

# Interreg



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## Caraïbes

INTERREG CARAÏBES PROGRAMME for 2021-2027

### CALL FOR PROJECTS #1

Opening date	12/12/2023
Closing Date	03/31/2024 (midnight, Guadeloupe local time)
Procedures for submitting application	On the e-SYNERGIE platform exclusively. The editing of the application is opened after a compulsory meeting with the Joint Secretariat.
Opened Priorities	P1 - A smarter and more innovative Caribbean, P2 - A greener, more resilient and low-carbon Caribbean, P3- A more connected Caribbean, P4- A more social and inclusive Caribbean, P5 - Cross-border cooperation Saint-Martin / Sint-Maarten P6 - Facilitate and optimize cooperation modalities in the Caribbean
Total provisional ERDF envelope allocated to the call for projects	29,3 million euros Please refer to the specifications for details on the provisional envelope allocated by priority

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## Framework for the Call for Projects:

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme supports structuring projects that provide a concerted response to issues shared by the territories and populations of the cooperation area.

This call for projects operationally launches the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programming period, and sets the conditions of support for projects of cooperation.

Project holders (private operators, associations, public institutions such as that universities, research centers, local authorities, etc.) are invited to submit their application **from December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024** midnight (Guadeloupe local time) via the SYNERGIE-CTE platform. Beforehand, an appointment with the Joint Secretariat is mandatory in order to be granted the access to the editing and submitting of this application.

The application must detail clearly the precise actions that the project lead partner and the project aim to develop, according a " win-win " logic, for a fair and sustainable cooperation.

# 1- Context :

The INTERREG Caraïbes programme provides financial support for cooperation projects which are carried out between project holders in the Caribbean area and which contribute to the achievement of the cooperation strategy defined by the programme partners.

## 1.1 Cooperation area:

The INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation area covers the following states and territories:

- **the following FCORs:** Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Saint-Martin
- **the following OCTs:** Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Eustache, Sint Maarten
- **the following third States:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.



Map of the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programme's cooperation area

## 1.2 INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation strategy for 2021-2027

The INTERREG Caraïbes cooperation strategy for the 2021-2027 period includes 6 priorities and 13 specific objectives:

Priorities	Specific objectives
P1 - A smarter, more innovative Caribbean	Research, development and innovation
	SMEs development and competitiveness
	Digital connectivity
P2 - A greener, more resilient, low-carbon Caribbean	Energy transition
	Climate change and natural disasters
	Circular economy and sustainable waste management
	Environment and biodiversity
P3 - A better connected Caribbean	
P4 - A more social and inclusive Caribbean	Training and mobility
	Social inclusion and the fight against poverty
	Health risks and health systems resilience
P5 - Cross-border cooperation St. Martin / Sint-Maarten	
P6 - Facilitating and optimising cooperation in the Caribbean	

Projects applying for financial support from the programme will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the achievement of the programme strategy – detailed in section 2 – for a given priority and specific objective.

## 2 – Project eligibility conditions :

### 2.1 – Objectives, types of actions and expected results:



#### • Priority 1- FOR A SMARTER AND MORE INNOVATIVE CARIBBEAN

<b>ERDF amount allocated under priority 1 within the framework of this CFP#1</b>	<b>€8,517,841</b>
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#### *OS 1 -RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION*

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 1</b>	<b>€4,814,433</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

- Strengthening the networking of research, development and innovation stakeholders and supporting their actions in a sustainable manner on shared issues;
- Strengthening the valorization and dissemination of research results on common issues, and in particular supporting innovation approaches within Caribbean companies and technology transfer between the world of research and that of businesses;
- The development of complementary expertise to be promoted in the field of research and innovation - in numerous sectors of interest for the Caribbean (energy, fishing, aquaculture, agriculture, tourism, etc.).

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Collaborative research projects carried out by those involved in the cooperation area, contributing to the promotion of scientific opportunities of excellence in the Caribbean and/or meeting the specific needs of the territories, economies and communities of the Caribbean
  - Collaborative R&D projects, knowledge-producing actions, development of test processes and experiments, development of pilot sites, feasibility or opportunity studies on the vulnerability of infrastructures, on the availability of resources or potential in areas of common interest
- Strengthening research and innovation capacity and networking of those involved in R&D&I in the Caribbean area
  - Setting up and/or developing, and strengthening the capacities of networks of observatories, research centers and universities, instruments and measurement tools common to the Caribbean area to share good practices and strengthen skills in areas of common interest
- Setting up strategic frameworks conducive to a stronger R&D&I ecosystem in the cooperation area:
  - Development and deployment of frameworks, strategies, roadmaps for sustainable financing

- of R&D&I in the areas of common interest;
- Development and deployment of frameworks, strategies, roadmaps for reinforced coordination between the actors of the political, scientific and academic quadruple helix, society civil and sector private, in the areas of common interest;
- Promotion and dissemination of research results, training on the issues related to intellectual property intellectual, organisation of meetings between these actors ...

The actions must contribute to the development of opportunities scientists of excellence of the Caribbean and/ or to respond to needs specific to the territories, economies and populations of the Caribbean.

Areas of common interest identified notably include:

- Generating benefits from natural resources, agri-food processing;
- Cultural and creative industries;
- Tourism;
- The Blue Economy;
- The Bioeconomy;
- Eco-construction;
- The low carbon economy;
- Environmental, social and economic resilience;
- Food safety;
- Prevention and adaptation to climate change and natural hazards;
- The circular economy;
- The energy transition of territories (feasibility studies concerning hydrogen, innovative energy storage solutions (STEP, CO2 storage, hydrogen, etc.))
- Common issues such as the sea of plastic (data on the composition of the plastic continent, its impacts, innovative collection methods) or massive strandings of sargassum (better knowledge of the phenomenon, predictability and monitoring of strandings, impacts of algae sargassum and their collection ...).

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between businesses, research centres and universities, focusing on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change;
- Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between business focusing on the circular economy;
- Support for innovation centres, including business-to-business, research bodies, public authorities and business networks mainly benefiting SMEs.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely :

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Methodological details
Output indicator	Number of collaborative R&D projects supported	Number	A collaborative research project includes at least one research organisation and one other partner (a company, another research organisation, etc.). Cooperation in R&D activities must continue at least



			for the duration of the project. This indicator measures the number of INTERREG Caraïbes projects carrying out collaborative R&D activities (and not the number of collaborative R&D activities).
	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	Research organisations	Research organisations are structures whose main role is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development operations, and to disseminate the results of these activities through teaching, publications or transfers. to know. They include, for example, universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, physical or virtual research-oriented collaborative entities, and they can be public or private. They exclude research structures that are part of larger entities (for example the R&D center of a company).
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Common strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of RDI, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed and adopted within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives: - capitalization on the results of spin-off projects; - sustainability of cooperation between programme partners; - change of scale/expansion of the partnership; - technology transfer; - production, marketing; - popularization/dissemination of research results to the economic sector, public decision-makers and/or the general public and civil society.

			Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.
	Research organisation whose R&D&I capabilities have been strengthened due to participation in cooperative activities across borders	Number	<p>R&amp;D&amp;I capability is defined as the ability of an organisation to increase the stock of knowledge, as well as the use of this stock of knowledge for new applications. An organisation increases its R&amp;D&amp;I capacity by securing the resources (human or technical) and structures (organisational or governance) it needs to increase its capacity to produce qualitatively improved R&amp;D&amp;I work through cooperation.</p> <p>A cross-border cooperation activity is defined as a process of exchange of knowledge and experience between participants from several countries. This process can lead to the creation of common goals and commitments and actions responding to these commitments.</p> <p>An organisation may or may not be a partner in the project. Types of organisations include, but are not limited to, public authorities, research institutes, SMEs and NGOs. An organisation should be counted if it has undergone this type of learning process through project activities. This is defined as more than one instance of exchange in which the organisation played an active role.</p> <p>An organisation should not be counted more than once per project, regardless of the number of activities it was involved in or the number of departments involved.</p> <p>An organisation is only counted if its increased R&amp;D&amp;I capacity is within the thematic area of the project.</p> <p>Data for this indicator will be fed back by the project lead partner through a survey provided by the programme. The project lead partner is responsible for ensuring that the survey is completed by organisations that participated in project activities. The project lead partner is responsible for collecting the responses in a summary table that he provides to the programme.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project partnership has a collaborative nature: at least 1 laboratory/1 company or 2 companies	1
The project includes a component on social innovation: response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation.	1
The project is part of a finalized research logic: it presents a potential for economic and/or societal valorization of the results; it provides for a method/work programme dedicated specifically to the valorization and transfer of results between research and higher education establishments, companies, training players, labeled innovative clusters	2
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and brings job creation	3

## SO 2 - DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS OF SMEs

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 2</b>	<b>€2,592,388</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Setting up strategic frameworks, knowledge-producing actions and networking actions for those involved in the cooperation area, with the aim of seeking synergies between the territories in a process of structuring sectors on a wider scale than that of each of the territories in key sectors with high potential for the cooperation area:
  - Opportunity studies, studies on the drivers and obstacles to a convergent economic development among the economies of the Caribbean area on sectors of common interest;
  - Development of regional sector strategies;
  - Networking, development of economic cooperation networks, monitoring and economic observatories in the Caribbean to improve knowledge of players and business opportunities, and to help structure sectors;
  - Social innovation projects backed by those involved in the social and solidarity economy to address shared social and environmental issues
  - Setting up joint labels, standards and specifications to facilitate the structuring of sectors and trade in areas of common interest (e.g.: agricultural and organic production).
- Setting up strategic frameworks to facilitate trade within the Caribbean:
  - Harmonisation of technical standards, harmonisation of business law and reduction of barriers to trade;
  - Actions for the effective promotion, use and deployment of intellectual property rules (linked to the recommendations of the Commission's 2020 Intellectual Property Action Plan).
- Collective business support and strengthening of skills aimed at reinforcing the growth and competitiveness factors of Caribbean businesses and supporting them in their digital, energy and environmental transition:
  - Development of skills, exchange of good practices and support for businesses in the cooperation area in the following areas: business creation, facilitating the processes of entrepreneurial discovery, innovation and technology transfer, digital, energy and environmental transition

- Development of regional strategic plans, regional training on shared thematic issues and areas of common interest.

