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## Contents

1. Joint programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses (action lines).....	7
1.1. Programme area (not required for Interreg C programmes) .....	7
1.2 Joint programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social, and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complementarity and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learnt from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies .....	8
1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure.....	19
Table 1 .....	19
2. Priorities.....	29
2.1. Priority: 1 - Smart economic development and science cooperation in the Guiana Shield.....	29
2.1.1. Specific Objective: RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies .....	29
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	29
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	32
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	33
Table 2: Output indicators .....	33
Table 3: Result indicators .....	34
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	35
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	36
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	37
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	38
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	38
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	39
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	40
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments .....	41
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	41
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	44
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	45
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	45
Table 3: Result indicators .....	46
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	47
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	48
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	49
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	50
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	50
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	51
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	52
2.1. Priority: 2 - A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield.....	53
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein .....	53
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	53

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	55
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	56
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	56
Table 3: Result indicators .....	57
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	58
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	59
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	60
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	61
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	61
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	62
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	63
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches .....	64
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	64
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	66
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	67
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	67
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	68
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	69
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	70
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	71
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	72
Table 4: Dimension 1 — Intervention field.....	72
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	73
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	74
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.....	75
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	75
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	78
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	79
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	79
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	80
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	81
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	82
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	83
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	84
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	84
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	85
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	86
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.....	87
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	87
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	90
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	91
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	91

Table 3: Result Indicators .....	92
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	93
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	94
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	95
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	96
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	96
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	97
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	98
2.1. Priority: 3 - Develop cooperation to support mobility for education & vocational training, strengthen health care systems and improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield .....	99
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training, and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training .....	99
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	99
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	102
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	103
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	103
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	104
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	105
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	106
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	107
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	108
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	108
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	109
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	110
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.3. Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households, and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services .....	111
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	111
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	113
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	114
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	114
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	115
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	116
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	117
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	118
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	119
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	119
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing.....	120
Tableau 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus.....	121
2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care .....	122
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.....	122
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure.....	125
2.1.1.2. Indicators.....	126

Table 2: Output Indicators .....	126
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	127
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	128
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	129
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	130
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	131
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	131
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing .....	132
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus .....	133
2.1. Priority: ISO1 - Strengthen the administrative capacities of the formal institutional actors involved in regional cooperation and facilitate the mobilisation of complementary funding with a view to improving Programme governance .....	134
2.1.1. Specific objective: ISO6.1. Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders (all strands) .....	134
2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate .....	134
2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure .....	136
2.1.1.2. Indicators .....	138
Table 2: Output Indicators .....	138
Table 3: Result Indicators .....	139
2.1.1.3. Main target groups .....	140
2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools .....	141
2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments .....	142
2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention .....	143
Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field .....	143
Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing .....	144
Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus .....	145
3. Financing Plan .....	146
3.1. Financial appropriations by year .....	146
Table 7 .....	146
3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing .....	147
Table 8 .....	147
4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation .....	148
5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation) .....	151
6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds .....	153
7. Implementing provisions .....	154
7.1. Programme authorities .....	154
Table 9 .....	154
7.2. Procedure for setting the Joint Secretariat .....	155
7.3. Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third or partner countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission .....	156
8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates, and financing not linked to costs .....	159
Table 10: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates, and financing not linked to costs .....	159
Appendix 1 .....	160
A. Summary of the main elements .....	160
B. Details by type of operation .....	161
C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums, or flat rates .....	162

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums, or flat rates (who produced, collected, and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.):	162
2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 88(2) of CPR is relevant to the type of operation: .....	163
3. Please specify how the calculations were made, including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission:.....	164
4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum, or flat rate: .....	165
5. Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection, and storage of data: .....	166
Appendix 2.....	167
A. Summary of the main elements.....	167
B. Details by type of operation .....	168
Appendix 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable - Article 22 (3) of the CPR.....	169
DOCUMENTS.....	170

1. Joint programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses (action lines)

1.1. Programme area (not required for Interreg C programmes)

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(3), point (a) of Article 17(9)

The cooperation area of the 2021-2027 Interreg Amazonia Cooperation Programme extends over the Guiana Shield and includes the following countries and territories (*For further information please refer to the country descriptions in the appendices*):

- French Guiana, a French outermost region
- The country of Suriname
- The country of Guyana
- The three federal states of Northern Brazil: Amapa, Para, and Amazonas.

The programme partners wish to maintain the same cooperation area as for the 2021-2027 programme.

1.2 Joint programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social, and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complementarity and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learned from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(3), point (b) of Article 17(9)

### **Economic, social and territorial disparities in the cooperation area**

The Guiana Shield cooperation area is a cultural tapestry with characteristics shared by all the territories that compose it, but there are also significant differences in some domains.

More specifically, the cooperation area is characterised by **considerable natural and geographic uniformity, but it is relatively fragmented both politically and in terms of institutions**. It is in fact home to three different political systems with different policy competencies and political mandates which the programme must take account of:

·French Guiana is a French overseas region, one of Europe's outermost regions. It was granted the status of single territorial collectivity<sup>1</sup> (local government authority) in 2015

·Suriname and Guyana are both independent countries. Suriname is a former Dutch colony, gaining independence in 1975. Guyana is a former British colony. It gained independence in 1966 and is a member of the British Commonwealth

·Amapa, Amazonas, and Para are three Federal States of Brazil. As such, they enjoy only very limited autonomy. The extent of their integration into their cross-border regions with other countries remains the prerogative of the Federal Brazilian State.

The cooperation area therefore includes a variety of countries and territories with a variety of official languages: French, Dutch, Portuguese, and English, as well as a variety of legal systems. French Guiana, for example, is subject to European laws, which are far stricter than those in force in its neighboring countries.

However, the cooperation area's political borders do not coincide with its ethnocultural realities. In each of the area's territories, there is wide ethnic, linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity and particular communities are sometimes common to different countries and territories. In addition to the official languages, there are also several indigenous languages. This cultural tapestry stems from the diversity of the indigenous peoples and the history of the territory, which has seen numerous migrations. The population of the cooperation area is made up of more than 30 different ethnic and cultural groups, to which must also be added more recent migrants.

With their wealth of cultures and languages, their shared histories, but also their different levels of economic development, the residents of the cooperation area are highly mobile, and there is significant cross-border commuting in some border areas. *(For further details, please refer to the appendices which include country descriptions and a table summarizing the main characteristics of the cooperation area's different territories).*

<sup>1</sup> Single tier local government authority



## **The cooperation area's shared strengths, opportunities, and challenges**

The Amazonia Interreg Cooperation Programme (PCIA) strategy incorporates lessons from the territorial diagnostics carried out following the 2014-2020 programme. It was established in close liaison with all the programme partners. The preparatory work undertaken studied the cooperation area's shared needs, the lessons learnt, and the opportunities identified for cooperation operations/projects that are eligible under the ERDF-ETC regulations. Of course, the existence of shared challenges and needs does not always mean that regional cooperation is the best way to address them. The programme should therefore be seen as complementary to other existing plans and programmes and why its strategy aims to maximise the added value of cooperation as a means of responding to shared problems at regional or cross-border level.

### ***A smarter cooperation area***

In the fields of RDI and enhancing business competitiveness (above all SMEs, which constitute the lion's share of entrepreneurial enterprises in the cooperation area), the cooperation area possesses **numerous strengths and opportunities**, not least in light of its geographic uniformity, which means that it is possible to envisage collaboration on improving knowledge of the environment and on studying the prospects for the sustainable economic use of the region's abundant natural resources, for example. Research communities are already working on plans for partnerships on the scale of the Guiana Shield and are seeking to coordinate their cooperation strategies with a view to mutually supporting each other's work.

However, there remain significant **challenges in the cooperation area**. Integration at the regional level faces the barrier of diverse languages, cultures, and standards, and there is also the practical difficulty of traveling around the area. Despite past and current initiatives, partners have identified actions which can make the cooperation area more economically attractive. This implies creating a regional research area and improving innovation ecosystems to facilitate technology transfer and boost the competitiveness of the area's economic and industrial fabric. The issue of transport partly determines the possibilities for better economic integration of the territories in the cooperation area and the lack of connectivity limits exchanges of people, goods, and services. Sectors such as trade and tourism are directly dependent on this. Finally, there are acute needs in terms of strengthening the mutual knowledge of economic actors and in terms of developing synergies in the policy support available to SMEs.

### ***A greener cooperation area***

The region possesses **numerous strengths and opportunities** in these areas: it is endowed with exceptionally rich biodiversity and its natural environment is generally well-preserved. It possesses diverse natural resources, which can generate benefits sustainably and regional cooperation can be built around a network of committed formal 'institutional' (public sector) actors as well as academic and not-for-profit organisations.

