

# Saint-Martin / Sint Maarten European territorial cooperation Programme 2014-2020

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Préfet délégué de Saint-Barthélemy et Saint-Martin



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<sup>1</sup> Legend:

type: N=Number, D=Date, S=String, C=Checkbox, P=Percentage, B=Boolean  
decision: N=Not part of the Commission decision approving the cooperation programme  
input: M=Manual, S=Selection, G=Generated by system  
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## Section 1 - Strategy

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[[Reference: article 27, paragraph 1, of the (EU) regulation N° 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> and article 8, paragraph 2, point a), of the regulation (EU) N° 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>]

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

## **SECTION 1 STRATEGY FOR THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION**

[Reference: Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup> and point (a) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>]

### **1.1 Strategy for the operational programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion.**

#### **1.1.1. Description of the operational programme's strategy to contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion**

For the first time, the bi-national island of Saint Martin is preparing its own ERDF cross-border cooperation programme for the 2014-2020 period.

The island, which covers a total area of 87km<sup>2</sup>, is divided into two politically separate parts; its northern half is French and covers an area of 53km<sup>2</sup>; its southern part is Dutch and covers 34km<sup>2</sup>. Its population is multi-national, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural. The population of the French part of the island stood at 36 969 in 20106.

The island of Saint Martin is located in the northern arc of the Lesser Antilles and is equidistant from Porto Rico and Guadeloupe (around 260km). Geographically, it is composed of two parts, Grande Terre (highlands) Terres Basses (lowlands), which are joined by two narrow isthmuses within which lies the salt water lagoon of Simpson Bay. It extends for 15km along its longest axis and 13 km along its widest. The island is volcanic with numerous valleys, and its highest point, the Pic Paradis, stands at 424m. The interior of the island has a hilly topography although there are some flat areas. Saint Martin also administers two other inhabited islands, Tintamarre and Pinel.

Though it has a tropical and dry climate, with the consequence that it experiences occasional water shortages, which acts as a limiting factor for arable and livestock farming. The year is divided into two seasons: a dry season running from December to May and a wet season running from July to October, and which may be accompanied by intense cyclonic activity (with Hurricane Luis in 1995, then again in 1999, 2000, 2008, and most recently with Hurricane Earl in 2010).

The island was discovered by Christopher Columbus on 11 November 1493. It was colonised in successive waves by the French, Dutch and Spanish, with the latter abandoning the island in 1648. It was at this point definitively occupied by the French and Dutch, who, on 23 March 1498 signed the Treaty of Concordia, which divided the island into two zones. Families from England then settled on the island and established farms and, as a result, albeit with some specific features, the English language became and has remained the mother tongue of a large number of inhabitants in both parts of the island.

The French part of Saint Martin (referred to as Saint Martin hereinafter) was attached to the Guadeloupe Region on 21 February 2007, with the adoption of the status of French overseas collectivity (COM). Saint Martin's first territorial council was established on 15 July 2007. At a Community level, Saint-Martin falls under the policy for outermost regions, which means that it has to adhere to and apply all Community laws.

In accordance with article 74 of the Constitution, the status of Saint-Martin was formally established by an organic law on 21 February 2007. Saint-Martin today enjoys the same devolved powers as those enjoyed by the Guadeloupe région, département and communes, as well as other powers transferred to it by the French State. It has powers in relation to tax, road transport, maritime ports, highways, tourism, public land law, access to employment for foreign nationals, establishing and running public

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

<sup>6</sup> IEDOM, Saint-Martin Report 2012, 2013.

services and public service organisations. It has also been conferred powers in town and urban planning, construction, housing, energy, establishing and running public services and public service organisations; it can adapt laws and regulations in relation to public land ownership and education. Under its tax raising powers, in 2009 Saint Martin introduced a series of tax measures, including a general turnover tax (TGCA), which applies to all business activities undertaken in the collectivity. The TGCA rate is much lower than the VAT rate in mainland France. Finally, several public bodies were established at the same time as the Saint Martin overseas collectivity. These include a tourism office and authorities for ports and airports and a water and sanitation authority (EEASM).

Following the disappearance of the Dutch Antilles on 10 October 2010, the Dutch part of the island, Sint Maarten, has become a "constituent country" within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Sint Maarten (as Curaçao and Aruba) is self-governing for all internal affairs with powers relating to defence, foreign affairs and some aspects of judicial functions coming under the purview of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Monarch of the Netherlands is the head of State and he is represented by a Governor (in Sint Maarten). The Sint Maarten constitution was adopted unanimously by the island's council on 21 July 2010 and came into force on October 10 the same year. Sint Maarten has a democratically elected Parliament and a Cabinet headed by a Prime Minister. It is one of the overseas countries and territories (OCT) which do not belong to the European Union, but which have a special associate status.

Bi-nationality is a key feature of the island, one which has significant economic and social ramifications, especially as the island's two parts are not separated by a border.

Cooperation between the two territories of the island has been limited due to lengthy decision-making procedures. On the French side, the decisions have had to involve Guadeloupe and Paris while on the Dutch side, they have had to go through Willemstad, the capital of Curaçao. Saint-Martin's change of status and greater autonomy and the disappearance of the Netherlands Antilles have brought about a new context. Cooperation between Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten has recently been strengthened. On 12 October 2010, France ratified the Franco-Dutch customs cooperation agreement in Saint-Martin (signed at Philipsburg in January 2002). On 2 December 2011 a deliberating forum between the two parts of the island was held at the CCISM<sup>7</sup>. This mixed commission has formalised relations between the two countries and local authorities, enabling them to discuss subjects of common interest, to review the effectiveness of the different cooperation agreements in force, and look to the future. It meets in principle once a year, and is accompanied by a technical commission, which meets quarterly. The cooperation themes addressed at the November 2012 meeting were: security, transport, infrastructures, development, social policy, health, education and the economy.

The first formal quadripartite meeting – involving the French national government, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Saint-Martin overseas collectivity and the constituent country Sint Maarten – took place on 21 January 2014 on the theme of cross-border cooperation.

### **1-Demography, employment and society**

The population of Saint-Martin rose spectacularly towards the end of the 20th century. From around 7 000 inhabitants in 1970, it grew to 8 072 in 1982, 28 500 in 1990, 30 000 in 2000, 37 000 in 2010 and has reached nearly 40 000 today, with the rate of growth slowing slightly. Population density in 2010 stood at 700 h/km<sup>2</sup>, an increase of 27% since 1999.

The 1980-1990 growth phase was driven mainly by large-scale immigration, which accounted for two-thirds of the rise in population over this period<sup>8</sup>; the arrival of large numbers of foreign workers was driven by the construction boom, which developed tax exemptions brought in after 1986. In 1990, 55% of the population was made up of foreign nationals. In 2009, this percentage still stood at 35%, with three-quarters coming from elsewhere in the Caribbean (47% from Haiti).

In 2009 the proportion of under 20s in the population was 37%, with 92.2% of the population made up of people under 60 years of age. Though the population is ageing and the birth rate has fallen markedly, Saint-Martin continues to be a 'young' territory (and significantly so in comparison with Guadeloupe or Martinique). Due to the boom in immigration and the prevalence of a young population, Saint Martin has experienced a spectacular increase in its birth rate, the effects of which

<sup>7</sup> Saint Martin Inter-professional consular chamber

<sup>8</sup> See: "Cap sur les Iles-du-Nord de la Guadeloupe : l'explosion de Saint-Martin/ Head for the Northern Islands of Guadeloupe: the explosion of Saint Martin", in: AntianEco, INSEE, Guadeloupe, n.17, March 1992; "Le rêve domien des immigrants/ The overseas dream of immigrants", AntianEco, n.14, INSEE Guadeloupe, 1990.

are still being felt today.

Sint Maarten has seen a similar demographic trajectory, although its population levelled off between 1995 and 2000 and rose again between 2001 and 2008 to reach around 41 000 on 1st January 2009. As a result, the population density in Sint Maarten is substantially higher than in Saint Martin (over 1000 h/km<sup>2</sup>). Immigration into Sint Maarten, especially from the Caribbean area, appears to have been lower than in the case of Saint-Martin. The doubt stems from the fact that the figures used are for officially registered immigration. The illegal immigrant population has been estimated at between 5 000 and 8 000 people, and there is probably a similar situation in Saint Martin. The proportion of the population under 20 years of age stood at around 30% in 2009, a lower figure than in Saint Martin, although the proportion of the population under 60 years of age was virtually identical (93%);

The active population of Saint-Martin in 2009 was 72.4% of the working age population (slightly higher than the proportion of mainland France). The rate of unemployment was 27% in Saint Martin, compared with only 12% in Sint Maarten. This difference is a sign of divergent economic growth, and of different industrial profiles, to a certain degree at least. Employment policies are also very different: free-market economics in Sint Maarten with a minimum wage of around €600; a high-degree of worker protection in Saint-Martin. In addition, qualification and skill levels in Saint-Martin appear to be a determining factor in the employability of the active population: the unqualified accounted for 43% of job seekers in 2012, while those qualified to a level of at least 2 years post-baccalaureate education accounted for just 10.1%.

In Saint-Martin, the public sector and permanent contracts account for around 60% of employment. In the private sector, services predominate, accounting for 56% of the workforce. The service sector is itself dominated by the tourism industry. In Sint Maarten, non-tourism service employment is more substantial due to its financial services, the large numbers of cruise passengers visiting the duty free shopping area at Philipsburg, and property development.

## **2-Economic development**

In the past, the island's economy was based on salt marsh exploitation and tobacco crops, and later on cotton and sugar cane. Today, the economy is predominated by the services sector, especially tourism. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries have become marginal in economic terms, even if, in the French part of the island, policymakers (central government and the Saint Martin collectivity) aspire to revive these industries, in particular with the support of the forthcoming European programmes.

The economic situation of the island is generally in phase with fluctuations in the world economy, and in particular those of the American/US economy, due to the important role played by tourism. Sint Maarten experienced a high growth rate up to 2007 (4.5-5% annually) but fell to 2.3% in 2008, and has been negative or around 0 throughout the 2009-2011<sup>9</sup> period.

In 1999 Saint-Martin's overall GDP was estimated at €421M, or €14 500 per capita. In 2011, Sint Maarten's GDP stood at around €635M (\$851M), or €16 000 per capita.

Statistics from the Saint-Martin Chamber of Industry and Commerce (CCI) indicate, for the year 2012, the presence of 6 976 businesses (excluding the self-employed professions (lawyers, doctors etc.), property investment partnership/ international trading corporation and one-person businesses). There was a significant rise in the business creation rate (registrations) through 2011 and 2012, but also a significant rise in the cessation rate (with the latter probably being underestimated due to businesses failing to declare the cessation of their activities). The net rate has continued to be a positive one by quite a wide margin, except for 2013; for which the figures are expected to be low or even very low. It is generally believed that many business owners also own a business in the Dutch part of the island. The CCI has compiled an atlas of business parks, including descriptions of their features and occupants: Bellevue (7.4 ha), Concordia (6.75 ha), Galisbay (50 ha), Grand-Case/Hope Estate (51.2 ha), La Savane (14.2 ha). Galisbay and La Savane have substantial unused business accommodation capacity.

