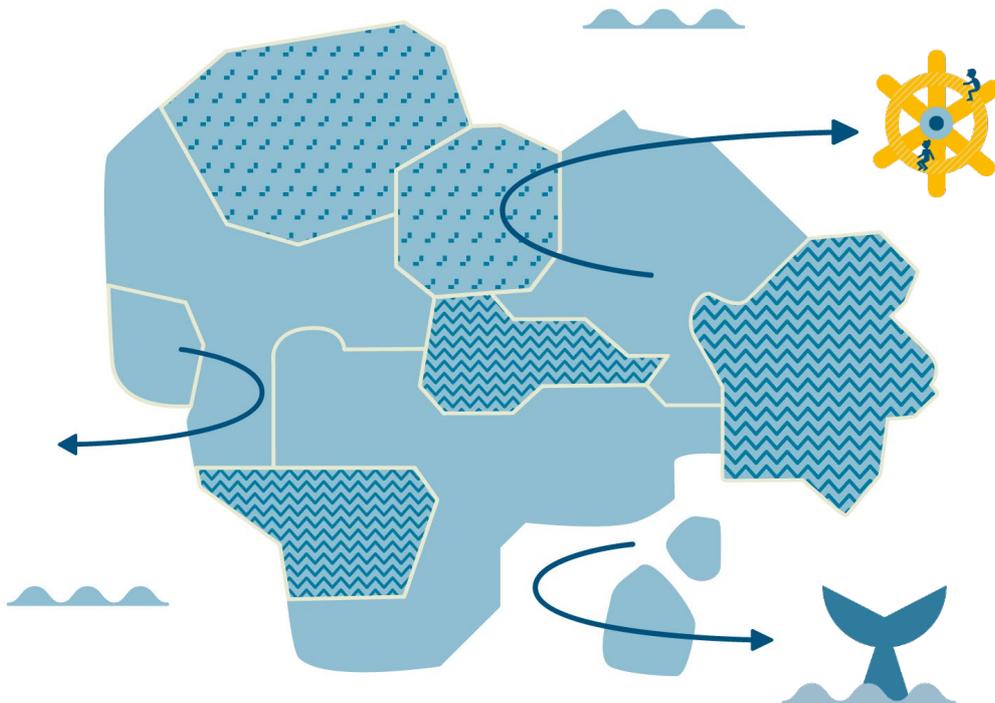


# EDF-ERDF coordination

March 2019

The EDF-ERDF coordination as applied by the Interreg programmes of the  
Outermost regions



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**Publisher** Interact Programme **Date** 03.2019 **Publication leader** Tsveta Aleksandrova

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## Abbreviations list

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
COI	Indian Ocean Commission
EDF	European Development Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
NIP	National Indicative Programme
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OMR	Outermost regions



## Background

Due to their geographical situation, the outermost regions of the European Union have to cooperate mainly with overseas countries and territories and/or third countries, part of the ACP (the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries). This cooperation requires coordination between the EDF funds available to the ACP countries and the OCTs, and the ERDF funds allocated to the outermost regions. During the current implementation period (2014-2020), each programme manages this coordination in a different way. The guidance note issued by the European Commission in 2014 set out the general principles for EDF-ERDF cooperation. This report is intended to give a short overview of the implementation.

Information on the Interreg Amazonia and Interreg Mayotte-Comoros-Madagascar programmes will be included in this report after the beginning of the implementation of the EDF-ERDF coordination in these programmes.

## 1. Interreg Caribbean:

### 1.1 The provision of EDF funds to the Managing Authority of an ERDF programme

#### 1.1.1. Description

The ERDF Interreg budget Caribbean programme is 64.2 million euros and ensures the participation of four French outermost regions of the Caribbean - Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, and Saint Martin. However, these regions should also cooperate with ACP countries and OCTs.

The coordination process of the EDF and ERDF funds set up by the programme is the following: the European Commission has delegated the management of EDF funds to the Regional Council of Guadeloupe (as Management Authority of the programme). In this case, the amount is € 2.94 million from the regional EDF allocated to CARIFORUM. This amount allows the participation of the ACP countries of the Caribbean region, but not of the OCTs.