In respect of the energy transition, waste management, and circular economy, the political and business context is favourable and a fresh policy effort can be envisaged. And with the recovery of certain types of waste and the coordination of certain *filières*<sup>2</sup> already in place, an impetus already exists and can be built on. More generally, electricity production is today more based on renewable sources and there is an abundance of exploitable natural resources.

Nonetheless, **the cooperation area still faces major challenges** in these areas and the needs of the territories remain considerable.

In the matter of protecting biodiversity, current efforts to ensure resources are used sustainably should be pursued to limit any negative impacts on the environment as a whole to a strict minimum. Natural areas

<sup>2</sup> *Filière* = an industry/sector along with its supply chain.

are exposed to numerous anthropogenic stressors, which could intensify in the absence of a long-term planning. The countries and territories of the cooperation area share the same goal of sound stewardship of their natural resources and the pursuit of sustainable development policies in the Guiana Shield region.

Guyana's strategic 'Green State Development Plan 2040' identifies several policy action lines and calls for cooperation with neighbours on various issues related to the Programme's goals for a greener and low-carbon cooperation area. For example, Guyana plans to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2040 in line with its commitments under the Paris Agreement. The country also has a proven track record in bringing electrical power to remote areas, which can serve as a basis for experience sharing among PCIA stakeholders and actors. Guyana's good practices should thus enable fruitful exchange between the different territories in the cooperation area.

In addition, **the work undertaken to update the strategic territorial diagnostic** revealed a need to tackle shared challenges which had not been specifically targeted by the 2014-2020 PCIA intervention strategy. These include:

- adapting to climate change in the light of the major natural disasters that affected the Amazon Forest in 2020, for example, but also action on specific issues relating to coastline retreat, drought, or the risk of mudslides
- developing renewable energies, including addressing specific challenges facing isolated/remote sites
- developing the circular economy, particularly in relation to the recovery and reuse of waste.

However, the importance of tropical timber in timber sales in the cooperation area and the need to manage it more sustainably. Strengthening the conservation of forests was identified as a key goal by COP 26 and by the EU's proposal for regulation COM (2021) 706 final of 17.11.2021 – 2021/0366 (COD) identifies the objective of limiting the impacts of imported deforestation as an imperative.

The European Commission and the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) define deforestation as *'the conversion of forest to agricultural use, whether human induced or not'*.

### ***A more social cooperation area***

In this thematic area the cooperation area possesses numerous **strengths and opportunities**:

- There has been an overall improvement in access to health care as well as marked improvements in the training and skill levels of health care workers in the cooperation area
- Cooperation in the health sector can rely on a network of formal public and private institutional and non-profit actors, who know each other well and can work together effectively
- Cooperation in science is already relatively well-established in the health sector, as well as in other fields related to education, training, and cooperation in the field of social inclusion policy
- Cross-border mechanisms to ensure the exchange of information and care provision for the local populations in these areas, are also already operating.

However, health and social policy remains a **challenging theme for the cooperation area**, not least due to the presence of diseases that are common to the different territories, and the reality of highly mobile 'cross-border' patients. The cooperation area suffers from an acute lack of health care provision and its poorly connected or remote communities have more limited access to care. Needs continue to be acute in relation to preventing infectious diseases (especially malaria, HIV, and dengue fever) and also in relation to the creation of health care pathways adapted to the cooperation area's needs. Among the other important needs that stand out is the impact of gold mining on the health of local communities, which occurs via contamination of water supplies. There is also the difficulty of reaching remote mining sites to

provide care. Lastly, there are chronic diseases such as diabetes or asthma, which are common to all the cooperation area's territories and these need to be addressed.

The cooperation area's territories also share several acute social inclusion challenges, including persistent social precarity and poverty as well as the serious social phenomena often associated with these (violence, children in difficulty, appeal of illegal activities).

Furthermore, **the work undertaken to update the strategic territorial diagnostic** revealed a need for the cooperation area to address new shared challenges:

·The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the cooperation area, creating new challenges, which may be lasting, such as a need for stronger cooperation mechanisms for prevention and crisis response and the challenges of continuity in patient care when borders are closed.

·In the fields of initial and continuing education, cooperation has strategic importance not only for strengthening the acquisition of shared skills and knowledge across the cooperation area, but also for laying the foundation for greater regional integration in the future.

### ***Better governance of regional cooperation***

Interreg programme governance and more generally regional cooperation among formal institutional stakeholders may draw on the following **strengths and opportunities**:

·This is the third generation of Interreg programmes in French Guiana, which therefore benefits from accumulated experience in cooperation, established PCIA networks, and highly motivated Programme partners

·The presence of a French Guiana government office (CTG) in Suriname

·The full and active involvement of Surinamese partners on the Maroni ferry project (with the creation of a dedicated Steering Committee (COPIL) and enhanced collaboration).

Nevertheless, there is a need to strengthen both the governance of the Interreg programme and the mechanisms of regional cooperation. While there has been progress towards a more integrated governance over recent years, **significant hurdles** remain:

·Programme governance and cooperation dynamics remain heavily centred on French Guiana. This is mainly because until now only a small proportion of ERDF funds have been available to non-EU partners, limiting their incentive to take part in the programme

· Personnel of the formal institutional stakeholders responsible for and involved in cooperation have insufficient proficiency in the different languages present in the cooperation area

· A limited technical assistance budget, which limits the programme's ability to facilitate the participation of partners (organising events in different locations, translation costs, etc.)

·The PCIA competes with other large-scale donor programmes (bi-national and multinational programmes such as the World Bank and the IDB), which also fund projects, reducing the appeal of the PCIA programme.

### **Shared investment needs**

The 2021-2027 Interreg Amazonia Cooperation Programme (PCIA) is part of the 'European territorial cooperation' objective, which is financed by the European regional development fund and external financing instruments. As such, it complies with the horizontal principles of European funds (non-

discrimination, gender equality and sustainable development) and will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives for the 2021-2027 programming period, which are as follows:

- A smarter Europe – for an innovative and smarter economic transformation
- A greener Europe with low carbon emissions
- A more connected Europe - mobility and regional ICT connectivity
- A more social Europe – delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights
- A Europe closer to its citizens – the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural, and coastal areas and local initiatives.

The PCIA strategy for 2021-2027 is structured around 4 priorities which will enable it to address the area's needs. These are as follows:

***·Priority 1: Smart economic development and enhanced cooperation in science across the Guiana Shield***

This priority comprises two 'transversal' or cross-cutting specific objectives to enable maximum flexibility in the deployment of funding. Like the 2014-2020 programme, which funded projects on research cooperation, and while supporting specific economic development activities and regional economic integration, the programme partners do not wish to limit the scope of intervention. The programme will therefore pursue sectoral priorities while also supporting a transversal or cross-cutting approach. Nonetheless, this wish implies that to ensure the internal coherence of the programme's intervention logic, Priority 1 will prioritise targeted projects involving studies that can support the programme's other priorities.

Therefore, and in the respect of the strategic orientations of all the partners, the programme strategy for a 'smarter' cooperation area will pursue the following objectives:

**·Integrating RDI on the regional scale to develop an outstanding research capability in the region, as well as enhancing the cooperation area's economic attractiveness internationally**

**·Improving mutual knowledge and understanding between economic actors to strengthen economic integration in the region and enable its territories to diversify economically**

**·Improving and strengthening the enterprise support ecosystem to help enterprises to innovate, become more competitive, and take up and use digital technologies, thereby enabling the emergence of new communication media and more secure digital business communications and database management**

**·Increasing economic integration across the Guiana Shield through improved transport and interconnection opportunities**

**·Strengthening the mobility of goods and services in the cooperation area** (in compliance with environmental rules and in particular the following strategies: National Air Pollutant Emission Reduction Plan (Article 6 NEC Directive 2016/2284) and/or Air Quality Plans; Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive for maritime transport).

**·Generating economic benefits from natural resources in a logic of supporting the sustainable and endogenous development of the cooperation area**

***·Priority 2 : A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield***

In line with the ambitions of the Green Deal and with the European Commission's recommendations on the need to concentrate the intervention effort on this strategic objective, and to maximise the opportunities for joint PCIA – NDICI projects, this priority will support cooperation in four specific and complementary sectors.

In support of the EU's priorities under its 'greener and low-carbon' Europe objective and the aims of the EU's 'Green Deal', the strategy for the cooperation area is to pursue the efforts begun under previous programmes.