Areas of common interest identified include:

- The valorization of natural resources, including the valorization of the physico-chemical properties of Caribbean natural resources and agro-processing;
- Cultural and creative industries;
- Tourism;
- The blue economy;
- The bio-economy;
- Eco -construction
- The low-carbon economy;
- Environmental, social and economic resilience;
- Food safety;
- Adaptation to climate change.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention** :

- Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between businesses, research centres and universities, focusing on the low-carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change
- Business development and internationalisation of SMEs, including productive investment
- Developing skills for intelligent specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and the ability of businesses to adapt to change
- Advanced support services for SMEs and SME groups (including management, marketing and design services).

Finally, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Methodological details
Output indicator	Number of support schemes for supported businesses.	Number	This indicator measures the number of support actions aimed at companies (as ultimate beneficiaries of the supported operations). A business support system is defined as the implementation of structured actions such as, for example, the creation of an incubator, a counter, etc. The support provided must be documented and justify the type of support. offered (consulting services, training, organisation of masterclasses, provision of manuals, research activities and

			<p>feedback, etc. )</p> <p>The company is the smallest combination of legal units which constitutes an organisational unit for the production of goods and services enjoying a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, particularly for the allocation of its present resources. A company carries out one or more activities in one or more locations. A company can be a single legal unit. For the purposes of this indicator, businesses are for-profit organisations that produce goods and services to satisfy the needs of a market.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of economic development and competitiveness of SMEs, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results, spin-off;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- technology transfer;</li> <li>- production, marketing;</li> <li>- business plan for structuring the sector;</li> <li>- pooling and optimization of existing equipment and infrastructure or engineering for the development of new infrastructure;</li> <li>- strengthening the visibility of the sector in the territories.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are</p>

			eligible for support under the programme.
	Companies benefiting from business support schemes	Number	This indicator measures the number of companies that benefit from the support mechanisms supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes programme, as direct and/or ultimate beneficiaries of the project. The data is broken down by company size: - Micro-enterprise: ≤ 10 employees and balance sheet ≤ 2M€ - Small business: 10 to 49 employees and balance sheet between €2M and €10M - Medium company: 50 to 249 employees and balance sheet between €10M and €43M - Large company: > 250 employees and balance sheet > €43M

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project is consistent with the innovation strategies of the territories (S3 for the ORs, in particular: the development of new products or services with higher added value, opening businesses to growing markets).	1
The project contributes to the digital, ecological and energy transition of Caribbean territories and economies, and/or to strengthening food security in the territories.	2
The project includes a component on social innovation: response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation.	1
The project involves actions likely to facilitate economic exchanges across the cooperation area.	3
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and brings job creation	3

### *SO3-DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY*

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 3</b>	<b>€1,111,020</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Setting up strategic frameworks and expert assessments to strengthen the deployment of high-quality, efficient and resilient infrastructure and networks in the cooperation area:
  - Support for the development and implementation of regional strategic plans, inventory, legislative and regulatory frameworks conducive to the concerted development of digital connectivity on a regional scale and the strengthening of the resilience and sustainability of infrastructure and networks;
  - Support for quality, resilient and low-cost digital infrastructure deployment projects in the cooperation area (feasibility studies, market studies or even support for the mobilisation of additional financing to finance an infrastructure project of structuring importance for the Caribbean area); particularly for data hosting projects (data centers), cybersecurity, etc. in complementarity with the regional ERDF OPs for the FCORs
- Establishment of strategic frameworks, networking and skills-building actions concerning the good uses of digital technology
  - Actions aimed at reducing the digital divide and enabling reasoned use of digital technology in the cooperation area
  - Exchange of good practices and development of strategic frameworks for the emergence of common guidelines on the issue of digital connectivity (for example: e-administration; data protection; accessibility of websites and digital applications)
  - Exchange of good practices and development of strategic frameworks for data collection and use of data on areas of common interest in the cooperation area (to facilitate the establishment of observatories, to promote and exploit data in order to fuel work on areas of common interest in the Caribbean area)
  - Exchange of good practices and actions aimed at strengthening the use of digital technology favorable to an ecological transition of territories (example: smart-grids, home automation, etc.) and to meet the major challenges of the cooperation area (example: given the population aging context, inclusive digital development through innovations promoting staying at home (e-health, alert system and behavior monitoring))



- Expert assessments, networking and support actions for stakeholders in the Caribbean territories to improve the Caribbean's integration into the information and communication society, increase the competitiveness of companies in this sector and improve the response of players to shared challenges (e.g. natural and health risks, trade development, training, health and social inclusion)
  - Digital research and innovation in the Caribbean
  - Organisation of training, workshops, master classes, development of directories, provision of information, creation of services to strengthen the competitiveness of companies in the sector
  - Pilot actions to strengthen the digitalisation of local public players.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- IT services and applications for digital skills and digital inclusion
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State
- Digitisation of SMEs (including e-commerce, e-business and networked business processes, digital innovation centres, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B).

Finally, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Companies supported by grants	Businesses	This indicator measures the number of companies benefiting from support in the form of direct non-repayable financial aid, only subject to the completion of the project (subsidies). The company is the smallest combination of legal units which constitutes an organisational unit for the production of goods and services enjoying a certain degree of autonomy in decision-making, particularly for the allocation of its present resources. A company carries out one or more activities in one or more locations. A company can be a single legal unit. For the purposes of this indicator, businesses are for-profit organisations that produce goods and services to satisfy the needs of a market.
	Companies receiving support (including: micro, small, medium, large)	Businesses	The indicator considers all forms of support, financial and non-financial, granted to businesses with the help of the ERDF. For the definition of a company, refer to the indicator above. The data is broken down by company size: - Micro-enterprise: ≤ 10 employees and balance sheet ≤ 2M€ - Small business: 10 to 49 employees and balance sheet between €2M and €10M - Medium company: 50 to 249 employees and balance sheet between €10M and €43M

			- Large company: > 250 employees and balance sheet > €43M
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of digital connectivity, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives: - capitalization on the results of spin-off projects; - sustainability of cooperation between programme partners; - change of scale / expansion of the partnership; - technology transfer; - production, marketing; - economic model to support the development of the activities planned by the project; - evaluation of data traffic (quantitative and qualitative). Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.
	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving digital connectivity and reinforcing good digital practices	Number	This indicator measures the number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from the actions of projects supported by the programme with a view to improving digital connectivity and strengthening good uses of digital technology. The geographical partner entity of the INTERREG Caraïbes 21-27 programme as identified in section 1 of the programme (FCOR, OCT or third country) validated by the European Commission is qualified as a territory of the cooperation area. The same territory is counted only once, even if it benefits from several actions.

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project takes into account the issues of localization of infrastructure in the territory and data sovereignty and security.	2
The project is consistent with regional strategies and plans (schemes or strategies specifically implemented at the scale of territories or areas covered by intergovernmental organisations)	1
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and brings job creation	3



- **Priority 2- FOR A GREENER, MORE RESILIENT AND LOW CARBON EMISSIONS CARIBBEAN**

<b>ERDF amount allocated under priority 2 within the framework of this CFP#1</b>	<b>€7,653,705</b>
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*SO4- RENEWABLE ENERGY*

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 4</b>	<b>€1,111,020</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Setting up strategic frameworks, expert assessments, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in the energy transition (both in terms of strengthening the production, storage and distribution of energy from renewable sources, and reducing energy consumption and increasing energy performance and efficiency) of Caribbean territories:
  - Definition of regional or local strategies for the development and storage of renewable energies, i.e. solar and thermal energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal energy, marine energy, biomass, biogas and anaerobic digestion, hydrogen etc.
  - Capitalisation, meetings and networking of those involved (in particular electricity network managers), inventory of the positions and support policies of public authorities on this theme, deployment of training, characterisation of the means of financing the energy transition and implementation place of innovative economic models adapted to the energy resource considered, etc. with a view to strengthening feedback between Caribbean players on both technical production and operating solutions and support policies;
  - Improving data on energy sources and the potential of these resources, as well as on consumption in the different islands and the composition of the energy mix (financing of studies allowing for better knowledge of these subjects, an observatory of RWE, studies aimed at strengthening interconnection between territories - in particular the interconnection of electrical systems to strengthen the share of electricity produced from renewable sources in the electricity mix, etc.);

- Sharing good practices and capitalising on the regulatory provisions put in place to strengthen the energy efficiency of buildings and infrastructures (public lighting, etc.) and transport, in particular for political decision-makers and professionals in the sector
- Campaigns to raise awareness of the impact of fossil fuel consumption (particularly around individual cars) in a “citizen energy” approach, and to increase public acceptance of renewable energies
- Development of electricity production and distribution capacity from renewable energy sources at the level of several Caribbean territories:
  - Pilot actions aimed at deploying renewable energy sources, including mature technologies, and support for the exploitation of renewable energy potential in the Caribbean, in line with the territories’ energy roadmaps. In particular, the following technologies will be supported under the programme: solar and thermal energy, wind power, hydroelectricity, geothermal energy, marine energy, biomass, biogas and anaerobic digestion.
  - Project to support the competitiveness of companies in the sector
  - Pilot actions aimed at deploying new solutions for storing energy produced from renewable sources,
  - Pilot actions aimed at the deployment of joint instruments to strengthen the energy performance of territories

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention** :

- Renewable energies : biomass to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Renewable energy: wind power
- Renewable energy: solar energy
- Renewable energy: marine energy
- Other types of renewable energy (including geothermal energy)
- Intelligent energy systems (including intelligent ICT systems and networks) and associated storage systems
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Pilot actions	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions jointly developed and implemented by the supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or transfer of practices.</p> <p>To be counted by this indicator,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the pilot action must not only be developed, but also implemented within the project</li> </ul> <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the implementation of the pilot action should be finalised by the end of the project.</li> </ul>