The general rules for the submission of application forms for a project that benefits from the two EDF and ERDF funds are as follows:

- The EDF application must be submitted as part of an Interreg Caribbean cooperation project and thus contribute to the thematic objectives of the programme.
- The Lead partner should be located on EU territory
- Respect for European horizontal principles must be ensured
- Activities funded by the EDF should be clearly identified and separated from ERDF-funded activities.
- There are two application submission procedures possible:



### **1.1.2. Advantages and challenges**

#### **Advantages**

- Possibility of financing joint projects between outermost regions and ACP countries
- Improved cooperation with non-EU countries

#### **Challenges**

- Cooperation with OCT remains a challenge - the regional EDF of the Caribbean region covers only CARIFORUM ACP countries.
- Calendar discrepancy between the EDF and the ERDF.
- The implementation takes a lot of time and effort and generates delays
- The mixture between the two management modes – shared for ERDF and indirect for EDF.

## 2. Saint Martin-Sint Maarten :

### 2.1 EDF-ERDF coordination for the construction and commissioning of a wastewater treatment plant

#### 2.1.1. Description

The programme contains 3 projects planned in the Operational Programme (OP). The only project that provides for EDF-ERDF coordination is the project for the construction and commissioning of a wastewater treatment plant.

Following the blocking of diplomatic relations as a result of a border dispute and due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma on the island in 2017, the program was delayed in its implementation, and activated the clause of force majeure at the end of 2018.

However, with a view to carrying out the water purification project, the program also took steps to coordinate the EDF and ERDF funds. The current situation (February 2019) is as follows :

- The project budget is the following: 4M ERDF and 7M EDF.

The programme is preparing a cooperation preparation letter between the two funds - EDF and ERDF.

- Following the discrepant calendars, the 10th EDF planned for Sint Marteen will be finalized in 2019 and the programme will coordinate with the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF.

#### 2.1.1. Advantages and challenges

##### Advantages

- The consultation allows the cooperation of the two parts of the island on strategic subjects such as the purification of water

##### Challenges

- The different calendars create a gap that complicates the coordination of the two funds
- Homogenization and simplification of the rules of both funds will facilitate the implementation

### 3. Interreg MAC

#### 3.1 The strategic project HEXAGONE

##### 3.1.1. Description

The MAC programme has approved a strategic project to promote the coordination of projects between the EDF and the ERDF and boost cooperation with three non-EU countries that come under the programme, namely Cape Verde, Senegal, and Mauritania. This HEXAGONE project aims to establish coordination mechanisms for the identification and formulation of MAC projects (ERDF) coordinated with the EDF or other European funding sources and the strengthening of cooperation between ORs and third country.

- The strategic project partnership includes institutions representing all the countries participating in the programme:
  - a. **Lead partner:** Directorate General of Economic Affairs with Africa (Canary Islands)
  - b. Deputy Regional Secretary of the Presidency for External Relations (Azores)
  - c. Regional Directorate for European Affairs and External Cooperation (Madeira)
  - d. Executive Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Cape Verde)
  - e. Ministry of Economy and Finance (Mauritania)
  - f. Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning (Senegal)
  
- The specific objectives are the following:
  - a. Establish coordination mechanisms between the administrations concerned with the identification and generation of joint projects between the European Development Fund (EDF) and the ERDF, in accordance with the European Commission's guidance note of 2014
  - b. Strengthen the mutual knowledge and networking of public and private socio-economic agents in the cooperation zone for the identification and generation of projects between Madeira, the Azores, the Canaries and, Cape Verde, Senegal and Mauritania, and improve the visibility of the programme in African countries.
  
- Activities of the project:
  - a. Creation of a platform for dialogue and regional coordination for the identification, coordination and the promotion of EDF-ERDF projects, in accordance with the European Commission's guidance note
  - b. Collaboration with the Managing Authority for the dynamization of the MAC programme in the African countries of the cooperation zone:

- Support the partners of the project HEXAGONE as facilitators to enhance the participation of African partners in projects
  - Organisation of seminars and workshops in the three African countries to encourage the participation of Cape Verde, Senegal and, Mauritania in the MAC programme (launching days of calls for projects and networking of potential partners, presenting seminars of approved projects, etc.)
  - Improve the visibility of the programme in the three African countries
- First steps towards EDF-ERDF coordination:
    - a. Analysis of mechanisms and areas for coordination with the EDF and other EU funding lines in third countries at the time of the dynamization.
    - b. Coordinating meetings with the EU Delegations in the Cape Verde, Senegal and, Mauritania.
    - c. Creation of a platform for dialogue and regional coordination: technical meetings and plenaries
    - d. Hiring technical assistance.
  - First results:
    - a. Preparation and publication of 3 first reports (one per country) with the identification of common priority areas for cooperation between the ERDF and the EDF or other EU funding lines, and the identification of potentially associable projects in Cape Verde, in Senegal and, Mauritania.
    - b. Preparation and publication of a guide of recommendations for potential beneficiaries on the formulation of projects with the participation of third countries.
    - c. Presentation of results at the plenary meeting of the EDF-ERDF platform (31 January 2019): identification and presentation of 13 MAC projects (ERDF) of the first coordinated call with the EDF or other EU funding lines
    - d. Dynamization and orientation of the work of the main beneficiaries to achieve this coordination