Therefore, and in the respect of the strategic ambitions of all the partners, the programme strategy for a 'greener and low-carbon' cooperation area will pursue the following objectives:

- **Supporting the development and adaptation of production and distribution processes for energy from renewable sources, underpinned by and fostering the sharing of know-how and the conduction of joint tests and trials**
- **Generating knowledge and increasing cooperation on the theme of adapting to climate change in the Guiana Shield**
- **Increasing cooperation on waste recovery and reuse and developing a circular economy**
- **Protecting and generating benefits from the Guiana Shield's natural endowments/heritage and biodiversity**
- **Reducing pollution and the adverse impacts of human activities on natural ecosystems**
- **Preserving the natural resources of the cooperation area to ensure its sustainable and endogenous development.**

The Programme will adhere to the objectives of the EU Communication on deforestation, which aims to minimise the consumption of products from supply chains associated with deforestation or forest degradation (COM(2021) 706 final 2021/0366 (COD)).

***Priority 3: Develop cooperation to facilitate mobility for education & vocational training, strengthen health care systems and improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield***

This priority builds on the achievements and results of the 2014-2020 programme in the areas of health and social inclusion. It aims to respond to the fundamental challenges facing the cooperation area in these fields, highlighted by the Covid 19 crisis. It also opens the programme's scope of intervention to the fields of education and training, which, as transversal or cross-cutting priorities, will support the endogenous development of the cooperation area's territories.

In support of the EU's priorities for a more social Europe, the strategy for the cooperation area is to pursue the efforts begun under previous programmes.

Therefore, and in the respect of the strategic orientations of all the partners, the programme strategy for a 'more social' cooperation area will pursue the following objectives:

- **Facilitating exchange between universities and between organizations involved in initial and continuing/vocational education/training in the Guiana Shield**
- **Strengthening the knowledge and skills of pupils, apprentices, students, teachers, and sector professionals in the cooperation area**
- **Improving access to long term high-quality affordable health care across borders**
- **Carrying out prevention and crisis response actions to tackle the diseases affecting the populations and communities of the cooperation area**

- Carrying out tailored social mediation work to support health related prevention campaigns
- Continuing the effort to better understand and share information on the health problems affecting the cooperation area
- Improving the resilience of health care systems to improve their ability to respond to sudden crises (such as Covid-19)
- Carrying out joint actions to address the shared social problems affecting the cooperation area, especially regarding children in difficulty and access to employment.

*· Priority 4: Strengthen the capacities of the formal institutional stakeholders involved in regional cooperation and facilitate the mobilisation of complementary funding with a view to improving programme governance (ISO1).*

This priority deploys an Interreg specific objective to strengthen the mutual awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the cooperation actors of the Guiana Shield, thereby encouraging the implementation of strategically relevant operations that develop synergies between actors and cooperation opportunities between the partner territories.

In support of the EU's priorities for 'better Interreg governance', the strategy for the cooperation area requires a **new impetus to support regional cooperation**. Therefore, and in the respect of the strategic orientations of all the partners, the programme strategy for 'better Interreg governance' will pursue the following objectives:

- **Strengthening and improving coordination processes between the ERDF programme and the new Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)**
- **Improving mutual understanding between actors and strengthening the capacities of actors involved in cooperation**
- **Enhancing the capacities of regional organisations, third country partners, and French Guiana's formal institutional stakeholders, to address concerns relating to the management burden involved in delivering the PCIA**
- **Identifying funding sources available to the cooperation area and which can be accessed, with a view to combining the different funds and by doing so scaling up the Programme's intervention.**

**In the preparatory work for the 2021-2027 programme, the partnership chose not to incorporate priorities based specifically on the following objectives:**

· PO3: Mobility challenges are addressed in the PCIA strategy but are included under other objectives (especially PO1, PO4 & ISO1). Although the European Commission did recommend including this specific objective, the Programme's stakeholders believe that mobility is a transversal theme for the forthcoming programme and that in the absence of an identified strategic 'infrastructure' project at this stage (as was the case under the 2014-2020 Programme at this stage with the ferry project), the prospects for programming should be viewed realistically.

ISO2: The reasons for removing ISO2 from the programme are political and diplomatic in nature. With a view to ensuring stronger cooperation between the partners and fostering non-conflictual working relationships within the programme's implementing bodies, it was deemed appropriate to not include this topic because even though border security is a challenge, it is too politically sensitive across the partnership.

In all its actions the programme will accord particular importance to the sustainability of the proposed operations/projects and to the respect of lessons learned in the past, as well as to the goal of strengthening

collaboration between the different EU Delegations in the region and with the EU's headquarters.

In the implementation of the programme, the Managing Authority will encourage the strategic use of public procurement to support the policy objectives (including efforts to enhance professional skills, thereby increasing capacities). Beneficiaries will also be encouraged to make greater use of criteria relating to quality and lifecycle costs. When possible, environmental (e.g. criteria for greener procurement) and social considerations as well as incentives to innovate will be incorporated into public procurement procedures.

Moreover, the implementation of the programme is based solely on the use of subsidies. Now, although the use of financial instruments is envisaged for the 21-27 programming period under the ERDF-ESF+ programme, the territory is characterised by factors that make their implementation more complex, whether it be the structure of French Guiana's economic fabric (over-representation of VSEs and SMEs, or even micro-enterprises) or the difficulty encountered in identifying a willing and reliable managing organisation. Finally, the nature and size of the operations/projects planned under INTERREG lead partners to favour the use of subsidies. The types of action planned are not intended to generate income for the beneficiaries and are mainly aimed at strengthening the dynamics of cooperation.

### **Complementarities and synergies with other strategies, programmes, and funding instruments**

The programme is first and foremost the transposition at regional level of the EU's strategic objectives for the 21-27 programming period. It is consistent with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement and the country recommendations and makes it possible to contribute to achieving the EC's ambitions for the outermost regions, as set out in its latest communication 'A stronger and renewed partnership with the EU's outermost regions'.

In addition, as a strand 4 cooperation programme, the PCIA more specifically supports cooperation between French Guiana, an outermost region (OR) with third countries and neighboring partner countries, with a view to facilitating the former's integration in the region. The programme is also a tool for delivering the European Commission's ambitions for French Guiana, which, in its most recent communication on 3 May 2022, 'Putting people first, securing sustainable and inclusive growth, unlocking the potential of the EU's outermost regions' (COM (2022)198), proposed a new approach to creating opportunities and to better meeting the particular needs of each of the outermost regions, notably by strengthening cooperation between the ORs and their regional neighbors. The programme also incorporates the 7 recommendations made in the Commission's Guidance Document for the PCIA dated October 2019 and endorsed by the programme partnership.

To maximise the added value of structural funding, the programme's strategy is to be complementary to other plans and programmes pursuing the same regional development objectives for the next decade (see table at the end of this section).

The added value of the programme compared to the other structural funds in the Caribbean lies in its cooperative dimension. While the programme supports actions aimed at youth, such as the ESF+, actions aimed at rural areas, such as the EAFRD, or actions on research, innovation or the environment, such as the ERDF, the added value of the programme lies in the specific characteristics of the cooperation actions it will support. An Interreg cooperation project must meet two of the following four criteria: i) be developed jointly with one or more partners in the cooperation area; ii) produce material and/or non-material effects on the cooperation area; iii) mobilise human resources from the various partners and iv) mobilise financial resources from the various partners. By supporting cooperation that includes French Guiana, the programme contributes to meeting the area's challenges by integrating the cross-border and transnational dimensions, which bring added value to the problems commonly encountered.

In addition, the regulations for the 2021-2027 period include new provisions to strengthen **the participation of non-EU partners** in EU-funded programmes, notably including the possibility of strengthened linkage with the new Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). In the previous programme, only the Maroni ferry project was supported by both the

EDF and the ERDF. For the forthcoming 2021-2027 programme, the programme partners wish to strengthen collaboration with the EU delegation in Georgetown, to combine funding from the ERDF and NDICI when the strategic goals of the two instruments align. Therefore, and particularly in terms of delivering the objectives of PO2 'A greener Europe', the mobilisation of the two instruments for joint projects will be prioritised. The programme will therefore ensure the pursuit of the interaction built up during the previous programming period with European funds in partner countries (EDF) and mobilise the new European instrument NDICI to support projects of common interest, especially for Priority 2 and the region's various environmental challenges. Synergies can be sought with the NDICI 2021-2027 programming for both French Guiana and the other partner countries with a focus on forestry-oriented partnerships. Synergies can also be sought with the regional programme for the Amazon basin in which Brazil, French Guiana and Suriname participate.

