

All there is to know about the **IACP**

The Interreg Amazon Cooperation
Programme 2014-2020



SUMMARY



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about the IACP

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01 The IACP

Presentation

The Interreg Amazon Cooperation Programme (IACP) is involved in the integrated development of French Guiana and its neighbouring Guiana Shield territories – Suriname, Guyana, Amapá, Pará and Amazonas.

It stems from collaborative work led by the former Regional Council of French Guiana, the Programme management authority and its partners, both in French Guiana (the State, former General Council, and the National Centre for Space Studies) as well as in partner States (Guyana, Suriname, the Brazilian states of Pará, Amapá, and Amazonas). Institutional and civil society partners (socio-economic, environmental, scientific, and cultural stakeholders, etc.) of the various territories were consulted in order to make this Programme reflect the strategies and needs of local stakeholders.

Strategy

Its strategy is set within the framework established by the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Partnership agreement between France and the European Commission. This European strategy seeks to make the European territories into smart, sustainable, and inclusive areas of growth, with high levels of employment, productivity, and social cohesion. These growth levels should reinforce each other:

- ✔ smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- ✔ sustainable growth: promoting a greener, more competitive, and more efficient economy with regard to resource usage;
- ✔ inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy that promotes social and territorial cohesion.

As part of the framework for European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020, this programme is a transposition, in South America, of the provisions of the Partnership Agreement between France and the European Commission. The Agreement states in outermost regions, “European territorial cooperation contributes to the fostering of the integration of outermost regions (ORs) in their regional environment, particularly by strengthening relations and developing trade with overseas countries and territories, countries (in the Indian Ocean) of the Caribbean (and of the Pacific), as well third countries in their geographical area.”

The Programme also addresses the ambitions of the European Commission for French Guiana, which will become, much like other ORs, “a world ambassador for the European Union” (The Outermost Regions of the European Union: towards partnership for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, COM(2012) 287 final).

A new environment

The IACP also falls within a new context for French Guiana, marked by:

- ✔ The development of French Guiana’s international positioning, permitted under Article L4433-4 of the CGCT – general local authorities code (amended in 2010)
- ✔ French Guiana’s adhesion procedures, on its own behalf, with regionally oriented international organizations (as and associate member)
- ✔ The creation of French Guianese regional branches in its neighbouring countries (branch created in Paramaribo in 2013, with other branches on their way).

French Guiana’s participation in the governance of binational commissions (e.g. Conseil du fleuve – river council) reinforces its decision making position with its neighbouring countries.

The partners

The three IACP partner countries Suriname, Guyana, and Brazil. Varying political systems induce a fragmented political and institutional cooperation area. French Guiana is a French region. Suriname and Guyana are two independent states. Suriname, a former Dutch colony, has been independent since 25th November 1975. Guyana, a former British colony, has been independent since 1966 and is a member of the British Commonwealth. Brazil is divided into States including Amapá, Amazonas, and Pará. The flexibility of the Federative Units is relatively low. Incorporating States into their international regional environment was an initiative of the Federal State.



01 The IACP

IACP management and each partner's role

The Regional Authority of French Guiana is the managing authority.

The expenditure certification Authority, and the payment authority is the Direction Régionale des Finances Publiques (Regional Directorate of Public Finances)

For the 2014-2020 period, the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) of the Amazon Operational Programme will be merged and integrated within the Pôle Affaires Européennes of the Regional Authority of French Guiana. This division allows the French Guianese Region, the authority for the management of EU funds, to pool staff in charge of all European funds (ERDF/ESF Region, EAFRD, EMFF, State ESF and Amazon IACP) at all stages of the management process.

Moreover, for IACP implementation Suriname and Guyana, Regional Authority of French Guiana relies on its branch in Paramaribo in order ensure an interface between the Suriname and Guyana project leaders, and the Programme managing authority in French Guiana.

Suriname, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará and Guyana – as well as the Regional Authority of French Guiana, the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), and the State – vote on the approval, postponement or definitive rejection of all grant requests under the IACP.

When operations are being conducted on their territory, institutional partners also have the task of ensuring the existence, legality, and appropriateness of the Leader's partners for presented projects.

This means that if the project takes place in Suriname, or in collaboration with a Surinamese agency, the Suriname Ministry of Foreign Affairs (an IACP partner) must verify the appropriateness of the project and validate the Leader's choice regarding its partners.