The presence of two different monetary systems also needs to be underlined. Saint-Martin uses the Euro, while Sint Maarten is a de facto dollar-using economy (while using in principle the ancient Dutch Florin). This has inevitable consequences in relation to competitiveness in the world tourism market (in the present situation of the change EURO/USD, the consequences are negative on the

<sup>9</sup> For more information about the Sint Maarten economy, see: Economic Outlook of Sint Maarten 2012-2013, Department of Economic Affairs, Transportation & Telecommunication/ECORYS. This is first document of this type published in Sint Maarten. The intention of the government is to produce such a document on a yearly basis.

French side).

**Tourism:**

Tourism is one of the key pillars of the island's economy. In 2010, according to ASSEDIC (French employment office) figures, it accounted for nearly 27% of the workforce on the French side of the island.

Tourists mainly originate from North America, and, to a lesser degree, from Europe and from South America. Tourists of domestic origin or from other Caribbean islands account for only a small proportion of industry turnover.

Tourism rose significantly on both sides of the island from the beginning of the 1980s. From 1987, hotel construction was boosted in Saint Martin through tax changes, and tourism based on the 'French touch' was driven by the high numbers of North American tourists (shops selling luxury brands and gastronomic restaurants). Between 2005 and 2009, tourist numbers fell away progressively, although, with the arrival of cruise tourism to the island, the 2010-2012 period saw a strong revival.

In Sint Maarten, a distinction is made between 'stay-over tourism' (hotels, time-share, apartment/villa rental, holiday homes) and cruise tourism and yachting. Stay-over tourist levels are currently stable at around 425 000 annual visitors. After a decline during the economic crisis, cruise tourism and yachting saw a strong revival through 2010 and 2011 (1.66 million cruise tourists in 2011); it is estimated that cruise tourism accounts for around 15 % of Sint Maarten's GDP; the yachting business, with all of its associated activities (such as maintenance repair), has seen strong growth over the last decade.

A clear disparity can be noted between the Dutch side (90% of the total of tourist visitors) and the French side, where tourist frequentation decreased in 2012.

For instance, in Saint-Martin, the number of hotel rooms has been falling steadily since 2000 (-15% in 8 years, more than 2 571 rooms in 2004), thereby having a negative effect on the commercial sector (20% of businesses. The number of rooms in 4 and 5 star hotels fell by 38% between 2008 and 2012, and the number of cruise passengers halved during the same period. The weakening of the dollar relative to the Euro over the last few years has deepened this crisis, with not only tourists but also residents increasingly deserting Saint Martin for Sint Maarten.

Finally, the goal of diversifying tourism activities has been included in Saint Martin's 2010-2015 tourism development plan (January 2010), which seeks to exploit the island's natural assets and cultural heritage. Exploiting the Nature Reserve is at the heart of the strategy (see below §Environment, risks and vulnerability). The Nature Reserve offers the chance to see and observe turtles, birds, and dolphins while walking, mountain biking or kayaking. Its lakes are particularly remarkable for the numerous birds that can be observed there (both in terms of numbers and species), and bird watching has substantial appeal to become a strong tourism asset.

Cultural tourism could exploit the potential of numerous assets such as: the Butterfly Farm (which is home to butterflies from all around the world); the Old House and Rum museum; the Marigot museum ('discovering the Arawaks'); and around ten art and painting galleries. Saint Martin's ethnographic heritage, which is an indelible part of the territory's identity, also has tourism potential. Saint Martin also possesses an authentic and varied architecture, which shows off and epitomises the different periods of the island's history; a restoration plan would revive town centres and make the island more appealing to tourists.

**Transport:**

In Saint-Martin, the port of Galisbay is used for goods traffic, and the port of Marigot is used as a passenger port. Sint Maarten's deep water port Pointe Blanche is used for arrivals/departures of cruise passengers and, with its comparatively better cargo handling facilities, also for imports. Though the number of port calls had risen in 2012 at the Galisbay trade port (+6% compared to 2011), after having dropped back through 2010 and 2011, the 2013-2014 season has seen a marked decline in calls, to the benefit of Philipsburg (Pointe Blanche).

The island has two airports: Espérance Grand-Case in Saint Martin and the international airport Princess Juliana in Sint Maarten, which can accommodate large-capacity aircraft and serves 32 destinations. Traffic using Princess Juliana increased by 7.6% in 2012 (around 1.6 million

passengers), whereas traffic using Grand-Case fell (-4.9%).

The state of the highway network in Saint-Martin is alarming. This is due to increasing volumes of traffic both within Saint Martin and between Saint Martin and Sint Maarten, and to overloaded lorries and HGVs, and infrastructure deterioration (itself the result of inadequate investment); another factor being the power and number of vehicles in circulation. The result of higher traffic volumes is growing pollution, pollution which should not be neglected.

#### **Construction:**

In Saint-Martin, the construction sector in 2012 employed 7.1% of the employees identified by the UNEDIC, with a substantial increase in 2012. The sector however has been suffering since 2009 due to the crisis, but also more recently due to administrative and judicial obstacles, which have come to impact important building sites. In 2012, the number of building permits delivered fell in Saint-Martin (whereas it increased on the Dutch side). In terms of habitat and housing, the number of main residences continued to grow between 1990 and 2009 to meet the needs of an increasing population and the growing number of individuals choosing to live separately. The number of second homes also saw an accelerated growth (increasing by a factor of 5 between 1999 and 2009). The activity of the construction sector has thus largely profited from this situation.

In Sint Maarten, the sector saw a particularly prosperous period between 2006 and 2008 (employing 19% of the active population). It was then hit hard by the crisis with very few new projects being initiated in the private sector, with a limited number of public investments financed by Dutch development funds (USONA) and the EDF, and only a modest resumption of the construction of housing for families on low to average incomes.

#### **Energy:**

The island is dependent on external sources for its electrical energy production; the source of energy is essentially fossil-based, so it is both expensive and polluting.

In Sint Maarten, there is a sole utility company (concessionnaire) for the production and distribution of electricity and water, GEBE, which has an electricity capacity of 80MW. Electricity consumption has risen in recent years, despite a fall in 2011, which was then followed by a more stable trend. The price of electricity has increased by 54% since 2006, which is spurring people to reduce energy use. GEBE has begun to invest in renewable energies.

The Saint Martin COM has started to carry out some innovating projects, starting to develop solar energy, connecting 14 photovoltaic facilities to the grid in 2011 and about fifty additional projects are currently under development. There is nevertheless, to date, no truly structured strategy in the field of energy. Driven by population growth, the consumption of electricity increased by 43.6% between 2001 and 2011. The supplier is the EDF/Énergie de Saint Martin<sup>10</sup>, which supplies the grid with energy produced by a 39MW thermal power plant and by a 14MW diesel power station.

The networks on the French and Dutch sides are not inter-connected; however, an emergency line does allow energy to be exchanged in the event of engineering problems with one of the suppliers.

#### **Information and communication technologies (ICT):**

With regard to ICT, it must first be stressed that Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten benefit from a very good provision of cable-based services which generates comparative advantages within the Lesser Antilles region. There is the:

East Caribbean Fiber System (ECPS) which serves the Caribbean islands from Trinidad to the British Virgin Islands where it is then connected to C-BUS system cabling, which can convey the traffic to New York etc.);

*Sint-Maarten - Puerto-Rico-1* (SMPR-1) which connects Saint-Martin to the large world centres;

Global Caribbean Network (GCN) which serves the Caribbean between Trinidad and Puerto-Rico, connected to MAC system cabling allowing a dual output towards Miami and New York.

According to the French Regulator for electronic communications and facilities (ARCEP),

<sup>10</sup> ESM, Subsidiary of EDF Énergies Nouvelles.

accessibility to underwater cables constitutes an important challenge with regard to the development of very fast internet connections and thus to innovation in the overseas' territories. It is important to ensure that excessively high tariffs, which would handicap the development of electronic communications, are avoided.

There are several mobile telephone operators both on the French side as well as on the Dutch side (3 on each).

In addition, there is a small innovative core on the French side which notably includes a local IT services company, Computech, as well as telecommunications operators and hotel operators. Computech is an IT service provider that was created in 2000 to develop customized applications for public and private clients operating in Saint-Martin and the surrounding region. Computech has a primarily public and semi-public client base (public services, utilities) thanks to the fact that the banks in Saint-Martin possess their own systems (the same cannot be said for all the neighbouring OCTs). Computech has recently gained clients - government - on the Dutch side and developed computer applications for the Princess Juliana airport. Computech recently entered into a partnership with Microsoft to open a Computer Technology Center, designed for in-situ demonstrations instead of having to go to the USA. The Center includes an area dedicated to strategic briefing so Computech can assist clients in the analysis of their strategy and adapt the services they provide accordingly. A new building, financed with the assistance of ERDF, was inaugurated in 2013 in Galisbay. It also accommodates a data center (located near to the landfall area of one of the cables), and will enable Computech to envisage the development of cloud computing related activities.

In Sint Maarten, this will indeed help to address the needs of the finance departments and high-end services, whose presence in the local economy is not inconsiderable.

### **3-Environment, risks and vulnerability**

#### ***Natural heritage and biodiversity:***

The richness of its biodiversity constitutes one of the major assets of the island. However, this richness is today acutely threatened by the different pressures exerted on its natural spaces: the expanding anthropisation which is leading to fragmentation of habitats, the pollution of natural environments and resources and even the introduction of exotic invasive species. The island still does not have at its disposal, neither on its French side, nor on its Dutch side, the planning capacity capable of combatting the degradation of its ecosystems (national parks, reserves, action plans related to biodiversity, etc.) Any effort undertaken to protect this wealth needs to ensure that urban planning policy documents take account of environmental problems and that scientific studies and inventories are indeed carried out. As of yet, the volume of knowledge available on the island's biodiversity and the means deployed to improve understanding remain insufficient.

The island of Saint Martin possesses 14 RAMSAR-listed 'remarkable' ponds that are protected by a biotope protection decree. These ponds are all located at the bottom of a water catchment area located within urbanised areas. They need to be managed using outlet facilities in such a way that respects this precious biotope. A national maritime and land nature Reserve spanning an area of 3 060 hectares was created on the French side in 1998, allowing Saint Martin not only to capitalise on its natural heritage in terms of its flora and fauna, but also to mark the Collectivity's commitment to preserving its natural assets. This approach constitutes an excellent basis for diversifying tourist activities. On another note, knowledge of marine animal-life may represent an important stepping stone for reviving fishing and developing aqua-cultural activities.