The programme seeks to complement national mechanisms such as, for the French ORs, 'France Relance', which includes the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (FRR), as well as France 2030 and the French State-local authority 'convergence contracts'. The programme will also take the regional, national and local public policies of its partner territories, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil's three federal states, into consideration throughout the programming period, particularly in the process of preparing calls for projects.

The programme is also consistent with other major transversal and sectoral European strategies and programmes, in particular: REACT EU, ERASMUS+, LIFE+, Cosme, the European Digital Programme (DEP), Horizon Europe, the European Interconnection Facility, the blue economy strategy and the EAFRD, with a focus on rural areas, which are also cross-border areas.

Finally, the programme will also comply with the **New European Bauhaus** approach, which aims to facilitate and guide the transformation of societies in line with three values: i) **sustainability**, from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution and biodiversity, ii) **aesthetics**, quality of experience and style beyond functionality and iii) **inclusion**, from valuing diversity to securing accessibility and affordability.

More broadly, the programme is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, notably SDG 3 (access to health), SDG 4 (access to quality education), SDG 7 (use of renewable energy), SDG 9 (innovation and infrastructure), SDG 13 (combating climate change), SDG 14 (protecting life below water) and SDG 15 (protecting life on land), as well as transversal/cross cutting SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reducing inequality).

### **Compliance with horizontal principles:**

Throughout its preparation, implementation, and evaluation the programme will comply with the horizontal principles applicable to the intervention of European funds as defined in Article 9 of Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060: the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the respect of fundamental rights, promoting equality between men and women, preventing all forms of discrimination, supporting accessibility for disabled persons, and sustainable development.

Projects eligible for funding under the programme will need to include actions that contribute positively to the achievement of these objectives. This will need to be addressed during the planning of their activities with consideration given to the inclusion of specific actions. These proposals will be assessed at the project selection stage and a monitoring mechanism will be put in place to ensure that compliance with these horizontal principles is assured during programme implementation. A specific section will be included in the evaluation reports and progress will be regularly reported to the European Commission.

### **Commitments to sustainable development**

The values that inspire the Interreg Amazonia Programme (PCIA) and which are present horizontally in all areas of its intervention, are social and territorial cohesion, gender equality, efficient management of resources, transparency, active participation of European citizens, sustainable territorial competitiveness, solidarity, quality education, food security for sustainable agriculture, promotion of well-being at all ages and healthy living, as well as the protection and preservation of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. They



are strongly aligned with the objective of promoting sustainable development and contributing to the achievement of the UN SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

As a programme aimed at fostering the regional integration of the ORs by strengthening their economic, technical, scientific, and institutional cooperation with neighboring countries, the PCIA will enable alliances for sustainable development to be established by linking common problems to common solutions across all the territories in the cooperation area.

The programme is impacted in its Priority 1 – *‘Smart economic development and improved scientific cooperation in the Guiana Shield’*, with its clear focus on sustainable economic growth by strengthening the economic fabric of the cooperation area, by supporting research and development of innovative processes, and by supporting enterprises and their networks.

Priority 2 – *‘A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield’*. This priority focuses on actions to combat climate change, to adapt to its effects and to preserve nature. In an area marked by deep economic disparities and particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, it is expected that a high proportion of the projects developed in this area will contribute to improving the living conditions and lifestyles of its population, to preserving the Amazon’s exceptional biodiversity, to promoting traditional know-how, and encouraging actions to tackle the different types of pollution and waste management in this cooperation area.

Priority 3 – *‘Develop cooperation to facilitate mobility for education & vocational training, to strengthen health care systems and to improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield’*. This priority should enable the development of actions in the field of environmental education, particularly through the labelling of the Eco-school network that already exists in the French Guiana education authority, or even to encourage exchanges of experience and collaborative projects on the main natural risks and their interactions in the fields of human and social science.

ISO 1 *‘Strengthen the capacities of the formal institutional stakeholders involved in regional cooperation and facilitate the mobilisation of complementary funding with a view to improving programme governance’*. The objective being to encourage our partners to follow our eco-responsible approach, especially by progressively digitalising our procedures and promoting coordinated actions and exchanges of know-how on this environmental theme with the aim of simplifying the implementation of the programme and making European funds easier to understand in general.

### **Lessons learned from past experience**

The 14-20 programming period saw the introduction of effective inter-fund management based on a strengthened partnership between the central French government and the French Guiana local authority. Therefore, and apart from the difficulties encountered by all the public administrations in French Guiana in terms of recruitment and access to training (lack of local adaptation of national training courses), the management of the ESIF in French Guiana now benefits from the efforts made to strengthen the capacities and skills of the agents involved in the steering and management of these funds.

The challenge for the 21-27 programming period is to simplify the procedures for project leaders and the MA, while ensuring that the funds are used securely and constantly. The aim will be to improve the clarity of the procedures for assessing and managing project applications, to increase the number of applications for EU funds by project promoters, and to improve coordination and support for project leaders.

To strengthen the beneficiaries’ administrative capacities, partners envisage to the establishment of an office in Saint-Laurent and offices in the east of the territory as well as the introduction of support for digitalisation (provision of equipment and training).

Significant progress has already been made, which is an integral part of the lessons learned from past experience.

Overall, the management to date of PCIA and ERDF funds has yielded the following lessons:

-Regarding **performance monitoring and indicators**: there is a need to **strengthen the tools or improve the methodology for data collection**, especially by anticipating difficulties that may be encountered and by communicating more effectively with beneficiaries.

·Regarding **project selection procedures**:

-the use of calls for projects is to be preferred to calls for expressions of interest, and the introduction of selection criteria adapted to the measure concerned should make it possible to select projects whose implementation plan is adapted the programme's timetable requirements.

-the strengthening of communication mechanisms with partners and experts, through the setting up of dedicated technical groups, will facilitate the processing of applications and programming (especially by reducing time taken).

**Contribution to the Atlantic strategy**

To ensure alignment with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, some of the PCIA's specific objectives will contribute to the following goals:

·Reducing greenhouse gases and developing renewable energies by supporting research and investment in marine renewable energies

·Reducing marine pollution by supporting ecological maritime transport and by coordinating action to tackle marine pollution

·Creating jobs by developing skills for/in blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU education/training centres and enterprises

·Adapting to climate change by improving coastal observation and protection.

1.3. Justification for the selection of policy objectives and the Interreg-specific objectives, corresponding priorities, specific objectives and the forms of support, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(3)

Table 1

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
<p>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity</p>	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>	<p>1. Smart economic development and science cooperation in the Guiana Shield</p>	<p>The Guiana Shield is a laboratory for research and innovation. The geographic, natural, and socio-cultural environments of the cooperation area are the focus of significant research activity, and this is an important opportunity for regional cooperation. In this context, partnerships between universities and research organisations need to be strengthened so that the region's research excellence can flourish and play its full role in making the region an attractive place to work and in supporting the endogenous economic development of its countries and territories. To promote regional integration in the field of research and innovation, the PCIA will therefore support cooperation to coordinate and enable research activities and to create mechanisms for innovation and technology transfer across borders.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (SRI-SI, SRDEII, SAR, University multi-annual contracts 2017-2021, etc.)</li> <li>• French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027.</li> <li>• The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies</li> <li>• The</li> </ul>

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027 • The Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument • The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.
1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity	RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments	1. Smart economic development and science cooperation in the Guiana Shield	<p>In respect of economic development and SME competitiveness, the cooperation area suffers from several structural handicaps. The fragmentation of its ‘economic space’ in terms of languages, legal systems, technical standards, and entrepreneurial practices, limits the integration of its territories. Offloading and transshipment at borders is problematic for the region’s economic agents. In addition, the economic fabric of the Guiana Shield is mostly composed of Very Small Enterprises (VSE) and economic agents with a low level of mutual knowledge. In this context, better economic integration is the key to supporting the growth and competitiveness of SMEs. And key to this integration are: a better mutual awareness and understanding among economic agents and the coordinated development of business and industry <i>filières</i><sup>3</sup>. The PCIA will therefore support cooperation actions which strengthen mutual awareness/understanding among economic agents in the cooperation area, support enterprise creation &amp; industry networking, and provide enterprise support activities.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans</p>

<sup>3</sup> *Filière* = an industry along with its supply chain.