			<p>A jointly developed pilot action involves the involvement of project partners. It benefits several territories or is carried out in several territories (consistent with the cooperation dimension of the project, the actions benefit all partners).</p> <p>A pilot activity is not limited to the innovative character but rather to the notion of test experimentation. For this reason, the evaluation of tests and the transfer of results are very important dimensions in a project including pilot actions.</p> <p>A pilot activity is one activity among others in a project. There may be several in the same project (identical but in different territories, or completely different, testing different approaches, processes or tools).</p> <p>The supported pilot actions will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of the development of ENR solutions and energy transition, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results (new public policies, manufacturing process, deployment of a new ENR exploitation sector at the end of the project);</li> <li>- swarming ;</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in terms of ENR solutions;</li> <li>- evaluation of the impact (of the system, on the one hand, and for the territory and the partner territories of the project or even space of cooperation in a logic of capitalization, on the other hand);</li> <li>- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned under the project.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects to strengthen their energy transition	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from the actions of projects supported by the programme with a view to strengthening their energy transition;</p> <p>The geographical partner entity of the INTERREG Caraïbes 21-27 programme as identified in section 1 of the programme (FCOR, OCT or third country) is qualified as a territory of the cooperation area.</p> <p>The same territory is counted only once, even if it benefits from several actions.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project takes into account strategic documents and contributes to existing strategies ( in particular: Multi-year Territorial Energy Programmes)	1
The project contributes to the deployment and installation of new energy production capacity from renewable energy sources and / or the selected project must significantly accelerate the implementation work/deployment of energy production capacity from renewable energy sources .	3
The project provides for the implementation of pilot actions	2
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and brings job creation	3

## SO5- CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 5	€3,333,066
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme** , namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Setting up strategic frameworks and expert assessments to strengthen the deployment of high-quality, efficient and resilient infrastructure and networks in the cooperation area
  - Creating, equipping and networking scientific observatories, warning and forecasting systems to support better understanding of phenomena, developing decision support tools, improving the response capacity of Caribbean States, OCTs and FCORs of the cooperation area. For example: meteorological and hydrological monitoring, monitoring and prevention of risks (coastal risks, land-based risks, climate risks), etc.
  - Capitalising on actions and work already carried out in the Caribbean region and dissemination of good practices
  - Dedicated training and networking for scientists and public decision-makers intended to strengthen the capacities of local actors and decision-makers;
  - Regional programmes to prevent or adapt to climate change and to manage major risks, encouraging the development of concerted and structured strategies in the cooperation area. For example, planning, risk management, sectoral adaptations, evaluations of measures implemented by Caribbean States, OCTs and FCORs, etc. / actions to harmonise the various building standards: cyclone- and earthquake-resistant, etc.
  - Pilot initiatives well upstream of adaptation to climate change allowing greater resilience of economic and social systems (projects relating to adapted urban planning, the preservation of environments or the replanting of mangroves for example)
  - Infrastructure or equipment shared by several small territories in the Caribbean to help prevent risks or make territories more resilient;
  - Awareness campaigns, preventive information, joint exercises and training for the population and civil society
- Establishment of strategic frameworks and strengthening of response capacities and resilience of Caribbean territories, economies and populations in the event of an emergency:
  - Strategies, joint instruments and networks to improve emergency response and coordination
  - Infrastructure or equipment projects shared by several small Caribbean territories to provide a better response in the event of disasters and a better response to their consequences
  - Pooling of material and human resources, platforms for pre-positioning response equipment, organisation of operational response to emergencies, training initiatives for those involved in



major risks (rescue professionals, risk managers, etc.), including multi-disciplinary and inclusive care for victims, etc.

- Dedicated training, awareness-raising and preventive information initiatives, joint exercises for decision-makers, the general public and civil society aimed at strengthening the capacity of local players.

Projects addressing the strongest issues related to climate change, identified below, will be prioritized:

- Conflicts over the use of water resources (agricultural, touristic, domestic and industrial use and needs of natural environments) and an increased risk of shortage;
- Food safety of territories;
- A weakened electricity supply;
- Increasingly problematic heatwave episodes;
- Forests under pressure (negative impact on tree physiology and increased risk of forest fires);
- Ocean acidification and rapid disappearance of coral;
- Rise in sea levels with impacts on coastal populations and activities;
- Human mobilities and migrations induced by the effects of climate change;
- Specific impacts on the blue economy such as those linked to the development of sargassum;
- Tropical diseases (dengue, chikungunya) more frequent.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Climate change adaptation measures and prevention and management of climate-related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches);
- Climate change adaptation measures and prevention and management of climate-related risks: others, such as thunderstorms and droughts (including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches);
- Risk prevention and management of non-climatic natural risks (e.g. earthquakes) and risks related to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness-raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures and ecosystem-based approaches;
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Finally, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Measures supported to protect the population from climatic and natural	Number	This indicator measures the number of measures to protect the population from climatic and natural risks benefiting from programme support for their implementation. A measure to protect the population from climatic

	hazards		and natural risks leads to an improvement in protection against risks resulting directly from the projects supported and implemented. A project can implement several measures.
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of adaptation to climate change and disaster risk prevention, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in terms of prevention, adaptation to climate change, risk response and resilience;</li> <li>- maintenance of equipment and stocks (food or materials), upkeep and updated management in light of population changes, etc.</li> <li>- protocol and operational plan in the event of a phenomenon (identification of dedicated human resources, funding, etc.)</li> <li>- continuity, recovery and post-disaster repair plans ;</li> <li>- dissemination , promotion, awareness-raising among civil society, public decision-makers, the economic sector;</li> </ul>

			Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.
	Population benefiting from protection measures against climatic and natural hazards	Number of inhabitants	This indicator measures the population residing or working in the area concerned by an improvement in protection against climate risks resulting directly from the projects supported and implemented. The population residing in the territories of the leader and partners of an INTERREG Caraïbes project is counted. The same territory is counted only once, even if it benefits from several measures.

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project is consistent with territorial development planning approaches, and with strategies and plans at the local and national scale (earthquake plan, PPI, coastline management strategies, etc.), and with the relevant strategies of intergovernmental organisations.	1
If the project provides for the acquisition of equipment (first aid, forecasting) and the positioning of equipment and stocks, the issues of inventory planning, perishability of foodstuffs, and location are anticipated and controlled.	2
the project associates and provides for knowledge sharing between public decision-makers, academics and scientists, the private sector (businesses, insurance) and civil society	2
The project concerns several components linked to risk management (prevention, preparation, and/or adaptation)	1
The project plans pilot actions to reduce the vulnerability of populations and/or to strengthen the resilience of territories in the face of climate change.	2

## SO6-CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 6</b>	<b>€987,575</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those in the sector for more sustainable waste management at Caribbean level and the transition to a circular and resource-effective economy (integrating issues of waste prevention, sustainable supply, short circuits, eco-design of products, waste recovery, etc.):
  - Studies, diagnoses and assessments aimed at improving data on the various waste sources, the treatment potential in the various Caribbean territories, and the strategies and guidelines of authorities and institutions;
  - Definition of local public strategies for the development of the circular economy, waste management and the reduction of non-recycled waste. For example, in the field of construction: use of biosourced materials in construction, recycling of construction materials;
  - Capitalisation, meetings between players, training with a view to strengthening feedback between Caribbean players on both technical production and operating solutions and support policies;
  - Networking of those involved in the sector and structuring sectors at Caribbean level;
- Pilot schemes and actions to improve the management and reuse of waste in the Caribbean area:
  - Financing of feasibility studies, pilot projects, development of deposit schemes, recycling and repair workshops, etc. aimed at promoting the implementation of operational projects for the treatment, reuse and use of waste deposits in the Caribbean
  - Pilot actions to collect and reuse waste from the plastic sea or sargassum beachings.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Household waste management: prevention, reduction, sorting, reuse and recycling measures;
- Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials;
- Support for entities that provide services contributing to the low-carbon economy and climate change resilience, including awareness-raising measures;
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Pilot actions	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions jointly developed and implemented by the supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or transfer of practices.</p> <p>To be counted by this indicator,                      - the pilot action must not only be developed, but also implemented within the project                      And                      - the implementation of the pilot action should be finalized by the end of the project.</p> <p>A jointly developed pilot action involves the involvement of project partners. It benefits several territories or is carried out in several territories (consistent with the cooperation dimension of the project, the actions benefit all partners).</p> <p>A pilot activity is not limited to the innovative character but rather to the notion of test experimentation. For this reason, the evaluation of tests and the transfer of results are very important dimensions in a project including pilot actions.</p> <p>A pilot activity is one activity among others in a project. There may be several in the same project (identical but in different territories, or completely different, testing different approaches, processes or tools).</p> <p>The supported pilot actions will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the</p>

			<p>main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In line with the results expected by the programme in terms of transition towards a circular economy and more sustainable waste management, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- dissemination and appropriation by the final beneficiaries (associative fabric and ESS actors in particular);</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- evolution of public policies for a transition towards a circular economy and more sustainable waste management</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in terms of waste management and the circular economy;</li> <li>- impact assessment (for the sector on the one hand, and for the territory(ies) on the other hand)</li> <li>- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned under the project.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at strengthening their transition towards a circular economy and improving sustainable waste management	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from the actions of projects supported by the programme with a view to strengthening their transition to a circular economy and improving sustainable waste management;</p> <p>The geographical partner entity of the INTERREG Caraïbes 21-27 programme as identified in section 1 of the programme (FCOR, OCT or third country) is qualified as a territory of the cooperation area.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project is coherent and compliant with the objectives of the territorial and regional strategies and plans in terms of waste prevention and management	1
The project provides for the implementation of pilot actions	2
The project makes an effective contribution to waste reduction	2
The project is innovative for the cooperation area and brings job creation	3
The dynamics of the project integrates complementarity between territories in order to promote existing assets and expertise	1

## *S07- ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY:*

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 7</b>	<b>€2,222,044</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action** :

- Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in Caribbean biodiversity, its potential and the threats to it, with a view to its protection, restoration and rational and sustainable development
  - Development and establishment of joint strategies and/or legislative and regulatory frameworks for the protection, management and restoration of ecosystem services, biodiversity and the environment, particularly weakened by soil artificialization and ocean acidification. and plastic pollution;
  - Strengthening the capacities of local operators,
  - Studies and decision-support projects for political decision-makers,
  - Creation/strengthening of networks of players to improve management of shared issues, for example a network to prevent and monitor coral bleaching on a Caribbean level
  - Drawing up guidelines to manage protected species and areas
- Implementation of joint instruments for the protection, management and restoration of Caribbean ecosystems and ecosystem service:
  - Campaigns to raise awareness of the issues involved in protecting biodiversity and to support changes in populations and economic structures,
  - Pilot actions to improve cohabitation between wildlife and human activities
  - Setting up protected areas in the Caribbean region, particularly in “corridors”, breeding and nursery areas frequented by a species or group of species
  - Pilot actions to regulate and eradicate invasive species
  - Pilot actions for the protection and restoration of fauna, flora, environments and ecosystem services
  - Pilot projects or larger-scale projects to combat the mass stranding of sargassum