Better knowing the IACP area of cooperation

The Amazon area is characterised by specific features relating to its unique status as a cooperation area involving territories outside of the European continent. The cooperation area includes:

French Guiana
Suriname and Guyana
Brazil: Amapá, Amazonas, and Pará



Differing official languages

French, Dutch, Portuguese, and English.

Migration areas

With these shared cultures, languages, and histories, but also with differing economic development, populations within the cooperation area are highly mobile.

Major ethnic, linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity in each State

More than 30 different ethnic and cultural groups.



Major geographical and natural coherence

A dominant position of the Amazon rainforest and the importance of large rivers providing structure to the territory and organizing the population's economic and social lives.



The cooperation area's economic trends

Companies within the cooperation area all face common difficulties: limited competitiveness because due to low innovation capabilities, low productivity, high prices and wages, a lack of qualified personnel.

Therefore the IACP's content is determined based on the challenges of the cooperation area.

02 The IACP's structure

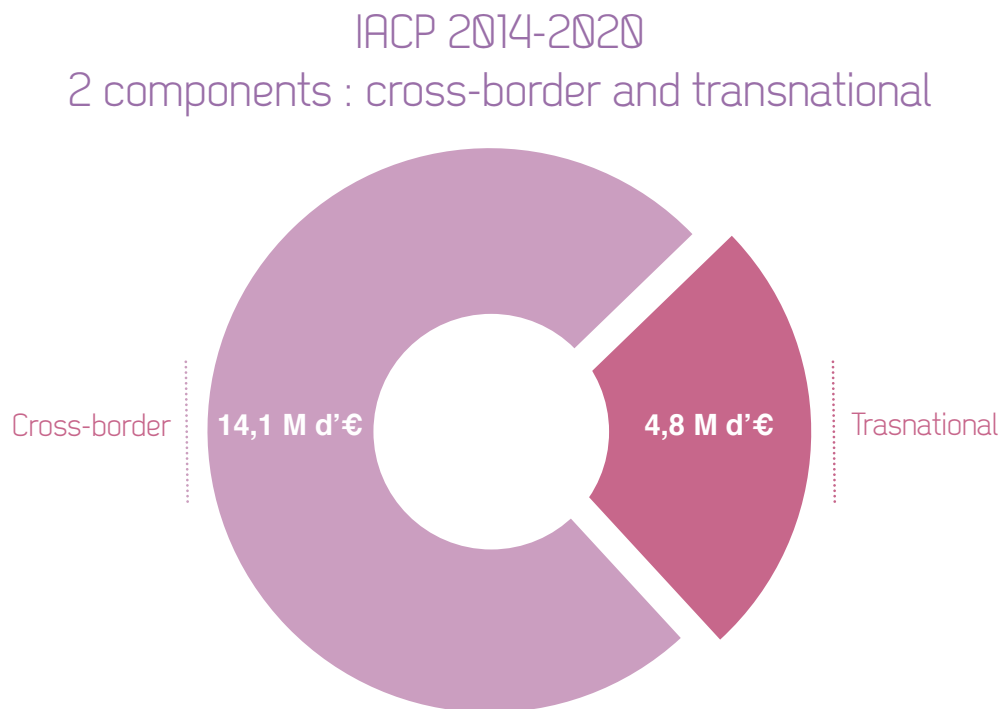
French Guiana's Strategy

Defining the IACP's strategy, its lines of intervention, and its objectives is a response to the needs for territorial development identified within the Territorial Strategic Diagnostic for the cooperation area, and validated by programme partners in 2014.

The IACP is composed of 8 axes, each of which is divided into two cross-border and transnational components. Priority Axes 9 and 10 called "technical assistance" ensure optimal implementation of the programme. They help to support the Managing Authority in its IACP steering, management, and monitoring missions.