#### ***Waste management and processing:***

It should be noted that Saint-Martin has persistently lagged behind in the management and processing of waste, which can be partly ascribed to regulatory difficulties (obligation to treat waste locally or to export it to Guadeloupe then onto Europe), as well as to the limited size of the market and the low surface area available. As a consequence, tips continue to be overfilled, collecting and treatment facilities for dangerous waste are scarce if not inexistent and there is still a low level of recycling and frequent illegal dumping. The first waste collection centre has now been established in Marigot, and a waste sorting centre has just been opened on the Grandes Cayes site.

Two projects were co-funded by ERDF and ADEME through the 2007-2013 OP:

- the establishment of an enterprise for the processing of potentially infectious medical waste,

in order to comply with French and EU regulations (hospitals, practitioners,...), with an amount of 0.2 M€;

- the existing waste processing unit has separated the waste processing instruments into two types: a storage unit for non-dangerous waste (household and similar waste); an 'eco-site' (recycling and treatment of industrial waste). The 'eco-site' allows for the separate processing of old cars, scrap iron, plastics, cardboard, glass, electric and electronic waste (amount: 1.1 M€).

Sint Maarten recently invested in the creation of a facility for sorting and processing waste, entrusted through a concession contract to a private operator (under the BOT scheme).

#### **Water:**

The island suffers from a chronic deficit of water due to low levels of rainfall and low levels of natural water and ground water resources.

The French part of the island has an operating storage capacity of 15 000 m<sup>3</sup>, divided into five tanks managed by the EEASM<sup>11</sup>. The production is achieved through the desalination of sea water. Since 2006, Saint-Martin has had the benefit of a new plant for the production of drinking water that uses the process of reverse osmosis, which is more effective and cost-efficient than the former process using distillation. Between 2007 and 2012, the number of water consumers increased by 8.7%. Nevertheless, the volume of water sold, therefore actually consumed in reality, continued to drop between 2007 and 2011, and then started to rise once again in 2012 (during a period of acute water stress). The La Générale des Eaux de Guadeloupe, at the request of the EEASM, has carried out monitoring, repair work and leakage tests; in addition, the EEASM has initiated programmes to renew the water pipelines. At the end of 2012, the upgrading of Saint Martin's strategic plan for drinking water has made it possible to model the distribution network and to correctly size the setting up of hydraulic and pressure regulating equipment with a view to decreasing the frequency and the leakage rate of the cracks identified in the broken pipes. It also envisages, in the medium-term to increase, the capacity of the desalination plant at Galisbay, to construct a new drinking water tank and to work to renew pipelines that have fallen into disrepair. Generally speaking, the poor state of the networks causes the water output to be halved, which results in a high price of water (€10 €/m<sup>3</sup>).

In Sint Maarten, the production and supply of drinking water is entrusted to GEBE, the same supplier as for electricity. Water consumption increased regularly until 2010 after which it saw a decline. The cost of water has increased by 24% since 2006. Investments have been made to reduce leakage and to save water.

#### **Water treatment:**

Saint-Martin currently has 6 public waste water treatment stations (STEU), the most recent of which, that of Oyster Pond, was inaugurated on November 20th, 2012. In addition, the COM and the State have agreed to a programme to carry out improvement work on the Marigot collecting systems, as part of a development contract for 2013. The current infrastructures are on the whole insufficient, and consequently the collecting system is currently being restructured across the whole of the territory, while new depollution stations are in the pipeline. As for water, the strategic plan for water purification (validated in 2009 by the EEASM) was updated in 2012 and was adopted in May 2013, in concert with the services of the State, the Natural reserve and the Conservatoire du Littoral. The plan was developed on the basis of work led by a scientific committee and 90% financed by Structural Funds. The plan envisages the construction of new stations, notably at Quartier d'Orléans (where there is a pressing need to bring the stations in line with standards), at Grand-Case and Galisbay, as well as including the reinforcement and the extension of the existing collecting systems.

Water treatment also constitutes a critical problem for Sint Maarten. An EDF financial agreement was signed on December 5th, 2013 for the financing of a water treatment network, named "Dutch Quarter Sewerage", (EDF Funds accounting for €4,75M.) The overall objective of the project is to improve the living conditions of people on a low-income and to reduce poverty. The project also aims to eliminate surface water and coastal area pollution for the benefit of the inhabitants as well as of tourists. The specific objective is to improve water treatment, sewage pipes, drinking water and road infrastructure within the Dutch Quarter, as specified in the technical annexes to the financial

<sup>11</sup> Établissement des Eaux et d'Assainissement de Saint-Martin/ Saint Martin Water Treatment Authority

agreement.

**Risks<sup>12</sup> :**

The geographical location of Saint-Martin, belonging to the Lesser Antilles volcanic arc, means the island is subjected to two major natural phenomena: tropical cyclones and earthquakes – Saint Martin is classed as a level 5 region, i.e. it has a high level of seismicity. In addition to these phenomena, its location sporadically subjects the island to very heavy precipitation equal to that observed during tropical cyclones and can generate high risks of torrential flooding. The low altitude of the island's valleys and coastal areas make them particularly sensitive to the risk of flash floods, cyclonic swell and tsunamis. Moreover, due to high demographic pressure, urbanization not only continues to progress towards areas that are more exposed to such phenomena, but is at the same time responsible for aggravating the risks of such events through activities such as the filling in of ponds and gullies, the concreting of large surface areas thereby making them impermeable, and cuttings on hillsides.

A Natural Risks Prevention Plan (PPRN), approved in 2011, has been developed for the territory of Saint-Martin. The plan takes account of a whole range of natural risks (floods, landslides, earthquakes and cyclones) and their effects.

In addition, the local context is particularly sensitive to the numerous problems associated with climate change: extensive urbanisation along coastal areas, low-lying valleys and coastal areas, ecological sensitivity of the natural environment, and the prevalence of tourist activity.

Among the islands of the Lesser Antilles volcanic Arc, those to the north are the most exposed to cyclones. The high number of marine-related meteorological risks is the result of four cumulative factors: the high frequency of cyclones, their high intensity, the variability of their trajectory and that of their period of formation.

The insufficiency of the preventive and mitigation measures for natural risks can first of all be explained by political, institutional and legal factors inherited from the colonial period. No genuine cooperation was developed between the French and Dutch sides of the island despite both of them being neglected by their respective colonial powers. The main consequence has been the absence of a coherent universal policy with regard to crisis and risk management, made worse given the territory's small size and limited resources. The disaster management plans for Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten are very different – the Dutch plans do not include either mandatory evacuation, nor public funded rebuilding, thus harming the operational capacity within a territory of such a small size, and whose border is highly permeable (large cross-border flows during crisis periods).

The speed and scale of population renewal have also considerably increased the vulnerability of Saint-Martin with regard to cyclonic disturbances. The vulnerability of the population with regard to the risk of cyclones has been worsened following the non-implementation of existing regulation and a lack of territorial planning: For the French part, provisions of the Coastal Law n°86-2 of 3/1/1986 have not applied, and there is an increasing number of constructions carried out without a building permit, including tourist residences and hotels. However, by the very fact of their disastrous effects the cyclones of 1995-1999 paradoxically boosted progress through the widespread construction of hard-wall accommodation, improvement of prevention systems and the reinforcement of warning systems. Nevertheless, Saint-Martin does not possess the specialised equipment (oceanographical measuring instruments) that Guadeloupe possesses, in spite of the spectacular damage caused during the cyclones – a possible sign of its “secondary” status in the area.

**4-Education**

A Council for state education was created in Saint-Martin in 2012. It is composed of representatives of the COM, staff representatives of educational establishments and users (pupils' parents...). It has an advisory role with regard to the organization and running of the education system in the collectivity. Saint-Martin has 20 schools (school year 2012-2013), including 16 at primary level, 3 secondary and a six-form college. Private education is also very developed with seven nursery schools, and eight school groups, including a secondary-level school.

The proportion of non-graduates among the population with more than 15 years of schooling is relatively high, with 40.9% (compared to 39.4% in Guadeloupe). 28.4% of the educational personnel

<sup>12</sup> See: V. Duvat, “Le système du risque à Saint-Martin/ The Risk system in Saint-Martin (French Lesser Antilles)” : in Sustainable development of territoires, Dossier 11, 2008, pp. 1-25.

possess a level equivalent to the BEPC, CAP or BEP. Only 12.9% of the population have a 2-year post baccalaureate level or higher education diploma (15.3% in Guadeloupe and 23% in mainland France).

This last figure is obviously linked with the lack of higher education establishments in Saint-Martin. To compensate for this handicap, the COM finances a grants scheme and has signed a convention with the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, to assist pupils preparing the French IEP competitive entrance exam. In 2010, a framework convention was signed between the COM, the interdepartmental Delegation for equal opportunities and the CNOUS to ensure a better conditions for Saint-Martin students attending the establishments in mainland France. Lastly, the university education on offer is at an embryonic stage as the CNAM is the only organization to provide access, albeit in a limited number of fields, to higher education courses (DCG and CNAM Intec).

In 2011, the COM, which is responsible for education and vocational training, also signed the first territorial development plan contract for professional training (CPTDF) for the period 2011-2014 in concert with the State and the minister for state education. The aim of the contract, which prioritises activities such as the hotel trade, catering, tourism and construction, is to target the needs of the market in terms of employment and to adapt the courses on offer accordingly. In 2012, a course in business networks and telecommunications was introduced – the first to exist in the Antilles.

An important effort was made through the ERDF OP 2007-2013 and the Contrat de Développement 2011-2013 with the construction of a complex of secondary schools in Grand-Case for 900 pupils (total amount: 16.37 M€).

In Sint Maarten, education is compulsory from 4 to 18 years (Law on Compulsory Education, 1991). The region has 5 elementary schools, a school of specialised education and a Vocational Training School within the public education sector. Moreover, there is a subsidized sector for primary education with 18 denominational schools (Protestant, Catholic, Adventist, and Methodist). For secondary education, there are 5 establishments linked with two denominational foundations.

The government of Sint Maarten has developed a grant scheme for students at the university level, regardless of whether they study in a local establishment or outside the territory. Sint Maarten benefits from the presence of the AUC Medical School (American University of the Caribbean) and the University of Saint Martin (USM), which offers programmes in cooperation with foreign universities.

#### **5-The major differences between Saint-Martin and Sint Maarten**

Three differences are especially noteworthy. The first relates to the business climate as well as the perception of this climate. The second relates to cruise tourism. The third relates to higher education, which we have mentioned just above.