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Protecting nature and biodiversity, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure;
- Other measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the field of preserving and restoring natural areas with a high potential for absorbing and storing carbon, for example by rewetting moorland, capturing landfill gas etc.;



- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in the context of projects	Pilot actions	<p>The indicator counts the pilot actions jointly developed and implemented by the supported projects. The scope of a jointly developed pilot action could be to test procedures, new instruments, tools, experimentation or transfer of practices.</p> <p>To be counted by this indicator,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the pilot action must not only be developed, but also implemented within the project</li> </ul> <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the implementation of the pilot action should be finalized by the end of the project.</li> </ul> <p>A jointly developed pilot action involves the involvement of project partners. It benefits several territories or is carried out in several territories (consistent with the cooperation dimension of the project, the actions benefit all partners).</p> <p>A pilot activity is not limited to the innovative character but rather to the notion of test experimentation. For this reason, the evaluation of tests and the transfer of results are very important dimensions in a project including pilot actions.</p> <p>A pilot activity is one activity among others in a project. There may be several in the same project (identical but in different territories, or completely different, testing different approaches, processes or tools).</p> <p>The supported pilot actions will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the</p>

			<p>technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of preserving biodiversity, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- dissemination and appropriation by the final beneficiaries (associative fabric, populations in particular);</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised regarding the preservation of biodiversity and species, and evaluation of the impact of these solutions;</li> <li>- actions for the evolution of public policies, processes and habits;</li> <li>- evaluation of the impact of the pilot actions implemented;</li> <li>- evaluation of the implementation of pilot actions planned under the project.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving the preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and the environment	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from the actions of projects supported by the programme with a view to improving the preservation and/or restoration of biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>The geographical partner entity of the INTERREG Caraïbes 21-27 programme as identified in section 1 of the programme (FCOR, OCT or third country) is qualified as a territory of the cooperation area.</p> <p>The same territory is counted only once, even if it benefits from several actions.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project is coherent and contributes to local and national plans and strategies (National Strategy for Biodiversity, regional plan for natural heritage and biodiversity; regional plan for ecological coherence of Guadeloupe (green and blue networks, etc. ), etc. ).	1
The project provides for the implementation of pilot actions	2
The project plans actions aimed at restoring natural habitats or reducing sources of degradation and/or the project contributes to the fight against invasive exotic species (two main causes of erosion of overseas biodiversity)	3
The dynamics of the project integrates complementarity between territories in order to promote existing assets and expertise	1



- **Priority 3-FOR A MORE CONNECTED CARIBBEAN**

<b>ERDF amount allocated under priority 3 within the framework of this CFP#1</b>	<b>€987,575</b>
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***SO 8 - SUSTAINABLE, SMART AND CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY:***

Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of players with a view to strengthening maritime, air and land connectivity between the territories of the Caribbean area and with the major global networks, and with a view to improving quality, resilience and sustainability
  - Regional strategic plans to improve maritime, air and land connectivity and open up the area, and to share knowledge in the field of maritime surveillance;
  - Support for the introduction of legislative and regulatory frameworks conducive to the concerted development of transport services at regional level;
  - Pre-feasibility studies for transport infrastructure projects and expert assessments that could be pooled to limit additional costs (feasibility studies, market studies, support for the identification and mobilization of additional financing for transport infrastructure projects regional interest etc.);
  - Projects to improve existing infrastructure (example of projects on adaptation and prevention of natural risks and climate change) or develop existing links to strengthen connections between the Caribbean territories (for example: cabotage project between Brazil and Suriname which could be extended to the Caribbean, extension of the service of passenger maritime transport companies)
  - Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players to make Caribbean mobility more resilient, sustainable and of better quality (example: support for decarbonization in the field of air and maritime transport of people and goods, notably through the use of low sulfur fuel oil, the electrification of docks, etc.).
- Expert assessments, setting up strategic frameworks and networking players with a view to facilitating more sustainable mobility in the territories of the Caribbean area

- Exchange of good practices and the emergence of common guidelines on the issue of regional connectivity and transport;
- Strategic, legislative and regulatory frameworks and initiatives to promote sustainable mobility in Caribbean territories, taking into account their specific characteristics and the various impacts (particularly socio-economic) associated with these developments (example of projects on marine pollution, plans bicycle, development of a retrofit sector, etc.)
- Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players with a view to structuring and/or developing more sustainable and resilient mobility in the Caribbean (air, sea and land transport)

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Support for entities that provide services contributing to the low-carbon economy and climate change resilience, including awareness-raising measures;
- Multimodal transport (non-urban);
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or enhancing the sustainability of transport in the Caribbean area	Number	This indicator measures the number of INTERREG Caraïbes projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or strengthening the sustainability of transport in the Caribbean area benefiting from programme support for their implementation. The projects supported will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  In connection with the results expected by the

			<p>programme with a view to better connecting the cooperation area, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- dissemination and appropriation by peers or final beneficiaries (users, populations in particular);</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in terms of connection and mobility, including setting up new projects and soliciting additional financing.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Territories in the cooperation area benefiting from projects aimed at improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or the sustainability of transport	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of territories in the cooperation area benefiting from the actions of projects supported by the programme with a view to improving connectivity (maritime, air or land) and/or transport sustainability.</p> <p>The geographical partner entity of the INTERREG Caraïbes 21-27 programme as identified in section 1 of the programme (FCOR, OCT or third country) is qualified as a territory of the cooperation area.</p> <p>The same territory is counted only once, even if it benefits from several actions.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project is consistent with transport organisation and planning plans: global travel plans, urban travel plans, operational transport organisation programme, etc.	1
The project integrates dimensions relating to transport sustainability and environmental preservation	2
The project takes into consideration existing infrastructure and equipment to provide new connectivity solutions.	2



- **Priority 4-FOR A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE CARIBBEAN**

<b>ERDF amount allocated under priority 4 within the framework of this CFP#1</b>	<b>€9,999,203</b>
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***SO-9 INITIAL TRAINING AND INTEGRATION OF YOUTH:***

<b>Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 9</b>	<b>€2,222,046</b>
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Exchange and mobility projects within the Caribbean in the fields of formal and vocational training
  - Actions aimed at creating an ERASMUS-type exchange programme for students and teachers between schools and universities in the Caribbean (together with the Erasmus + programme, which mainly involves mobility towards continental Europe, projects supported by INTERREG Caraïbes could support student mobility within the Caribbean between the FCORs and non-European territories).
  - Exchange and mobility projects for professionals, jobseekers and people undergoing vocational retraining in the Caribbean area, a second phase of the ELAN pilot project could be considered, to go beyond the English-speaking area and cover other Caribbean linguistic spaces, etc.
- Implementation of joint instruments to strengthen training, particularly in languages, in the Caribbean area:
  - Setting up a range of training courses in languages for specific purposes (such as FOS, Français sur Objectifs Spécifiques) in relevant professional sectors in the, etc.
  - Setting up training courses aimed in particular at setting up new sectors and/or developing certain sectors in order to better meet the common challenges of the cooperation area (in particular: waste management, ecological transition, etc.)
  - Setting up joint distance learning and online teaching platforms (MOOCs).

- Networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in education and training in the Caribbean area:
  - Sharing experiences, exchanging good practices and strengthening the capacities of players (together with the Erasmus + programme).
  - Cooperation projects in the field of education, apprenticeships, higher education, integration of young people or continuing training within the cooperation area etc.

The sectors of application of these actions in the field of education and training, consistent with the needs and potential of the cooperation area include in particular:

- The valorisation of natural resources, agro-processing;
- Biodiversity (including aromatic and medicinal plants);
- Cultural and creative industries;
- Tourism;
- Social innovation and the social and solidarity economy;
- The bio-economy;
- Eco-construction.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Support for alignment with the labour market and transitions;
- Support for workforce mobility;
- Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure).

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Supported exchange and mobility projects	Number	This indicator measures the number of exchange and mobility projects benefiting from programme support for their implementation. An exchange and mobility project involves the implementation of specific actions under which the ultimate beneficiaries of the operation are required to interact with partner organisations outside their territory of residence. The projects supported will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project



			<p>completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of education and training, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in education and training;</li> <li>- dissemination to establishments and institutions competent in education and training, etc .;</li> <li>- deployment or swarming of training;</li> <li>- establishment of joint training courses;</li> <li>- training and mobility plan ;</li> <li>- evaluation of the impact of the training courses implemented on the Caribbean macro-economic and social fabric;</li> <li>- promotion of training courses and exchange mechanisms.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Beneficiaries of supported exchange and mobility projects	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of pupils, students and participants who benefit from exchange and mobility projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes programme.</p> <p>An exchange and mobility project involves the implementation of specific actions under which the ultimate beneficiaries of the operation are required to interact with partner organisations outside their territory of residence.</p> <p>The same beneficiary is counted only once, even if he benefits from several actions.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project targets themes and sectors of activity linked to the needs of territorial sectors and the strategies of organisations (example: territorial diplomacy, development and internationalization of certain sectors, etc.)	3
The project couples training actions with immersion actions	1
The project offers certification at the end of the training	1

## SO-10 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 10	€1,481,362
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- Setting up strategic frameworks, expert assessments, networking and strengthening the capacities of the relevant public players in the Caribbean States, of overseas countries and territories and outermost regions to improve social inclusion and increase the social resilience of Caribbean societies:
  - Development of regional strategic plans in the field of inclusion, the fight against poverty and social innovation and resilience;
  - Diagnoses, mapping of players, with a view to supporting the exchange of good practices, networking and strengthening the capacities of public players and relevant organisations in the Caribbean States, overseas countries and territories and outermost regions; the emergence of common guidelines and the development of shared initiatives on issues linked to inclusion and the fight against poverty within the cooperation area. For example in the areas of youth integration, access to employment, levers that can facilitate social inclusion, initiatives favorable to the mobility of marginalized populations, etc.
  - Support for strengthening the capacities of local operators in these fields and development of regional training in the fields of inclusion, social work, social innovation and the social and responsible solidarity economy. For example: development of integrated pathways across the Region, training mobility
- Support for the structuring and development of certain sectors with a view to greater social inclusion and better socio-economic integration in the Caribbean territories
  - Support for the structuring and development of specialised cultural sectors to facilitate social inclusion. For example, actions aimed at seeking synergies between territories to help structure specialised industries based on Caribbean talent (in the fashion or film sectors, for example).
  - Support for the structuring, development and promotion of cultural heritage and craft skills to facilitate social inclusion
  - In connection with the challenges of connectivity, as part of the support for inclusive digital development, the senior population could be targeted in particular.

