy efficiency requirements (€12.5 million) whereas in Réunion the focus was on solar energy (€13 million).

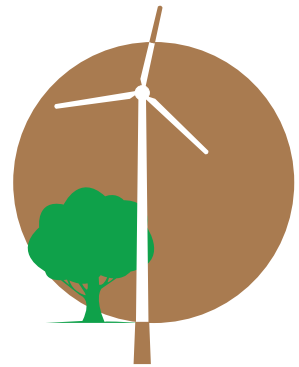
Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	15.41	148
Aquitaine	50.99	215
Auvergne	20.07	162
Basse-Normandie	18.13	132
Bourgogne	30.11	328
Bretagne	20.67	176
Centre	11.09	72
Champagne-Ardenne	15.18	68
Corse	15.89	116
Franche-Comté	12.12	103
Guadeloupe	2.42	11
Guyane	3.40	12
Haute-Normandie	24.61	73
Ile-de-France	18.72	54
Languedoc-Roussillon	29.90	469
Limousin	4.78	103
Lorraine	37.86	283
Martinique	16.84	64
Midi-Pyrénées	29.22	305
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	57.20	289
Pays de la Loire	26.65	498
Picardie	32.87	95
Poitou-Charentes	53.90	704
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	26.80	172
Réunion	15.21	142
Rhône-Alpes	29.68	107

AND AFTERWARDS...

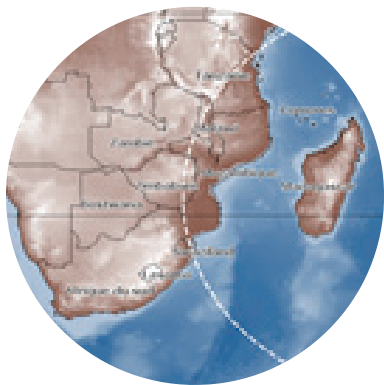
Energy will be central to the 2014-2020 programming session. Indeed, thematic objective 4 (TO4) will be focusing on «supporting the move to a low carbon economy in all sectors». With this in mind, actions designed to reduce energy consumption and to increase the percentage of renewable energy may be introduced. These actions will also be reinforced through the regulatory obligations incumbent upon the member states to devote between 12 and 20% (according to the category of region concerned) of their ERDF budgetary envelope to this thematic objective.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND RISK PREVENTION

The environmental theme occupied a major place in the 2007-2013 programming and was a priority for the ERDF. This is also a theme which is frequently encountered in European Territorial Cooperation programmes. This theme, which covers both biodiversity-related activities or risk prevention and the promotion of clean urban public transport systems is the main starting point for the regions in their approach to regional sustainable development policies, a major priority for the cohesion policy. Other fields such as waste management, the regeneration of industrial sites or water quality (the management and distribution of drinking water, the processing of waste water, etc.) are also covered by this theme.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Satellite-assisted remote detection station for environmental monitoring in the Indian Ocean (the SEAS-OI project)

 Indian Ocean

 l'Université de La Réunion, la Région Réunion et l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)


 €5,200,000 ERDF

 2008-2013

This project involves installing a station handling the reception and processing of high-resolution satellite images at the Institut Universitaire de Technologie site in Saint-Pierre. This station will enable researchers to access an image analysis, remote detection and spatial analysis platform free of charge. The SEAS-OI project opens up new perspectives in the field of high spatial resolution, particularly as a decision-making tool and an aid to the management of land and ocean areas in the Indian Ocean. This is a collective tool used by the whole region to contribute to sustainable co-development in the Indian Ocean islands.

The Marine Turtle Network

 Guadeloupe

 Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage

 €64,624 ERDF

 2009

The goal of the project is to gain a better understanding of and protect marine turtles and to preserve their environment. For this it is necessary to improve our knowledge of the species and its lifestyle. A number of actions have been carried out with this in mind including: work to monitor the development of the species, thanks to an examination of dead or injured animals and in-depth scientific studies, one focusing on genetics and the other on laying. These latter studies were carried out thanks to the «Marine Turtle Network» which includes all stakeholders who may potentially contribute to saving turtles (diving clubs, scientists, etc.). The project also includes an awareness building aspect, with volunteers working directly with the general public to promote awareness of the impact of human activities upon the conservation of the species



«With the Marine Turtle Network, the ONCFS, has developed a varied range of activities including monitoring turtle numbers on the beaches and feeding grounds and building public awareness»
Eric DELCROIX - ONCFS Guadeloupe, «Marine turtles» project manager.

1. Thematic overview of december 31 2013



«Initially protecting the natural environment by having it included among the département's assets» Christine Jacques - Heritage and land acquisitions Department, Planning and education department for the President of the Conseil Général (delegated)

The acquisition of Natura 2000 sites by the district of Ecuras



Poitou-Charentes



Council general of Charente



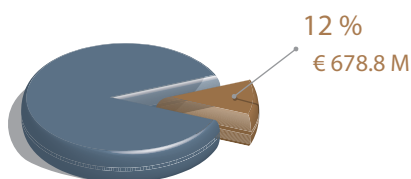
€3,750 ERDF



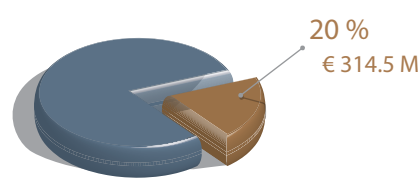
2009

The Chambon outdoor recreation centre seeks to promote, supervise, organise, teach and run open air sports activities in harmony with the natural environment. For its part, the Natura 2000 label has the twofold aim of protecting biological diversity and the local environment. The Conseil general de Charente (Charente General Council) was keen to acquire plots of land both to protect sensitive environments as Natura 2000 areas and to improve the centre's tourism potential while at the same time respecting biodiversity. The land management of this site will enable the département to conserve and protect it in a manner which is respectful of its biodiversity and to prevent a return to commercial forestry.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the competitiveness objective devoted to the theme of "The Environment and risk prevention"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the convergence objective devoted to the theme of "The Environment and risk prevention"

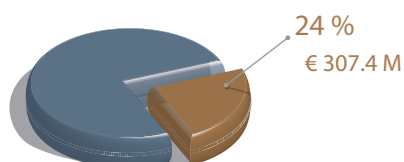
Between 2007 and 2013 more than 5,800 projects were supported by the European Union via the ERDF on this theme, i.e. an average of more than 828 projects per year, with European financing ranging from €4,000 to €10 million. Where the projects are concerned, the promotion of biodiversity emerged as a priority **metropolitan France** with 2,342 projects in this field. Risk prevention was also significantly represented, with a total of 1,014 projects completed.

In the outermost regions, environmental investments chiefly focused on waste management (151 projects) and water treatment (115 projects). These two fields represent specific challenges for the outermost regions: although 99% of the French population in metropolitan France are connected to drinking water supplies, around 5% are not connected in the Antilles, and 15% in Guiana. Additionally, the OMR suffer from a lack of waste management facilities and their performance where recycling is concerned trails behind that of metropolitan France: in 2012, 62% of household and similar waste was sent to storage centres, compared to 27% nationally.

In metropolitan France, the «environment and risk prevention» theme accounted for 12% of the total ERDF programming, i.e. €678 million. The projects supported were chiefly those to promote biodiversity (approx. €197 million ERDF) and clean urban transport systems (€164.3 million ERDF). Risk prevention was also a priority in many metropolitan regions and €130 million ERDF were invested in projects in this field.

In the outermost regions, 20% of the ERDF programming was focused on this theme, totalling €314.5 million. The main priority was the treatment of waste water with €174 million ERDF programmed, i.e. more than 50% of the funds allocated to the environmental theme. Making this a priority made it possible among other things for these regions to ensure their compliance with the European directive on urban waste water.

THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "The Environment and risk prevention"

«The environment and risk prevention» is a cross-cutting theme within the European territorial cooperation programmes.

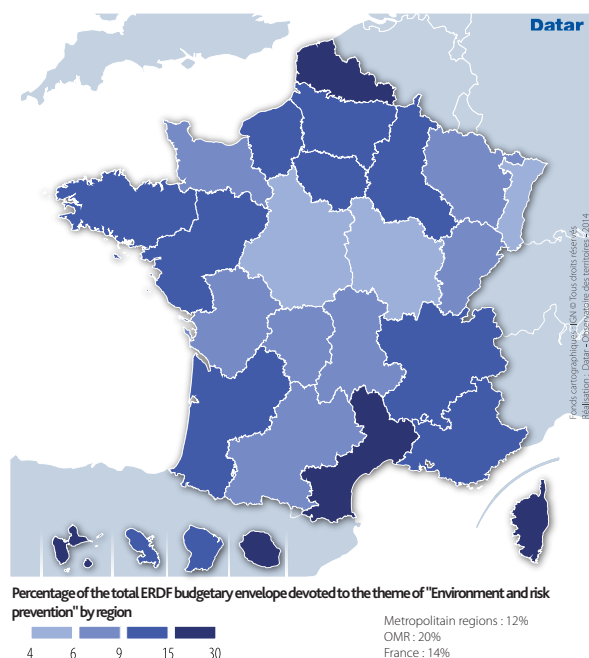
This was the **second most highly represented theme in terms of European Territorial Cooperation projects during the 2007-2013 period**, and accounted for 18% of all of the ETC projects implemented. The programmes having implemented the largest number of projects under this theme are the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme (39 projects) and INTERREG IVC (35 projects). The environment & risk prevention is one of the two specific priorities of the INTERREG IVC programme.

This theme is in **first place in terms of programmed EU funds** (24% of the total ERDF ETC funds) i.e. more than €307 million. In particular, it represents 20% of the total programmed budgetary envelope for cross-border programmes, 28% of the «transnational» programming and 30% of the credits deployed by the INTERREG IVC programme. We should note greater support from the ERDF for transnational projects, which benefited on average from €1.94 million of ERDF funding, in comparison to an average of €1.05 million of ERDF funding for each cross-border project. By comparison, the INTERREG IVC and Indian Ocean projects programmed for this theme benefited from average European support per project of €174,000 and €510,000 respectively. The Amazonia project is the only one for which the «Environment and risk prevention» theme is not among the three leading themes (as a percentage of the programmed budgetary envelope).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	1.32	3
Deux Mers	25.42	18
France (Manche) – England	39.24	22
France-Switzerland	3.59	7
France-Wallonia-Flanders	28.99	39
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	14.76	15
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	5.08	8
Cross-border subtotal	118.41	112
Atlantic Area	18.38	25
Northwestern Europe	110.87	26
Mediterranean (MED)	27.13	19
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	20.34	21
Transnational subtotal	176.72	91
Indian Ocean	6.12	12
Combined subtotal	6.12	12
INTERREG IVC	6.12	35
Pan-European subtotal	6.12	35
OVERALL TOTAL	307.37	250



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In metropolitan France, two regions devoted more than 20% of their budgetary envelope to environmental projects: in Corsica, €39.78 million of ERDF funding was focused on this theme, i.e. more than 25% of the ERDF budgetary envelope for the programme. Similarly, in Languedoc-Roussillon, €55.2 million ERDF were made available for the theme, i.e. more than 23% of the ERDF budgetary envelope. In Corsica, the project benefited from a larger average allocation per project (€227,300 of ERDF funding) compared to €81,582 in Languedoc Roussillon.

In the OMR, at least 10% of each budgetary envelope was devoted to the theme. More particularly, 30% of the ERDF budgetary envelope for Guadeloupe and 22% of that for Réunion were programmed for the environmental theme, for respective total amounts of €109 and €117 million ERDF. In both of these regions, the priority was water management and treatment (€75 million in Guadeloupe; €96.6 million in Réunion). In Réunion, the focus was also on risk prevention (accounting for more than €15 million ERDF) while in Guadeloupe, the focus was more on waste management (at more than €28 million).

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	3.01	50
Aquitaine		331
Auvergne	14.88	158
Basse-Normandie	10.51	124
Bourgogne	9.55	174
Bretagne	36.48	112
Centre	6.72	272
Champagne-Ardenne	24.07	266
Corse	39.78	175
Franche-Comté	12.67	115
Guadeloupe	109.96	150
Guyane	35.80	91
Haute-Normandie	31.14	78
Ile-de-France	18.42	39
Languedoc-Roussillon	55.23	677
Limousin	8.48	273
Lorraine	19.19	135
Martinique	51.96	167
Midi-Pyrénées	38.47	722
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	125.09	355
Pays de La Loire	31.79	168
Picardie	22.89	240
Poitou-Charentes	16.41	230
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	41.90	235
Réunion	116.77	111
Rhône-Alpes	39.32	366

AND AFTERWARDS...