The business climate is perceived, in particular by the Dutch side, as being appreciably different on the two sides of the island, and more favourable to investment on the Dutch side. The reasons given are a mixture of objective and subjective points, as follows:

- the €/USD exchange rate, which acts to the detriment of the French side;
- the burden of the laws, regulations and the bureaucracy on the French side;
- the need for Sint Maarten-based companies to obtain a licence for them to be able to carry out their activities in Saint-Martin;
- the minimum wage in Saint-Martin, which is approximately double that of Sint Maarten, coupled with the stricter labour and immigration laws on the French side;
- a 40-hour working week in Sint Maarten, compared to 35 hours in Saint-Martin;
- a particularly advantageous tax system in Sint Maarten (no property/land tax nor capital gains tax;
- reduced property transfer taxes);
- obligation to use the French language in any correspondence with the administration.<sup>13</sup>

For all these reasons, the Sint Maarten companies are seldom interested in operating in the French part, whereas many French companies have established themselves in the Dutch part. A substantial proportion of the expenditure of Saint-Martin residents, companies and tourists takes place in the

<sup>13</sup> *Economic Outlook*, op.cit., pp. 22-23.

Dutch part, which represents an important source of revenue for the Sint Maarten economy. For this very reason, the state of the economy in the French part inevitably has deep repercussions for the Dutch part.

The second difference relates to the considerable imbalance between the levels of cruise tourism, which plays a very important role in the Sint Maarten economy (in terms of revenues generated by the port and spending by tourists) and only a very minor role in the French part. To explain this imbalance, we can advance some of the same reasons as for business climate (in particular the €/USD exchange rate), but also the fact that Sint Maarten has invested heavily to construct a deep sea port.

Lastly, the third difference relates to the provision of higher education. Whereas Saint-Martin has only a few post-baccalauréat courses (see above §Education) and does not have a university, Sint Maarten boasts a university campus with the Medical school of the AUC (American University of the Caribbean) and the University of Saint Martin (USM). The latter is an annexe of the Johnson & Wales University, a private American university, the largest campus of which is located in Providence, Rhode Island. The USM is responsible for the courses, and it awards degrees in business management, arts & the humanities, the tourism & hotel business, and education.

The first difference, that is business climate, is mainly due to the legislative, regulatory and fiscal framework, which differs appreciably in the two parts of the island, as well as the use of a different currency. This situation is therefore not likely to change in the short, nor probably even in the medium term.

On the other hand, the two other differences could give rise to future collaborations yet to be defined, such as the coordination of tourism development and infrastructure strategies (synergies, complementarities, marketing), or the granting of access to Saint Martin students to Sint Maarten universities or the coordination of university cooperation programmes with external institutions.

## **6-Shared Challenges**

It must first be stressed that there is a very strong interdependence between the two parts of the island, not only economic interdependence, but a social one, as a result of the intermixing of the two populations, which have family ties. This intermixing has been facilitated by their bilingualism.

Bi-nationality obviously constitutes one of the distinct features of the territory. It was the subject of an article in 2006 dealing with the challenges implied by bi-nationality<sup>14</sup>:

Firstly, this bi-nationality is made up of contrasts. There is no border, circulation is completely unhindered between the two parts of the island, there is only one single cultural identity, and there is no real linguistic barrier (even though English is the first language taught on the Dutch side, and French is the first language taught on the French side). However, at the same time, the politico-institutional statute of the two sides is different (OR on the one side, and OCT on the other) with as a consequence different even diverging public policies, and a different currency with all the constraints that this can bring with it.

Freedom of movement makes it possible for pupils of the Dutch part to attend the schools in the French part, just as Dutch patients can receive treatment in a hospital located in the French part. Many Saint-Martin inhabitants work on a daily basis in Sint-Maarten businesses. Conversely, of the 6000 companies recorded in 2006 at the French CCLs, 30% were Dutch, and 40% of those registered with the French Chamber of Trades were of foreign nationality<sup>15</sup>.

In view of this situation, the cooperation between the two governments was limited up to a very recent period, as already mentioned in the introduction. The repeated failure of the negotiations entered into at the local level between the two parts of the island (police cooperation agreements, cross-border cooperation protocols) illustrates the difficulties inherent in the island's complex territorial and political status.

However, given the size of the island and the range of problems that the two parts must face, it would appear that joint responses and economies of scale are at the same time desirable and necessary, while remaining mindful of the legislative and regulatory differences which can make these economies of scale difficult to set up. Consequently, the political commitment to work on a whole

<sup>14</sup> Marie Redon, "Saint-Martin/Sint-Maarten, une petite île divisée pour de grands enjeux / A little, divided island facing great challenges », *Les Cahiers d'Outre-Mer*, 234 | Avril-Juin 2006.

<sup>15</sup> Art. mentioned above

series of problems has clearly strengthened in the last few years.

For the purpose of this OP, we have identified five major challenges shared by the French and Dutch sides. The list could be longer, but we have focused on challenges considered to be the most strategic and/or the most urgent. In addition, these challenges are not necessarily all intended to be translated into St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP priorities: some could be addressed within the local and national framework (French and Dutch), or within the ERDF-ESF OP for Saint-Martin, or within EDF programmes for Sint Maarten, or even within the INTERREG OP for the Caribbean. The St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP has a budget of only €10M, which means that a significant effort needs to be made in terms of thematic concentration of the different priorities.

***First challenge: To ensure the availability of basic infrastructures for the island's population***

The construction of the basic infrastructures needed to meet the needs of the population has suffered delay after delay. As a result the renewal of public facilities did not keep up with population growth from 1980-1990. Water supply networks, sewage, electricity, and road networks, to mention only the basic utilities and infrastructures have today reached the absolute limit of their capacity and are in a poor state of repair. By any measure, they are now far from being able to meet the daily needs of the population. Substantial progress must also be made in waste processing/treatment and the production of renewable energies. Lastly, investment in protection against natural risks needs to be better planned.

Saint-Martin suffers from an abysmal lack of investment in drinking water (the island's water resources are very limited, drinking water comes from desalination units, and water is thus very expensive), water treatment, waste processing and highways. In the case of highways, the insufficiency of the investments has caused congestion problems, hampering traffic flow and mobility and resulting in a high level of CO2 emissions.

The management and processing of waste remains insufficient: Processing plants are in need of restoration and upgrading to enable them to comply with norms and standards, even if significant effort has recently been made in Sint Maarten with the building of a new processing plant. In addition, actions aimed at raising awareness among the populations about the problem of waste management and prevention, remain insufficient. Concerning energy, Saint Martin does not possess an energy plan for the territory. Nevertheless, projects do exist in the fields of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies. These aim at: supporting studies which have not yet been carried out, awareness-raising and communication, investment, assistance to households, companies and public authorities, and the training of professionals.

Lastly, it is important to stress that there is very little public land, which adds to the difficulty of making certain types of public investment. This is particularly true in the field of waste, for which the treatment facilities set up are likely to be insufficient in the medium-term because they are subject to the limitations stemming from the size of the territory and the lack of public land.

***Second challenge: To preserve the environment***

This second challenge is closely related to the first insofar as the protection of the environment can only be achieved once there has been a significant improvement in the availability and quality of basic utilities and infrastructures. It is nevertheless necessary to differentiate the two challenges because they each address different objectives: the first challenge relates to meeting the needs of the population, while the second relates to preserving ecological balances in the medium and long term, on a particularly small and fragile island.

The key points relate to the fight against pollution and the protection of biodiversity. The fight against pollution is closely related to progress that is needed in the fields of water treatment, waste management and processing, as well as a reduction in the use of fossil energies (in particular, but not exclusively, those related to car traffic). We have seen significant progress made with regard to the protection of biodiversity thanks to the setting up of the Natural reserve and to the role of the Conservatoire du Littoral on the French side. This progress must be continued and expanded to the whole of the island.

Generally, it should be stressed that the protection of the biodiversity not only represents an environmental challenge but it is also an increasingly important challenge in relation to diversifying tourist activities within a strongly competitive market for tourist destinations.

***Third challenge: To consolidate the island's position within a very competitive Caribbean tourist industry***

Even though there may well be important differences with regard to the tourist activities and level of tourist frequentation between the two parts of the island, as has been previously underlined, the fact remains that the whole of the island has to compete in a very competitive tourist industry offering very low price destinations, such as the Dominican Republic, to give but one example.

A joint strategy to position the island as a tourist destination and a concerted marketing effort should be explored.

***Fourth challenge: To put in place risk prevention and management tools***

The Antilles arc is particularly exposed to major natural risks. With the predicted impacts of climate change, such as shifts in seasonal variation, the intensification and aggravation of flooding, periods of drought and cyclonic hazards, it is more often than not the sectors of agriculture and fishing that are heavily affected. These natural phenomena have consequences on the food and water security of the island. The potential impact on tourism should not be underestimated either.

The setting up of warning and prevention systems for the major risks clearly represents a challenge for the island as a whole. Risk management, for which the legislative and regulatory frameworks are different, should at the very least be part of a coordinated effort.

***Fifth challenge: To set up an institutional and structured cooperation between the two sides of the island***

We have already underlined the lack of cooperation between the two parts of the island that lasted for a considerable time, up until the recent improvement.

It is now necessary to institutionalize this cooperation and to sustain it over the long term by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the first territorial cooperation programme, co-financed by ERDF. The goal should be to identify the challenges shared by the whole island and the possible areas of cooperation, as well as to develop the instruments that will enable joint projects to be implemented successfully.

In addition to the four shared challenges outlined above, we can retain two specific points likely to come into play in the area of cooperation and which are of real importance in the medium and long term.

The first point concerns the statistical data relating to the island. The inclusion of the French part in the Guadeloupe Region up to a recent period has resulted in an absence of separate statistics, and consequently, there are wide gaps in the data available. The situation does not appear to have been much better for a long time in the Dutch part. Nevertheless, recent progress can be noted on the French side with the publication of IEDOM "Saint-Martin 2012" report, and in Sint Maarten with the publication of "Economic Outlook of Sint Maarten 2012-2013" by the Department for Statistics within the Ministry in charge of economic affairs. It would certainly be useful to consolidate the statistical data for the whole of the island.

The second point relates to the island's strategic economic development planning. When its first ESF-ERDF programme for the 2014-2020 period was being prepared, Saint-Martin developed, for its side of the island, a "smart specialization strategy" (S3), which identified three strategically important areas: smart and sustainable utilities, construction and urban planning; ICT/ information society; managing and capitalising on natural and cultural assets. Under an EDF-supported project for the whole of the OCTs, entitled "Territorial Strategies for Innovation" (TSI), Sint Maarten will soon carry out a similar exercise. It would be useful to create a joint working group on the themes of innovation and competitiveness for the island as a whole, so as to take advantage of this opportunity.

**7-Priorities for the St Martin/St Maarten ETC Operational Programme**

We propose the following priorities on the basis of:

- the analysis of the shared challenges as outlined above, which does not necessarily lead to

turning each challenge into a priority of the present St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP;

- how the ERDF funding is distributed between the ERDF-ESF programming for Saint-Martin, the INTERREG Caribbean OP, funding from the French State (in particular the Contract of Development), and this St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP;
- Expected EDF funding for Sint Maarten which can be used as co-financing for ERDF in the St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP.