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention**:

- Promotion of social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most

destitute and children;

- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Organisations cooperating on a cross-border, transnational or interregional scale within the framework of the supported projects	Number	<p>Organisations to be counted must be legal entities. The indicator counts organisations officially cooperating in supported projects. Organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, and cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants. Cooperating does not necessarily mean receiving direct financial support. This can also correspond to benefiting from collective actions, animation actions, network, carried out for projects from which companies/organisations benefit.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project (in the sense that it does not receive ERDF), but it can, for example, collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars, attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the corresponding seminar summary and final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of the results. The associated partner must therefore be counted.</p> <p>The organisation's stakeholders can, for example, be: companies, public or parapublic organisations, communities, research organisations. These examples are not exhaustive.</p> <p>The projects supported will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of</p>

			<p>results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of social inclusion and the fight against poverty, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised;</li> <li>- dissemination to relevant establishments and institutions;</li> <li>- deployment or swarming of training;</li> <li>- establishment of joint training courses.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened through their participation in cross-border cooperation activities	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of organisations that actively participated in a project's cooperation activities across borders and thus increased their institutional capacity.</p> <p>Institutional capacity is defined as the ability of an organisation to set and achieve objectives through its knowledge, skills, systems and institutions. An organisation increases its institutional capacity by securing the resources (human or technical) and structures (organisational or governance) that it needs to better accomplish the tasks entrusted to it.</p> <p>A cross-border cooperation activity is defined as a process of exchange of knowledge and experience between participants from several countries. This process can lead to the creation of common goals and commitments and actions responding to these commitments.</p> <p>An organisation may or may not be a partner in the project. Types of organisations include, but are not limited to, public authorities, research institutes, SMEs and NGOs. An organisation should be counted if it has undergone this type of learning process through project activities. This is defined as more than one instance of exchange in which the organisation played an active role.</p>

			<p>An organisation should not be counted more than once per project, regardless of the number of activities it was involved in or the number of departments involved.</p> <p>An organisation is only counted if its increased institutional capacity is within the thematic area of the project.</p> <p>Data for this indicator will be collected via a survey provided by the programme to the project lead partner. The project lead partner may decide to translate the survey into local languages if necessary. The project lead partner is responsible for ensuring that the survey is completed by organisations that participated in project activities. The project lead partner is responsible for collecting the responses in a summary table that he provides to the programme.</p>
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During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project partners report knowledge on inclusion in Overseas Territories and in the partner states of the cooperation area	1
Actions are planned to enable people in situations of exclusion to find employment, and/or actions contributing to businesses becoming more inclusive	2
The project contributes to social innovation: it provides a response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation	1

## SO 11- ACCESS TO CARE AND CARE SYSTEMS

Information on the ERDF amount identified within the framework of this CFP#1 for SO 11	€6,295,795
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Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action** :

- Setting up strategic frameworks, networking and strengthening the skills of those involved in the healthcare sector to make territories and populations more resilient to health risks (as part of a One Health approach) and to strengthen healthcare systems in the Caribbean (including the prevention of these risks):
  - Setting up strategic, regulatory and legislative frameworks conducive to a simplified patient care pathway in the Caribbean (for instance, initiatives that are similar to the CARES project);
  - Exchanges and joint work on the regulation of medicinal products;
  - Exchanges of good practice, joint training, investments in “cross-border” healthcare infrastructure etc. with the aim of strengthening the capacities of national healthcare systems;
  - Setting up and strengthening networks and monitoring and alert systems for human, animal and plant health. For example: structuring and strengthening of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), development of specialized health monitoring networks and systems such as the Pan-Caribbean Partnership to Combat HIV (PANCAP), surveillance of epizootics, etc.;
  - Development of regional training in the healthcare field. For example: integrated pathways across the Region, actions promoting university mobility, investments to develop solutions for welcoming foreign students, etc.;
  - Sharing of good practice on healthcare pathways and health policies, work on the complementary features of medical specialisations;
  - Strategies, roadmaps and networking of players to improve prevention, care and response to shared healthcare issues and problems in the Caribbean region, in particular sickle-cell anaemia, obesity, the ageing population etc.
- Implementation of joint instruments for better prevention of health risks, particularly in the face of specific or salient problems in the Caribbean region, and to improve the resilience of health systems:
  - Prevention and information campaigns on chronic and transmissible diseases, raising awareness of how diseases are transmitted, informing the public about epidemic risks,

screening campaigns, mosquito control campaigns run by the public authorities for vector-borne diseases, etc.

- Concerted initiatives to maintain healthcare coverage and improve access to healthcare and healthcare pathways. For example: targeted screening campaigns, raising awareness among foreign populations by adapting prevention and awareness tools etc.
- Capitalisation and dissemination actions to share the results of pilot initiatives. For example: Exchanges of good practices on specific cooperation experiments carried out in the field of health, feedback, etc.
- Projects to promote the development of telemedicine practices

Candidate projects must be consistent with one of the following **areas of intervention** :

- Measures aimed at improving the accessibility, efficiency and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure);
- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Supported initiatives to protect against health risks	Number	This indicator measures the number of projects aimed at strengthening or improving protection against health risks benefiting from programme support for their implementation Protection refers to the following dimensions: prevention, care, monitoring and support. The projects supported will contribute to the results expected by the programme under this SO.
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of health and access to care, the



			<p>joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capitalization on project results;</li> <li>- dissemination to health establishments, associations of health professionals or patients, etc. ;</li> <li>- deployment or swarming of training;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- implementation of solutions responding to the issues raised in terms of health and access to care.</li> </ul> <p>Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.</p>
	Population benefiting from supported initiatives to protect against health risks	Number of inhabitants	<p>This indicator measures the population residing or working in the area concerned by an improvement in protection against health risks resulting directly from the projects supported and implemented.</p> <p>The population residing in the territories of the leader and partners of an INTERREG Caraïbes project is counted.</p> <p>A single territory is counted once, even if it benefits from several initiatives.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project contributes to social innovation : it provides a response to new societal needs, new local products or services, new modes of organisation or cooperation	1
The operation is consistent with the priorities of the partners including the regional strategic documents concerning the field of health, particularly in terms of training.	1



- Priority 5- FOR STRENGTHENED CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SAINT MARTIN / SINT MAARTEN

ERDF amount allocated under priority 5 within the framework of this CFP#1	€1,227,185
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*SO 12 - CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION SAINT-MARTIN / SINT-MAARTEN:*



**Warning:** This specific objective of the INTERREG Caraïbes programme concerns cross-border cooperation between Saint Martin and Sint Maarten. The functional area covered by the implementation of this specific objective includes:

- The territory of Saint-Martin as a French outermost region (on the NUTSIII scale of the nomenclature of European regions);
- The territory of Sint-Maarten (OCT).

The project(s) falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, the candidate project(s) must correspond to the following **type of action**: development of the Saint-Martin/Sint-Maarten cross-border territorial strategy.

In accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2021, this strategy will detail:

- The geographical area concerned by the strategy;
- An analysis of the needs and development potential of the area, including economic, social and environmental interconnections;
- A description of an integrated approach to meet the identified needs and development potential of the area;
- A description of the participation of partners in the development and implementation of the strategy.

This integrated territorial strategy must be developed and adopted jointly by the authorities of Saint-Martin and Sint-Maarten.

The project(s) will provide for the issues related to governance, communication and coordination of this strategy and the sub-programme.

Lastly, the project(s) must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Supported integrated territorial development strategies	Contributions to strategies	The indicator measures the number of integrated territorial development strategies linked to financially supported projects. In the case of this AAP, this relates to the Saint-Martin/Sint-Maarten cross-border territorial strategy.
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions. A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners. A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion. An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.  Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	
	Organisations cooperating across borders after the end of a project	Organisations	This indicator measures the number of organisations continuing cooperation for at least one year after project completion. The indicator counts organisations cooperating after the completion of supported projects. Organisations are legal entities involved in the implementation of the project, and the cooperation must be documented on the basis of a structured agreement between the project participants. Organisations to be counted must be legal entities. The indicator counts organisations officially cooperating in supported projects. Organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, and cooperation should be based on a structured agreement between project participants. Cooperating does not necessarily mean receiving direct financial support. This can also benefit from collective actions, animation actions, network, carried out for projects from which companies benefit.

			<p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, he can, for example, collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars, attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>The organisation's stakeholders can, for example, be: companies, public or parapublic organisations, communities, research organisations. These examples are not exhaustive.</p> <p>After the completion of the project: the objective is to observe the continuity of the links / cooperative activities between organisations created in a said project and committed to the completion of the project in question. The structures can collaborate together on different projects.</p>
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- Priority 6-TO FACILITATE AND OPTIMIZE COOPERATION MODALITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

<b>ERDF amount allocated under priority 6 within the framework of this CFP#1</b>	<b>€887,135</b>
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*SO 13- FACILITATE AND OPTIMIZE COOPERATION MODALITIES:*

Projects falling under this SO must contribute to the **results expected by the programme**, namely:

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

Also, candidate projects must correspond to one of the following **types of action**:

- INTERREG Caraïbes start-up facility:
  - Exploratory missions, support in the search for partnerships, with a view to structuring a cooperation project that contributes to achieving the objectives of an INTERREG Caraïbes thematic priority.

With a view to carrying out structuring INTERREG Caraïbes projects, these “starter” projects must bring together the driving forces of the territories and major institutions (consular chambers, communities, etc.) in order to facilitate their connection with potential partners.

Candidate projects must be consistent with the following **area of intervention**:

- Strengthening cooperation with partners inside and outside the Member State.