For the 2014-2020 period, the promotion and protection of the environment is separate from the prevention and management of risks. Two thematic objectives feature among the European rules:

Thematic objective 5 (TO5): «Encouraging the adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management». As part of this objective, actions to encourage adaptation to climate change and actions aimed at guaranteeing resistance to disasters and the development of systems to manage disaster situations will be supported». Thematic objective 6 (TO6): «Preserving and protecting the environment and encouraging the rational use of resources». Where the environment is concerned, actions in the waste and water fields may be carried out. This thematic objective also covers protection of natural and cultural heritage sites, the protection and restoration of biodiversity and improvements to the urban environment.

TOURISM

The tourism field particularly concerns the protection and enhancement of natural heritage sites in addition to improvements to tourism-related services. This theme has been supported by the ERDF. However, it is not covered by the scope of the European Social Fund.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



ICER - Innovative Concept of Eco-accommodation approach in rural Regions : Public support policies for eco-investors



INTERREG IVC



Auvergne regional tourism development committee



€1,410,572 ERDF



2010-2012

Tourism is a key factor for the economic development of rural areas. It is a source of job creation in rural environments, with the added benefit that these jobs cannot be relocated away from the area. However, it is more difficult to generate a profit from investments in rural tourism than those in other areas. This project seeks to offer solutions to this problem by enabling local authorities to propose ambitious public policies adapted to the needs of investors, particularly in terms of tourist accommodation, while at the same time pursuing the goal of sustainable development. Based on an exchange of experiences from each partner region, this project should make it possible to draw up recommendations for appropriate financial, technical and legal tools and resources and guide investors as part of sustainable development programmes. ICER is therefore relevant to the current development challenges facing European rural regions, covering the three spheres of sustainable development, namely the economic, environmental and social aspects, applying them in a concrete manner to local tourism policies for accommodation.

The "2 CAPS"



Nord-Pas-de-Calais



General council of Pas-de-Calais



€2,800,000 ERDF



2012

This initiative seeks to enhance the potential of the Cap Blanc-Nez and Cap Gris-Nez areas, promoting access to a greater number of visitors while at the same time preserving the environmental and landscape quality of these sites. The work undertaken thanks to the ERDF funds has made it possible to transfer the car parks situated on the seafront to the back of the natural sites, to set up an environmentally friendly restaurant facility and to carry out the landscaping of the coastal road. Additionally, three associations working to promote integration have taken advantage of this work to support persons in difficulty, helping them to find employment. Consequently, this is both an environmental and community-spirited project, to boost local tourism.



1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



«We are keen to provide a leisure and sporting activity which is both complimentary and yet at the same time different».

Extract from the website
www.niagara-vertical.net.

Investments by the European funds to develop tourism and leisure activities in Réunion



Réunion



The company Niagara Vertical



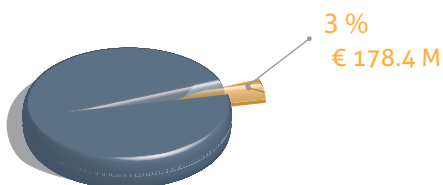
22 062 € FEDER



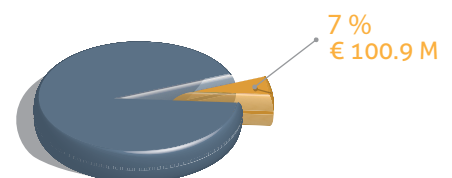
2009

The creation of a via ferrata is a highly original concept combining the natural environment, discovery and thrills. This leisure activity is halfway between hiking and climbing and is often called «vertigo hiking». The via ferrata created by the company Niagara Vertical is situated in an outstanding site, in the east of Réunion island, near the Niagara waterfall in Sainte-Suzanne. Thanks to support from the ERDF, this project has made it possible to diversify the leisure activities available on Réunion island, also contributing to a better geographical spread of tourism activities. It provides visitors from the outside and local people with a chance to discover some of the thrills of mountain climbing.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Tourism"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Tourism"

During the 2007-2013 programming period, a total of 1,108 projects were programmed under this theme, i.e. 158 projects per year, of which the average ERDF funding was €250,000

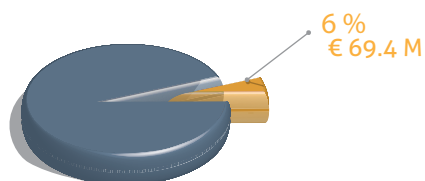
935 were deployed in metropolitan France, including more than a hundred in 5 regions (Centre, Lorraine, Midi-Pyrénées, Provence-Alps-Riviera, Rhône-Alps). In the outermost regions (OMR) a total of 173 projects were implemented. Among the fields covered by the «tourism» theme, we should note the presence of many projects which seek to improve tourism-related services.

The «tourism» theme represented 3% of the programmed ERDF funds for the «competitiveness» objective, and 7% for the «convergence» objective, with respective sums of €178.4 and €100.9 million.

The focus was particularly on improvements to tourism-related services with €96.2 million programmed in this area in metropolitan France and €88.7 million in the OMR. Furthermore, a significant proportion of the budgetary envelope devoted to tourism was also programmed for the promotion and enhancement of natural heritage sites, particularly in the regions of metropolitan France (approximately €73 million).



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation devoted to the theme of "Tourism"

Although it did not feature among the most popular themes in terms of project numbers, the «Tourism» theme was relatively well represented for European Territorial Cooperation programmes during the 2007-2013 period, particularly in the cross-border and transnational programmes. It often overlapped with aspects related to the enhancement of cultural and/or natural heritage sites, generally present in the ETC programmes. The cross-border programmes implemented 52 projects in all (€49 million) i.e. an average of seven projects per programme.

This theme accounted for 5.52% of the total EU sums programmed for all themes taken together, this being almost as much as the «Information Society» theme.

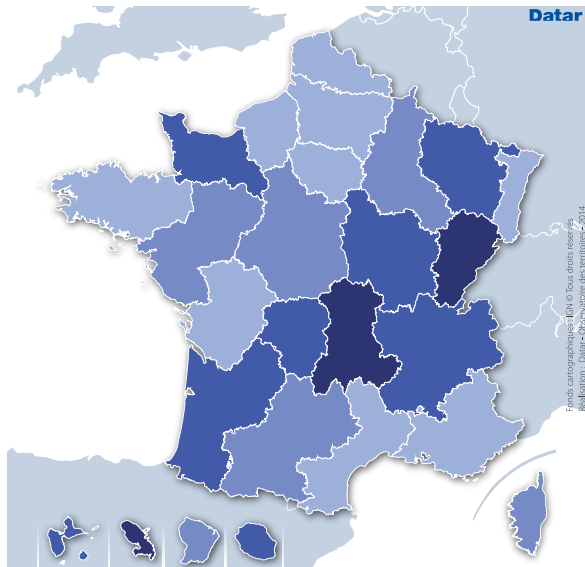
The INTERREG IVC programme undertook only a single project under this theme. Indeed, problems related to the development of tourism are more often dealt with at a cross-border or transnational level rather than at a pan-European Union level. This theme was among the four most highly represented themes in two cross-border programmes (Greater Region 15% of the budgetary envelope; France-Wallonia-Flanders 11.5%). The stakeholders at a cross-border level perceived tourism as a valuable means of developing their cross-border area by reaching across the border and working with stakeholders from the neighbouring country as part of an integrated approach. Furthermore, the ETC programmes in the French overseas territories did not implement any projects although the tourism theme is a predominant one in these areas.

The average EU funding committed per ETC project was €969,000. This figure particularly reflects the average support for cross-border projects (€940,000 per project) and transnational projects (€670,000).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	-	9
Deux Mers	11.85	4
France (Manche) – England	7.14	7
France-Switzerland	1.56	19
France-Wallonia-Flanders	16.15	10
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	11.53	3
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	0.77	52
Cross-border subtotal	49.01	17
Atlantic Area	5.81	1
Northwestern Europe	1.62	8
Mediterranean (MED)	9.11	4
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	3.56	30
Transnational subtotal	20.10	
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	1
INTERREG IVC	0.33	1
Pan-European subtotal	0.33	83
OVERALL TOTAL	80.48	76



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



Percentage of the total ERDF budgetary envelope devoted to the theme of "tourism" by region



Metropolitan regions : 3%
OMR : 7%
France : 4%

Source : Infocentre PRESAGE, 2014

Accounting nationally for 4% of the programmed ERDF funds, the tourism theme is not central to the European funds' deployment priorities, either in metropolitan France or in the overseas territories.

Nevertheless, there are two regions in which more than 10% of the ERDF budgetary envelope was programmed for this theme (Auvergne, with 75 projects totalling €20.25 million ERDF and Martinique, with 85 projects totalling €41.41 million ERDF).

Furthermore, although the Centre, Lorraine, Midi-Pyrénées and Provence-Alps-Riviera regions had a lower budgetary envelope devoted to this theme, we should note that more than 100 projects were accomplished in each of these regions thanks to ERDF support.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	0.71	3
Aquitaine	23.69	73
Auvergne	20.25	75
Basse-Normandie	10.03	1
Bourgogne	11.36	46
Bretagne	3.26	16
Centre	5.76	136
Champagne-Ardenne	5.87	20
Corse	4.85	5
Franche-Comté	11.52	71
Guadeloupe	23.79	34
Guyane	8.51	23
Haute-Normandie	-	
Ile-de-France	0.51	3
Languedoc-Roussillon	-	
Limousin	5.89	15
Lorraine	14.04	101
Martinique	41.41	85
Midi-Pyrénées	12.91	118
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	-	
Pays de la Loire	8.11	22
Picardie	-	
Poitou-Charentes	-	
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	3.04	104
Réunion	27.22	31
Rhône-Alpes	22.61	126

AND AFTERWARDS...

Support for tourism as such is not an investment priority for the European funds during the 2014-2020 period. However, a number of tourism-related projects may be financed through one of the 11 thematic objectives: this concerns projects targeting the promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage in thematic objective 6 (TO6); and projects supporting the use of digital applications such as e-tourism in thematic objective 2 (TO2).

CULTURE

The cultural sector received support from the ERDF during the 2007-2013 period. This theme does not fall within the scope of the European Social Fund's activities. The financing of cultural infrastructure via the cohesion policy occurred in particular through «major projects». This was the case for example with the financing of the siting of the Louvres museum in Lens.

Generally speaking, the «culture» theme covers projects related to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage sites (including museums or the renovation of historical monuments for example), the development of cultural infrastructure such as music venues, facilities for live performances and libraries, etc. Finally, improvements to cultural services are also covered (in particular e-culture).



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Chemin de la mémoire (Memorial Trail): to commemorate the border battles of August 1914



Grande Région - Virton (Belgium)



Municipal administration of Virton (Belgium)



€1,000,000 ERDF



2013-2014

The term «border battles» refers to the series of clashes between German and Franco-British troops along the Franco-Belgian and Franco-German borders between August 7 and 23, 1914, following the invasion of Luxembourg and Belgium by the German army. Keen to keep alive the memory of these events in this centennial year, Belgian and French local authorities and associations drew up details of a trail to highlight these little-known episodes of the First World War. As part of this project, numerous one-off and permanent events and resources are proposed to the general public such as the opening of a walk tracing the border battles and joint participation in Heritage Day events. One of the objectives of the project is to ensure that the events surrounding the border battles in August 1914 form a link between the areas of Belgium and France concerned. The idea is therefore to involve the local populations and resource persons to develop numerous events with this trail as their common theme.

Conversion of an indoor hall for events and cultural activities in the district of Saint-Pantaléon de Larche



Limousin



Communauté de communes Vézère Causse



€ 212 600 FEDER



2010

Situated near the main motorways, the Vézère Causse Communauté de communes (community of municipalities) includes 8,500 inhabitants in six districts. To make the area more attractive, this communauté de communes seeking to upgrade its heritage sites. To this end, it decided to link five former barns with a common roof: a highly original solution enabling it to enhance the quality of the buildings while also offering a facility with a considerable surface area for use by the communauté de communes. The reception capacity of the hall will enable the district to host major sporting and cultural events, including the many festivals held in the region every summer. The new building, which has a surface area of 1,000m², can be used by local producers as a showcase exhibition facility. The environment and sustainable development have been taken into consideration in this project, which includes cycle trails and walkways around the site and the installation of equipment to reduce energy consumption.