**Priority 1: To improve water and water treatment infrastructures (TO6, IP6b)**

Supplying water and treating waste water are critical problems for both parts of the island. Large sums have been requested by Saint-Martin under the ERDF priority in these two areas<sup>16</sup>, but remain insufficient to fully meet needs. The goal of the inclusion of this priority in the St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP is, as far as possible, to support the development of an approach for the island as a whole and to reinforce the effort made in the French part.

During the technical meeting of December 17th 2013, it was mentioned that a project for a sewage station located on the Dutch side might be proposed. The meeting held on April 4th 2014 allowed for an exchange of views between the Dutch side (Government of Sint Maarten), the French side (State, COM Saint-Martin) and representatives of the European Commission which confirmed a common interest in such a project.

There is virtually no land available on the French side of the island to construct a treatment station, yet the existing stations are approaching the limit of their capacity and the station serving the Quartier d'Orléans does not meet European norms (legal action is in ongoing). The construction of a station on land in Sint Maarten and the connection of French networks to it would be the most appropriate way forward given the challenges facing the French side of the island. This solution is in line with the strategy set out in the *Schéma directeur d'assainissement* (Water Treatment Plan) of the French side, which aims to reduce the discharge of effluent into the natural environment and to improve the capacity and standard of the transfer of raw effluent by sharing them between treatment stations.

The station is to be located in Cole Bay and will serve a population of 17 000 habitants, 50% of whom reside on the French side and 50% the Dutch side.

Feasibility studies for the construction of the station itself have been carried by the Dutch territory.

Its overall cost is estimated at 13 M€, excluding network connections for St Maarten, but including network connections for Saint-Martin.

Funding could be as follows:

- 1 M€: connections and access infrastructure from the French side to the border: French national funding (State or COM) or EU funding;
- 3 M€: construction of the station, plus connections and access infrastructure from the border to the station: ERDF of the present OP, i.e. 30% of the OP outside of EU territory;
- 9 M€: construction of the station and purchase of the land necessary for establishing the station: funding distribution to be decided between the Government of Sint Maarten and the Member State (the Netherlands);
- connections and access infrastructure to the station for the users of the Dutch side: amount to be defined, to be funded by the EDF.

**Priority 2: To protect the environment (TO6, IP6d)**

The protection of biodiversity and ecosystems needs to be ensured, in particular through precise and targeted measures. The ERDF grant will be 1.5M€.

With both sides sharing a desire to protect the lagoon as a natural milieu there is already an informal agreement in place concerning the Simpson Bay lagoon. The Simpson Bay lagoon is, due to its size

<sup>16</sup> Under TO6.

and position straddling the French and Dutch parts of the island, and especially its importance for tourism and the economy, a key development asset for the whole island. What is needed therefore is an overarching environmental strategy for preserving, or even enhancing water quality and biodiversity, without unduly constraining economic development.

The project envisaged includes four main lines of action: the zoning of the lagoon and its edge, with the introduction of regulations for possible uses; a programme and action plan to reduce pollution; a programme and action plan to actively depollute the lagoon; and a programme and action plan to reintroduce nature to the lagoon.

**Priority 3 : To prevent the risk of flooding (TO5, IP5b)**

The topography of the Belle Plaine area in the French part of the island makes it vulnerable to flooding; this vulnerability is linked to the unpredictable functioning of the Quartier d'Orléans ravine. The phenomenon has been aggravated over recent years due to ill-planned urbanisation with building very close to the ravine.

The economically developed area of the Belle Plaine river basin, which is of strategic importance for the French side, stretches over 828 ha, with 444 ha on the French side and 384 ha on the Dutch side. There has been construction work undertaken on the Dutch side, the effect of which has been that most rainwater now flows onto the French side (Quartier d'Orléans/Belle Plaine). A feasibility study into ways to remedy this problem has been funded by the INTERREG IV programme and is ongoing at the time of writing. Its findings are expected at the end of 2015.

The cost of the (necessary) water management works is estimated at 10M€. The ERDF will provide grant funding of 3M€.

**Priority 4: Creation of a territorial co-operation forum/body/authority**

This priority entails the creation of a Joint technical Secretariat (JTS) for the execution of the St Martin/St Maarten ETC OP, with financing from the OP's technical assistance strand. The governance system of the OP is presented in section 5.

The JTS can constitute the initial nucleus of a body for long-term co-operation between the two parts of the island, which would be able to widen its sphere of activities beyond the priorities proposed in the OP, depending on the political aspirations to be jointly expressed by the COM of Saint-Martin and the Government of Sint Maarten.

1.1.2. Justification for selection of the thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, in view of the common strategic framework, based on an analysis of the needs in the region covered by the programme as a whole, as well as on the strategy chosen to address these needs, while providing, if necessary, a solution to any gaps in the cross-border infrastructure, by taking account of the conclusions of the ex-ante evaluation

**Table 1: Justification for selection of the thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities**

Thematic Objective chosen	Investment Priority chosen	Justification for selection
<1.1.2 type='S' input='S' >	<1.1.3 type='S' input='S'>	<1.1.4 type='S' maxlength='1000' input='M'>

## 1.2 Justification for funding

Justification for funding (i.e. support provided by the EU) for each thematic objective and, if necessary, for each investment priority, in line with the requirements related to the thematic concentration and taking account of the findings of the ex ante evaluation

<1.2.1 type='S' maxlength='7000' input='M' >

**Table 2: Outline of the investment strategy for the cooperation programme**

Priority	Amount of funding of ERDF (in EUR)	Proportion (in %) of the total EU funding allocated to the cooperation programme <sup>17</sup>			Thematic Objective <sup>18</sup>	Investment Priority <sup>19</sup>	Specific Objective corresponding to investment priority	Output Indicators corresponding to the specific objective
		ERDF <sup>20</sup>	IEV <sup>21</sup> (if appropriate)	IAP <sup>22</sup> (if appropriate)				
<1.2.1 type='S' input='G'>	<1.2.2 type='S' input='G'>	<1.2.3 type='N' input='G'>	<1.2.4 type='S' input='G'><1.2.9 type='P' input='G'>	<1.2.5 type='S' input='G'><1.2.1 type='P' input='G'>	<1.2.6 type='S' input='G'>	<1.2.7 type='S' input='G'>	<1.2.8 type='S' input='G'>	<1.2.9 type='S' input='G'>

<sup>17</sup> Presentation of the shares corresponding to ENI and IPA amounts depends on management option chosen.

<sup>18</sup> Title of the thematic objective (not applicable to technical assistance).

<sup>19</sup> Title of the investment priority (not applicable to technical assistance).

<sup>20</sup> European regional Development Fund.

<sup>21</sup> European Neighbourhood Instrument.

<sup>22</sup> Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

## Section 2 – Priority Axes

[Reference: points b) and c) of article 8, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

**Comment [A2]:** Modification d'AMP de la VF à reporter

## 1. Priority Axis n° 1 – Water and water treatment

*Thematic Objective Selected n°6 – preserve and protect the environment and encourage a rational use of resources*

*Investment priority selected 6B – addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector, to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and respond to the needs identified by the member states regarding investment in this sector, which go beyond these requirements*

### 1.1. Specific Objective n°1 – Upgrade infrastructures in the water and water treatment sector

#### **Justification**

The question of a sewage treatment is a central one both in Saint Martin and Sint Maarten. Although there have been major recent projects to improve treatment (on the French side, a public sewage treatment station at Oyster Pond) and others are in the pipeline (the Dutch Quarter Sewerage treatment unit on the Dutch side), these infrastructures remain insufficient and fall short of the needs of the population, not to speak of the large number of tourists that visit the island.

The added value of cooperation on this issue stems from the location of the proposed new treatment plant near to the border, which enables the project to capitalise on the following advantages: the availability of land on the Dutch side and a flow volume that is sufficient for the optimal functioning of the station (a minimum effluent flow rate is generated by the urban and tourist centres of Marigot and Cole Bay).

#### **Expected Results**

The expected result of this Priority at the end of the Programme will be improved infrastructures in the field of water and sewage treatment through the construction and entry into service of a new sewage treatment facility at Cole Bay.

This facility will reduce the discharge of raw sewage into the natural environment to improve the capacity and quality of the transport of raw effluents by distributing them between treatment units.

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023) <sup>23</sup>	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
	% de la population raccordé à un réseau	%	To be defined	2014	To be defined	French State government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten	Bi-annual

<sup>23</sup> Target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

**1.2. Arrangements** for support under the Specific Objective **(14 000 signes au total)**

**1.2.1. Types and examples of actions**

A feasibility study for the construction of the sewage treatment facility was carried out in October 2013 and its conclusions form the basis for the proposed Cole Bay project.

The entire project comprises:

- i) The construction of the sewage treatment facility
- ii) The connections of user networks (French and Dutch) to the facility

The construction phase of the facility including the connections to French and Dutch networks should take two years.

**1.2.2. Territories targeted**

The sewage treatment station will be built at Cole Bay on the Dutch side of the island.

It will serve the populations of Marigot, Agrément, Bellevue (on the French side) and Cole Bay (on the Dutch side).

**1.2.3. Target Groups**

The stakeholders responsible for implementing the project are the national and local public authorities (French national government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten)

It is estimated that this sewage treatment station will serve a territory in which 17 000 inhabitants live (approximately half of which live on the French side and half on the Dutch side).

**1.2.4. Output indicators (by investment priority)**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement Unit</b>	<b>Target Value (2023)</b>	<b>Source of Data</b>	<b>Frequency of Reporting</b>
<b>ICR</b>	Nombre d'habitants raccordés à la station de Cole Bay	Number of persons	17 000 inhabitants	JTS	Annual

**1.2.5. Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

The following guiding principles, common to all the Programme's priorities, will apply to the selection of projects:

- projects must demonstrate the added value of cross-border cooperation on the scale of the island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten;
- the Programme will finance only those projects that bring tangible and measurable results for the island and its inhabitants;
- projects must show how they are coordinated with the other funding mechanisms of the European Commission (notably the EDF);
- the Programme will evaluate the quality of the partnerships implementing projects, in particular, those that are based on a robust partnership between a range of different stakeholders (public sector decision-makers, civil society and the third sector, businesses, etc.)
- the Programme will check that projects have put in place a robust long-term financing strategy and plan.

#### 1.2.6. The planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

The OP does not envisage the use of financial engineering instruments.

#### 1.2.7. The planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

The OP has no plans to implement major projects.