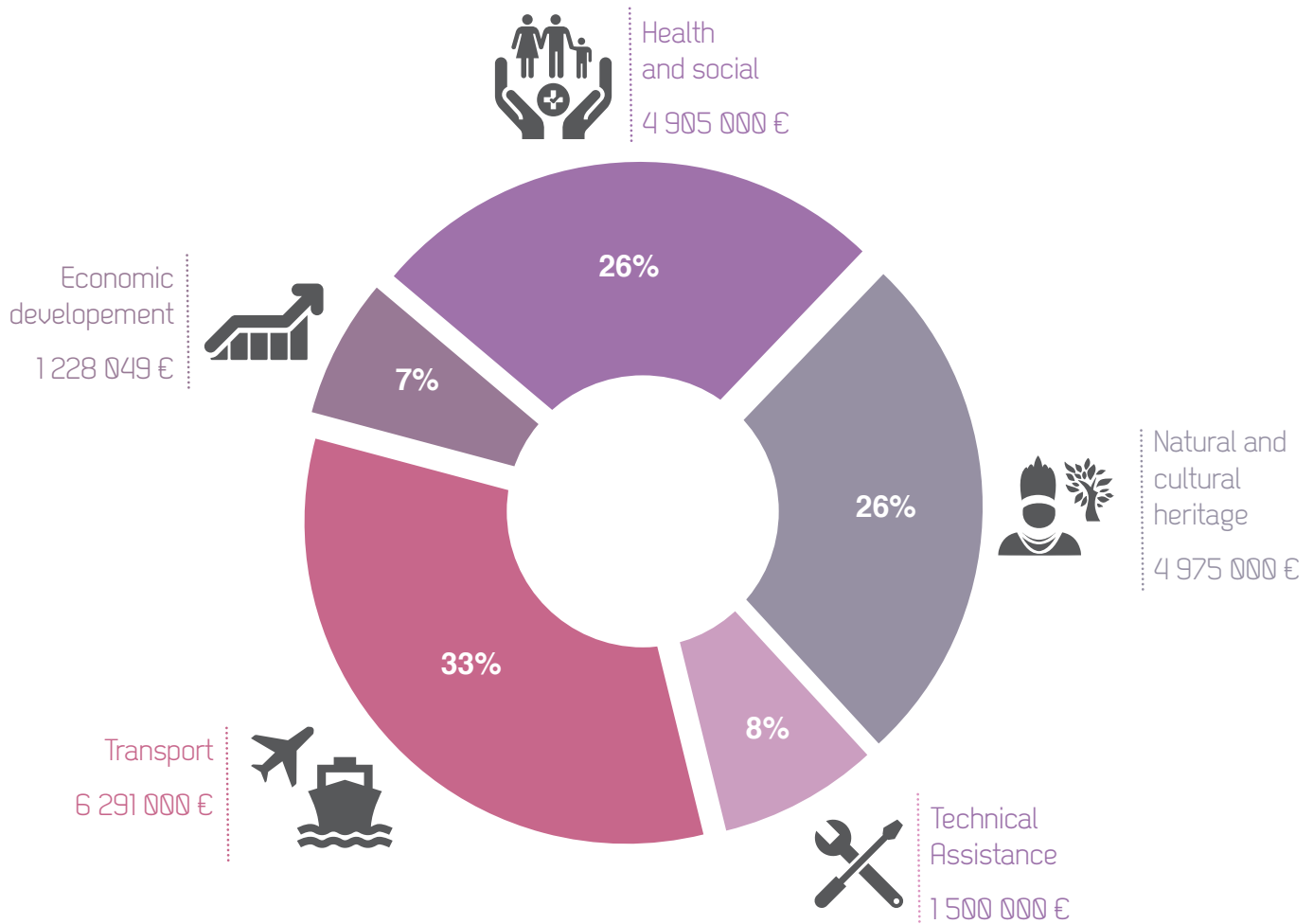
The IACP has €18.9 million of ERDF funding with two components, meaning two distinct financial packages:

- The cross-border component between French Guiana, Suriname, Amapá: €14.1 million
- The transnational component between French Guiana, Suriname, Amapá, Pará and Amazonas, and Guyana : €4.8 million



IACP 2014-2020 fund distribution

€ 18,9 Million



03 The IACP in detail

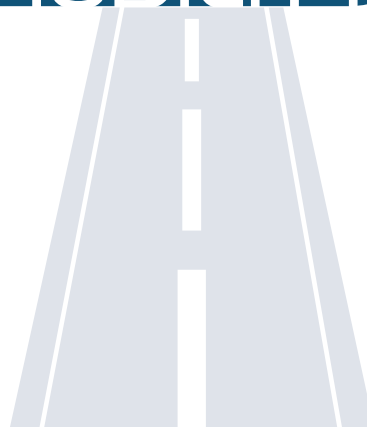


Priority Axes 1 et 2

Reinforcing transport provision
in the cooperation area



MOBILITY





The objective

Priority Axis 1 – Cross-border component

Movement of people and goods is still difficult in border areas. Road infrastructure proves to be insufficient between Suriname, French Guiana, and Amapá given economic and demographic growth. Maritime trade between the ports of Cayenne, Paramaribo, and Macapa particularly remains weak. Air connections are very poorly developed. River transport, remains to be improved in cross-border areas.