«Financial support from the ERDF played a decisive role in ensuring the success of this project» Jean-Jacques DELPECH - Communauté de communes Vézère-Causse.

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Contemporary circus



Massif Central



Derrière Le Hublot (Midi-Pyrénées), Cirque (Limousin), Théâtre de Cusset (Auvergne), the Verrerie in Alès en Cévennes (Languedoc-Roussillon)



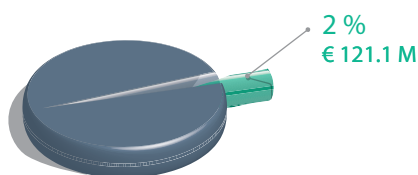
€404,461 ERDF



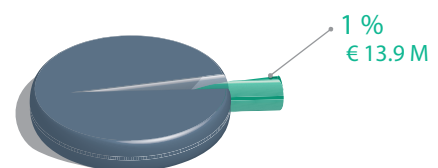
2011

The purpose of this project is to bring together organisations whose role is to promote the creation and dissemination of contemporary circus, and make the public more aware of this discipline. It also seeks to develop and maintain high-quality cultural output in the rural regions of the Massif central and to boost the attractiveness of this area. To this end, each partner region or area agrees to welcome at least 3 circus troupes during the lifetime of the programme (approximately 2 years) and provide them with the resources to present their shows.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the competitiveness objective devoted to the theme of "Culture"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the convergence objective devoted to the theme of "Culture"

The «culture» theme accounted for 2% of the programmed ERDF funds in metropolitan France, i.e. a total of €121.1 million. In the OMR this theme was particularly under-programmed (just 1% of the programmed ERDF funds, i.e. €13.9 million) which is explained among other things by the wish of these regions to focus a significant proportion of the ERDF funds on themes more central to their needs (in the environmental field for example).

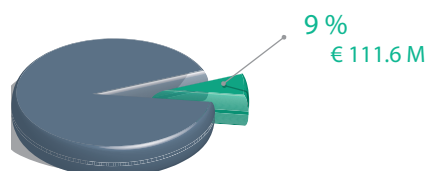
In terms of actual financial amounts, it was the development of cultural infrastructure which accounted for the most credits, with 75 projects being undertaken in this area for €85 million (i.e. 64% of the theme) totalling an average of €1.14 million per project.

The remaining 26% of the funds programmed for the theme made it possible to finance 239 projects, i.e. an average sum per project of €200,000, far less than for cultural infrastructure. These figures are chiefly explained by the creation of the Louvre-Lens project, programmed in 2012 for a cost of just over €35 million ERDF.

In all, the European Union supported the implementation of 314 cultural projects over the 2007-2013 period, of which 284 were undertaken in metropolitan France, with an average sum per project of €400,000. Most of these were intended to protect and preserve cultural heritage sites both in metropolitan France and the outermost regions (OMR). For its part, improvements to cultural services attracted very few credits and concerned only a limited number of projects (59 projects).



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European Territorial Cooperation objective devoted to the theme of «Culture»

After the «Research and technological development (RTD), innovation and entrepreneurial spirit» and «Environment and risk prevention» themes, the «Culture» theme is the third most highly represented theme in the ETC category in terms of numbers of projects completed. This theme accounted for 9% of the total programmed EU funds, with all themes taken together, i.e. almost as much as the «Energy» theme.

Accounting for 133 cross-border projects, 17 transnational projects and 30 via the Indian Ocean programme, culture is undeniably a cross-border priority for the 2007-2013 period. Indeed, culture is the most highly represented theme (in terms of committed EU funds) in the three cross-border programmes: Amazonia, 30% of the budgetary envelope, France Wallonia Flanders and Two Seas, 21% of each budgetary envelope.

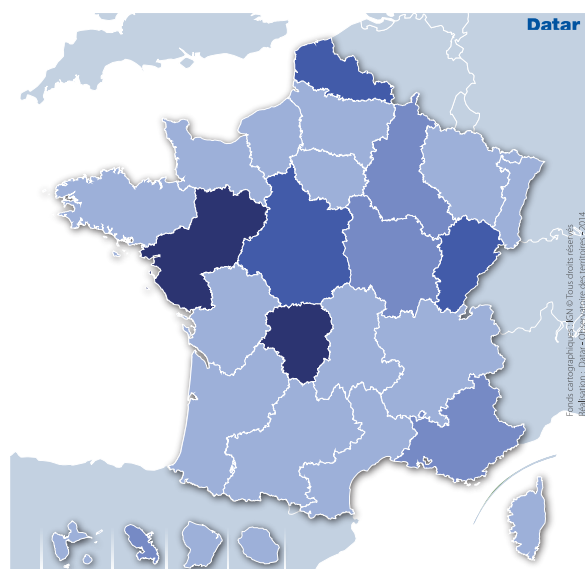
This is explained by the extremely powerful local dimension of culture and its capacity in a cross-border context to consolidate or develop a feeling of belonging to the same area. Over greater distances, as is the case with certain transnational programmes, this dimension also includes an identity-related aspect which is doubtless not as strong but nevertheless definitely present (including an Atlantic, Alpine and Mediterranean «identity»).

For the European Territorial Cooperation projects, the average ERDF support per project was approximately €610,000. The cross-border and transnational programmes had virtually equivalent averages per project (at €716,000 and €710,000 respectively). On the other hand, the average was approximately €133,000 for the Indian Ocean programme and approximately €162,000 for the INTERREG IVC programme, which is relatively low.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	3.02	4
Deux Mers	27.15	14
France (Manche) – England	22.17	26
France-Switzerland	2.08	7
France-Wallonia-Flanders	29.15	42
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	8.26	32
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	3.41	8
Cross-border subtotal	95.24	133
Atlantic Area	2.85	10
Northwestern Europe	4.01	2
Mediterranean (MED)	3.83	3
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	1.37	2
Transnational subtotal	12.06	17
Indian Ocean	4.01	30
Combined subtotal	4.01	30
INTERREG IVC	0.33	2
Pan-European subtotal	0.33	2
OVERALL TOTAL	111.63	182



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING CTE)



Percentage of the total ERDF budgetary envelope devoted to the theme of "Culture" by region

0 2 3 6 11

Metropolitan regions : 2%
OMR : 1%
France : 2%

Source : Infocentre PRESAGE, 2014

A single region in **metropolitan** France focused more than 10% of its ERDF budgetary envelope on the theme of Culture (Limousin, with 11.4%, totalling €12.38 million). In financial terms, it was in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais and the Pays de la Loire that there was most highly represented (with €35.03 million for the first of these regions, which however was used for a single project, the siting of the Louvre in Lens; and €26.94 million for the second, with 50 projects completed).

In the overseas territories, the theme accounted for less than 1% of the budgetary envelopes for three regions, and just over 2% in Martinique, with €9 million allocated to cultural projects.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	-	-
Aquitaine	-	-
Auvergne	2.27	20
Basse-Normandie	-	-
Bourgogne	5.11	23
Bretagne	-	-
Centre	8.46	12
Champagne-Ardenne	4.92	16
Corse	0.69	3
Franche-Comté	8.11	17
Guadeloupe	0.60	2
Guyane	0.19	1
Haute-Normandie	0.80	1
Ile-de-France	0.44	2
Languedoc-Roussillon	-	-
Limousin	12.38	23
Lorraine	-	-
Martinique	9.79	14
Midi-Pyrénées	0.17	1
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	35.03	1
Pays de la Loire	26.94	50
Picardie	-	-
Poitou-Charentes	-	-
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	8.25	40
Réunion	3.31	13
Rhône-Alpes	4.37	75

AND AFTERWARDS...

For the 2014-2020 period, the cultural sector could be supported through the various thematic objectives, (cultural innovation via thematic objective 1 (TO1), e-culture via thematic objective 2 (O12) on information and communication technology, the promotion and development of cultural and natural heritage via thematic objective 6 (TO6) on environmental preservation, etc.).

URBAN/RURAL REGENERATION

The «urban and rural regeneration» theme covers the performance of projects concerning the restructuring of districts seen as a priority for regeneration including such aspects as: housing, the rehabilitation of public areas, etc. This theme was chiefly financed by the ERDF. However, in the outermost regions the ESF was also involved in a number of projects.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



«The quality of an area clearly plays a key role in influencing the economic performance of the region» Regional economic strategy for Yorkshire & Humber: Yorkshire Forward 2006

VALUE - Valuing Attractive Landscapes in the Urban Economy



Northwestern Europe



South Yorkshire Forest Partnership Sheffield City Council, UK



€3,620,785 ERDF



2008-2012

Green infrastructure² is a valuable aspect of our urban economy. However with increasing urbanisation, more and more urban green areas (whether public or private) are being lost to retail developments or housing. The VALUE project was set up to deal with this problem. This European partnership seeks on the one hand to demonstrate the economic value of green infrastructure within cities and regions and also to maximise the benefits in terms of the competitiveness of these «green» investments. Economic assessment tools and trial projects have been developed to support the local authorities in this task. The goal of the nine partners involved in the VALUE project was therefore to make local authorities aware of the potential benefits in terms of economic vitality and prosperity to be obtained from high-quality green infrastructure.

A lively public square for the Sénardes district in Troyes



Champagne-Ardenne



Ville de Troyes



€245,501 ERDF



2010

With the project run by the communauté d'agglomération du Grand Troyes (Greater Troyes urban community) a new public square was created in the Sénardes district thanks to the ERDF. This seeks to create a lively village square atmosphere, promoting social contact and proximity. The square is surrounded by a number of key public facilities making this site a useful resource for the district. The creation of a community centre, a facility with both a social and cultural role, is part of this comprehensive rehabilitation project. It includes facilities covering 600m² and includes a «one-stop shop» for public services, a social centre offering a range of activities, multipurpose activity rooms, rooms for maternal and child welfare services and a multimedia area.

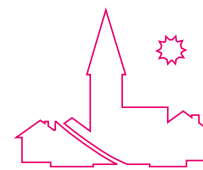


1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013

2. Green infrastructure can be defined as a network of multifunctional green areas comprised of parks, waterways, trees and forests, necessary to maintaining a high quality of life both inside and outside our towns and villages.



Business park dedicated to the ecoconstruction sector



Ile-de-France



Communauté d'agglomération des deux rives de la Seine



€1,405,099 ERDF



2010

The Communauté d'agglomération des Deux Rives de la Seine (CA2RS – the Seine shores urban community) has undertaken a huge action plan aimed positioning the 2 Rives de Seine area as a flagship for the new centre of excellence for ecoconstruction launched via the Seine Aval Integrated Urban project. The CA2RS is keen to inject dynamism into the future Ecopôle, which will be a business area devoted to industrial ecoconstruction activities directly connected to the waterway. With this in mind, a business park specially devoted to the economic stakeholders in this industry has been created. Baptised «Fabrique 21», this eco-construction business park meets a number of important requirements. Firstly, making this a key location for know-how, a place where you can «get things done» when it comes to enhancing the standing of and providing access to all sustainable housing trades and services. Secondly, it makes it possible to clearly demonstrate that it is possible to carry out a construction project for a combined business park incorporating as many environmental aspects as possible. Finally, this park also makes it possible to create a locality unique of its kind in the Paris region, bringing together on the same site companies involved in building or renovating housing with a focus on sustainable development. More generally, this operation seeks to remedy the structural difficulties encountered in the area, to boost employment and to improve the attractiveness of the area for companies while also encouraging the development of specific sectors (eco-industries, eco-construction and energy efficiency, mechatronics, etc.) and service sector activities related to the industry, to the knowledge economy and to the IT sector.

In addition to this theme, the European cohesion policy for 2007-2013 included a specific urban aspect aimed at supporting districts experiencing difficulties, by acting at a conurbation-wide level :

- With reference to article 8 of the ERDF rules, the strategic national reference framework for the programmes covered by the European economic and social cohesion policy included a chapter specifically devoted to urban areas, and in particular those most in difficulty. It invited the regional prefects to finance projects put forward by the urban areas or towns and cities having entered into urban social cohesion contracts (contrats urbain de cohésion sociale or CUCS), giving priority to participative initiatives and based on a comprehensive

strategy fully incorporating the districts in difficulty and their local environments as part of the overall dynamic regional development process. The managing authorities were invited to carry out this selection by means of project tenders, the schedule of conditions for which were drafted at a regional level by the SGAR working closely with the regional councils.