### 3.1.2. Advantages and challenges

#### Advantages

- The added value brought by the partnership of the HEXAGONE strategic project to promote the fund coordination: the African partners of the project are the EDF national coordinators of Cape Verde, Senegal, and Mauritania and participate in the Management Committee of the MAC programme; the partners of the outermost regions are the Governments responsible for the cooperation with Africa of the Azores, Canaries, and Madeira
- Establishing coordination and dialogue spaces between the administrations and other relevant actors for the identification and formulation of joint/coordinated projects (including EU Delegations in the three African countries)
- More involvement and better knowledge of the MAC Programme by the EU Delegations compared to 2007-2013
- The seminars and workshops organized by the project in the African countries facilitate the networking of socio-economic actors in the area of cooperation for the identification, preparation, and development of projects (ERDF and EDF-ERDF), and contribute to improved visibility and ownership of the MAC Programme in Cape Verde, Senegal, and Mauritania.
- Constant coordination and consultation with the MAC Management Authority (as it is a strategic project of the Programme)

#### Challenges

- Difficult articulation between funds (EDF and ERDF) with different calendars, regulations, and objectives (coordination with EDF is especially difficult, but also with other European financing lines applied in the three African countries)
- The identification or creation of mechanisms that allow coordination must be done on a case-by-case basis, given that there is no single formula for all projects and that each coordination between projects must be dealt with on an individual basis (also, the implementation of the EDF is different in each of the three African countries)
- Overcoming cultural, linguistic, connectivity barriers ... between OMR and African countries in order to have a greater presence of the main beneficiaries of the

Azores, Madeira and, the Canaries in the three African countries (necessary condition for the coordination)

- To improve the knowledge of European actors in the MAC area regarding EU methodologies, language, and instruments of development cooperation in the three African countries.

## 4. Interreg Indian Ocean

### 4.1 Coordination of EDF and ERDF funds, projects co-financed in parallel

#### 4.1.1. Description

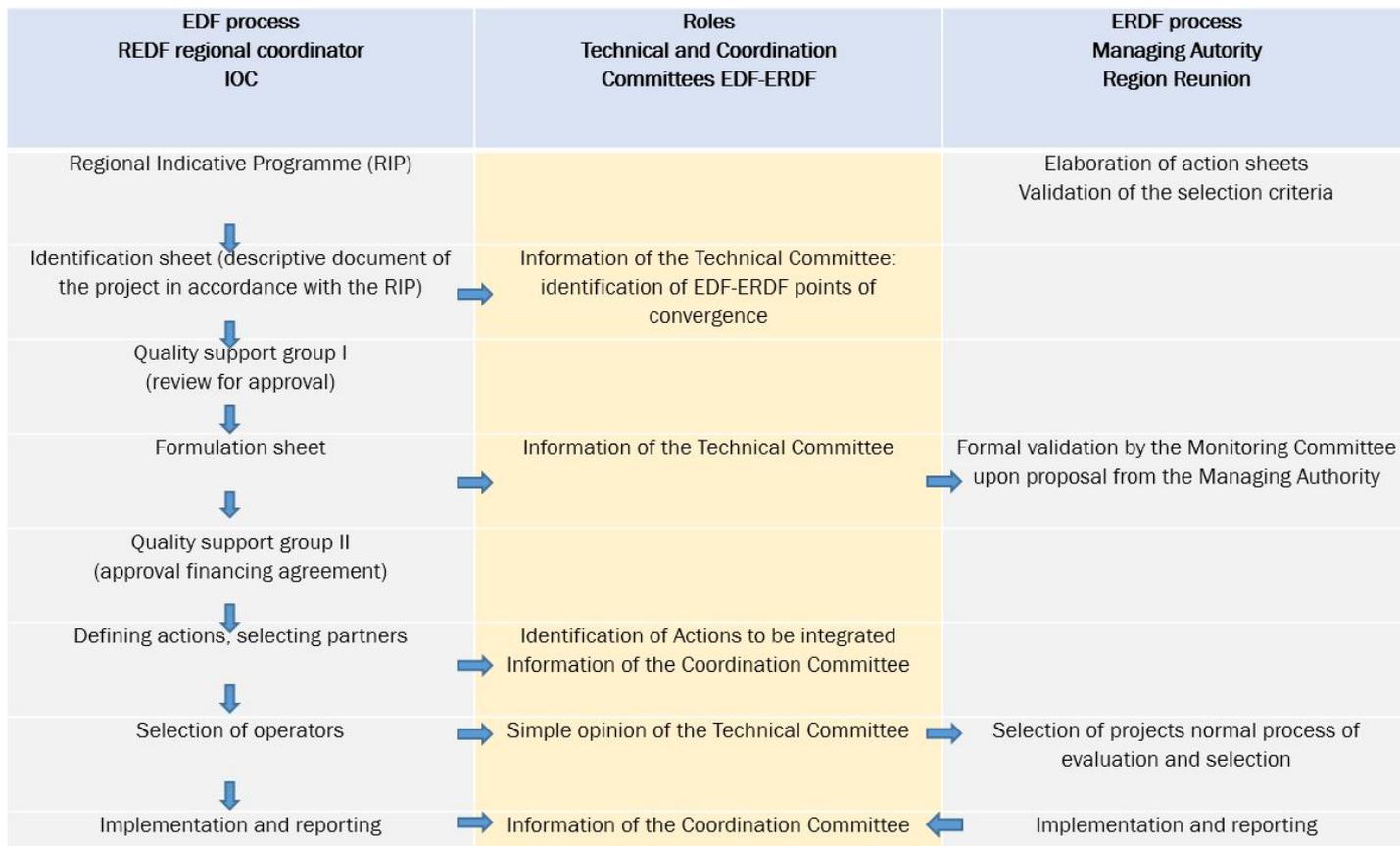
Since 2007, the Management Authority (the Reunion Region) of the Interreg Indian Ocean programme has taken initiatives to look for an EDF-ERDF link. Governance to facilitate dialogue with the countries in the area and regional organizations has been put in place and parallel co-financing of separate actions within the same project has been encouraged.