Lastly, the projects must be coherent and contribute to the **indicators** defined by the programme, namely:

Indicator type	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Comment
Output indicator	Organisations cooperating on a cross-border, transnational or interregional scale within the framework of the	Organisations	The indicator measures the number of partner and sub-partner organisations officially involved in the project. Organisations to be counted must be legal entities. The indicator counts organisations officially cooperating in supported projects. Organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, and cooperation should be based on a

	supported projects		<p>structured agreement between project participants. Cooperating does not necessarily mean receiving direct financial support. This can also correspond to benefiting from collective actions, animation actions, network, carried out for projects from which companies/organisations benefit.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project (in the sense that it does not receive ERDF), but it can, for example, collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars, attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the corresponding seminar summary and final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of the results. The associated partner must therefore be counted.</p> <p>The organisation's stakeholders can, for example, be: companies, public or parapublic organisations, communities, research organisations. These examples are not exhaustive.</p>
	Jointly developed strategies and action plans	Strategy/action plan	<p>An action plan translates an existing, jointly developed strategy into actions.</p> <p>A jointly developed strategy or action plan involves the involvement of project partners.</p>
Results indicator	Joint strategies and action plans adopted by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	<p>A joint action plan translates an existing joint strategy into actions. The strategy/action plan should be finalized and adopted at the time of project completion.</p> <p>An associated partner is not financially involved in the project, can for example collaborate in the organisation of technical seminars attend the technical seminars organized and also collaborate in the preparation of the summary of the corresponding seminar and the final reports, collaborate with the main partner in the transfer and capitalization of results.</p> <p>In connection with the results expected by the programme in terms of governance, the joint strategies and/or action plans developed within the framework of the supported projects may in particular pursue the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- modalities for strengthening regional cooperation and consultation mechanisms to be put in place;</li> <li>- capitalization on project results, spin-off;</li> <li>- sustainability of cooperation between programme partners;</li> <li>- change of scale / expansion of the partnership;</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>

			Costs relating to the development, adoption and monitoring of this strategy/joint action plan are eligible for support under the programme.
	Organisations whose institutional capabilities have been strengthened through their participation in cross-border cooperation activities	Number	<p>This indicator measures the number of organisations that actively participated in a project's cooperation activities across borders and thus increased their institutional capacity.</p> <p>Institutional capacity is defined as the ability of an organisation to set and achieve objectives through its knowledge, skills, systems and institutions. An organisation increases its institutional capacity by securing the resources (human or technical) and structures (organisational or governance) that it needs to better accomplish the tasks entrusted to it.</p> <p>A cross-border cooperation activity is defined as a process of exchange of knowledge and experience between participants from several countries. This process can lead to the creation of common goals and commitments and actions responding to these commitments.</p> <p>An organisation may or may not be a partner in the project. Types of organisations include, but are not limited to, public authorities, research institutes, SMEs and NGOs. An organisation should be counted if it has undergone this type of learning process through project activities. This is defined as more than one instance of exchange in which the organisation played an active role. An organisation should not be counted more than once per project, regardless of the number of activities it was involved in or the number of departments involved.</p>

During the selection process (detailed in section 4), the projects of this SO will be analyzed according to the following specific criteria:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project relevantly identifies the authorities and governance bodies associated with the sector concerned	2
Institutional communication/for the attention of regional organisations and relevant governance bodies is planned as part of the project	1
The project will, upon its completion, strengthen the capacities of actors and structures in the sector concerned.	2

## 2.2 Project implementation duration

- **Start of implementation**

With the exception of projects for which the incentive nature of the aid must be demonstrated, project activities may have started as early as January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

The projects must not be completed when the application is submitted.

- **Project implementation period**

**The implementation period for projects applying in response to this Call for Projects is limited to 3 years** (from the date of signature of the ERDF grant award agreement).

In the case of a project which, due to its structuring dimension, requires an implementation period of longer than three years from its development, it is appropriate to phase this project. Phase 1 of this project, respecting the implementation deadline of three years, will be studied within the framework of this call for projects and an assessment will be drawn up upon its completion. After assessment of this first phase by the programme partners, the project lead partner will be able to submit phase 2 of this project, whose engagement will be given priority over new projects.

If, during the implementation of a project having initially planned to respect this implementation period limit, an overrun proves necessary to achieve the objectives pursued by the project, an extension request may be studied by the programme under conditions. In particular, it is requested from the lead partner to anticipate this need and to inform the Joint Secretariat, and to formalize a reasoned modification request within the deadlines provided for by the agreement. Any exemption from this implementation period limit will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

### **Exceptions:**

- The project(s) responding to priority 5 is(are) not subject to this implementation period limitation;
- Projects not subject to the incentive rule having started their activities from the beginning of 2021 and until the end of 2022 may be supported within the framework of this call for projects as long as they are completed before the end of 2025. Likewise, projects not subject to the incentive rule and having started their activities in 2023 may be supported within the framework of this call for projects and must complete their activities within 3 years from the date of signature of the ERDF grant award agreement.

- **Prioritization**

Projects which contribute to the objectives pursued by the programme, which comply with the provisions of these specifications and which will be completed at the end of 2024 will be prioritized in the selection process. In which case, when analyzing the application, it will be assessed whether the completion planned for the end of 2024 is consistent and proportionate with the nature and objectives pursued by the project - this concerns in particular projects phased between the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods.



## 2.3 Financial arrangements

- Cofinancing rate

Regarding expenses borne by community partners:

- The activities planned as part of the project may benefit from support under the ERDF of up to 85% of eligible expenses;
- This rate may be reduced depending on the State-aid regulations relating.

Regarding expenses borne by extra-community partners: they are ineligible for support under the ERDF.

- Eligible, ineligible expenditure and simplification rules:

The eligible cost categories under INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 are as follows:

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



**Please refer to the details of eligible and ineligible expenses appearing in Implementation document I – programme action sheets, in section IV.**

Furthermore, the Managing Authority is implementing a simplification strategy based in particular on the use of simplified cost options provided for by the regulations.

At the stage of preparing their project, project holders will have to work on their budgetary projections in order to prepare their meeting with the Joint Secretariat.

The table below presents the different applicable rules and options available depending on the expenditure concerned:

Type of expenditure	Possible ways of taking into account
Staff costs	Two modalities possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application of a SCO:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o flat rate of 20% of expenses directly project - related that are not staff costs;</li> <li>o scale of 1607h, in case of taking in account on the basis of a rate schedule (except in case of collective</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>agreement fixing a different duration);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In reality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o only staff expenses with a rate fixed assignment to the project will be eligible;</li> <li>o only expenses linked to the personnel assigned to the project at more than 15%, will be eligible under the programme.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Travel and accommodation costs	<p>Application of a scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if the structure has its own scale: use of the structure scale;</li> <li>- if the structure does not have a scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o civil service scale, for travel in France (in one of the ORs and/ or in mainland France);</li> <li>o scale applicable to missions by European Union officials (used within the framework of Europ'Aid), for travel outside France.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Equipment costs	<p>Two possible methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- application of a SCO: 40% of staff costs (includes also travel and accommodation costs);</li> <li>- Or an actual basis</li> </ul>
Infrastructure and works costs	
Communication costs	
Costs linked to the use of external skills and services	
Indirect expenses /office and administrative costs	<p>Exclusive application of a SCO: flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs</p>

The choice of the options most suited to the project will be made on the basis of the project leader partner's forecast budget and the relevant justification elements.

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

- **Respect for competitive bidding and the notion of reasonable costs:**

For structures subject to compliance with public procurement, in the event of a contract already launched, all contract documents must be transmitted in support of the expenses concerned when submitting the application if applicable.

For structures which are not subject to compliance with public procurement, the reasonableness of the costs presented must be assessed. Also, the managing authority specified the following rules, when submitting the aid application:

- For expenses less than or equal to €40,000 excluding tax (unit cost): production of at least one estimate of expenses <sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> As part of the transmission of supporting documents in support of the application file and estimated expenses, an estimated cost document may be:

- A quote;

- For expenses of an amount between €40,000 excluding tax and €215,000 excluding tax: production of at least two estimated expenditure documents.
- For expenses exceeding €215,000 excluding tax: production of at least three estimated expense documents.

In cases deemed necessary by the instructing service, contradictory documents or quotes may be requested. The different quotes presented must correspond to equivalent expenses between them, and must not come from the same supplier/service provider. The prospective supplier/service provider must not be in a conflict of interest with the project holder.

The documents presented must be recent (less than 8 months before the date of submission of the application). When the production of contradictory documents is not possible, the project holder must justify this impossibility by an explanatory note sent to the request under SYNERGIE-CTE.

## 2.4 - The partnership, key element of an INTERREG Caraïbes project:

The partnership for an INTERREG Caraïbes project must bring together **at a minimum**:

- **A project lead partner** (in charge of the administrative and financial coordination of the project) **located<sup>2</sup> in an Outermost Region of the area** (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Saint-Martin);
- A partner located in non-European territory of the Caribbean.

Projects must meet at least two of the following four criteria:

- be defined jointly;
- be carried out jointly;
- benefit from shared human resources;
- be jointly funded.

Indeed, the partners of an INTERREG Caraïbes project are engaged in a common project (the project must be co-constructed, the participation of each partner is motivated) and “win-win” (which will benefit each partner). The programme authorities will pay attention to these characteristics when selecting projects.

Lastly, the administrative and financial solidity of the project holders, and in particular of the project lead

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- An approach explained in a note which made it possible to verify the list of economic operators capable of satisfying a need on the market (sourcing) followed by an estimate carried out by a consular chamber, a cooperative, a design office, a master of work or any other expert;
  - A screenshot of a website;
  - A catalog scan;
  - An invoice, whether paid or not;
  - Or any other similar document, subject to validation by the management authority.

<sup>2</sup> The location of the leader in the FCOR territory refers to the fact that the structure which carries and coordinates the project is present and has regular activity in the territory in question, and is not a simple “mailbox”. This location is appreciated during project instruction.

partner<sup>3</sup>, will be appreciated. Given the partnership dimension of an INTERREG project, and the operating rules of the programme, the capacity of beneficiaries to pre-finance their activities, to ensure administrative monitoring of expenses, to ensure reporting to the leader and the programme, to monitor and justify the indicators or to coordinate the partnership are in fact key elements for the success of a European territorial cooperation project.