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (SRI-SI, SRDEII, etc.)</li> <li>• French Guiana’s ‘ERDF-ESF+’ OP, 2021-2027</li> <li>• The programme’s partners’ regional cooperation strategies</li> <li>• The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument</li> <li>• The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p>	<p>RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein</p>	<p>2. A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield</p>	<p>Across the cooperation area, there are opportunities to create electricity production systems using renewable sources, which creates opportunities to meet certain specific needs, particularly at isolated sites, which cannot be connected to a grid, for example. The existence of complementarities between countries and territories in this field could facilitate the implementation of practical solutions in certain localities, especially isolated ones. And, on the cross-border scale, exploring off-grid solutions could also be an effective practical strategy, despite the complexity of working at the intersection of grids in the areas concerned. To encourage the exchange of good practice and the emergence of innovative solutions tailored to the Guiana Shield’s climatic and geographic characteristics, the PCIA will support cooperation on renewable energies.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (The Multiannual Energy Plan, the SAR, etc.)</li> <li>• French</li> </ul>

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027 • The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies • The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027 • The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility	RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches	2. A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield	<p>The cooperation area is affected by climate change and by certain climatic risks, especially sea level rise and preserving the coastline. In addition, numerous new risks have been identified, but these need to be better understood through research and prospective analysis on the vulnerability of the cooperation area over the medium and long terms. This concerns, for example, changes in rainfall (drought and flooding risks) or rising temperatures.</p> <p>Therefore, and to enable the partner countries and territories in the Programme to make a joint commitment to strengthening their response capacities to climate change and the risk of natural disasters, the PCIA will support cooperation actions that directly address these objectives.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes: • All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (The SDAGE, the SAR, etc.) • French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027 • The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies • The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027 • The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument • The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.</p>

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
<p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p>	<p>RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy</p>	<p>2. A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield</p>	<p>As part of the effort to support the sustainable development of the whole cooperation area, strengthening and coordinating an economic ecosystem that embeds the circular economy is a high priority for the countries and territories of the Guiana Shield. In parallel, the challenge of recovering/re-using waste is particularly important for the programme's different partners; the specific problem(s) can vary depending on the locality (delays to establishing waste infrastructures and collection systems, specific challenges of/at remote sites, enterprise opportunities specifically related to recycling and recovering certain types of waste for reuse, etc.).</p> <p>Therefore, and given the potential benefits of developing cooperation projects in this field, the PCIA will support cooperation that improves existing systems, in particular waste recovery/re-use systems, and which generates projects in the field of circular economy.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (The Waste Plan, the SDAGE, etc.)</li> <li>• French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027</li> <li>• The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies</li> <li>• The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument</li> <li>• The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.</li> </ul>

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
<p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility</p>	<p>RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution</p>	<p>2. A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield</p>	<p>The cooperation area has an exceptionally rich natural environment and a wealth of natural resources. This heritage gives rise to interdependencies between the territories, which justifies joint and collaborative action. Moreover, previous programmes have demonstrated the added value of cooperation in this area.</p> <p>Therefore, and to build on past cooperation on preserving the area's exceptional biodiversity, the PCIA will support joint actions which limit the adverse impacts of development and human activities on the environment and which ensure the sustainable exploitation of the Guiana Shield's natural resources.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (SAR, SDAGE, Regional Forestry Management Plan, etc.)</li> <li>• French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027</li> <li>• The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies</li> <li>• The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument</li> <li>• The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.</li> </ul>
<p>4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights</p>	<p>RSO4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training, and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance</p>	<p>3. Develop cooperation to support mobility in education &amp; vocational training, strengthen health care systems, and improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield.</p>	<p>In the field of education, continuing education &amp; vocational training, the cooperation area has acute needs regarding general education and the development of skills and know-how in the different countries and territories of the Guiana Shield. Moreover, the sector's actors are eager to strengthen links and partnerships to be able to</p>



Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
	and on-line education and training		<p>offer better opportunities to the cooperation area's pupils, students, apprentices, and professionals to benefit from schemes / programmes that are tailored to the challenges of the Guiana Shield. The education, higher education, and vocational training systems across the region are dissimilar and work is required to identify areas of complementarity where mutual benefit can be created through cooperative activities and interaction. The PCIA will therefore support cooperation 'beyond borders' which strengthens interactivity and joint activities in this field.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes: • All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (Le Pacte ultramarin d'investissement, SAR, the Pacte Territorial d'Insertion, etc.) • French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027 • The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies • The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027 • The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument • The Erasmus + Programme (See the Charter 2021-2027 for the University of French Guiana in the appendices) • The Atlantic Maritime Strategy.</p>
4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	RSO4.3. Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households, and	3. Develop cooperation to support mobility in education & vocational training, strengthen health care systems, and	The cooperation area suffers from persistent social difficulties, with communities enduring great poverty and social precarity and high levels of chronic unemployment. This social precarity

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
	disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services	improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield	<p>and the marginalisation of some communities engenders violence and illegal activities. Moreover, the area lacks the infrastructures needed to improve social inclusion (schools, cultural, or sports infrastructures, for example). In this context, the PCIA will support activities that improve social inclusion. This is essential to addressing the challenges associated with the marginalisation of certain local communities, especially access to employment, which is key to improving equal opportunities. This will also complement some of the programme's other objectives (e.g.: social mediation in support of health prevention campaigns).</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes: • All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (The <i>Pacte Territorial d'Insertion</i>, the <i>Schéma Territorial de la Protection de l'Enfance</i>, etc.) • French Guiana's 'ERDF-ESF+' OP, 2021-2027 • The PON FSE (national ESF OP) • The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies • The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027.</p>
4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care	3. Develop cooperation to support mobility in education & vocational training, strengthen health care systems, and improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield.	Regarding health, the cooperation area faces significant shared challenges affecting the quality of life of its citizens and communities: • The presence of shared disease risks (vector-borne diseases such as malaria, HIV, or dengue fever and chronic diseases, such as diabetes) • Highly mobile 'cross-border' patients • Significant deficiencies in care provision, and limited access

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
			<p>to care due to some communities being isolated •  The impact of gold mining on public health •  There are acute needs in prevention and care provision for infectious and chronic diseases (especially malaria, HIV, and dengue fever). One such need is the creation of care pathways tailored to the cooperation area. And the Covid-19 epidemic has brought new risks, reinforcing the need for coordinated responses and more resilient health care systems operating across borders. The PCIA can draw on a wealth of experience in cooperation among the different health sector actors, which are used to working together, both in joint local projects and in larger-scale initiatives (transnational research projects for example).</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes: • All the relevant sectoral programmes in force in French Guiana (The ARS (Regional Health Agency) strategy in relation to cooperation, etc.) • French Guiana’s ‘ERDF-ESF+’ OP, 2021-2027 • The programme’s partners’ regional cooperation strategies • The Caraïbes Interreg Cooperation Programme 2021-2027 • The Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument.</p>
6. Interreg: Better Cooperation Governance	ISO6.1. Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, especially those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders (all strands)	ISO1. Strengthen the administrative capacities of the formal institutional stakeholders involved in regional cooperation and facilitate the mobilisation of complementary funding with a	After two previous generations of programmes, the 2021-2027 PCIA can draw on considerable experience in delivering European ETC policy in its cooperation area. Drawing on this experience, partners have identified several ways to significantly improve programme governance,

Selected policy objective or selected Interreg specific objective	Selected specific objective	Priority	Justification for selection
		view to improving Programme governance	<p>and more generally improve the policy tool available to facilitate and encourage regional cooperation across the Guiana Shield. As a result, and to pursue the effort to enable greater involvement from all partners, the PCIA will support actions that remove any administrative, technical, linguistic, or cultural barriers hampering the functioning of the PCIA. Moreover, partners will ensure that the PCIA benefits from any new opportunities to bring in other funds in support of the projects it co-finances, such as the new NDICI, without neglecting the need to put in place specific support to Brazilian partners, who are not eligible to the NDICI.</p> <p>The actions supported under this specific objective are consistent with the following plans and programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme's partners' regional cooperation strategies</li> <li>• The Caraïbes Interreg Programme 2021-2027</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument.</li> </ul>

## 2. Priorities

Reference: points (d) and (e) of Article 17(3)

### 2.1. Priority: 1 - Smart economic development and science cooperation in the Guiana Shield

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.1.1. Specific Objective: RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Developing innovative processes and supporting research

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e) (i) of Article 17(3); point c) ii) of Article 17 (9)

#### **Reminder of the main challenges and/or objectives**

Given its specific environmental and socio-demographic characteristics, the cooperation area offers an exceptional laboratory for research and innovation. Moreover, integrating research activities on the scale of the Guiana Shield is strategically important since the partner countries and territories share both a specific environment and specific challenges.

The structure of this programme is based on a strategy of building on results, and, from a continuity point of view, it seeks to harness the still significant potential for improvement under this objective. In particular, the successes in the topics listed below were taken into account:

- Actions aimed at experimentation and assessing the feasibility of exploiting non-wood plants with a view to commercialising them
- Actions to produce knowledge on the ecosystem services in the Guiana Shield.

#### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

Under this new programme, the aim is to provide a policy response to several known issues, particularly an acute need to strengthen links between the territory's research bodies and universities, but also to structure research of excellence around themes specific to the territory. Furthermore, and with a view to promoting endogenous economic development as well as developing/structuring of an ecosystem of actors able to drive innovation and technology transfer, the cooperation area would benefit from stronger partnerships, particularly for the sustainable commercial exploitation of natural resources and the identification of solutions adapted to the specific characteristics of the territory.

To complement the strategic ambitions of each partner country and territory in the programme, this specific objective seeks (1) to contribute to fostering the integration of each partner's RDI in the regional research ecosystem and (2) to strengthen scientific partnerships to foster research excellence, drawing on the assets of and opportunities in the territory. This will enhance the attractiveness of the cooperation area in this field.

The intervention under this specific objective will focus on cooperation in the field of research. It will not cover initial and vocational training actions, which is supported under the PCIA's priority 4.

## Types of actions

This specific objective will support the following actions:

**·Cooperative actions between the programme area's countries and territories with a view to facilitating international exchange and creating the conditions for the development/expansion of collaborative research in the Guiana Shield area**

For example: collaboration and networking programmes for formal 'institutional' actors<sup>4</sup> active in the field of R&D, joint lobbying of the relevant institutions to remove obstacles to strengthening the regional integration of RDI activities in the Guiana Shield, etc.

**·Cooperative action aimed at developing processes and testing, on the scale of the Guiana Shield**

For example: test nurseries and pilot sites for re-establishing mangroves, satellite observation of the coastline, a pilot site for interconnecting electricity networks in isolated sites (offgrid), projects related to recovering waste and certain co-products, etc. Collaborative projects with a focus on disseminating results will be given preference [1].

**·Cooperation action aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of research, on the scale of the Guiana Shield**

For example: the creation of a shared doctoral college for the Guiana Shield, opening up the possibility of joint-supervision enabling PhD students to benefit from research directors from a partner university in the area; programmes aimed at facilitating exchanges of lecturer-researchers between partner universities; setting up language training for staff from universities and research organisations; creation of courses enabling joint degrees on local subjects (e.g. knowledge of the Amazon). In Guyana, cooperation can be envisaged with the innovation programme launched by the ExxonMobil Foundation in partnership with the University of Guyana and the NGO Conservation International.

**·Collaborative research projects on the specific challenges facing the Guiana Shield and contributing to developing existing or emerging opportunities for excellent science**

For example: fundamental and applied research aimed at developing innovative solutions adapted to the territory's energy challenges (its specific climate, geographical constraints), research in the field of bio-sourced materials, in the field of recovering waste and industrial co-products, research aimed at better use of the Shield's biodiversity and natural resources, specific studies on climate change on the scale of the Guiana Shield (rainfall, drought, landslides, temperature rise), etc. Collaborative projects with a focus on the dissemination of results will be given preference [2].

**·Actions to generate knowledge on the drivers and the barriers to innovation which need to be overcome to energise the economies of the Guiana Shield**

For example: Studies and diagnostics. Collaborative projects with a focus on disseminating results will be given preference [3].

**·Collective actions<sup>5</sup> to support enterprises in the field of innovation and technology transfer**

For example: exchanges of good practices on innovation and building and managing 'competitiveness clusters', actions including training on how to address environmental issues in the innovation process, etc.

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been addressed

<sup>4</sup> The key established formal organisations, whether public or private, i.e., 'institutional'.

<sup>5</sup> Collective actions from the French *actions collectives* refers to policy support aimed at groups of enterprises rather than a single enterprise.

(with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce any negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [4].

### **Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

In addition, and to ensure alignment with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective could contribute to the following goals:

- Reducing greenhouse gases and developing renewable energies
- Tackling marine pollution
- Adapting to climate change by improving coastal observation and protection.

### **Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] Added priority criterion regarding the dissemination of results (SEA v1 recommendation)

[2] Idem

[3] Idem

[4] Added priority criterion regarding the need for projects to address environmental questions (SEA v1 recommendation)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point c) i) of Article 17 (9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
1	RSO1.1	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	strategy/action plan	2	6

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific Objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Objective (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO1.1	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	1.00	2021	4.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of operations to be financed under this specific objective are:

- Researchers and lecturer-researchers
- Higher education and research institutions
- Students
- PhD students
- Innovative enterprises
- Enterprise support organisations, competitiveness clusters, incubators
- NGOs, non-profit/voluntary sector
- Etc.

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

As a transversal priority this specific objective covers the whole cooperation area of the Interreg Amazonia Programme (PCIA) and all the types of territories represented.

The focus may be on coastal and maritime areas or isolated rural areas and urban areas. These cross-border and transnational territories are also important for their environmental value, thanks to forests, water sources, protected areas, and their role in carbon storage.

Indeed, climate change is a challenge that endangers local populations and infrastructures, who/which face increased natural risks (*floods, landslides, coastal erosion, severe droughts, etc.*) and strong human pressures.

This priority is therefore the key to more balanced territorial development and will play a role as an accelerator of innovation to better protect the environment.

Moreover, further details may be provided in future calls for projects and in the programme's implementation documents.

#### 2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	171. Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	944 952.45
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	012. Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education and centres of competence including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	944 952.45

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	01. Subsidy	1 889 904.90

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Support for participation in international trade fairs; Joint training on the regulations in the various markets, business law, European standards, the business/economic context, trade barriers, languages; Studies and diagnostics on the strengths and weaknesses of exporting enterprises; Creation of an information portal.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

SME/VSE growth & competitiveness in the cooperation area is suffering from the difficult economic conjuncture and faces barriers, including an economic area fragmented into several languages, legal systems, different standards, and regulations, which severely limits trade and economic integration. A lack of mutual knowledge between the area's economic agents is also a handicap.

The structure of this programme is based on a strategy of building on results and continuity of action. The successes in the topics listed below were taken into account:

·Foresight analysis (actions) related to improving freight transport conditions as well as to optimising the fluvio-maritime services of the Guiana Shield.

In addition, important advances in transport and connectivity need to be taken into account to properly capture the impact of the Programme's interventions in terms of strengthening trade at the scale of the cooperation area. For the 2014-2020 programme, the following are noteworthy:

·The emblematic construction of the 'amphidrome' (symmetrical bow and stern) ferry on the Maroni for the transport of goods and people between Saint Laurent du Maroni in French Guiana and Albina in Suriname as well as the development along the riverbanks

·Conducting strategic feasibility studies for the cooperation area (study on interregional cabotage out of Guiana's Grand Port Maritime).

### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

To meet the challenges, it will be necessary to support the networking of industry/enterprise actors and to structure (i.e. the coordinated development of) the region's sectors / *filières*.

Several economic sectors are of heightened importance. These include: digital, tourism (and notably eco-tourism), agriculture and the timber sector, the blue economy, renewable energies, activities to commercially exploit natural resources (biodiversity, pharmacopoeia, cosmetics, etc.), cultural and creative industries, etc.

The environmental dimension will be addressed: tourism projects will have to take a sustainable approach by integrating resource management and local know-how so that economic, social, and aesthetic needs can be met. Ecological processes, biological diversity and living systems will be preserved (see the World Tourism Organisation's definition of sustainable tourism). Tourism-related mobility will incorporate the objectives of the National Plan for the Reduction of Air Pollutant Emissions (Article 6 NEC Directive 2016/2284) and/or the Air Quality Plans and Noise Plans and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs).

### **Types of actions**

This specific objective will support the following actions:

**·Actions to strengthen mutual understanding between economic agents**

- Organising professional meetings/events, conferences/workshops on technical issues aimed at regional actors to build relationships and increase mutual awareness of each other's action strategies and networks and of the business environments in the countries of the zone, of market opportunities, etc.
- Actions on sharing experience, exchanging best practice and capacity building, especially on the issue of connectivity and the economic integration of the cooperation area with cooperation in the fields of ports and air transport, networking projects, etc.

**·The implementation of the action programme for a better integration of French Guiana into its geographical environment (CGT, November 2019)**

- Formalising enterprise networks (creation of a 'Guiana Shield Enterprise Club' and/or an Enterprise Platform for the enterprises of the cooperation area)
- Creating a local standards committee to disseminate standards, sharing legislation, and creating a directories guide on these standards. In particular, support for upgrading norms and standards for Guyana's enterprises, in partnership with those of other countries in the cooperation zone. The possibility of pooling funding between the PCIA and the Guyana government's SME-SMI development fund may be envisaged
- Organising exchange programmes to train the personnel in the cooperation area's enterprises to implement and monitor norms and standards
- Implementing actions to strengthen the region's shared identity and image (especially for tourism)

**·Knowledge generation actions on the drivers of and barriers to economic development in the cooperation area**

**·Collective actions<sup>6</sup> to support enterprise & industry**

- Support for enterprise creation, innovation, the digital/energy transition of SMEs, skills development, exchanges of good practice, etc.