- In addition to the noteworthy urban aspects of the programmes, these feature thematic intervention priorities which may also contribute to the integration of districts within towns in the fields of sustainable urban transport, energy efficiency, support for small businesses or the regeneration of industrial wasteland.

Mobilo'web, a system for developing the use of multimedia resources



Integrated urban project (Grenoble)



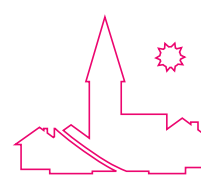
Grenoble Alpes Métropole



€ 40 000 per annum ERDF



Mobilo'web is a multimedia project put forward by Grenoble Alpes Métropole. Operational since 2006 in the districts of Grenoble, Seyssinet-Pariset, Pont-de-Claix, Echirolles, Fontaine and Saint-Martin-le-Vinoux, it has today been extended to all priority districts throughout the urban area.

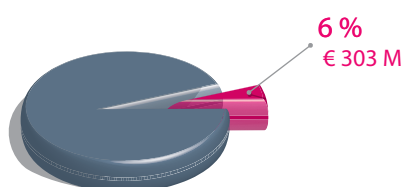


Run by the Impact/UMI association, Mobilo'web is comprised of a mobile multimedia unit equipped with laptop computers and a web portal. This is a shared service which seeks to provide a solution to the challenge posed by the digital divide, by focusing on usage rather than infrastructure. In doing so it seeks to ensure that everyone can benefit from IT resources regardless of their age, social class or the area in which they live. Mobilo'web proactively brings information technology to those who have little access or no access to the information society (young people, elderly people, adults undergoing social and vocational integration, literacy groups, etc.).

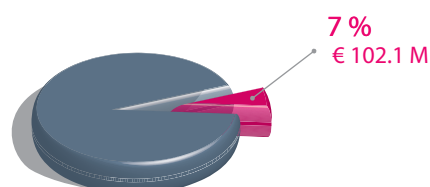
Mobilo'web was designed to be incorporated in various projects deployed throughout the region. Among other things this includes «street Internet» initiatives in the Mistral district of Grenoble, the creation of a blog with highly dependent elderly people at Echirolles, or the preparation of a slideshow in Pont-de-Claix on the theme of humanitarian activities in Morocco.

In 2011, 17 projects accounted for 200 half days of activities and benefited more than 410 people.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Urban/rural regeneration"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Urban/rural regeneration"

The European Social Fund was involved in this theme through six projects, carried out in Guadeloupe. On the other hand the ERDF was involved to a greater extent in this theme: 1,114 projects were performed between 2007 and 2013 in the field of urban or rural regeneration, i.e. approximately 160 projects per year, with average ERDF support per project of €360,000. In metropolitan France, the average amount for the 997 projects supported was 2 ½ times lower than in the outermost regions (an average of €300,000 of ERDF funds for each of the 997 projects in metropolitan France compared to €846,000 for the 117 projects in the overseas territories).

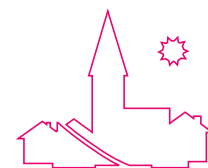
In metropolitan France, the theme of urban/rural regeneration accounted for 6% of the total ERDF programming for the 2007-2013 period, i.e. €303 million. In the **outermost regions**, 7% of the total ERDF funds were mobilised for this theme, i.e. approximately €102.1 million.

Looking more particularly at urban regeneration and particularly the urban aspect, this aspect of the ERDF totalled approximately €535 million over the 2007-2013 period and allowed for the implementation of **65 integrated urban projects (IUP)** in 19 regions (15 regions in metropolitan France and 4 overseas départements). Further analysis reveals a wide spread of projects in the urban field (economic activities, urban planning, the environment, employment, facilities and local services, etc.) and a leverage effect exceeding that of the other projects deployed in the regional programmes covered by the cohesion policy : **€1 of ERDF funding generated approximately €2.25 of public spending.**

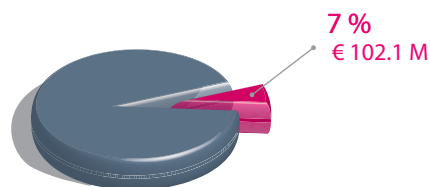
Over and above the specific measures devoted to the IUP, the ERDF operational programmes contributed to urban development in the wider sense thanks to contributions of approximately €500 million (sums programmed in early 2012).

It has been estimated that in all, the 2007-2013 programming **generated more than €1 billion of ERDF funding** which was devoted to social cohesion and improving the attractiveness of urban areas.

http://www.europe-urbain.fr/index.php/documentation/item/la-dimension-urbaine-de-la-politique-europeenne-de-cohesion-2007-2013-analyse-de-la-contribution-des-po-au-developpement-des-territoires-urbains?category_id=16



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Urban/rural regeneration"

Over the 2007-2013 period, 41 projects were implemented with regard to urban and rural regeneration, i.e. 3% of the total budgetary envelope for the European Territorial Cooperation objective, totalling approximately €35 million.

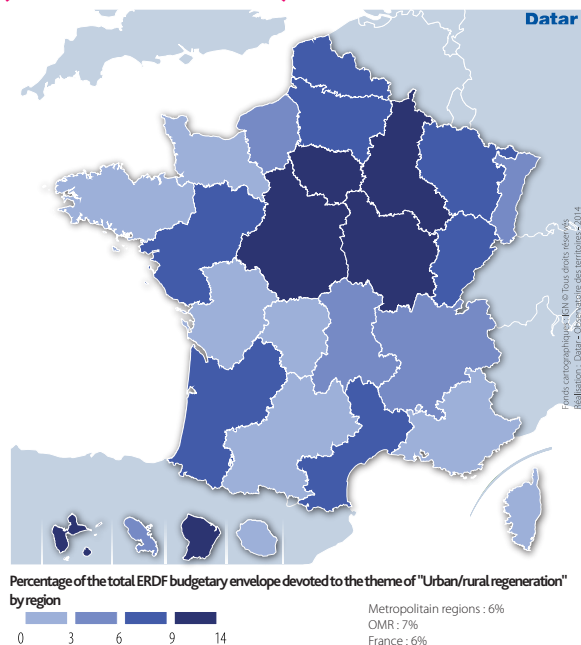
This theme is not represented at all in France in the Amazonia, Two Seas, Upper Rhine and INTERREG IVC programmes. It is not a priority for these programmes.

For the European Territorial Cooperation projects, the average ERDF support for projects under this theme was €850,000. This sum was particularly high for the projects of the Northwestern Europe programme (approximately €2.8 million per project), unlike the projects of the Indian Ocean programme, which benefited from average ERDF support of €180,000. This theme accounted for 6% of this programme, which includes the largest number of completed initiatives, with 10 projects, i.e. almost as much as all of the transnational projects (12 projects, between two and four per transnational programme). As part of the cross-border programmes, the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme implemented nine projects, i.e. almost half of the cross-border projects.

Furthermore, we should note that the URBACT exchange programme between European towns and cities has particularly contributed to this theme (please see the general presentation sheet).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia		
Deux Mers		
France (Manche) – England	3.77	1
France-Switzerland	2.04	5
France-Wallonia-Flanders	7.26	9
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	2.83	4
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)		
Cross-border subtotal	15.90	19
Atlantic Area	1.67	4
Northwestern Europe	11.15	4
Mediterranean (MED)	2.45	2
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	1.97	2
Transnational subtotal	17.24	12
Indian Ocean	1.83	10
Combined subtotal	1.83	10
INTERREG IVC		
Pan-European subtotal		
OVERALL TOTAL	34.96	41

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



6 regions (including two OMR) deployed more than 10% of their ERDF budgetary envelope for the theme of urban or rural regeneration (Burgundy, Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Ile-de-France, Guadeloupe and Guiana).

In terms of projects, it was in the Rhone-Alpes, in Picardy and in Aquitaine that the theme featured most highly, with 114, 116 and 110 projects respectively. In the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, 41 were financed under this theme, accounting for €55.36 million of ERDF funding.

AND AFTERWARDS ...

The urban aspect (and particularly regeneration) will be highly present in the 2014-2020 programme. Indeed, European ERDF rules require each member state to deploy a minimum of 5% of its national ERDF budgetary envelope to support integrated urban strategies.

At a national level, the «new generation towns and cities» policy is a major component of integrated and sustainable urban development for the 2014-2020 period. On this particular point, the operational programmes to be managed by the regional councils will include an ERDF-ESF urban policy aspect representing a minimum of 10% of the overall budgetary envelope for these programmes³.

The overall objective of 10% will be adapted according to the scale of the urban challenges and the socio-urban disparities noted in each of the regions. These funds will be focused as a priority on inter-municipal cooperation bodies (établissements de coopération intercommunale - EPCI) which contain priority districts, as resulting from the geographical priority reforms in the urban policy field. Additionally, the ESF employment/social integration portion which will be managed by the state and delegated in part to the general councils will further support the initiatives undertaken up to 10% of the overall envelope of the national ESF programme.⁴



Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	3.33	6
Aquitaine	26.62	110
Auvergne	6.51	73
Basse-Normandie	3.45	14
Bourgogne	20.70	43
Bretagne	-	
Centre	23.04	62
Champagne-Ardenne	18.52	81
Corse	2.73	5
Franche-Comté	12.34	50
Guadeloupe	37.59	27
Guyane	31.38	27
Haute-Normandie	8.95	15
Ile-de-France	19.73	31
Languedoc-Roussillon	17.94	62
Limousin	0.57	1
Lorraine	20.35	78
Martinique	22.05	56
Midi-Pyrénées	-	
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	55.36	41
Pays de la Loire	24.73	56
Picardie	13.24	116
Poitou-Charentes	-	
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	6.45	42
Réunion	11.10	13
Rhône-Alpes	18.15	114

3. Pursuant to the framework agreement signed on February 13, 2013 between the Minister for Urban Affairs and of the Association of French Regions (Association des régions de France - ARF).

4. This commitment is confirmed in the framework agreement signed on October 11, 2013, between the Minister for Urban Affairs and the Association of French Departments (Association des départements de France - ADP).

INCREASING THE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF WORKERS, COMPANIES AND COMPANY MANAGERS



The theme of «increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers» is a major priority for the ESF. The ERDF has been used for this theme only marginally and only in metropolitan France. This theme covers activities involving designing and circulating novel and more productive organisational and working methods, developing strategies for lifelong learning within companies or the development of specific services to promote employment.

SOME EXAMPLES



A cross-border training and health/social research establishment



Spain, France, Andorra POCTEFA



University of Girona



€2,266,111 ERDF



2009-2012

The project includes four partners: the University of Girona, the University of Perpignan Via Domitia, the Regional Institute for Social Work and the Mediterranean Institute for Training in Nursing at Perpignan hospital. Its goal is to provide training, to support research and to comprise a centre of excellence in the fields of social or social & health work. The objective of the project is to build a coherent and innovative training and research system throughout the cross-border area. This is organised around two main aspects: firstly, improving cross-border integration regarding economic activities, innovation and human resources and secondly improving the quality of life of the local populations through common strategies to organise the area and to foster sustainable development.

Ongoing training for craft workers



Corse



Chambre des métiers et de l'artisanat de la Haute-Corse



74 776 € FSE



2008

The intention of this project is to help workers and companies adapt to economic changes by developing skills and improving their qualifications. In Corsica, the ESF is facilitating access to training for employees least able to obtain this, particularly those in small and medium-sized businesses and micro businesses. In doing so, the ESF is providing a response to the requirement for technical training expressed by craft businesses, their operators and staff in order that all stakeholders may anticipate and adapt to rapid changes in the market, in technology, and in safety or quality standards. The target beneficiaries of this initiative are employees and self-employed people aged over 45 years old, whose qualifications are obsolete and/or employees and self-employed people with a low level of qualification.



1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Programme of collective training activities of associations in Lorraine operating in the home help sector



Lorraine



€246,283 ESF



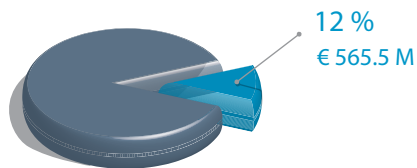
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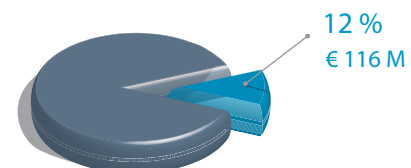
2013

Faced with increasing life expectancy and changes in the legal environment (i.e. the Disability Law of 2005), the home help sector is set to expand and offer users increased skills and abilities in the health and social assistance field. It is to help meet these new challenges that this ESF project is seeking to provide users (elderly/disabled people, etc.) with more staff, who are better qualified and more professional in order to assist them with their day-to-day tasks and activities and to enable them to continue living at home.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers"

During the 2007-2013 period, the ERDF was involved in supporting projects aimed at increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers, but only in metropolitan France, with a total of 95 projects implemented for an average sum of €224,000 ERDF.