For the 2014-2020 period, coordination of EDF and ERDF funds has been strengthened, with the identification of common priorities between the Indian Ocean Interreg Programme and the Indian Ocean Commission's Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) (IOC) - 10th and 11th EDF, as soon as these programs were drawn up. The Interreg Indian Ocean 2014-2020 programme has been built in coordination with the RIP IOC. The inclusion of joint EDF-ERDF actions is then done during the identification and formulation phases of the 11th EDF projects, with the participation of the region Reunion, Managing Authority of the Interreg Indian Ocean Programme, in this work.

The coordination bodies set up over the 2014-2020 period are the following:

- **Regional Coordination Committee**, composed of the Managing Authority of the programme, the Prefecture and the County Council of Reunion and Mayotte, DG REGIO, DG DEVCO, the EU delegation of Mauritius, the General Secretariat of the IOC, the Social and Environmental Economic Councils of Reunion and Mayotte and, as needed, the ambassadors of France from the countries concerned. The purpose of this Committee is to promote, identify, support, propose and monitor projects that can jointly mobilize the EDF and the ERDF.
- **EDF-ERDF Technical Committee**, with the aim of preparing the meetings of the Coordination Committee and ensuring the continuity of project monitoring.

The EDF-ERDF coordination procedure is concretely reflected in the following diagram:



- In addition, the Interreg Framework Agreements, voluntary initiatives of the Managing Authority of the Interreg Indian Ocean Programme and the Partner States, establish the intervention framework of the Interreg programme in coherence with the IOC PIR and the National Indicative Programme (NIP) of the country concerned. The antennas from the region Reunion located in the countries that signed these Interreg Framework Agreements provide on-site coordination with EU delegations or offices.

#### 4.1.2. Advantages and challenges

##### Advantages

- The leverage effect among funds, with increasing scope of supported actions (eg Humpback Whale Awareness Project with knowledge compilation and setting up an exhibition with ERDF funding and dissemination of the exhibition in the countries of the zone with EDF funding).
- Complementarity of EDF and ERDF eligible expenditure: in the framework of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme, investment expenditure in non-EU territory is not eligible, but it can be financed by the EDF (for example: IOSnet project - a study of solar radiation in the Indian Ocean zone: purchase and installation of solar collectors financed by the EDF and studies and expertise financed by the ERDF)

##### Challenges

- Matching EDF and ERDF project schedules (some 11th EDF projects implemented by the IOC are not yet validated in February 2019),
- Develop the coordination EDF-ERDF with the national indicative programmes of the partner countries
- Given the framework of the Interreg V Indian Ocean programme and the partnership relations established with the IOC and its members, it would be appropriate for the management modalities of the EDF and the ERDF to converge under the responsibility of the Managing Authority.
- Each OMR has its own peculiarities and context.