#### 1.2.8. Performance framework for the Priority Axis

Type of indicator (Key implementation step, financial, output or, where appropriate, result indicator)	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement Unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final Target (2023)	Source of Data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
Output Indicator	Nombre d'habitants raccordés à la station de Cole Bay	Persons	2000 inhabitants	17 000 inhabitants	annual	
Financial Indicator	Share of certified	%	15%	100%	JTS	

	expenditure					
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1.2.9. Categories of intervention

<b>Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
1	022	4 000 000 € (100%)

<b>Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
1	01	4 000 000 € (100%)

<b>Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory Type</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
1	07	4 000 000 € (100%)

<b>Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
1	01	4 000 000 € (100%)

1.2.10. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

At this stage, the OP has no plans for any specific use of technical assistance. However, specific measures may be developed during the programme for this Priority where specific needs arise.

## 2. Priority Axis n° 2 – Protection and exploitation of Simpson Bay Lagoon

*Thematic Objective 6: preserve and protect the environment and encourage resource efficiency*

*Investment priority c: ... protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage*

### 1.1. Specific Objective n°2 – Enhance Simpson Bay Lagoon through cross-border management

#### Justification

Simpson Bay Lagoon is unique because it is the largest body of water shared by two countries in the Caribbean (it was once the largest closed body of water in the north eastern Caribbean). Due to its size and position at the interface between the two territories, and notably between two busy economic and touristic activities (airport, recreational harbours, restaurants, Marigot town-centre, etc.), the Simpson Bay Lagoon is an important cross-border asset for the development and promotion of the territory, yet it is also a challenge in terms of sustainable development, the quality of the environment and protection of its biodiversity.

#### Expected Results

The expected result of this Priority at the end of the Programme will be better protection, use, and promotion of Simpson Bay Lagoon. This will be achieved by jointly drawing up and implementing a management plan that takes into account (i) the need to preserve the quality of the environment and biodiversity in the Lagoon and (b) the opportunities offered by the Lagoon for economic development.

In regard to the environment, the Programme will improve the quality of the water, reduce pollution, as well as preserve nature and biodiversity. Tourism and recreational activities related to the environment could be developed (bird watching for example).

In regard to economic development, the Programme will have an indirect effect on the different economic activities that are present around the edge of the Lagoon (notably related to tourism: recreational boating, marinas, restaurants, construction and boat repair, etc. By way of example, restaurants by the side of the Lagoon are losing clients, who complain about the odour coming from the Lagoon).

This new management plan will in particular set out the governance architecture for the Lagoon as well as ensure coordination between the different projects and initiatives seeking to protect the lagoon's environment, or make sustainable economic use of it (see types of actions).

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
	Areas protected by the joint management plan	hectares	0	2013	The whole of the Simpson Bay Lagoon To be	French State government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of	Annual

					confirmed	Sint Maarten	
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**1.2. Arrangements for support under the Specific Objective (14 000 max characters)**

*1.2.1. Types and examples of actions*

An environmental assessment of the whole of Simpson Bay Lagoon will be conducted (both French and Dutch sides). This evaluation will set out the different projects that can be undertaken in relation to preserving the environmental quality and biodiversity of the Lagoon, while at the same time taking into account its economic development potential. At this stage it is possible to envisage the following types of projects:

- **removal of sunken boats:** an action plan will be drawn up based on a map of wrecks that have been identified as needing to be removed, and removal guidelines will be specified;
- **installation of moorings:** this project will prevent boat anchoring damaging the Lagoon's bed, especially in areas with sensitive aquatic plants; a plan will be drawn up to determine the number of and where to install mooring points;
- **circulation study:** a study to determine the current flow in the most polluted areas of the Lagoon (mainly Marigot, Marina Port La Royale and Cole Bay, and the Tropicana Casino area) and what measures are feasible to reverse the pollution in those areas;
- **reducing pollution in the Lagoon** (originating mainly from land sources, from waste water runoff, from clothes laundering, or from boatyards); the Cole Bay treatment station (see priority 1) will prevent pollution from worsening; to tackle the pollution from boats, the construction of a holding station for boats to collect their waste water discharge could be envisaged;
- **clean up/depollution activities:** these activities can be undertaken rapidly, removing floating objects from the surface of the water, cleaning the banks of the Lagoon;
- **regulatory framework:** introduce rules/regulations in order to prevent further pollution from boats and other types of businesses;
- a feasibility study for the **sustainable economic development** of the area around the Lagoon;
- **Lagoon Management Plan:** either a common Management Plan, or a Management Plan established by each side for its own territory; this Plan will have to take into account the maintenance of order and control in in the Lagoon, together with the obligation of having 'EIA' for the projects located at the periphery of the Lagoon and in its surroundings, on both sides of the island.
- **creation of artificial reefs;**
- **creation of mangrove *îlets*;**
- **Protection/plantation of mangrove zones on banks.**

The initial Assessment can be delivered in a period of between 6 and 8 months once commissioned. The Plan of Actions will be proposed by the Assessment. Certain measures/projects, such as the removal of ship wrecks, can be executed within a period of a year. Other projects may require in depth studies, and the timeframe for this can be 5 to 6 years.

*1.2.2. Territories targeted*

This project concerns the whole of the Simpson Bay Lagoon, including both French and Dutch parts.

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### 1.2.3. Target Groups

The stakeholders responsible for implementing the project are:  
The national and local public authorities (French State, the Saint Martin local authority (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten);

- The environmental protection stakeholders present on the Lagoon (public bodies, third sector, NGOs, etc.)
- The economic stakeholders present on the Lagoon (businesses, public bodies, etc.).

### 1.2.4. Output Indicators (by investment priority)

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
IRC	Area of habitats benefiting from support to enhance their state of conservation	ha	The whole of Simpson Bay Lagoon  To be confirmed	French State government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten	Annual

### 1.2.5. Guiding principles for the selection of operations

The following guiding principles, common to all the Programme's priorities, will apply to the selection of projects:

- projects must demonstrate the added value of cross-border cooperation on the scale of the island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten;
- the Programme will finance only those projects that bring tangible and measurable results for the island and its inhabitants;
- projects must show how they are coordinated with the other funding mechanisms of the European Commission (notably the EDF);
- the Programme will evaluate the quality of the partnerships implementing projects, in particular, those that are based on a robust partnership between a range of different stakeholders (public sector decision-makers, civil society and the third sector, businesses, etc.)

The Programme will check that projects have put in place a robust long-term financing strategy and plan.

### 1.2.6. The planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

The OP does not envisage the use of financial engineering instruments.

1.2.7. The planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

The OP has no plans to implement major projects.

1.2.8. Performance framework for the Priority Axis

Type of indicator	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final Target (2023)	Source of Data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
Output Indicator	ICR	Area of habitats benefiting from support to enhance their state of conservation	ha	To be defined	The whole of Simpson Bay Lagoon To be confirmed	French State government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten	Annual
Financial Indicator		Share of certified expenditure	%	15%	100%	JTS	

1.2.9. Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority Axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	085 - Protection and improvement of biodiversity, protection of nature and green infrastructure	1 500 000 (100%)

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority Axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	01 – Non-repayable grant	1 500 000 (100%)

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory Type		
Priority Axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	07 – n/a	1 500 000 (100%)

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms		
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Priority Axis	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	07 – n/a	1 500 000 (100%)

1.2.10. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate).

At this stage, the OP has no plans for any specific use of technical assistance. However, specific measures may be developed during the programme for this Priority where specific needs arise.

### 3. Priority Axis n° 3 – Risk Prevention

*Thematic Objective 5: promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management*

*Investment Priority b: ... by promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems*

#### 1.3. Specific objective n°3 - To improve the management and the regulation of water in ravines

##### Justification

The topography of the Belle Plaine area is extremely prone to flooding due to the unpredictable behaviour of the Quartier d'Orléans ravine. This phenomenon has been amplified for several years now as a result of poorly regulated urbanisation, which is often located close to the ravine.

Prior to the economic development of this strategic area, it is important to investigate how the land can be prepared and serviced for development (installation of water, gas, and electricity), through the water management and regulation of the Quartier and Paradis ravines. Recurring floods have in the past caused considerable damage and affected public installations and the housing located in the Quartier of Orleans. Flood management and in particular civil protection is an essential precondition to any joint planning and development for this area.

##### Expected results

The expected results of this priority at the end of the Programme will be the servicing of the area and in particular the management and regulation of the water in the Quartier and Paradis ravines, which are an integral part of the servicing process. This must allow for:

- the protection of the populations of the Belle Plaine area (flood management project);
- the long-term economic development of Belle Plaine's catchment area, a strategic area for economic development for the French territory, which spans approximately 828ha, both in the French territory (approximately 444 ha) and in the Dutch territory (approximately 384 ha).

**Table 3: Programme specific result indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target Value (2023) <sup>24</sup>	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
	Population concerned by a prevention plan/risk management system	Number of inhabitants	To be defined	2013	To be defined	Managing Authority	Annual

<sup>24</sup> Target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

**1.4. Arrangements for support under the Specific Objective (14000 characters max)**

**1.4.1. Types and examples of actions**

Sint Maarten has already carried out major earthwork improvements to the ravines on its territory without undertaking joint studies. These improvements have led to the majority of rainfall flowing onto the French territory, Quartier d'Orleans /Belle Plaine. Today, further work needs to be carried out, *a priori* only in the French side, although with an impact on the Dutch side, subject to final conclusions of the studies currently in progress.

In addition to this work, other improvements (such as the construction of retention ponds for example) could be made (in particular in the Dutch territory).

The programme will notably enable:

- impact study and permission in accordance with the French 'Loi sur l'eau';
- acquisition or expropriation of the necessary land (within the limits allowed by the regulations);
- establishment of a programme of actions and prevention of floodings (PAPI).

**1.4.2. Territories targeted**

The project concerns the Belle Plaine area.

**1.4.3. Target Groups**

The stakeholders responsible for implementing this project are the national and local public authorities (French national government, the local authority of Saint Martin (COM), and the government of Sint Maarten)

**1.4.4. Output Indicators (by investment priority)**

ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value (2023)	Source of Data	Frequency of Reporting
ICR 20	Population benefiting from anti-flooding protection measures	Number of inhabitants	To be determined	Departments of the French State, of the local authority of Saint Martin (COM) and the government of Sint Maarten	Annual

**1.4.5. Guiding principles for the selection of operations**

The following guiding principles, common to all the Programme's priorities, will apply to the selection of projects:

- projects must demonstrate the added value of cross-border cooperation on the scale of the island of Saint Martin/Sint Maarten;
- the Programme will finance only those projects that bring tangible and measurable results for

the island and its inhabitants;

- projects must show how they are coordinated with the other funding mechanisms of the European Commission (notably the EDF);
- the Programme will evaluate the quality of the partnerships implementing projects, in particular, those that are based on a robust partnership between a range of different stakeholders (public sector decision-makers, civil society and the third sector, businesses, etc.)
- the Programme will check that projects have put in place a robust long-term financing strategy and plan.

#### 1.4.6. The planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

The OP does not envisage the use of financial engineering instruments.