It was chiefly the ESF which was involved in this theme, as heading 1 of the ESF National OP 2007-2013 is devoted to the adaptation of workers and companies to economic change. Consequently, 3504 projects were supported by the ESF in metropolitan France, i.e. more than 500 projects per year for sums of up to €7 million (for projects initiated as part of the national aspect of the ESF's programme for example). Among these projects, more than 2,100 concerned in-company training and services aimed at boosting adaptability to change on the part of employees, in addition to encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit and innovation.

In the outermost regions, 486 were supported by the European Union, particularly regarding specific employment, training and support services to assist with the restructuring of different sectors and companies.

In all, the ESF supported the implementation of 4,024 projects over the 2007-2013 period, i.e. 574 projects programmed each year with 1.3 million participants² since the start of the programming period.

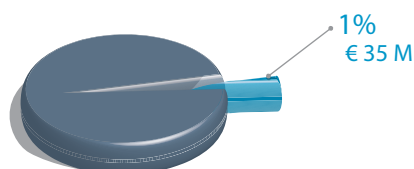
12% of the overall ESF budgetary envelope in metropolitan France was deployed to support the adaptation of workers, companies and company managers, totalling €565.5 million. The same percentage of the ESF budgetary envelope deployed in the OMR was focused on this theme, with a total of €116 million.

Generally speaking, the fields of specific employment, training and support services to assist with the restructuring of different sectors and companies in addition to the development of strategies for lifelong learning within companies were those which featured most highly, accounting for €139.42 million in metropolitan France and €51.87 million in the OMR for the first of the above-mentioned fields, and €428.09 million in metropolitan France and €59.23 million in the OMR for the second.

2. In metropolitan France



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **European territorial cooperation objective** devoted to the theme of "Increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers"

During the 2007-2013 programming period, the theme of «increasing the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers» was the key objective of 40 projects produced via the ETC programmes. This theme is barely represented in the ETC programmes as a whole as only 9 of the 14 programmes studied implemented projects which chiefly focused on the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers.

Among these nine programmes, the average number of projects produced per programme on this theme is 4. The theme of the adaptive capacity of workers, companies and company managers is particularly present in the transnational Atlantic Area programme as this theme is encountered in 17 of its projects. Nevertheless, we should point out that 15 of these projects concerned several themes and that only two projects were concerned exclusively by this theme. After this programme, it was the INTERREG IVC programme which implemented the most projects covered by this theme. Finally, we should add that this theme is similarly represented in various programme types (cross-border, transnational and interregional).

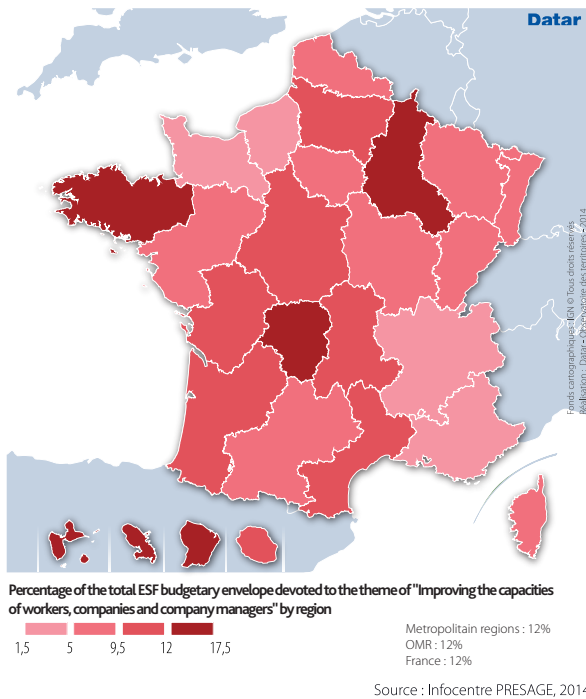
On average, less than 2% of the overall budgetary envelope for each programme was devoted to the theme, with the exception of the Atlantic Area and INTERREG IV C programmes, which devoted 6.2% and 5.5% respectively of their budgetary envelopes.

Finally, the average support for the ERDF programme per project on this theme was €460,000. The surprising sum of €2.75 million of ERDF funding programmed per project for the transnational Northwestern Europe programme is explained by the ERDF funding programmed for the DAIRYMAN project, totalling €4,360,447.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	-	1
Deux Mers	1.85	2
France (Manche) – England	0.08	5
France-Switzerland	0.66	3
France-Wallonia-Flanders	1.44	3
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	1.56	-
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	-	14
Cross-border subtotal	5.59	17
Atlantic Area	6.31	2
Northwestern Europe	5.51	-
Mediterranean (MED)	-	-
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	-	19
Transnational subtotal	11.82	-
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	-
INTERREG IVC	-	7
Pan-European subtotal	1.14	7
OVERALL TOTAL	1.14	40



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In 9 metropolitan regions, more than 10% of the ESF budgetary envelope deployed in each region was devoted to the theme, particularly in Brittany, in Limousin and in Champagne-Ardenne where more than 14% of the regional budgetary envelope was programmed for this theme.

In the OMR, a higher percentage of the programmed ESF funds for each OMR was devoted to this theme, particularly in Guadeloupe, Guyana and Martinique, where more than 15% of the ESF funding programmed in these regions was deployed for this purpose.

The theme also attracted the highest level of programming in the national part of the ESF, with 33% of this category of funding being deployed for this purpose, i.e. more than €255 million. In particular heading 1 of ESF OP was reinforced in 2010, following modifications to the national OP which generated a high degree of dynamism where the programming of this heading from 2012 was concerned (€82.5 million programmed in 2012, €100 million in 2013). These adjustments have been carried out in order to meet specific requirements related to the economic crisis.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	7.65	50
Aquitaine	22.75	302
Auvergne	12.50	208
Basse-Normandie	3.20	34
Bourgogne	9.82	220
Bretagne	27.45	77
Centre	15.50	189
Champagne-Ardenne	10.93	116
Corse	1.74	14
Franche-Comté	7.78	168
Guadeloupe	29.70	104
Guyane	15.39	118
Haute-Normandie	3.38	58
Ile-de-France	48.31	306
Languedoc-Roussillon	18.05	223
Limousin	7.46	137
Lorraine	8.53	199
Martinique	18.99	75
Midi-Pyrénées	12.94	235
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	24.85	72
Pays de la Loire	22.16	302
Picardie	14.65	131
Poitou-Charentes	14.52	250
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	10.28	79
Réunion	51.89	189
Rhône-Alpes	8.81	82

AND AFTERWARDS...

Over the 2014-2020 period, thematic objective 8 (TO8) concerns «the promotion of sustainable high-quality employment and support for labour mobility». Accordingly, workers', companies' and company managers' adaptation to change will be supported. Furthermore, European rules require that the ESF's deployment be focused on 4 thematic objectives: TO8, TO9, TO10 and TO11 (please see the information sheet for the definition of the thematic objectives).

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The theme of «improving access to employment and sustainability» particularly involved the ESF during the 2007-2013 period. Indeed, this was a priority for this fund in view of the economic crisis and the fragility of the labour market in which the structural funds were programmed. The ERDF was involved in a marginal capacity and only in metropolitan France.

This theme covers a variety of fields, ranging from assistance with freelancing and starting a business, through to the deployment of active and preventive measures in the labour market, the encouragement of active ageing and the participation of migrants in the labour market or the modernisation and consolidation of labour market institutions. It also concerns the sustainable participation of women in the labour market, through a specific measure which forms part of the national ESF programme and their career advancement in order to reduce discrimination in the labour market.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



« It was astonishing to see. These women take a very relaxed and pro-business approach to presenting their activities »
Marie-Pierre Le Marchand, KYSS.

B.NEW : Business and Network of Enterprising Women

France (Manche)-England

Finistère General Council

€ 1 000 000 ERDF

2012-2014

The European B.NEW network is the first Franco-British network of female entrepreneurs. It seeks to encourage women to set up companies and to encourage access for them to qualified employment in Finistère, Côtes d'Armor, Cornwall and Hampshire. Whether in France or in the UK, fewer than one third of companies are today started by women. The challenge is therefore to help them gain qualified jobs, to start up businesses and to expand these businesses abroad. The cross-channel B.NEW network provides a marvellous platform to help female entrepreneurs promote their businesses and services and to interact with other enterprising women in the UK and in France. It also provides an opportunity to share their knowledge and experience of managing a company and to create partnerships with other women with similar interests.

The Mobil'éco platform

Bourgogne

Ailes Association

€57 000 ESF

2012

This operation initiated by the AILES Association involves providing transport resources to facilitate access to employment for those furthest from the labour market and who encounter genuine difficulties in getting to the different appointments during their job search. The Mobil'éco platform enables them to hire two-wheeled vehicles in return for a modest financial contribution and/or to possibly benefit from collective transport services. In 2012, 5 600 journeys were provided and 193 people (mostly women) benefited from at least one journey using this system. With its Mobil'éco scheme, Ailes is helping meet the travel needs of isolated jobseekers, living in the Sens area.



« If you can no longer take me to work, I'll have to leave my job »
A user of the Mobil'éco platform.

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



« There is no finer investment than parental leave for a man »
 Marija Milosevic, Human Resources Manager, AUCHAN.


Acting together for gender equality in Franche-Comté



 Franche-Comté



Syndicat mixte de gestion de la maison de l'information sur la formation et l'emploi

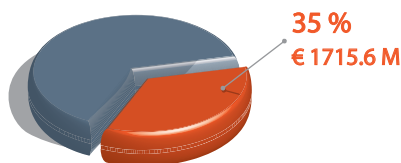
 €120,253.25 ESF



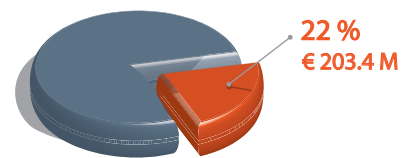
2011-2014

«Acting together for gender equality in Franche-Comté» is an innovative project focusing on removing obstacles to gender equality, by going beyond simply raising awareness of this subject. The concrete activities undertaken by this programme include the creation of awareness building resources and support with efforts to ensure gender equality within companies (including more balanced recruitment, promoting best practices when it comes to reconciling private and professional life, promoting access for women to positions of responsibility in the social solidarity economy, etc.) and building and organising a pioneering inter-company network focusing on gender equality in the North and in Franche-Comté.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Improving access to employment and sustainability"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Improving access to employment and sustainability"

Over the 2007-2013 period, 387 projects were supported by the ERDF in **metropolitan France** in the field of access to employment, i.e. around a dozen projects each year. This is not surprising given the fact that this theme is not a priority within the ERDF programme. These projects received an average of €71,430 of ERDF funding.

On the other hand, for the ESF this theme was one of the key priorities of the 2007-2013 programming period, with heading 2 of the national OP stating the objective to «improve access to employment for jobseekers». With this in mind, more than 17,000 projects were programmed thanks to support from the ESF in metropolitan France and 779 projects in the OMR. In all, 17,781 projects were covered by the scope of the «improving access to employment» theme, i.e. more than 2,540 projects per year with average ESF funding of €100,700 in metropolitan France and €260,000 in the OMR. Furthermore, more than 2 million participants benefited from activities jointly financed by the ESF under this heading in metropolitan France.

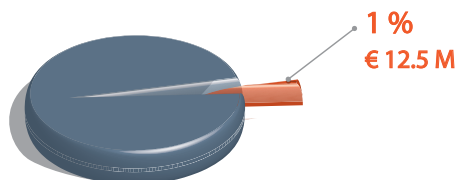
Throughout the whole of France, the projects were chiefly implemented with the aim of introducing active and preventive measures in the labour market (10,421 projects in metropolitan France and 529 in the OMR). Numerous projects also sought to support freelancing and company creation, with 2,810 projects in this field in metropolitan France and 141 in the OMR.

Between 2007 and 2013, 35% of the total ESF budgetary envelope programme in metropolitan France was devoted to this theme, totalling €1.715 billion of ESF funding. This is the theme most highly represented within the ESF programming for the regional Competitiveness and Employment objective. With this in mind, more than €1 billion of ESF funding were programmed for projects aimed at implementing active and preventive measures in the labour market, which were the activities most frequently supported within this theme.