**·Cooperative actions to identify complementarities between the territories with the goal of coordinating the development of sustainable *filières*<sup>7</sup> on a larger scale than the scale of each single territory**

- Feasibility studies, developing *filière* strategies at Guiana Shield level, networking, and the coordinated development of *filières*, actions contributing to the reduction of uncontrolled or illegal extractive activities, etc.

**·Projects of an industrial nature aimed at developing cooperation and joint sustainable productive activities on a cross-border or transnational scale**

- Waste recycling and/or recovery projects, investment projects that support a coordinated development of *filières* on the scale of at least two territories in the cooperation area, joint activities for the sustainable exploitation of the cooperation area's natural resources, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Collective actions from the French *actions collectives* refers to policy support aimed at groups of enterprises rather than a single enterprise.

<sup>7</sup> *Filière* = an industry along with its supply chain.

**·Infrastructure projects and development projects which** contribute to the area's economic/development potential (these actions must include at a minimum, an analysis of the project's environmental footprint and how to limit it, as well as a system for monitoring the environmental impact):

- Small-scale development projects could also be carried out for the bus stations and areas around border crossing points (e.g., reception facilities for waiting passengers)

**·Cooperative actions supporting the objectives of the action programme for a better integration of French Guiana in its geographic environment (CGT, November 2019)**

- Feasibility studies, networking, exchanges on environmental standards, actions to disseminate pollution control standards, etc.

Priority will be given to projects that observe the various environmental considerations (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [1].

### **Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

Actions to support enterprises, particularly in research and innovation, are carried out by the Government of Guyana. Synergies can be envisaged with the projects of the IDB, which identifies this priority in its country strategy.

In line with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective could contribute to the following goals:

- Reducing greenhouse gases and developing renewable energies
- Reducing marine pollution
- The Blue economy
- Adapting to climate change

### **Incorporating the 'do no significant harm' principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
1	RSO1.3	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	2	4

Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Objective (2029)	Source of data	Comments
1	RSO1.3	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0.00	2021	5.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of operations to be financed under this specific objective are:

- VSEs/SMEs
- Chambers of Commerce
- Socio-professional organisations
- Groupings of enterprises

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area, with priority given to:

- Cross-border areas for projects involving infrastructure investments (e.g., ports in the West and on the Oyapock for example)
- Intermodal spaces in urbanised areas for bus station projects.



#### 2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
1	RSO1.3	ERDF	171. Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	340 182.88
1	RSO1.3	ERDF	021. SME business development and internationalisation, including productive investments	340 182.88
1	RSO1.3	ERDF	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing, and design services)	340 182.88

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
1	RSO1.3	ERDF	01. Subsidy	1 020 548.64

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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## 2.1. Priority: 2 - A greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana Shield

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Joint testing of new solutions and methods for the development of renewable energies; Feasibility study for projects in the cooperation area, diagnostics and foresight analysis supporting the renewables sector.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Considering the specific challenges facing the programme partners regarding producing and distributing electricity in their territories, the development of energy from renewable sources is a strategic goal which offers considerable opportunities for the cooperation area's future.

The existence of quite significant renewable natural resources and the geographical characteristics of the cooperation area call for an assessment on how renewable energies might offer solutions to the challenges facing the area (on climate, the isolation of remote territories, the distribution of the population across the territory). Moreover, cooperation in this field can harness the complementarities between the expertise of each of the partners.

The structure of this programme is based on a strategy of building on results, and, from a continuity point of view, it seeks to harness the still significant potential for improvement under this objective. In particular, the successes obtained by a project co-financed to undertake experimentation in the field of energy from biomass was taken into account.

### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

In line with the strategic orientations of each country and territory of the cooperation area, this specific objective will facilitate the emergence of solutions adapted to the problems of localities and to developing cooperation in the field of energy, in particular in relation to producing and distributing electricity at isolated/remote sites.

### **Types of actions**

The programme will support actions on any type of renewable energy able to be exploited, especially solar energy, biomass, or geothermal energy. Projects will be selected in accordance with the guidelines of the steering bodies in charge of energy governance in French Guiana and in the partner states. This implies a double level of selection to ensure the external coherence of the programme, its added value and its complementarity with the funding mechanisms that can be mobilised at the scale of the cooperation area.

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions:

**·Actions to strengthen cooperation and the exchange of best practices between the cooperation area's renewable energy actors**

For example: Exchanges of good practices and actor networking, particularly in terms of addressing

environmental issues other than climate in the development of renewable energies, in relation to ecological impact assessment (especially the preservation of forests); etc.

### **·Cooperative actions aimed at developing new processes and testing, on the scale of the Guiana Shield**

For example: Testing and pilot sites to support the development of renewable energies (solutions must take environmental challenges regarding ecosystems into account), the interconnection of electricity networks in isolated sites (offgrid), etc.; Studies to identify the potential of renewable energy resources on the scale of the cooperation area, etc.

Priority will be given to projects that observe the various environmental considerations (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [1].

### **Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

To ensure alignment with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective will contribute to reducing GHG emissions and developing renewable energies.

The Programme will ensure that its interventions comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Forest Strategy 2030.

### **Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

In addition, all actions (biomass, wood energy, methanisation, etc.) will have to comply with the European directives on ambient air quality and on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (PM2.5 and NOx gases in particular), namely the Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCP) and the Industrial Emissions Directive. Similarly, the sustainability criteria of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) will have to be taken into account and met where appropriate.

[1] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO2.2	RCO84	Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented by projects	pilot actions	0	2



Table 3: Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.2	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Joint strategy/action plan	0.00	2021	1.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of operations to be financed under this specific objective are:

- Population
- Enterprises
- Public administrations, local government authorities
- NGOs, non-profit/voluntary sector

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area.

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	171. Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	302 384.79
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	048. Renewable energy: solar	181 430.87
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	049. Renewable energy: biomass	120 953.91

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.2	ERDF	01. Subsidy	604 769.57

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Joint implementation of projects on shared or adjacent spaces

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Given the geographical uniformity of the cooperation area and its shared challenges in terms of adaptation to climate change, risk prevention, and disaster resilience, the added value of regional cooperation on these subjects is clear.

The cooperation area is faced with climate change and specific natural risks. Rising sea levels and coastline retreat are particularly significant issues for the entire northern coast of the Guiana Shield. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall could become more pronounced in the future, the consequences of which are not yet fully understood.

### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

With a view to complementing and ensuring consistency with the strategic goals of the programme's partner countries and territories, this specific objective will enhance knowledge about the cooperation area's vulnerability to climate change and will strengthen cooperation to foster adaptation and resilience in the Guiana Shield. In particular, the programme will seek to enable better adaptation to climate change in relation to ecosystems and the economic activities which impact them (agriculture, tourism, fishing, forestry, etc.).

### **Types of actions**

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions:

#### **·Actions to increase and disseminate knowledge on the cooperation area's vulnerability and resilience to climate change**

For example: specific studies on climate change on the scale of the Guiana Shield (on rainfall, drought, landslides, temperature increases, etc.), actions to strengthen cooperation between research institutes and universities on coastline change.

Through its 'Green State Development Plan 2040' Guyana is prioritising actions on coastline change, particularly in the capital Georgetown, due to its vulnerability.

#### **·Cooperative actions to develop processes and tests, on the scale of the Guiana Shield**

For example: test nurseries and pilot mangrove replanting sites, satellite observation of the coastline, etc.

To this end, Guyana has identified actions to implement over the next few years to improve drainage capacity and mangrove conservation through projects implemented by the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) under the Conservancy Adaptation Project (CAP).

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the



project selection process [1].

The programme will give preference to nature-based solutions (i.e., actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an efficient and adaptive manner, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity).

**Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

In line with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective will contribute to climate change adaptation by improving coastal monitoring and protection

The programme will ensure that its interventions comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Forest Strategy 2030.

**Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO2.4	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	Strategies and action plans	0	1

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.4	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	0.00	2021	1.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of projects to be financed under this specific objective are:

- The population
- Enterprises
- Public administrations, local government authorities.