#### 1.4.7. The planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

The OP has no plans to implement major projects.

#### 1.4.8. Performance framework for the Priority Axis

Type of Indicator	ID	Indicator or Key Implementation Step	Measurement Unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final Target (2023)	Source of Data	Explanation of the relevance of the indicator, where appropriate
Output Indicator	ICR 20	Number of people benefiting from anti-flooding protection measures	Number of inhabitants	To be determined	To be determined	Departments of the French State, of the local authority of Saint Martin and the government of Sint Maarten	
Financial Indicator		Share of certified expenditure	%	15%	100%	JTS	

#### 1.4.9. Categories of intervention

<b>Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
3	087 - Climate change adaptation measures, climate related prevention and risk management measures such as erosion, fires, flooding, storms, and drought, including public awareness campaigns, civil protection systems and infrastructure, and disaster management.	3 000 000 (100%)

<b>Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
2	01 - Non-repayable grant	3 000 000 (100%)

<b>Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory Type</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
2	07 – n/a	3 000 000 (100%)

<b>Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms</b>		
<b>Priority Axis</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount (in EUR)</b>
2	07 – n/a	3 000 000 (100%)

*1.4.10. A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate).*

At this stage, the OP has no plans for any specific use of technical assistance. However, specific measures may be developed during the programme for this Priority where specific needs arise.

## 2.B. Description of the priority axes for technical assistance

(Reference: point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

### 2.B.1 Priority Axis

<i>ID of the Priority Axis</i>	<2B.0.1 type='N' maxlength='5' input='G'>
<i>Title of the Priority Axis</i>	<2B.0.2 type='S' maxlength='255' input='M'>

### 2.B.2 Fund and category of region (repeated for each combination under the priority axis)

<i>Fund</i>	<2B.0.3 type='S' input='S'>
<i>Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)</i>	<2B.0.4 type='S' input='S'>

### 2.B.3. Specific objectives and expected results

(Reference: points (c)(i) and (ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Specific Objective** repeated for each specific objective under the priority axis

<i>ID</i>	<2B.1.1 type='N' maxlength='5' input='G'>
<i>Specific Objective</i>	<2B.1.2 type='S' maxlength='500' input='M'>
<i>Results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support<sup>25</sup></i>	<2B.1.3 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

<sup>25</sup> Results that the Member State seeks to achieve with Union support

## 2.B.4. Result indicators <sup>26</sup>

**Table 10: (Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)**

(Reference: point (c) (ii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	(Target value (13) (2023) <sup>27</sup>	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
<2.B.2.1 type='S' maxlength='5' input='M'>	<2.B.2.2 type='S' maxlength='255' input='M'>	<2.B.2.3 type='S' input='M'>	Quantitative <2.B.2.4 type='N' input='M'>	<2.B.2.5 type='N' input='M'>	Quantitative <2.B.2.6 type='N' input='M'> Qualitative <2.A.1.10 type='S' maxlength='100' input='M'>	<2.B.2.7 type='S' maxlength='100' input='M'>	<2.B.2.8 type='S' maxlength='100' input='M'>

## 2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

(Reference: point (c) (iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

### 2.B.5.1. Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

(Reference: point (c) (iii) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Priority Axis	<2.B.3.1.1 type='S' input='S'>
<2.B.3.1.2 type='S' maxlength='7000' input='M'>	

### 2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

[Reference: point (c) (iv) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013]

**Table 11: Output indicators**

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023) (optional)	Source of data

<sup>26</sup> Required where objectively justified given the content of the action and where Union support for technical assistance in the programme exceeds EUR 15 million.

<sup>27</sup> Target values may be qualitative or quantitative.

<2.B.3.2.1 type='S' maxlength='5' input='M'>	<2.B.2.2.2 type='S' maxlength='255' input='M'>	<2.B.3.2.3 type='S' input='M'>	<2.B.3.2.4 type='N' input='M'>	<2.B.3.2.5 type='S' maxlength='100' input='M'>

## 2.B.6 Categories of intervention

(Reference: point (c) (v) of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

### Tables 12 to 14 Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.1.1 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.1.2 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.1.3 type='N' input='M' Decision=N >

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.2.1 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.2.2 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.2.3 type='N' input='M' Decision=N >

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type		
Priority axis	Code	Amount (EUR)
<2B.4.3.1 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.3.2 type='S' input='S' Decision=N >	<2B.4.3.3 type='N' input='M' Decision=N >

## Section 3 – Financing plan

### SECTION 3 FINANCING PLAN

(Reference: point (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

#### 3.1 Financial appropriation from each fund and amounts for performance reserve

(Reference: point (d)(i) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 17**

	Fund	Category of region	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		Total	
			Main allocation <sup>28</sup>	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve	Main allocation	Performance reserve
	<3.1.1 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.2 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.3 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.4 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.5 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.6 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.7 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.8 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.9 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.10 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.11 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.12 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.13 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.14 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.15 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.1.16 type="N" input="M" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">	<3.1.17 type="N" input="G" "SME">	<3.1.18 type="N" input="G" "TA - "NA" YEI - "NA">
(1)	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>In less developed regions</b>																
(2)		<b>In transition regions</b>																

<sup>28</sup> Total allocation (Union support) less allocation to performance reserve.

(3)		<b>In more developed regions</b>																
(4)		<b>Total</b>																
(5)	<b>ESF<sup>29</sup></b>	<b>In less developed regions</b>																
(6)		<b>In transition regions</b>																
(7)		<b>In more developed regions</b>																
(8)		<b>Total</b>																
(9)	<b>YEI-specific allocation</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>		<b>Not applicable</b>		<b>Not applicable</b>												
(10)	<b>Cohesion Fund</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>																
(11)	<b>ERDF</b>	<b>Special allocations</b>																

<sup>29</sup> Total allocation from the ESF, including matching ESF support for YEI. The columns for the performance reserve do not include matching ESF support for YEI, as this is excluded from the performance reserve.

		on to outhern regions or northern sparsely populated regions																
(1 2)	<b>Total</b>																	

### **3.2 Total financial appropriation by fund and national co-financing (EUR)**

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

- 1. The table sets out the financial plan by priority axis.*
- 2. Where a priority axis covers more than one fund, the Union support and national counterpart is broken down by fund with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each fund.*
- 3. Where the priority axis covers more than one category of region, the Union support and national counterpart is broken down by category of region with a separate co-financing rate within the priority axis for each category of region.*
- 4. The EIB contribution is presented at priority axis level.*

**Table 18a: Financing plan**

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support	National counterpart	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding	Co-financing rate	For information EIB contributions	Main allocation funding less performance reserve)		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support
						National public funding	National private funding (1)				Union support	National counterpart	Union support	National counterpart <sup>30</sup>	
				(a)	(b) = (c) + (d)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (a) + (b)	(f) = (a)/(e)	(g)	(h)=(a)-(j)	(i) = (b) - (k)	(j)	(k)= (b) * ((j)/(a))	(l) = (j)/(a) *100
<3.2.A.1 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.2 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.3 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.4 type="S" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.5 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.6 type="N" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.7 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.8 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.9 type="N" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.10 type="P" input="G" "SME">	<3.2.A.11 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.12 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.13 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.14 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.15 type="N" input="M" "SME">	<3.2.A.16 type="N" input="M" "SME">
Priority axis 1	ERDF														

<sup>30</sup> The national counterpart is divided pro-rata between the main allocation and the performance reserve.

Priority axis 2	ESF														
Priority axis 3	YEI <sup>31</sup>	NA											NA	NA	NA
Priority axis 4	ESF														
	YEI <sup>32</sup>	NA											NA	NA	NA
Priority Axis 5	Cohesion Fund	NA													
Total	ERDF	Less developed		Equals total (1) in Table 17											
Total	ERDF	Transition		Equals total (2) in Table 17											
Total	ERDF	More developed		Equals total (3) in Table 17											
Total	ERDF	Special allocation to outermost regions or northern sparsely populated regions		Equals total (11) in Table 17											
Total	ESF <sup>33</sup>	Less developed		This does not equal total (5) in											

<sup>31</sup> This priority axis comprises the specific allocation to YEI and the matching ESF support.

<sup>32</sup> This part of a priority axis comprises the specific allocation to YEI and the matching ESF support.

<sup>33</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

				Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI <sup>34</sup>													
Total	ESF <sup>35</sup>	Transition		This does not equal total (6) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI													
Total	ESF <sup>36</sup>	More developed		This does not equal total (7) in Table 17, which includes ESF matching support to YEI													
Total	YEI <sup>37</sup>	NA		This does not equal total (9) in Table 17, which only includes the YEI-													

<sup>34</sup> The sum of total ESF support in less developed, transition and more developed regions and the resources allocated to the YEI in Table 18a equals the sum of total ESF support in such regions and the specific allocation to the YEI in Table 17.

<sup>35</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

<sup>36</sup> ESF allocation without the matching support for the YEI.

<sup>37</sup> Includes the YEI special allocation and the matching support from the ESF.

				specific allocation											
Total	Cohesion Fund	NA		Equals total (10) in Table 17											
Grand total				Equals total (12) in Table 17											

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

**Table 18b: Youth Employment Initiative – ESF- and YEI-specific allocations<sup>38</sup> (where appropriate)**

	Fund <sup>39</sup>	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a)/(e) <u>(2)</u>
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)		
	<3.2.B.1 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.2 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.3 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.B.1 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.4 type="N" input="G">	<3.2.B.5 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.6 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.B.7 type="N" input="G">	<3.2.B.8 type="P" input="G">
1.	YEI-specific allocation	NA			0				100%
2.	ESF matching support	less developed							
3.	ESF matching support	transition							
4.	ESF matching support	more developed							
5.	TOTAL: YEI [part of] Priority axis	[Must equal [part of] Priority axis 3]		Sum (1:4)	Sum (1:4)				
6.			Ratio of ESF for less developed regions 2/sum(2:4)	<3.2.c.11 type="P" input="G">					
7.			Ratio of ESF for transition regions	<3.2.c.13 type="P" input="G">					

<sup>38</sup> To be completed for every (part of a) priority axis which implements the YEI.

<sup>39</sup> The YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered a Fund and appears as a separate row even if it is part of a priority axis.

			3/sum(2:4)			
8.			Ratio of ESF for more developed regions 4/sum(2:4)	<3.2.c.14 type="P" input="G">		

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

**Table 18c: Breakdown of the financial plan by priority axis, fund, category of region and thematic objective**

(Reference: point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	Fund <sup>40</sup>	Category of region	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
<3.2.C.1 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.2 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.3 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.4 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.5 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.C.6 type="N" input="M">	<3.2.C.7 type="N" input="M">
<b>Total</b>						

**Table 19: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives**

(Reference: Article 27(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)<sup>41</sup>

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (EUR)	Proportion of total allocation to the operational programme (%)
<3.2.C.8 type="S" input="G">	<3.2.C.9 type="N" input="G"> Decision=N>	<3.2.C.10 type="P" input="G"> Decision=N>
<b>Total</b>		

<sup>40</sup> For the purposes of this table, the YEI (specific allocation and matching ESF support) is considered as a fund.