The challenge is to open up the cooperation area and facilitate trade. This component relates more to actions for the coordination of transport provision in order to properly adapt and increase the mobility of people and goods.

The cross-border component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Priority Axis 2 – Transnational component

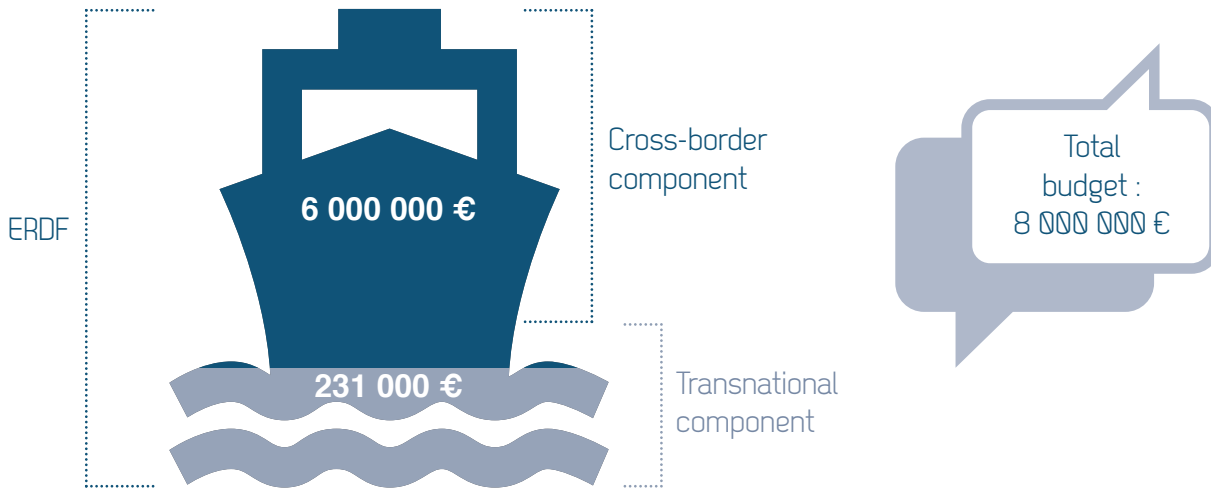
This relates to initiatives, from applied research to operational implementation, aiming to develop/improve road, river, sea, and air transportation systems.

The transnational component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas. It also applies when partners are both from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas, and from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Examples of eligible projects

PRIORITY AXES 1 and 2 Mobility	CROSS-BORDER COMPONENT (Axis 1)	TRANSNATIONAL COMPONENT (Axis 2)
<p>Reinforcing transport provision in the cooperation area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing a higher capacity ferry, • Associated projects related to the development of facilities near the ferry wharf and the bridge over the Oyapock, • Road and river transport for schools, • Bus links between regions within the cooperation area, • Transport safety actions (markings, emergency equipment, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies on : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the potential for passenger and goods river transport development between the territories within the cooperation area, - regional coastal navigation (for passengers and goods), - development of transit zones in airports, - consolidating existing airlines, - feasibility and conditions for the creation of air-lines between the territories within the cooperation area (with Guyana in particular), • Experience sharing and training for port professions, • Transnational meetings, forums, and seminars on coordinating transport provision.

Overall budget



Synergies with other European projects

Projects supported as part of this axis fit within the same context as the specific objectives SO 1 (research), SO 11 (urban development), and SO 13 (serving educational establishments) of the OP ERDF/ESF. They may also have indirect impact on the business competitiveness and territory openness (SO 3 and SO 15/SO 17 of the OP ERDF/ESF).

In cases where presented projects do not include cooperation with non-EU IACP partners, their eligibility can be assessed pursuant to the ERDF/ESF.