In the OMR, 22% of the ESF budgetary envelope programmed in these regions was focused on this theme, for a total of €203.4 million. More than half of this budgetary envelope was deployed to support preventive action in the labour market, totalling €169 million.

In all, the theme accounted for more than 33% of the overall ESF budgetary envelope, totalling almost €2 billion.

THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **European territorial cooperation objective** devoted to the theme of "Improving access to employment and sustainability"

Over the 2007-2013 programming period, 23 ETC projects came under the theme of «improving access to employment and sustainability». Only one of these projects was produced via a transnational programme (Northwestern Europe). 17 projects were implemented via cross-border programmes, and 5 via the pan-European INTERREG IV C programme.

Where European Territorial Cooperation is concerned, the theme of access to employment and sustainability is not an issue which is tackled on a transnational basis, but rather at a cross-border or pan-European level.

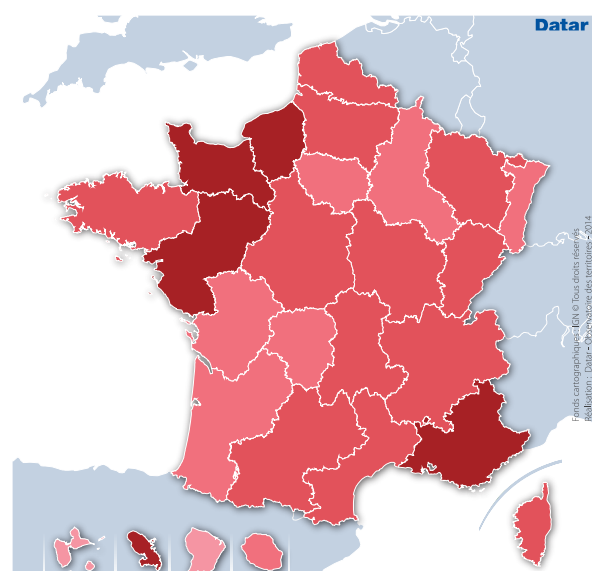
The largest number of projects were produced as part of the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme (7 projects). Indeed, one of the operational objectives of this programme is «Ensuring that available training more closely matches the requirements of the labour market».

In terms of programmed ERDF funds for this theme, the sole project of the Northwestern Europe programme received €1.47 million of ERDF funding. However, this sum was atypical, with the average funding per ETC project being €542,000. The cross-border projects received an average of €610,000 in support while the average ERDF funding for projects in the INTERREG IVC programme totalled €118,000.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	-	-
Deux Mers	1.82	3
France (Manche) – England	4.47	5
France-Switzerland	-	-
France-Wallonia-Flanders	3.52	7
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	0.45	1
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	0.14	1
Cross-border subtotal	10.40	17
Atlantic Area	-	-
Northwestern Europe	1.47	1
Mediterranean (MED)	-	-
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	-	-
Transnational subtotal	1.47	1
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	-
INTERREG IVC	0.59	5
Pan-European subtotal	0.59	5
OVERALL TOTAL	12.47	23



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In metropolitan France, a minimum of 20% of the ESF budgetary envelope programmed in each region was focused on this theme. Access to employment was a particular priority in Upper Normandy representing more than 60% of the ESF budgetary envelope programmed in the region, i.e. a total of €118.33 million of EU funding. The theme accounted for more than 40% of the ESF budgetary envelope in seven regions, including Lower Normandy (47.4% totalling €48.56 million), Pays de la Loire (47.4% totalling €119.19 million) and Provence-Alpes-Riviera (45.5% totalling €134.55 million).

In the OMR, the representativeness of the theme is more diverse: although in Guadeloupe this theme only accounted for 8% of the ESF budgetary envelope in the region, in Martinique, more than 51.8% of the budgetary envelope was devoted to it, totalling €56.22 million. This sum is less than that devoted to the theme in Réunion (€121.42 million i.e. 23% of the budgetary envelope for the region).

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	28.58	325
Aquitaine	51.02	556
Auvergne	44.26	783
Basse-Normandie	48.56	643
Bourgogne	38.98	996
Bretagne	74.29	1361
Centre	53.77	828
Champagne-Ardenne	18.49	373
Corse	8.46	300
Franche-Comté	28.59	338
Guadeloupe	16.02	108
Guyane	9.76	59
Haute-Normandie	118.33	1988
Ile-de-France	157.04	1161
Languedoc-Roussillon	54.90	1259
Limousin	14.72	123
Lorraine	46.97	854
Martinique	56.22	430
Midi-Pyrénées	73.37	536
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	202.69	663
Pays de la Loire	119.19	922
Picardie	44.81	515
Poitou-Charentes	39.60	606
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	134.55	983
Réunion	121.42	182
Rhône-Alpes	153.67	733

AND AFTERWARDS...

The European Union has made employment a central theme for the 2014-2020 period. European rules have dedicated a thematic objective to «promoting employment and labour mobility» (thematic objective 8 - TO8). This thematic objective is one of the 4 priority thematic objectives for the ESF (please see the information sheet for the definition of the thematic objectives).

IMPROVING THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF DISADVANTAGED PERSONS



The theme of «improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons» is a priority for the ESF. The ERDF is only involved to a very slight degree with this theme, in both metropolitan France and in the outermost regions (OMR). This theme chiefly covers activities related to the integration of and return to employment for disadvantaged persons, the fight against discrimination in access to the labour market and progress within this market in addition to promoting diversity in the workplace.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



Nature pour all



France-Switzerland



District of Riddes /Communauté de communes du Pays de Filère



€ 315 075 ERDF



2012-2013

The «Nature for All» concept in the Lake Geneva area was prepared in partnership with the district of Riddes in Switzerland and the Communauté de communes (inter-municipal community) of the Pays de Filère area in France. This concept arose due to a shared need to generate dynamism and share feedback concerning facilities and relations with end users. This partnership has resulted among other things in exchanges of experience with field trips or visits to see completed projects, and regular meetings supervised by steering committees, etc. The main aim of the project is to set up a service for the local population, focusing in particular on persons with disabilities or reduced mobility, ensuring access to natural areas and leisure areas. This service for the population will also help boost the overall attractiveness of the area by attracting families who can enjoy new opportunities there for walking and other activities, in addition to segments of the population for whom access to natural areas is currently limited.

APEL for detainees



Centre



FNARS – Mediation Association



€19,500 ESF



2012-2013

This project concerns the **Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) for detainees** with the aim of encouraging improved reintegration for prisoners. With the help of the Médiation association, several dozen detainees at the Orléans remand centre and Châteaudun detention centre have worked on their future career. Including studies, qualifications obtained, other qualifications, skills used, professions envisaged when returning to active life or existing experience, all stages in the professional life of these men and women have been carefully examined with the goal of identifying each person's skills to help them fare better in the labour market and to make a success of their social and professional reintegration. This APEL project for detainees is consequently a very useful resource to prevent re-offences and to combat desocialisation.



«The work performed which counts toward APEL helps combat the desocialisation of detainees» Delphine Calin, integration and probation officer at the Châteaudun detention centre (28).

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



Socio-professional support



Picardie



DEFI SERVICE



€30,984 ESF

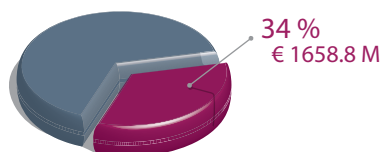


2012-2013

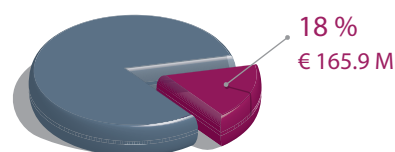
The association's manager, Madame Boucly, views the various ESF-related obligations as being very useful, as they have resulted in employees becoming more meticulous when it comes to monitoring and supervising beneficiaries. «These changes have also injected fresh dynamism into this association».

The unemployment rate in the Aisne area is one of the highest in metropolitan France, standing at 15.1% in the third quarter of 2013. The reintegration of people often far removed from the job market and insufficiently trained is more than ever before an absolute necessity. The activities carried out by DEFI SERVICES helps recipients of its services to gain long-term employment. These people are mainly guided to sectors in difficulty which represent a source of jobs, as is the case for an example with personal services, for which demand outstrips supply.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons"

The ESF directly contributes to improving participation in the labour market for those persons furthest removed from it, and particularly young people and adults encountering social and professional difficulties in addition to benefit recipients. Where results are concerned, in 2013 for example the percentage of people finding employment at the end of participation in the local employment reintegration plan, which focused chiefly on the long-term unemployed and benefit recipients locally, was 35%. The social inclusion of disadvantaged persons is a priority for the ESF under heading 3 «Social cohesion, social inclusion and the fight against discrimination» of the national ESF OP.

Consequently, 32,202 projects were launched in this field in metropolitan France and 491 projects in the OMR, i.e. 32,693 projects in all. On average, the projects in metropolitan France received €51,380 of ESF funding, and €337,900 of ESF funding per project in the OMR

As part of the national part of the ESF programme, the projects benefited from more than €15 million of ESF support, while in the regions, smaller but more numerous projects were supported by the European Union (with between €2,000 and €280,000 of ESF funding provided per project). In all, 1,373,306 participants benefited from ESF support under this heading in metropolitan France.

For metropolitan France, over the programming period the theme accounted for 34% of the programmed ESF budgetary envelope, i.e. almost €1.7 billion (ESF). This is the second most highly represented «ESF» theme in metropolitan France after «improving access to employment».

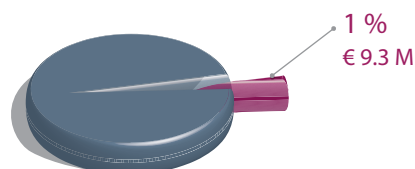
In the OMR, the theme of social inclusion is the third most highly represented theme, accounting for 18% of the ESF budgetary envelope deployed in these regions, i.e. €165.9 million.

In all, more than €1.8 billion of ESF funding was deployed for this theme, accounting for 32% of the total national ESF budgetary envelope.

Over the 2007-2013 period, 63 projects were supported by the ERDF on this theme, including 61 in metropolitan France. The ERDF does not target this theme as a priority.



THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "Improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons"

During the 2007-2013 programming period, the ETC programmes accounted for 34 projects under the «improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons» theme. Just like the «improving access to employment and sustainability» theme, the theme of improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons is not handled as part of the transnational programmes. The average number of projects concerning this theme was 4.5 per programme.

The Indian Ocean programme was the one which implemented the largest number of projects concerning the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons. Indeed, as part of its third priority entitled «Favouring human development and international solidarity for harmonious regional integration», the 2007-2013 Indian Ocean programme sought to support welfare initiatives.

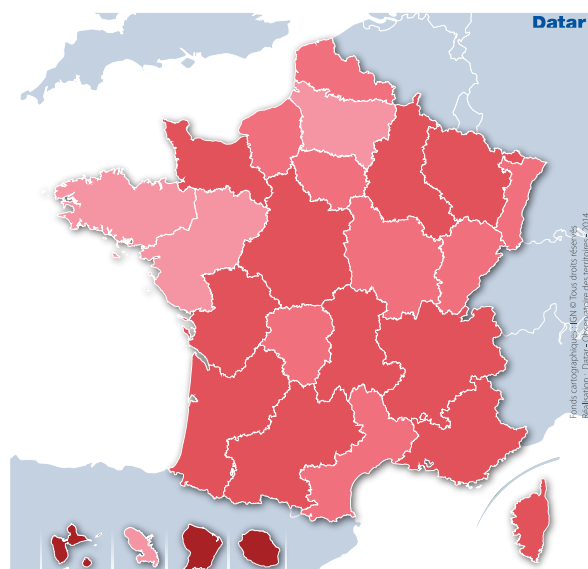
Although 5.6% of the budgetary envelope for this programme was programmed for this theme, this represented only €1.66 million for 19 projects, i.e. €87,000 per project approximately. Conversely, the programmed EU sums for the France (Manche) — England programme alone was €1.05 million, corresponding to less than 1% of the overall budgetary envelope for the programme.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonie	-	-
Deux Mers	2.82	4
France (Manche) – Angleterre	1.05	1
France-Suisse	-	-
France-Wallonie-Flandre	1.61	2
Grande Région (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	0.03	2
Rhin Supérieur (FR/DE)	0.84	2
Sous-total transfrontalier	6.36	11
Espace Atlantique	-	-
Europe du Nord-Ouest	-	-
Méditerranée (MED)	-	-
Sud ouest européen (SUDOE)	-	-
Sous-total transnational	-	-
Océan Indien	1.66	19
Sous-total Mixte	1.66	19
INTERREG IVC	1.24	4
Sous-total pan-européen	1.24	4
TOTAL GÉNÉRAL	9.26	34

We should also note that the issue of the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons is a question which has been barely explored by the European Territorial Cooperation programmes for the 2007-2013 period. This is a theme which remains specific to those projects covered by the European Social Fund (ESF).