<sup>41</sup> This table is generated automatically on the basis of tables on categories of intervention under each priority axis.

## **Section 4 – The integrated approach to territorial development**

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#### SECTION 4. THE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

[Reference: article 8, paragraph 3, of (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

*Taking into account its content and objectives, a cooperation programme shall describe the integrated approach to territorial development, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how that cooperation programme contributes to the accomplishment of its objectives and expected results, specifying, where appropriate, the following:*

<4.0 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

##### 4.1. Community-led development (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and the principles for identifying the areas where it will be implemented

[Reference: point a) article 8, paragraph 3, of (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

<4.0 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

##### 4.2. Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

The principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for such actions:

[Reference: point b) article 8, paragraph 3, of (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

<4.0 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

**Table 19: The indicative allocation of the ERDF support for integrated actions for sustainable urban development**

Fund	Indicative allocation of the ERDF support (in EUR)
N/A	N/A

##### 4.3. Integrated territorial investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

The approach to the use of the integrated territorial investment instrument [as referred to in Article 36 of (EU) Regulation n° 1303/2013], other than in cases covered by point 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis;

[Reference: point c) article 8, paragraph 3, of (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

<4.0 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

**Table 20: Indicative financial allocation for the use of the integrated territorial investment instrument, other than in cases covered by point 4.2 (total amounts)**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (in EUR)</b>
N/A	N/A

**4.4 The contribution of the planned interventions under the cooperation programme to macro-regional strategies and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, the strategically important projects identified in those strategies**

(when Member States and regions participate in macro-regional strategies and strategies relating sea basins)

[Reference: point d) article 8, paragraph 3, of (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

*d) Where Member States and regions participate in macro- regional strategies and sea basin strategies, the contribution of the planned interventions under the cooperation programme to those strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, the strategically important projects identified in those strategies.*

<4.0 type='S' maxlength='3500' input='M'>

## **Section 5**

# **Implementing provisions for the cooperation programme**

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**SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

**Comment [A3]:** A remplir à partir de la v1 + modification d'AMP sur la VF à reporter

[Reference: article 8, paragraph 4, of the (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

**5.1 Authorities and responsible bodies**

[Reference: article 8, paragraph 4, of the (EU) Regulation n° 1299/2013]

**Table 21: Authorities responsible for the programme**

[Reference: point a), i), of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

Authority/Body	Name of the authority/body, and department or unit	Head of the Authority/Body (title or function)
Managing Authority	Préfecture de Saint-Barthélemy et de Saint-Martin	M. le Préfet de Saint-Barthélemy et de Saint-Martin
Certifying Authority, if relevant and Payment Authority	Direction Régionale des Finances Publiques ou ASP (Payment Authority)	M. le Directeur
Audit Authority	Commission interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles (CICC)	M. le Directeur

**The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:**

[Reference: point b) of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

<input type="checkbox"/> the managing authority	Préfecture de Saint-Barthélemy et de Saint-Martin
<input type="checkbox"/> the certifying authority	Direction Régionale des Finances Publiques ou ASP (Payment Authority)

**Table 22: The body or bodies designated to carry out control and audit tasks**

[Reference: point a), ii) and iii), of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

Authority/Body	Name of the authority/body, and department or unit	Head of the Authority/Body (title or function)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks		
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks		

## 5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

[Reference: point a), iv), of 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

The Monitoring Committee is composed of the Prefet of Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin, of the President of the COM, of the Prime Minister of Sint Maarten, and of representatives of the European Commission participating as observers.

Its missions are:

- defining the main orientations for what regards the implementation of the OP;
- monitoring the progress of the OP and its different projects;
- selecting projects.

Its role as an initiator is not limited to the TC OP Saint-Martin/Sint Maarten, in that it has a mandate to address any cross-border issue affecting the two sides of the island.

It meets twice a year.

The Steering Committee is the OP's decision-making body. It is supported by the JTS.

The Steering Committee is composed of the 'Cooperation Officers' from the three parties. The Director of the JTS is invited to its meetings.

Its missions are:

- ensuring liaison and coordination between the strategic body (the Monitoring Committee) and the body that implements the OP (the JTS) ;
- monitoring and controlling the work of the Director of the JTS, who makes proposals for spending that are submitted to the Steering Committee for approval;
- drawing up up the roadmap for the Director of the JTS;
- preparing the work of the Monitoring Committee.

The Steering Committee meets quarterly.

The JTS is composed of a Director who is chosen jointly by the three parties composing the Steering Committee, as well as three project officers also chosen jointly by the same three parties. The Director of the JTS reports to and comes under the authority of the Steering Committee. The JTS provides secretariat support to the Monitoring Committee and is responsible for programme facilitation and communication activities. In liaison with the Programme's governing partners, it receives and assesses applications, carries out the necessary checks, prepares payment requests, and keeps records (archiving). It keeps and monitors programme statistics (indicators).

The overarching remit of the JTS is to strengthen the synergy and partnership between the island's two administrations with specific objectives. It will need to be clearly mandated by the French central government, by the Government of Sint Maarten and by the COM of Saint-Martin, in order to have the legitimacy it needs to draw on their technical departments, and become the nucleus of a future European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). It will also ensure, as a secondary task, the coordination between the ETC OP and other bodies/departments leading on national or European programmes (EDF & INTERREG).

In the medium and long term, and subject to the approval of central governments and the progress made in its areas of responsibility under the ETC goal, the OP's governance system will become a one-stop-shop for issues relating to cooperation between the two sides of the island, and in all policy areas (justice, police, customs, etc.). It will be responsible for both operational and strategic matters in relation to cooperation.

The Secretariat will recruit fully bilingual staff. It will be funded under the ETC OP technical assistance strand.

Project appraisal and monitoring will be carried out in close liaison between the JTS and Saint Martin's 'Etat/COM' multi-fund management unit, under the authority of the French central government.

Comment [R4]: Check, words added

### 5.3 A summary description of the management and control arrangements

[Reference: point a), v), of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

### 5.4 The apportionment of liabilities among the participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

[Reference: point a), vi) of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

The managing authority (the Préfet of Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin) will ensure that any amount paid to a project as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead or sole beneficiary (project lead partner). Beneficiaries (i.e. project partners) will repay to the lead beneficiary (project lead partner) any amounts unduly paid.

As a last resort, the managing authority will be responsible for recovering any amounts unduly paid to beneficiaries located on national territory.

These repayment arrangements will be set out in detail in the description of the management and control system which will be set up in accordance with article 72 of Regulation 1303/2013.

### 5.5 Use of the Euro (if necessary)

[Reference: Article 28 of the Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

Project budgets are presented in Euros.

In accordance with article 28 of Regulation 1299/2013 (and by way of derogation from article 133 of Regulation 1303/2013), expenditure incurred in a currency other than the Euro must be converted into Euros within one month of the date when the expenditure is incurred.

The conversion rate will be the monthly accounting exchange rate of the Commission in the month during which that expenditure was incurred.

### 5.6 Involvement of Partners

[Reference: point c) of article 8, paragraph 4, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

***Measures taken to involve the partners (as specified in article 5 of the (EU) Regulation n° 1303/2013) in the preparation of the cooperation programme and their roles in the programme's preparation and implementation, including their participation in the monitoring committee.***

On the initiative of the COM of Saint-Martin, and in close relation with the French State and the Government of Sint Maarten, a valuable and robust job has been done for many months to clarify the institutional framework in which the two sides of the island are operating, and especially for identifying the priorities on which the TC OP Saint-Martin/Sint Maarten could focus in compliance with EU law and regulations, in particular regulation n°1299/2013 (17 December 2013), as well as national ones, French and Dutch.

The major orientations of the OP were jointly decided by a government-level meeting, held on 13 December 2013, with the participation of the Prime Minister Sarah Wescott, the Préfet Philippe Chopin, and the President of the COM, Ms Aline Hanson. This meeting was followed by a technical meeting held on 17 December, during which the investment priorities were detailed into potential projects.

Regular exchanges between technical services have taken place in the meantime in order to check the relevance of the priorities and projects with respect to the needs of the island and the capacities of project managers.

These proposals were presented to the European Commission on 17 March and 4 April 2014.

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## Section 6 - Coordination

## **SECTION 6. COORDINATION**

Reference: point a) of article 8, paragraph 5, of Regulation (EU) n° 1299/2013]

Mechanisms to ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF), and the IPA II, as well as with the EIB, taking into account the provisions set out in the Common Strategic Framework and specified in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries or territories participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF funds for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, a description of the coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination of the use of these funds and resources.

<6.1 type='S' maxlength='14000' input='M' Decisions=N >

## **Section 7 – Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries**

**SECTION 7. Reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries**

(Reference: point (c) of Article 96(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce administrative burden

<10.0 type="S" maxlength="7000" input="M" decision=N PA=Y>

## Section 8 – Horizontal principles

## **SECTION 8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES**

(Reference: Article 96(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

### **11.1 Sustainable development**

Description of specific action to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

<13.1 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

### **11.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**

Description of specific action to promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the operational programme and in particular in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination and in particular the requirements to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

### **11.3 Equality between men and women**

Description of contribution of the operational programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at operational programme and operation level.

<13.2 type="S" maxlength="5500" input="M" decision=N>

## Section 9 – Separate elements

**SECTION 9. SEPARATE ELEMENTS**

**12.1 Major projects to be implemented during programming period**

(Reference: point (e) of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

**Table 27: List of major projects**

Project	Planned notification/submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority Axes/Investment Priorities
<12.1.1 type="S" maxlength="500" input="S" decision=N>	<12.1.2 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.3 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.4 type="D" input="M" decision=N >	<12.1.5 type="S" " input="S" decision=N >

**12.2 Performance framework of operational programme**

**Table 28: Performance framework by fund and category of region (summary table)**

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023) <sup>42</sup>		
						M	W	T
<12.2.1 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.2 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.3 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.4 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.5 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.6 type="S" input="G">	<12.2.7 type="S" input="G">		

**12.3 Relevant partners involved in preparation of programme**

<12.3 type="S" maxlength="10500" input="M" decision=N>
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<sup>42</sup> The target value may be presented as a total (men+women) or broken down by gender.

## Annexes

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**ANNEXES (uploaded to electronic data exchange system as separate files):**

- Draft report of ex-ante evaluation with executive summary (mandatory) (Reference: Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- Documentation on assessment of applicability and fulfilment of ex-ante conditionalities (as appropriate)
- Opinion of national equality bodies on sections 11.2 and 11.3 (as appropriate) (Reference: Article 96(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)
- Citizens' summary of operational programme (as appropriate)