DEVELOPMENT

BIODIVERSITY

Priority Axes 3 and 4

Protection and development of
the exceptional biodiversity and
natural and cultural heritage of the
cooperation area.

PROTECTION





The objective

Priority Axis 3 – Cross-border component

The cross-border zones of the cooperation area enjoy exceptional natural wealth, fed by the Maroni and Oyapock rivers. Two core issues therefore need to be considered: environmental protection (and the restoration of polluted or damaged sites), and the economic valuation of these basins.

It is thus necessary to improve and spread knowledge on the environment and its resources, define cross-border protection/restoration strategies and share expertise across all management and biodiversity development operations.

The cross-border component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Priority Axis 4 – Transnational component

There is already a trend towards cooperating on preserving biodiversity within the cooperation area. Several protected areas have sustainable management strategies (such as the PNRG [French Guiana Natural Park] or the Central Suriname Natural Reserve). Transnational projects therefore already have a good base on which to build.

It is therefore necessary to deepen, consolidate, and perpetuate such initiatives

The transnational component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas. It also applies when partners are both from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas, and from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Examples of eligible projects

Cross-border component

PRIORITY AXES 3 and 4 Biodiversity	CROSS-BORDER COMPONENT (Axis 3)
Protection and development of the exceptional biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage of the cooperation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint testing on new solutions and methods for biodiversity restoration and conservation.• Joint project implementation in shared or adjacent areas (rivers, protected marine areas, etc.),• Creating/strengthening environmental protection stakeholder networks,• Exchanging expertise in areas with the same characteristics, implementation of joint strategies,• Communication and awareness raising for sustainable resource management issues/protection of the environment, for the attention of communities living in protected areas and/or the general public,• Promoting the skills of the voluntary sector and/or of interior populations on biodiversity,• Training for the establishment and increase of sustainable certifications (for the fishing and timber industries as well as skilled trades, for example),• Ecotourism and nature-related leisure activities,• Studies aiming to improve knowledge of the shared heritage, natural and cultural resources, as well as the functioning of ecosystems,• Projects for pooling university modules (or creation of combined degree programmes in biodiversity, natural resources, and protecting the environment),• The development of shared observation tools (biodiversity observatory, etc.), and shared analytical frames of reference (harmonization of environmental indicators), by satellite.

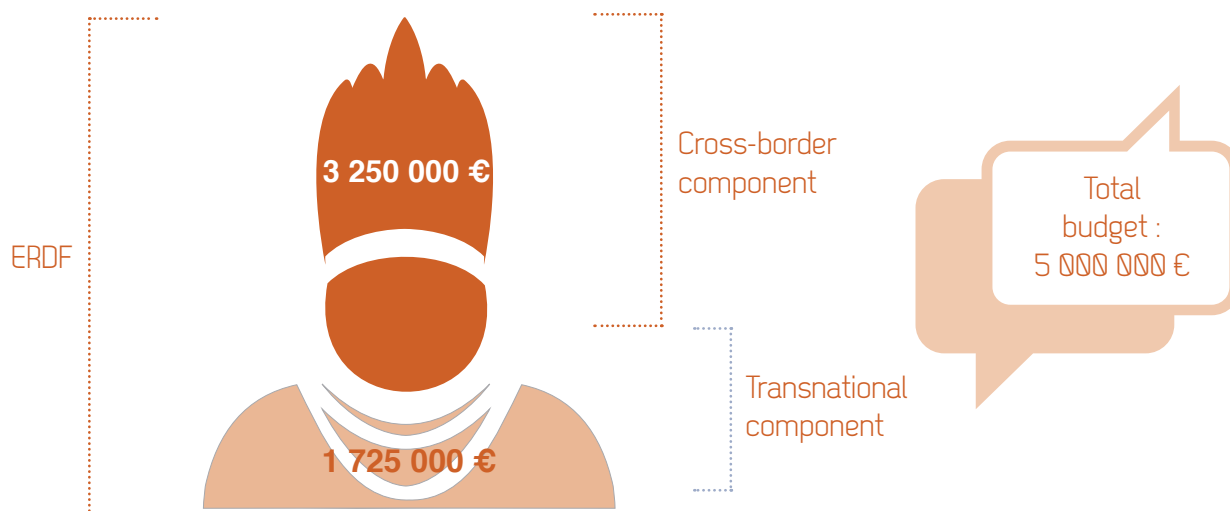
PRIORITY AXES 3 and 4 Biodiversity	CROSS-BORDER COMPONENT (Axis 3)
<p>Protection and development of the exceptional biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage of the cooperation area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies on the impacts of climate change, • Joint studies and research with a view to removing obstacles for poaching regulation, • Development of combined environment and biodiversity university modules and degree programmes, via distance learning, • R&D projects for the valuation of natural resources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, etc. • Cultural development, traditional skill (skilled trades, ecotourism, the use of pharmacopoeia, etc.) or natural heritage (sports tourism) projects, • Digitization (and other information and communications technologies) of intangible cultural heritage, • Improvement of the accessibility to museums, cultural centres, etc. • Professional training in traditional skills, • Humanities and social sciences research (civilization, cultures, languages, arts, etc.), • Pooling of university modules (or creation of combined degree programmes) about shared heritage, • Publication of collective publications on the subjects and issues of the axis in the programme's various languages, • Networking resources centres on the various populations' shared cultural heritage.