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In almost all regions of metropolitan France, more than 25% of the regional ESF budgetary envelope was focused on the theme of social inclusion. In particular, in 13 of these regions more than 35% of the ESF budgetary envelope was programmed for this theme, i.e. one percentage point more than the average for metropolitan France (34%).

Regarding the OMR, this theme was the second most programmed theme for the ESF part in 3 regions (Guadeloupe 33%, Guiana 17% and Martinique 26%). Only Reunion did not make this field a priority, devoting just 10% of its budget envelope to it.

Overall, 32% of the French ESF budgetary envelope was programmed for this theme.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	71.41	1038
Aquitaine	71.15	1768
Auvergne	25.65	624
Basse-Normandie	25.95	736
Bourgogne	41.29	879
Bretagne	74.55	1585
Centre	37.54	653
Champagne-Ardenne	27.17	480
Corse	5.76	129
Franche-Comté	34.84	939
Guadeloupe	64.49	163
Guyane	16.51	65
Haute-Normandie	39.12	601
Ile-de-France	243.87	5422
Languedoc-Roussillon	60.28	1440
Limousin	21.32	747
Lorraine	42.50	759
Martinique	28.50	124
Midi-Pyrénées	65.67	2091
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	173.89	4170
Pays de la Loire	81.71	1325
Picardie	60.04	1227
Poitou-Charentes	46.97	1108
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	82.28	1621
Réunion	56.42	139
Rhône-Alpes	133.28	2873

AND AFTERWARDS...

Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty is one of the European Social Fund's priorities for the 2014-2020 period. These themes are covered under thematic objective 9 (TO9) which is dedicated to them. Furthermore, European rules require that a minimum of 20% of the national ESF budgetary envelope in each member state should be devoted to this thematic objective.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL

Against the backdrop of a fragile labour market, the «development of human capital» theme was one of the key priorities for the ESF. The ERDF was only involved in a marginal capacity in this theme, and chiefly in metropolitan France. Among others, this theme covers projects seeking to improve participation in education and lifelong training, particularly through actions designed to reduce the school dropout rate and sexual discrimination, and through greater access to high-quality initial, vocational and advanced training. This theme also seeks to introduce reforms to educational and training systems in order to improve the employability of workers and to continuously update trainers' skills in an innovation and knowledge-driven economy. Finally, the development of human potential in the fields of research and innovation is also covered by this theme.




EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



HEROES 2C

 Deux Mers

 The Medway Queen Preservation Society

 €2,499,435 ERDF

 2010-2013

Through the use of three vessels at various stages of reconstruction to build awareness and to improve maritime skills, the Heroes 2C project skilfully combines preservation of nautical heritage with social integration. The Medway Queen, the Jean Bart and the New Belgica, are 3 ships which previously had very different uses (war, trade and research), which have been restored by naval construction professionals and by persons facing social exclusion specially trained for this purpose. This project involves four partners: Steenschuit in Flanders, the Medway Queen Preservation Society in the UK and the Tourville association in France. These three independent organisations are specialised in the reconstruction of historical vessels which are part of the maritime heritage of these regions and countries. The fourth partner (Flemish Employment & Training Service) is specialised in various employment and training-related aspects.

Apprenticeship contracts for disabled persons thanks to the European Social Fund

 Languedoc-Roussillon

 Centre de Formation des Apprentis Spécialisés

 €358,975 ESF

 2012

This project aims to reduce the termination of contracts during training, to make the most of and to recognise training by providing access to a qualification, and to finalise the individual's training path (through professional integration or the continuation of training on a sandwich basis). The project seeks to favour the integration of disabled people in ordinary apprentice training centres in order that the young people may gain a qualification and obtain a job in an ordinary environment. The project involves monitoring apprentices with a signed apprenticeship contract for three years. The project also seeks to promote equal opportunities by improving the conditions for access to sandwich training and the adaptation of training courses to welcome disabled people in an ordinary environment.



1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



« Le but du jeu c'est de montrer son métier, comment on l'exploite, ce qu'on est capable de faire » Une participante.

The 43rd «Occupational Olympics»



Aquitaine



Regional council of Aquitaine



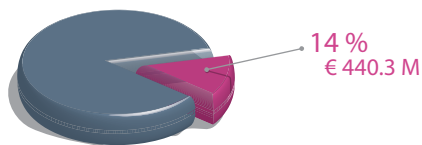
€540,000 ESF



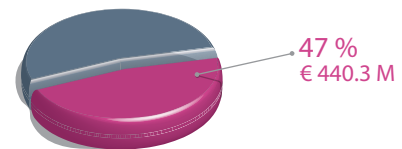
2013

The «Olympiades des Métiers» (occupational Olympics) provides a showcase for the various occupations practised in Aquitaine. They provide an opportunity for young people under the age of 23 to carry out a top-level technical demonstration of their skills in public. The range of activities is vast, ranging from woodworking to computer graphics, not forgetting the automotive sector or baking and confectionery. Since 2010, disabled people can also participate in this competition, with no age restrictions. This is therefore a useful tool for raising the status of training and learning and that of the various professions of the Aquitaine region, bringing together the economic sector, youth employment and training providers. This project attracted 300 young competitors and 25,000 visitors in Aquitaine.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Developing human capital"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Developing human capital"

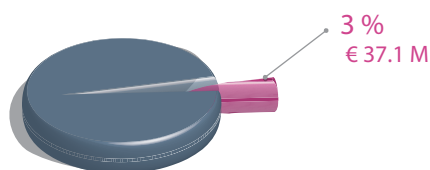
Over the 2007-2013 period, 182 projects were supported by the ERDF as part of the competitiveness objective (in metropolitan France) and the convergence objective (in the outermost regions — OMR), including 173 in the regions of metropolitan France.

This theme was one of the priorities for the ESF's 2007-2013 programming period. A total of 6,717 projects were implemented in metropolitan France and 945 in the OMR making a total of 7,662 projects in all for the period, i.e. just over 1,000 projects per year. On average, European Union support per project for the ESF was €103,000 for projects in metropolitan France and €466,000 in the OMR.

In metropolitan France, 14% of the ESF budgetary envelope was programmed for the «development of human capital» theme, making a total of €692.1 million. This chiefly concerned measures aimed at increasing participation in education and lifelong training, particularly through activities aimed at reducing the school dropout rate and sexual discrimination, which were supported in these regions (€561.66 million of ESF funding).

In the outermost regions, these activities were also very much in the majority (accounting for €411.88 million programmed, i.e. 93% of the theme) with 47% of the ESF budgetary envelope allocated to this theme, i.e. slightly more than €440 million.

THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION» OBJECTIVE



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperation objective devoted to the theme of "Developing human capital"

Over the 2007-2013 programming period, 63 projects were implemented to encourage the «Development of human capital». This is the leading social theme in terms of the number of projects produced by the ETC programmes. 47 projects were produced via cross-border programmes including 2 within the scope of the transnational programmes, (the Atlantic Area programme) and 4 via the INTERREG IVC programme.

Among other things, this theme covers projects concerning the creation of cross-border networks between schools, universities, research establishments or companies in addition to learning languages and cultures or in order to encourage dialogue concerning training (management training or health training, etc.) on both sides of the borders. The «lifelong education and training» aspect is an issue dealt with in particular by the cross-border areas. Indeed, with €17.48 million programmed, this theme is the key priority for the Greater Region programme (21.7% of the budgetary envelope). The high number of projects for this programme (17 projects in all) under this theme is justified in view of the existence of a specific measure within the programme entitled «Cooperation in the fields of education and training».

With just three projects, the Amazonia programme nevertheless devoted almost 18% of its budgetary envelope to this theme, at a cost of €1.78 million.

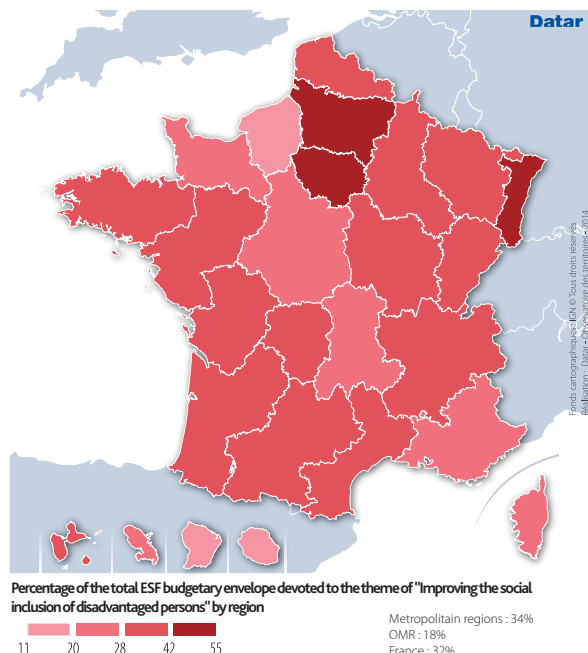
For the France (Manche) - England programme, in which this theme is handled as part of headings 1 and 3 of the programme respectively entitled «Boosting the sense of belonging to a common area and the notion of shared interests» and «Building a common area which is attractive both to live in and to visit», 5% of the budgetary envelope for the programme was deployed in this field.

Finally, the average ERDF funding per project under this theme was €687,000. A high degree of variation exists regarding this average, with actual sums ranging from €110,000 for the INTERREG IVC programme to €1.1 million per project for the Two Seas programme.

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia	1.78	3
Deux Mers	4.40	4
France (Manche) – England	7.27	10
France-Switzerland	0.34	2
France-Wallonia-Flanders	2.32	4
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	17.48	17
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	2.25	7
Cross-border subtotal	36.21	47
Atlantic Area	0.47	2
Northwestern Europe	-	-
Mediterranean (MED)	-	-
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)	-	-
Transnational subtotal	0.47	2
Indian Ocean	-	-
Combined subtotal	-	-
INTERREG IVC	0.44	4
Pan-European subtotal	0.44	4
OVERALL TOTAL	37.12	54



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



In 12 regions of metropolitan France, more than 15% of the ESF budgetary envelope was deployed for actions to develop human capital, this being one percentage point more than the average for metropolitan France which stands at 14%. In particular, in Aquitaine and Corsica, 21% of each of these budgetary envelopes were devoted to the theme, totalling €42.18 and €4.99 million respectively.

In the OMR, although this theme was not a priority in Martinique, in the three other regions, the «convergence» objective concerned more than 40% of their ESF budgetary envelope in the social inclusion field. In particular, 51% of the budgetary envelope in Guiana (€48.83 million) and 57% of the budgetary envelope in Réunion (€308 million) was allocated to this theme, this being higher than the overall average in these regions (47%).

Overall, more than 20% of the national ESF budgetary envelope (metropolitan France + OMR) was used to support initiatives aimed at developing human capital.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	19.66	194
Aquitaine	42.18	231
Auvergne	17.96	168
Basse-Normandie	19.94	145
Bourgogne	13.41	156
Bretagne	5.87	77
Centre	23.83	129
Champagne-Ardenne	14.96	210
Corse	4.66	41
Franche-Comté	9.43	175
Guadeloupe	81.94	330
Guyane	48.83	335
Haute-Normandie	23.10	104
Ile-de-France	71.30	560
Languedoc-Roussillon	20.52	149
Limousin	6.24	67
Lorraine	22.82	494
Martinique	1.45	7
Midi-Pyrénées	34.84	1777
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	67.30	465
Pays de la Loire	18.32	89
Picardie	8.94	292
Poitou-Charentes	22.26	409
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	58.19	167
Réunion	308.05	273
Rhône-Alpes	61.3	540

AND AFTERWARDS...

Over the 2014-2020 programming period, support for education and lifelong training will be one of the priorities for the ESF as part of thematic objective 10 (TO10), concerning «investing in education, training and vocational training to acquire skills and for lifelong training». European rules make it necessary to focus the ESF's support on 4 thematic objectives: TO8, TO9, TO10 and TO11 (please see the information sheet for the definition of the thematic objectives).