## 2.5 - The DNSH principle or “do not cause significant harm” to the environment:

In accordance with European regulatory expectations, projects must be compatible with the DNSH principle (“do no significant harm ” or “not cause significant harm”<sup>4</sup>. For the management authorities, this involves ensuring that the projects selected and implemented do not have a negative impact on the environment, in the light of the following six environmental objectives: mitigation and adaptation to climate change, preservation of aquatic and marine resources, circular economy, prevention and reduction of pollution, protection and restoration of biodiversity.

Also, the projects must be consistent with the types of action defined within the framework of the programme; comply with European regulations and national legislation; and respect this principle of the DNSH both in their development and in their implementation.

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<sup>3</sup>The project lead partner is financially and legally responsible for the project on behalf of all the partners, he is responsible for its physical and financial implementation and he ensures the coordination of the different partners. European regulations (article 26 of regulation (EU) n°2021/1059) provide that:

- Establishes a partnership agreement to set the terms of execution of the project with the other partners. This agreement includes provisions guaranteeing, among other things, the sound financial management of European funds, including arrangements for recovering sums unduly paid;
- Be responsible for the implementation of the entire Interreg operation;
- Ensures that the expenses presented by all partners have been paid for the implementation of the project and correspond to the activities agreed upon by all partners and that they comply with the document provided by the authority Management.

<sup>4</sup>Principle defined by the Taxonomy Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2020/852) and mentioned in Article 9 of the CPR (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060)

## 3 – Conditions for admissibility of projects:

### 3.1 – Procedures for submitting the electronic application:

Candidates are invited to enter their complete application directly on the SYNERGIE-CTE platform. **Only complete applications submitted by this platform will be studied.** To submit this application, the following steps must be followed:

#### Step 1: refine the project idea:

As part of the development of the project and from the idea stage, project holders can benefit from support from the programme's Regional Contact Points (RCP). In order to benefit from this support, they can enter their project idea on the SYNERGIE-CTE platform in order to be put in contact with a RCP.

In addition, applicant project lead partners must hold an appointment with the Joint Secretariat of the programme. This meeting will notably:

- To refine the draft budget: reminder of the various programme expectations and their variation in the draft budget, identification of Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) and simplification rules applicable to the project;
- Anticipate the various expectations of the programme before finalizing the project (monitoring indicators, communication, capitalization, translation, etc.);
- To open access to the entry and submission of the application under SYNERGIE-CTE.



**Only complete applications entered under SYNERGIE-CTE before the deadline of the call for projects will be admissible.** Therefore, it is advisable to anticipate this obligatory technical exchange with the JS before the deadline of the call for projects.

#### Step 2: entry of the application:

At the end of the technical meeting with the JS, a summary of the main recommendations made will be sent to the candidate lead partner and an email will be sent to the address provided by the lead partner specifying the identifiers and password (modifiable) to be used to connect to the SYNERGIE-CTE platform and enter the application. Based on this information, the applicant lead partner connects to the SYNERGIE-CTE platform and edits the application.

The editing is done in French and English for each section.

To assist candidates with editing, supports are made available on the programme website.

When the application is fully edited and finalized, click on the “SUBMIT” button at the bottom of the page.

As a reminder, project holders are invited to submit their application according to the aforementioned procedures **until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

### 3.2 Completeness of the application:

To be admissible, the project must meet the following conditions:

- The project is submitted via the information system, in accordance with the procedure defined by the programme;
- The application form is sent in French and English;
- The application form is fully completed;
- The required annexes are attached to the application;
- The templates defined for the annexes are respected;
- Letters of commitment from the project lead partner and project partners are attached, dated and signed;
- Supporting documents relating to the applicants (Kbis , status of the applicant and all partners, capacity of the legal representative to commit the structure, etc.) are transmitted ;
- The supporting elements for the expenses detailed in the budgetary annex (estimated documents, documents relating to personnel costs, etc.) are transmitted;
- A commitment from the beneficiary to transmit a IBAN specific to the project (or other for public structures) if the project is approved;
- If the project provides for expenses including VAT, a certificate(s) of non-recovery of VAT for the partner(s) concerned is sent;
- Documents attesting to the commitment of each public or private co-financier are attached;
- If the project is part of a Call for Projects (CFP), the project was submitted within the planned deadline;
- The final version of the application form is dated and signed by the project lead partner.

Please refer to the list of documents to be provided available on the programme website.

**Incomplete project following the appraisal and reminders will be deemed inadmissible and will be rejected.**

Exception: complete files with the exception of commitment letters will be adjourned and may be presented to the next steering committee for decision, if deemed eligible after the appraisal process.

## 4- Selection of projects:

### 4.1 – Analysis of project eligibility and expenditure by the Joint Secretariat:

Initially, the applications submitted will be examined in terms of eligibility, legality and operational quality by the JS as part of the appraisal procedure.

The main eligibility criteria are:

- The project complies with European and national regulatory requirements;
- The project involves *at least* a project holder located in one of the outermost regions covered by the programme, and a non-EU partner;
- The project partners cooperate in *at least* two of the following four dimensions: the development and implementation of Interreg operations, their staffing or financing;
- The project contributes to the achievement of a thematic priority and a specific objective of the programme (a project which contributes to more than one priority or to more than one specific objective may be the subject of a specific bonus);
- The project is consistent with an area of intervention of the programme.

For further details on these eligibility criteria, refer to Implementation Document I, section IV.



**A project which does not meet the conditions for awarding INTERREG funding in terms of eligibility or legality will not be proposed for the opinion of the technical committee or decision of the steering committee, it will only be presented for information regarding its rejection.**

### 4.2 – Qualitative assessment and prioritization of applications by the technical committee:

- **Procedure :**

Secondly, admissible applications meeting the award conditions in terms of eligibility and legality will be subject to a qualitative rating by the technical committee. This technical committee is made up of technical representatives from the programme's partner institutions. Three types of criteria will be used to assess the applications:

- Transversal criteria, applicable to all application files;
- Criteria specifically defined for each programme intervention theme, with regard to the programme intervention strategy;
- Bonus criteria, aimed at promoting projects contributing more to the European and programme objectives.

The transversal and thematic criteria will be subject to a rating (from 1 (very insufficient) to 4 (very satisfactory)), weighted by criterion.

The cross-sectional and thematic criteria make it possible to define thresholds for the opinion on the operation:

- Below an average score of 1.5 for each of these criteria, the project receives an unfavorable opinion;
- If the average score per criterion is between 1.5 and 2.5, the project receives a notice of postponement;
- If the average score per criterion exceeds 2.5, the project receives a favorable opinion.

Operations receiving a favorable opinion will be prioritized according to their rating.

The note and the consolidated opinion of the technical committee on the operations will be transmitted to the members of the Steering Committee to facilitate decision-making on the granting of INTERREG funding and the programming of operations.

- **Qualitative assessment criteria:**

#### Transversal criteria :

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

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

#### Operational quality and structuring dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project contributes to a <b>broader strategy at European</b> (e.g.: REACT EU, ERASMUS+, LIFE+, Cosme, the European Digital Programme (EDP), Horizon Europe, the Clean Energy for EU Islands initiative, the Connecting Europe Facility, European external funding strategies and programmes), <b>national, regional</b> (e.g.: Smart Specialisation Strategies of territories, donor strategies), and/or territorial levels in the cooperation area	2
The project clearly identifies the <b>target groups</b> and links together all the groups (and in particular final beneficiaries and users) from the design phase to the implementation phase of the project	2
The project anticipates its social, economic and environmental <b>benefits</b>	2
The reverse scheduling of activities is proportionate to the goals of the programme	2

#### Cooperative partnership and win-win dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The choice of the lead partner and the partners involved in the project is relevant, proportionate to the objectives pursued by the project and structuring (the partners have expertise in the field in question, the partners are federating, complementary)	3
The lead partner and partners involved in the project and its implementation have proven experience (in the management and implementation of INTERREG or FCR type cooperation projects, or in the management and implementation of European projects) to carry out the project	1
The lead partner and the partners involved in the project and its implementation have sufficient administrative and financial capacity to carry out the project	2
The project has a win-win dimension for all the territories involved (realistic cooperation dimension and the benefits expected by each partner are clearly identified)	2



The activities planned by each partner are detailed and complementary, the level of involvement of the partners in the implementation of the project and the expected results of the project is proportionate	3
The value of cooperation to address the subject of the project is clearly demonstrated and/or the results of the project could not or only partially be achieved without cooperation	3

### Projects involving studies:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The professionals who are in charge of conducting the study provide guarantees as to the quality of the result of the study produced (profile and legitimacy of the consultants, etc.) and/or provisions are provided for this purpose	1
The study has a win-win dimension for all project partners (Does it cover all project partners within its scope, at least in a comparative manner or through exchange of good practices?)	2
Upon completion, the study will produce concrete impacts for the territories (Will the deliverables be made available to the public? Does the study include the implementation of pilot actions upon its completion?)	2

### Capitalisation and sustainability of the project:

Evaluative questions	Weighting
The project takes into account available knowledge and brings added value compared to existing initiatives	1
The expected results of the action are sustainable from a financial point of view (How will the activities be financed at the end of the grant?), an institutional point of view (Will there be structures allowing the continuation of the activities at the end of the action? Will there be local "ownership" of the results of the action?) and/or political point of view (What will be the structural impact of the action, e.g. will it result in better laws, codes of conduct, methods?)	3
The results of the project can be duplicated by other organisations or initiatives (the possibility of reproducing, extending or disseminating the results of the action) and/or the project has provisions to this effect	2

#### Thematic criteria:

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

#### Additional criteria:

These criteria, which apply to all operations, enhance the scores of projects incorporating specific measures to meet the cross-cutting objectives of the European Union (compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, sustainable development, environment and climate, non-discrimination, inclusion of people with disabilities, gender equality, etc.) or whose objectives and activities contribute to achieving the programme's strategy beyond the priority for which they are applied.