Examples of eligible projects

Transnational component

PRIORITY AXES 3 and 4 Biodiversity	TRANSNATIONAL COMPONENT (Axis 4)
<p>Protection et valorisation de la biodiversité exceptionnelle et du patrimoine naturel et culturel de l'espace de coopération</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint actions intended to test new methods and solutions for biodiversity preservation and restoration,• Harmonizing environmental regulations,• Setting out joint strategies and joint implementation of projects in shared areas,• R&D projects for the valuation of natural resources,• Increasing sustainable certifications for the fishing and timber industries,• Projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions,• Actions to improve knowledge of natural heritage, shared resources, and the impacts of climate change,• Pooling university modules (or creation of combined degree programmes) in biodiversity, natural resources, and protecting the environment,• Development of shared tools for observation, analysis, and monitoring (environmental indicators, understanding natural hazards, hydrology, cartography, and space rationalization, etc.), by satellite in particular,• Studies and research on poaching regulation.

Overall budget



Synergies with other European projects

Projects supported as part of this axis fit within the same context as the specific objectives SO 1 (research in Amazonian environments), SO 3 (ecotourism), SO 4 (SEAS) SO 10 (biodiversity) and SO 14 (training) of the OP ERDF/ESF.

All projects funded under this axis must also be in accordance with the strategy of the EMFF and EAFRD 2014/2020 OPs, and the Atlantic Action Plan (AAP).

Projects eligible for the EMFF, under measures 38, 41, and 80.1a, which implement cooperation operations, may be partly funded under the IACP.

In cases where submitted projects do not implement cooperation with non-EU IACP partners, their eligibility can be assessed under the OP ERDF/ESF.





The objective

Priority Axis 5 – Cross-border component

This axis should improve knowledge of diseases specific to the cross-border areas and develop appropriate treatment and prevention for these diseases. With regard to social action, it must facilitate support for the most vulnerable populations (the isolated, youth, women, etc.) in the Oyapock and Maroni basins.

The cross-border component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Priority Axis 6 – Transnational component

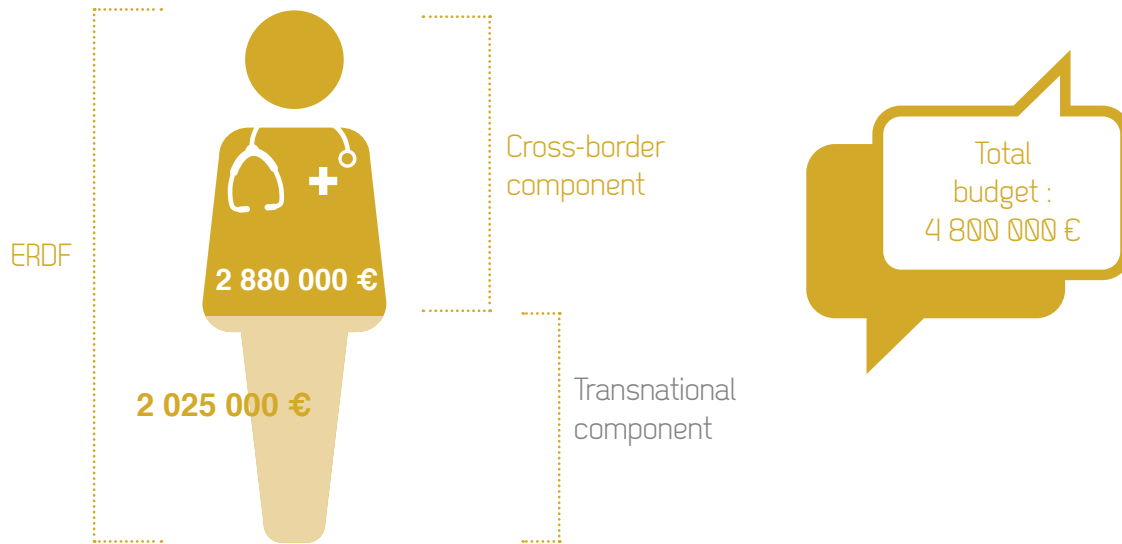
This component should broaden knowledge of specific diseases in the area whilst helping reduce the causes of social exclusion and unequal access to healthcare. As such, knowledge-reinforcing projects (research, training, skills transfer, etc.) will be considered a priority.