INVESTMENTS IN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The «investments in social infrastructure» theme particularly concerned the ERDF. This theme chiefly covers the financing of infrastructure for educational purposes (higher education and research, educational success, etc.) for early childhood, for health (the elderly, disabled people, etc.) for housing (including student accommodation) but also other types of infrastructure such as major sporting facilities or the financing of innovative activities and initiatives in the public service field.



EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS



A cross-border early childhood centre



Rhin Supérieur



City of Strasbourg



€1,680,000 ERDF



2011-2015

The purpose of this project is to build a cross-border early childhood centre alongside the Pont de l'Europe on the Strasbourg side. This facility will help meet the childcare needs of the people of Kehl and Strasbourg. This bilingual multi-reception centre provides 60 places shared out on an equal basis between children living in Kehl and Strasbourg. This initiative is the result of a joint need for additional group childcare places for children aged from three months to 4 years old and the political will to create a genuine cross-border crèche in the heart of the Strasbourg-Kehl urban area.

Supporting professional training in Guiana



Guiana



Maison familiale rurale
du Littoral Ouest



€1,621,400 ERDF



2010

The Mana rural and family centre is a professional training centre specialising in the agricultural sector. This organisation targets young people and adults, many of whom have dropped out of the traditional educational and training systems. The centre combines theoretical teaching and work on site, taking account of the differing levels and specific characteristics of each pupil. It also offers ongoing training for adults seeking training leading to a qualification. The expansion of the centre, financed by the ERDF, has made it possible to increase the reception capacity of this site.



« As an association, our aim in seeking European funding was to enable young people in Guiana to gain access to suitable training »
Adolphe ACHILLE - President of the MFR association.

1. Thematic overview of December 31 2013



« Here at the crèche, parents find a temporary child-minding solution for their children and I'm there to assist them with their future plans » Sylvie Segaud, ANAF integration advisor.

Les Castors : a crèche with a difference

 Pays de la Loire

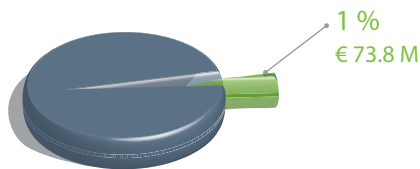
 Association Nantaise d'Aide Familiale

 €334,000 ESF

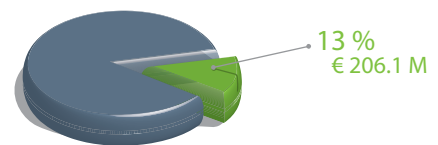
 2011-2013

The Castors crèche was set up in 2011 by the ANAF (Association Nantaise d'Aide Familiale) and operates in three priority districts of Rezé (Pont-Rousseau, Château and Ragon). It provides families in difficulty (single-parent families, families on benefits or on part-time contracts) with a child-minding solution while at the same time helping them to achieve social and professional integration. The crèche has 10 places proposed for renewable periods of three months at a time. If the timeslots (from Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 8 PM) are insufficient, an individual home-based child-minding service can be proposed too. At the same time, **an integration advisor assists each parent with their search for a job or training**, while finding a long-term child-minding solutions for the children.

THE «COMPETITIVENESS» AND «CONVERGENCE» OBJECTIVES



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **competitiveness objective** devoted to the theme of "Investments in social infrastructure"



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the **convergence objective** devoted to the theme of "Investments in social infrastructure"

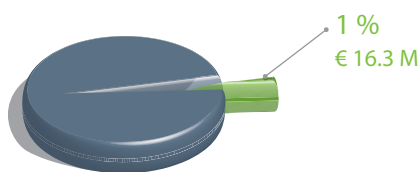
Over the 2007-2013 period, the «investments in social infrastructure» theme accounted for 1% of the total ERDF programming in **metropolitan France**, i.e. €73.8 million. Many regions did not deploy their credits for this theme, preferring instead to focus on investments in other themes meeting the specific needs of their areas.

In the **outermost regions**, the theme accounted for 13% of the total ERDF budgetary envelope assigned to these regions, i.e. €206 million. More than half of this budgetary envelope was used to finance educational infrastructure (including higher education and research, encompassing the agricultural, artistic and sporting fields, engineering schools and Success-in-Education boarding establishments) totalling €157 million.

The ERDF supported 341 projects in France in the field of social infrastructure, for an average of €800,000 ERDF funding. In **metropolitan France**, numerous projects focused on the early childhood sector (83 projects) although very few projects concerned educational infrastructure (7 projects).

In the **outermost regions** the opposite applied, with most of the projects targeting educational infrastructure, for an average amount of €2.4 million per project.

THE «EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION OBJECTIVE»



Percentage of the total ERDF programming for the European territorial cooperative objective devoted to the theme of "Investments in social infrastructure"

Over the 2007-2013 period, 20 projects produced under the ETC programmes had the dominant theme of «Investments in social infrastructure». Apart from the themes of «Promoting reforms in the fields of employment and social inclusion», «Reducing costs hindering the development of outermost regions» and «Technical Assistance», which are not the subject of a detailed analysis in this overview, this theme **was the one which featured least highly in the ETC programmes.**

Among these 20 projects, 17 (i.e. 85% of the projects) were produced by the cross-border programmes. As with the other social themes, these figures show that these programmes do not generally focus on social issues. Producing just three projects between 2007-2013 in the social infrastructure field, this conclusion also applies for transnational programmes. The maximum number of projects produced under this theme for a programme was 5 (the Two Seas and France-Wallonia-Flanders programmes).

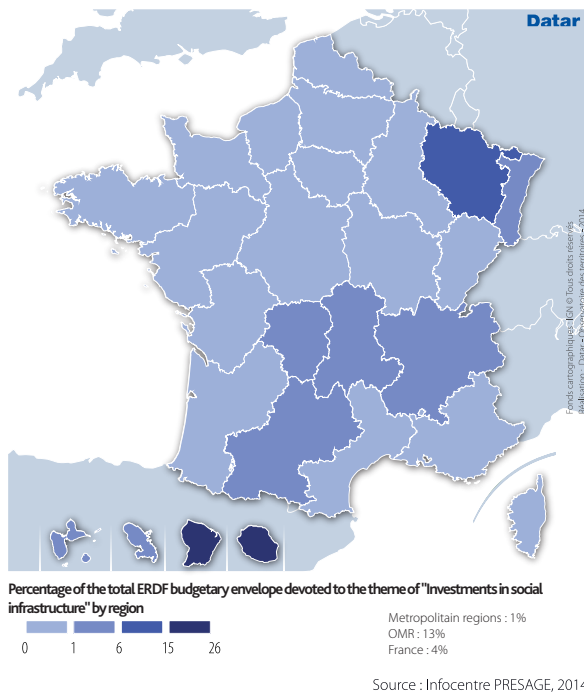
Several conclusions can be drawn from these results. Firstly, the creation and upgrading of social infrastructure is not a priority either for the cross-border areas or for the transnational or interregional programmes. Secondly, the cooperation programmes are not the best way to make good the shortfall in social infrastructure. We may also conclude, by generalising, that social problems have difficulties which reach beyond national borders and need to be developed or dealt with by several stakeholders from different countries.

The average ERDF support per project on this theme was €816,000. As by its very nature this is a theme requiring significant financial resources, it is fully understandable that this average sum is one of the highest of all themes taken together. We should note that although the France-Wallonia-Flanders programme is one of the programmes in which this theme appears to be a dominant one for a large number of projects, the average EU funds programmed per project for this programme is well below average (€494,000). On the other hand, the level of EU funding programmed for the sole Indian Ocean programme covered by this theme is well in excess of the average (€3.3 million).

Programmes	Total EU sum programmed for the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects
Amazonia		
Deux Mers	4.67	5
France (Manche) – England		
France-Switzerland	0.81	3
France-Wallonia-Flanders	2.47	5
Greater Region (FR/LUX/BE/DE)	1.23	2
Upper Rhine (FR/DE)	3.12	2
Cross-border subtotal	12.29	17
Atlantic Area	0.15	1
Northwestern Europe	0.56	1
Mediterranean (MED)		
Southwestern Europe (SUDOE)		
Transnational subtotal	0.70	2
Indian Ocean	3.33	1
Combined subtotal	3.33	1
INTERREG IVC		
Pan-European subtotal		
OVERALL TOTAL	16.32	20



GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE PROGRAMMING (EXCLUDING ETC)



Although very few regions of metropolitan France included this theme in their programmes, two devoted 7.7% and 4.6% of their ERDF budgetary envelope to this theme (respectively Lorraine with €22.4 million and Midi-Pyrenees with €20 million).

In the outermost regions, this theme was one of the two most highly programmed themes in two regions: Reunion (26% of the budgetary envelope at €136 million) and Guiana (15% of the budgetary envelope at €43 million). In Guiana, as a whole, this sum made it possible to finance educational infrastructure whereas in Reunion, although most of the funds devoted to the theme also supported educational infrastructure projects, other projects focused on the financing of health infrastructure for example.

Regions	Sums devoted to the theme (in million euros)	Number of projects programmed for the theme
Alsace	2.64	10
Aquitaine	0.07	4
Auvergne	4.00	6
Basse-Normandie	-	-
Bourgogne	-	-
Bretagne	1.96	9
Centre	0.91	4
Champagne-Ardenne	-	-
Corse	-	-
Franche-Comté	0.67	5
Guadeloupe	10.85	3
Guyane	43.43	43
Haute-Normandie	0.94	5
Ile-de-France	0.75	3
Languedoc-Roussillon	0.30	1
Limousin	1.77	10
Lorraine	22.45	98
Martinique	16.63	7
Midi-Pyrénées	20.02	18
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	-	-
Pays de la Loire	-	-
Picardie	-	-
Poitou-Charentes	-	-
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	2.54	12
Réunion	135.15	34
Rhône-Alpes	14.52	69

AND AFTERWARDS...

For the 2014-2020 period, the European rules provide the possibility for the ERDF to support the development of both social & health infrastructure in addition to education. These activities will be covered by the scope of thematic objective 9 (TO9) for the first («promoting social inclusion and combating poverty») and thematic objective 10 (TO10) for the second («investing in education, skills and lifelong training»).

Between 2007 and 2013, 100,000 projects were financed in metropolitan France, in the outermost regions (Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique, Reunion) and via European Territorial Cooperation by the structural funds, (ERDF — European Regional Development Fund; ESF — European Social Fund). Today, at the start of the 2014-2020 programming period, this thematic overview presents an analysis and a summary of the use of these funds in the various areas concerned (regions of metropolitan France, outermost regions, inter-regional areas and cross border areas, etc.). It puts these results in perspective vis-a-vis the guidelines of the new wave of programming focusing on growth and employment as part of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The key role of the General Commission for Territorial Equality (Commissariat général à l'égalité des territoires - CGET) created on April 2, 2014 and reporting to the Prime Minister seeks to promote solidarity between all regions. The CGET should make it possible to do away with the compartmentalised approach of public policies in order to instead favour a cross-cutting mindset. Indeed, subjects such as access to public services, developing the capacities of each area, supporting economic change, encouraging the transition to a green economy, urban planning or the creation of local sustainable and non-relocatable jobs requires a decompartmentalised approach.

For the 2014-2020 period, the CGET is the authority with responsibility for coordinating the European funds in France. In this capacity, it coordinates the preparation and tracking of the partnership agreement defining the strategy for the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in France. It provides support for the authorities with responsibility for deploying the European funds (regulatory dialogue, monitoring and assessment, communication, training, information system, etc.) particularly via the Europ'Act 2014-2020 programme, which follows on from the Europ'Act 2007-2013 programme.

For the seven years to come, the overall total for the ESIF is approximately €28 billion. Within this figure, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) represent €15.5 billion, and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) €11.4 billion. The budgetary envelope for the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) has not yet been defined.

Eric DELZANT, General Commissioner for territorial equality, acting

KNOWING european programmes is a collection initiated by the Europ'Act European technical support and coordination programme. This collection is designed to provide the stakeholders of the European cohesion policy in France with elements to reflect upon with a view to reinforcing and improving the monitoring and steering of European programmes. It includes several types of support such as survey summaries, analytical tools and conceptual frameworks.

Liens utiles

- **Further information about the European funds in France :**
<http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr>
- **For further information about Europ'Act and the CONNAITRE les programmes europeens collection :**
<http://www.europ-act.eu>
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