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

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

**Horizontal principles:**

Evaluative questions
The project limits environmental impacts and integrates environmentally friendly methods, both in the design and management of infrastructure and equipment, and in the delivery of services.
The project ensures, through additional positive action, compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
The project integrates, through additional positive actions, the gender dimension (gender equality)
The project prevents any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, in particular in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and/or measures, strategies from the organisation involved in the project, or actions are implemented in order to prevent discrimination (development of policies regarding employment, integration of issues regarding the prevention of discrimination into strategies for disseminating project results etc.)
The project provides, through additional positive actions, the accessibility of the project and/or activities to people with disabilities (e.g.: accessibility of websites and digital applications, appropriate arrangements, actions specifically targeting the accessibility issue etc.)
The project foresees a strategic use of public procurement (environmental clauses, social clauses, incentives for innovation)

**Sustainable development principle:**

Evaluative questions
The project ensures, through additional positive actions not to cause significant harm (DNSH)* or provides for mitigation measures, on the following dimensions: climate change mitigation and adaptation, preservation of aquatic and marine resources, circular economy, pollution prevention and reduction, protection and restoration of biodiversity.
The project integrates an eco-communication and/or eco-event policy
The project integrates the negative impact of travel (encouraging the rationalisation of unnecessary travel, limiting the number of people making trips, giving priority to video conferencing, organising distance training, measures to compensate for the negative environmental impacts of the project, etc.)
The project integrates citizen dialogue, consultation and transparency in the choice of technologies
The project integrates environmental education activities

**Projects involving the creation or renovation of infrastructure:**

Evaluative questions
The project aims to build infrastructure resilient to disasters and the impact of climate change
The project anticipates the potential negative impacts related to creation and/or renovation of sites (noise pollution, waste, air quality, etc.) and favours the use of good practices in carrying out the work.
The project anticipates the potential negative impact of the construction of new infrastructure (carbon impact, heritage, landscape, biodiversity, ecological corridors, land use)
The project prefers the renovation of existing infrastructure to the creation of new infrastructure
The location of the infrastructure integrates the issues of space saving and control of travel.
The project contributes to the guidelines of the New European Bauhaus

### Structuring dimension of the project:

Evaluative questions
The project contributes to one of the cross-cutting dimensions identified by the programme, namely: strengthening the resilience of territories, supporting the blue economy, strengthening connectivity
The project contributes to one or more of the programme's specific objectives in addition to the one to which it applies

### 4.3 Decision of the steering committee:

The steering committee, made up of INTERREG Caraïbes programme partners, will decide on the programming of the operations presented on the basis of the technical committee's proposal.

It issues three types of decisions on the requests and operations presented to it:

- Favorable;
- Unfavorable;
- Adjournment.

### 4.4 Calendar of the call for projects:

The timetable for this call for projects is as follows:

- Opening of the AAP: December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Closing date of the AAP: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Presentation of candidate projects to the technical committee: June 2024
- Presentation of candidate projects to the steering committee: July 2024

## 5 – The life of an INTERREG Caraïbes project

### 5.1 Project implementation

- Agreement

In the event of a favorable opinion on the project, an ERDF subsidy agreement is signed between the lead partner and the managing authority. It specifies in particular the conditions under which the aid is granted for the execution of the project (expected deliverables, financing plan, execution deadline, conditions of payment of the aid, etc.).

The leader is also required to sign a partnership agreement with all the project partners. This agreement sets out the terms of cooperation between partners, the ERDF amount allocated to each partner and the related activities, and provides for provisions aimed at the sound financial management of the European grant awarded.

- Conditions for payment of European ERDF aid:

After signature of the grant award agreement between the lead partner and the managing authority, an advance of 5% to 20% maximum on the amount of European co-financing may possibly be paid upon reasoned request from the lead partner. This advance will be compensated by the managing authority when paying the first installments.

The payment of an advance is not systematic and is at the discretion of the managing authority. The decision to grant an advance is taken on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the operation and the situation of the beneficiary.

European aid provides reimbursement for expenses paid and paid by the beneficiary, upon presentation and after analysis of convincing supporting documents attesting to the regularity and materiality of the expenses incurred and their connection to the operation. A payment request in accordance with the expectations of the programme will be submitted by the beneficiary for this purpose for the payment of advances and the balance of the project.

The project lead partner ensures that the expenses presented by all partners have been paid for the implementation of the project and correspond to the activities agreed upon by all partners, and that they comply the grant award agreement and the documents provided by the managing authority.

- Editing the project

During the execution of the project, minor or major modifications are possible under conditions: they must be the subject of a reasoned request from the leader and must have been approved by the programme. Any request for modification of the project must be made within the deadlines provided for in the grant award agreement, and must be formalized using the documents provided by the programme.

## 5.2 The obligations of project holders

- Advertising and communication obligations

Project communication reflects several strategic issues:

- **Make the use of European funds transparent to citizens** by respecting regulatory obligations regarding the publicity of European co-financing;
- **Make EU action in the cooperation area visible** by promoting projects and their results;
- **Ensure the sustainability of projects** by disseminating project achievements to target groups and disseminating good practices to maximize the results of supported projects.

In connection with these issues, the programme has defined requirements and a visual identity to ensure the coherence of the communication process. Thus, projects supported by the INTERREG Caraïbes programme are expected to:

- The creation of a graphic charter dedicated to the project to be affixed to information and communication documents (brochures, kakemonos, leaflets, etc.) and administrative documents, minutes, payroll sheets, reports, etc. It must integrate the Europe logo with the reference to the EU, the programme logo and the reference to ERDF financing, the project logo;
- The creation of a website or web page specific to the project;
- Affixing a project poster or a temporary or permanent plaque (for infrastructure projects);
- Participation in project promotion events (European or organized by the programme and/or programme partners);
- The organisation of project launch and closing events.

For each selected project, a communication plan detailing the actions planned in order to comply with European advertising requirements and to promote the project and its achievements must be submitted to the managing authority.

**As soon as the project is developed, these various communication actions must be anticipated in the budget in order to meet the advertising obligations of the INTERREG Caraïbes 2021-2027 programme.**

- Project monitoring and evaluation

When applying, the candidate lead partner and the project partners specify:

- The planned contribution of the project to the indicators defined for the INTERREG Caraïbes programme;
- The provisions planned for monitoring indicators;
- Methods for justifying the planned values.

Following the selection of the project, these values are agreed and the partners must regularly monitor the values achieved for these indicators and collect supporting documents proving the reliability of these values.

At the end of the project, the leader and the partners report the values achieved by the project and transmit the related proofs and supporting documents.

Regarding the results indicators, the lead partner may be contacted again to provide information and supporting documents within the year following the completion of the project.

Finally, the leader and partners will contribute to the surveys and evaluations carried out by the programme, which may take place after the completion of the project.

- **The obligation of sustainability**

According to this principle, the project must not undergo major modification for a period of five years from payment of the balance (this period may change depending on the regulations applicable to the operation) under penalty of reimbursement of the European grant received. These major developments correspond to:

- The cessation or transfer of a productive activity outside the NUTS level 2 region in which it received support;
- A change in ownership of infrastructure that provides a company or public body with an unfair advantage;
- A substantial change affecting its nature, its objectives or its conditions of implementation, which would undermine its initial objectives.

- **Controls**

As part of the execution of the project, or after its completion, the beneficiaries may be subject to controls carried out by the managing authority and/or its service providers, by the national audit authority or again by European control and audit bodies. Beneficiaries must make themselves available for this purpose, and store and archive the various documents and supporting documents relating to the operation, according to the provisions provided for in the grant award agreement.

- **Prevention of conflicts of interest**

In order to preserve the proper use of European funds, any conflict of interest situation must be prevented and/or managed. A conflict of interest “when the impartial and objective exercise of the functions of a financial actor or another person” who participates in budget execution “is compromised for family, emotional, political or national affinity reasons, economic interest or for any other direct or indirect personal interest.

Also, in the context of the implementation of projects and in particular in the event of recourse to external expertise (public order or not), the prospective supplier/service provider must not be in a situation of conflict of interest with the holder of the contract. project.

- **Anti-fraud fight**

In its regulations, the European Commission has imposed on Managing Authorities an obligation to fight against fraud in order to protect and guarantee the defense of its financial interests. The principle being that of zero tolerance in matters of fraud and corruption, the Managing Authority has put in place measures which tend to prevent and report any fraud or irregularity. By irregularity we understand: “ *any violation of a provision of Community law resulting from an act or omission of an economic operator which has or would have the effect of harming the general budget of the European Union or the budgets of territorial or national authorities involved in the management of European funds.*

» Fraud, for its part, is distinguished from irregularity by its intentional nature.

According to the European Commission, “ *any omission or intentional act relating to:*

- *The use or presentation of false, inaccurate or incomplete declarations or documents resulting in the undue collection or*

*retention of funds from the budget of the European Communities;*

- *The non-communication of information in violation of a specific obligation having the same effect;*
- *The misappropriation of funds for purposes other than those for which they were initially granted;*
- *Or the misappropriation of a legally obtained advantage. »*

In addition to its preventive measures, the Managing Authority has tools allowing it to report all cases of fraud detected to the Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and at the same time to refer the matter to the territorially competent judicial authorities or directly to the European public prosecutor's office.

In a case of proven fraud, the beneficiary may be subject to recovery of sums unduly received but also to criminal prosecution.

Finally, the Managing Authority offers external actors the possibility of reporting any suspicion of fraud from the home page of the Managing Authority's website ([www.europe.guadeloupe.fr](http://www.europe.guadeloupe.fr)) as part of the implementation of European programmes 2021-2027.

## 6 – Useful information and contacts:

- Webinars

To inform and support applicants to this Call For projects, technical webinars will be organized as follows:

Technical trainings (webinar)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Build your partnership</li><li>- Build your intervention logic, your work plan, your indicators</li><li>- Build your budget, understand the eligibility of expenses and the annexes to download</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Build your communication and capitalization strategy</li></ul>
19 january 2024	26 anuary 2024

To participate and receive conditions for connection: send an email “participate to the CFP 1 21-27 webinar” to register and receive the connection details, to : [interreg.caraibes@regionguadeloupe.fr](mailto:interreg.caraibes@regionguadeloupe.fr)

- Documentation

The Implementation document 1 – action sheets which provides details of eligible actions, conditions of participation and criteria to be taken into account when formalizing the file is available on the programme’s website (<http://www.interreg.caraibes.eu>).

- The INTERREG Caraïbes Joint Secretariat:

As a reminder, an appointment with the Joint Secretariat of the programme is mandatory in order to submit the application. This meeting must be anticipated well before the closing of the Call for projects.

The Joint Secretariat team is reachable to the following address: [interreg.caraibes@regionguadeloupe.fr](mailto:interreg.caraibes@regionguadeloupe.fr)