The transnational component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas. It also applies when partners are both from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas, and from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Examples of eligible projects

PRIORITY AXES 5 and 6 Health/social	CROSS-BORDER COMPONENT (Axis 5)	TRANSNATIONAL COMPONENT (Axis 6)
<p>Develop a tailored joint response to the health and social problems experienced by the different populations of the cooperation area, in particular by the most vulnerable upon them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventive measures and family support (combatting drug abuse, prostitution, child abuse, suicide, etc.), • Joint actions for awareness raising and prevention of major natural hazards (floods, landslides, etc.), and health hazards (disease transmission), • Caring for vulnerable populations (young people, in particular), • Collaborative research projects on emerging infectious diseases, fungal infections, HIV, histoplasmosis, Chagas disease, malaria, dengue, etc. • International research activities in collaboration between French Guiana, Suriname, and Amapá, • Joint training projects and medical personnel exchanges, • Exchange of experience and joint studies between the cooperation area's regions in terms of access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, traditional medicine, and community health services, • Development of preventive health projects (mosquito control campaigns, in particular), • Development of collective hygiene/disease prevention measures (including responsible behaviour regarding waste management), • Exchange of experience and joint studies on social and preventive actions among vulnerable populations, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative research projects on emerging infectious diseases, fungal infections, HIV, histoplasmosis, Chagas disease, malaria, etc., • Joint training and medical personnel exchanges, • Exchange of best practices and telemedicine development, • Exchange of experience and joint studies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * access to healthcare for vulnerable populations, traditional medicine, and community health services, • Development of preventive health projects (mosquito control campaigns, etc.), • Implementation of crisis management arrangements (see the 2014 chikungunya crisis), • Development of collective hygiene and preventive measures (e.g. management, waste collection and treatment), • Public research forums and seminars with the aim of spreading and improving knowledge of common health and social issues, • Development of networking, data sharing, and exchange tools between the involved transnational actors.

Overall budget



Synergies with other European projects

Projects supported as part of this axis fit within the same context as the specific objectives SO 1 (research in Amazonian environments), SO 4 (SEAS and prevention of natural hazards) SO 8 (waste management and prevention), SO 12 (caring for highly vulnerable young people) SO 13 (combatting illiteracy and promoting basic knowledge) and SO 14 (increasing and strengthening skills).

In cases where submitted projects do not implement cooperation with non-EU IACP partners, their eligibility can be assessed under the OP ERDF/ESF.

COMPETITIVENESS



Priority Axes 7 and 8

Increase business competitiveness
across the cooperation area

BUSINESS





The objective

Priority Axis 7 – Cross-border component

This axis should improve the knowledge of markets within the area, remove various obstacles to trade, and encourage innovative processes.

The cross-border component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Priority Axis 8 – Transnational component

While it may be growing, trade in the Guiana Shield is still limited, and turn more towards North America and the European Union.

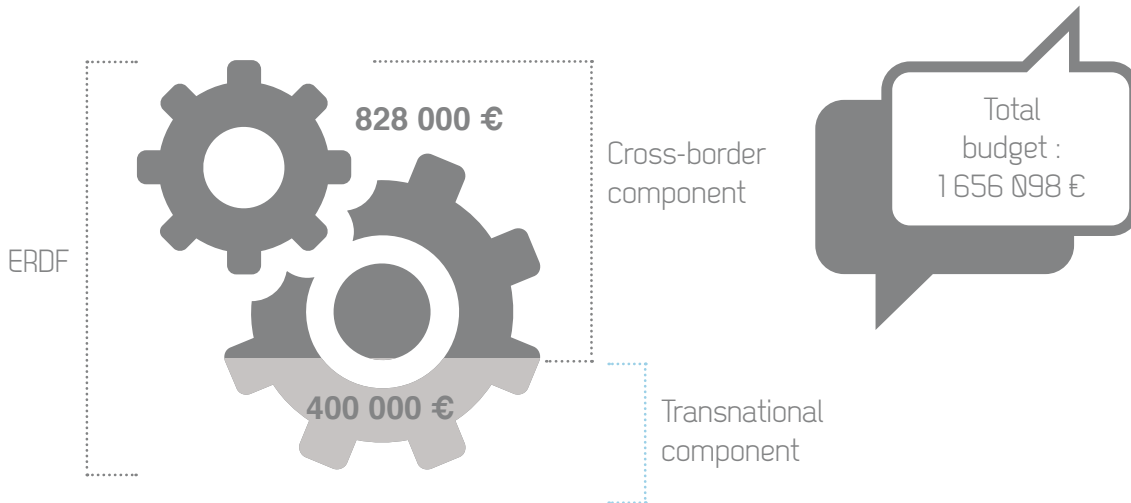
This axis must therefore help strengthen the economic vitality of the whole cooperation area, mainly with a better knowledge of markets – both of the cooperation area and the European Union. Improving business competitiveness of in expanding sectors (ecotourism, information and communications technology, renewable energy, innovation, etc.) is therefore a key issue.

The transnational component only applies to projects whose Leader has one or more partners from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas. It also applies when partners are both from Guyana, Pará and/or Amazonas, and from Amapá and/or Suriname.

Examples of eligible projects

PRIORITY AXES 7 and 8 Business competitiveness	CROSS-BORDER COMPONENT (Axis 7)	TRANSNATIONAL COMPONENT (Axis 8)
<p>Increase business competitiveness across the cooperation area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting business participation in international trade fairs, • Training in the cooperation area's languages Combined training in the regulations of the various markets, business law, European standards, the economic context of the cooperation area, trading obstacles, etc, • Combined training in entrepreneurship (for young people in particular), • Studies and diagnoses of strengths and weaknesses: * candidate companies for export in the cross-border area, * conditions and opportunities for trade abroad and companies being based abroad (cross-border area) • Development of an information portal on international approaches, • Development of innovative processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies and diagnoses of strengths and weaknesses * export companies in the cooperation area, * conditions and opportunities for trade and the business establishment, • Combined training in the regulations of the various markets (Guiana Shield, France, and the EU), • Development of an information portal on international approaches and business intelligence tools, in the cooperation area's countries in particular, • Supporting company, EPCI (public inter-municipality cooperation establishments) or interprofessional participation in international trade fairs, • Training * in the cooperation area's foreign languages (legal French, business English, etc.), * combined training in entrepreneurship, for young people in particular, * in European standards, • Supporting the networking of innovation and entrepreneurship stakeholders, • Collaborative projects involving stakeholders in research, training, and businesses (agri-food industry, information technology, renewable energy, ecotourism, etc.).

Overall budget



Synergies with other European projects

Projects supported as part of this axis fit within the same context as SO 3, SO 4, SO 5, SO 6, and SO 14 of the OP ERDF/ESF.

All projects funded under this axis must also be in accordance with the strategy of the EMFF and EAFRD 2014/2020 OPs, and the Atlantic Action Plan (AAP).

Projects eligible for the EMFF, under measures 47 and 68.1, which implement cooperation operations, may be partly funded under the IACP.

In cases where submitted projects do not implement cooperation with non-EU IACP partners, their eligibility can be assessed under the OP ERDF/ESF.

⁽¹⁾ Specific objectives of the OP ERDF/ESF (Operational Programs / European Regional Development Fund / European Social Fund).

⁽²⁾ Operational Program / European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

⁽³⁾ European Agricole Fund for the Rural Development.

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