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

#### 2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

### 2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — Intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	171. Enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State	154 972.20
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	046. Support to entities that provide services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change, including awareness-raising measures	154 972.20
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	058. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods and landslides (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches)	154 972.20
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	059. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches)	154 972.20
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	060. Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g., storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems, infrastructures, and ecosystem-based approaches)	154 972.20



Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.4	ERDF	01. Subsidy	774 861.00

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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### 2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Actions and training on the implementation of projects on the collection, recovery, or transformation of waste; Communication, awareness-raising on the problems associated with the sustainable management of resources and waste; Exchanges between and enhancing the knowledge of the sector's actors in the cooperation area.

#### 2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The context of the cooperation area and the sustainable development issues that are common to all the partners imply that developing a circular economy should be considered a strategic tool for economic development. Moreover, the specific problems linked to waste management on the Guiana Shield require appropriate policy responses. In this regard, the implementation of cooperation actions aimed at promoting waste recovery is an opportunity for the countries and territories of the cooperation area.

#### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

Complementing its action to preserve the cooperation area's exceptional natural heritage, this new PCIA aims to provide solutions to delays in the development of waste infrastructure and collection systems. It will also take into consideration the specific problems of isolated sites as well as the economic opportunities linked to the recycling and recovery of certain categories of waste (iron, tyres, industrial co-products, etc.).

Therefore, and bearing in mind the potential positive effects of cooperation on specific challenges in this field, the programme will support cooperative projects that improve existing arrangements for waste recovery as well as projects which support the shift to a circular economy.

This specific objective will be implemented in a complementary way to priority 1 of this programme, which allows for upstream support (RDI projects) and will support the development of industrial activities and SME competitiveness (projects specifically targeting the development of the competitiveness of SMEs in the cooperation area) [1].

#### **Types of actions**

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions:

#### **·Cooperation projects which transfer knowledge about and exchange good practices on delivering public waste management policies**

For example: exchange projects between local authorities on how to raise awareness on the three Rs (Recycle, Reuse, Reduce), cooperation actions between formal institutional actors on norms (ban on single-use plastics), actions on the industrial supply-side (sustainable supply, eco-design, the product-service economy)"and on responsible consumption (re-use, repair, etc.) [2]. Guyana has identified the use of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as an essential tool for achieving its waste management objectives.

· **Cooperation actions to foster better waste management in cross-border areas** (collection, recycling, and treatment with a view to recovery/reuse) [3]

· **Foresight studies on the coordinated development of filières in the field of the circular economy and waste recovery, aimed at reducing the consumption of natural resources**

For example: Actions to improve knowledge about the existing industrial waste treatment and recovery sector as well as reuse and recovery processes in the cooperation area's territories, actions which transfer knowledge and studies/foresight supporting depollution industries, the recycling of certain wastes (iron, tyres), the recovery/reuse of co-products (biomass from forestry, shrimp fishing, and bagasse from sugar cane processing, etc.).

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [4].

The programme will give preference to nature-based solutions (i.e., actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an efficient and adaptive manner, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity).

Furthermore, the programme is consistent with the order of priority for investment in waste management, namely: prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and finally landfill. Priority will also be given to the use of bio-sourced materials in construction to reduce waste.

### **Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

In addition, and in line with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective could contribute to the following goals:

- Reducing greenhouse gases and developing renewable energies
- Reducing marine pollution
- Creating jobs in blue economy sectors and supporting cooperation between EU education/training centres and enterprises

The Programme will ensure that its interventions comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Forest Strategy 2030.

In its the Green State Development Plan 2040 Guyana places the circular economy as one of the pillars of its development. The document provides funds for feasibility studies in this area.

### **Incorporating the 'do no significant harm' principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] Clarification of the distinction between the priorities in relation to the types of actions supported in the field of circular and resource efficiency (recommendations SEA v1)

[2] Examples of actions added (SEA V1 recommendation)

[3] in compliance with the regulations in force concerning the import/export of waste between countries

[4] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required

of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO2.6	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	strategies and action plans	0	2

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.6	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	0.00	2021	1.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	



### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups of operations to be financed under this specific objective are:

- Enterprises
- Public administrations, local government authorities
- Research institutes/organisations

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.6	ERDF	171. Enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State	179 540.95
2	RSO2.6	ERDF	067. Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures	179 540.97
2	RSO2.6	ERDF	069. Commercial, industrial waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, reuse, recycling measures	179 540.97
2	RSO2.6	ERDF	071. Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials	179 540.97

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.6	ERDF	01. Subsidy	718 163.86

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Joint testing of new methods of preserving and restoring biodiversity; Training and further exploring the potential of ecolabels; communication, awareness raising on resource management and pollution; Promotion of traditional skills, museums; cinema; Digitisation of intangible heritage

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The cooperation area's countries and territories share a similar geography, which is characterised by a forest environment, exceptional terrestrial and marine biodiversity, as well as considerable freshwater reserves. In this context, protecting the environment and natural heritage while capitalising on its economic potential is both a shared issue and highly strategic at the Guiana Shield level. Under this new PCIA, the approach will be to continue in the same vein as the previous programme regarding the essential nature of cooperation for the protection of biodiversity, understanding that the term 'biodiversity' includes both groups of living beings as a whole at the local level, but also their ecosystems (and in a logic of continuity of ecosystems, with a view to preventing habitat fragmentation).

The structure of this programme is based on a strategy of building on results, and, from a continuity point of view, it seeks to harness the still significant potential for improvement under this objective. In particular, the successes in the topics listed below were taken into account:

- Projects that structure cooperation regarding protecting biodiversity and improve knowledge of the Guiana Shield's biodiversity
- Studies and experiments to develop processes for the commercial exploitation of natural resources
- Preliminary planning for a biodiversity observatory for the Guiana Shield

#### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

Complementing the strategic goals of the programme's partner countries and territories, this specific objective will therefore contribute to reinforcing the protection of the Guiana Shield's ecosystems, tackling pollution, and making sustainable economic use of ecosystem services in the territory. In addition, and with a view to the sustainable development of the cooperation area, this specific objective also aims to promote the sustainable economic use of the cooperation area's natural resources.

#### **Types of actions**

##### **·Actions to strengthen knowledge on natural resources, biodiversity, and plant health on the scale of the Guiana Shield**

For example: Research and applied research projects, Actions to strengthen scientific Cooperation on the scale of the Guiana Shield in relation to biodiversity and resources (water, etc.) shared by the territories, Biodiversity observatory projects, Studies and decision support projects for political decision-makers, Exchanges of good practices in the field of drinking water supply and water treatment, etc.

##### **·Actions to support the drawing up of joint/shared strategies for environmental protection and management**

For example: creating/strengthening networks of actors dedicated to environmental protection, projects to pool resources and means, to develop the means to reduce biodiversity degradation, to exchange good

practices, etc.

**·Actions to support the implementation of joint instruments for the protection of biodiversity or to reduce the pollution of natural ecosystems (for species and/or habitats of special significance in the cooperation area)**

For example: supporting the creation of protected areas, especially in the form of ‘corridors’, specific actions, harnessing the skills of the non-profit sector, actions to exchange knowledge on the rehabilitation of degraded/polluted sites, etc.

**·Support for the introduction of legislation/regulation conducive to the preservation of biodiversity and the environment and capacity building for local operators**

For example: Joint work between Guiana Shield actors to support the implementation of international agreements (Minamata, Nagoya, etc.), exchange of good practice, on the scale of the Guiana Shield.

**·Actions to raise awareness of the challenges of biodiversity protection and to support populations/communities and business and industry with change processes**

For example: cooperation actions carried out by formal institutional actors or non-profit/voluntary sector organisations, exchange of good practice, networking, etc.

**·Cooperation action aimed at setting up processes for the economic exploitation of the cooperation area’s biodiversity and natural resources**

For example: actions to transform and/or market new products derived from natural resources, actions to support areas to engage in carbon quota markets, actions to foster the sustainable use of natural resources (plant-based products, genetic resources, etc.)

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [1].

The programme will give preference to nature-based solutions (i.e., actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an efficient and adaptive manner, while ensuring human well-being and producing benefits for biodiversity).

**Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

The programme will ensure that its interventions comply with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as well as with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Forest Strategy 2030.

In line with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective could contribute to the following goals:

- Reducing greenhouse gases
- Reducing marine pollution
- Creating jobs in blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU education/training centres and enterprises



· Adapting to climate change by improving coastal protection

**Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO2.7	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	participation	375	1500
2	RSO2.7	RCO83	Strategies and action plans jointly developed	strategies and action plans	1	3

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
2	RSO2.7	RCR85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participants	0.00	2021	200.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	
2	RSO2.7	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	strategies and action plans jointly developed	0.00	2021	2.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups for this specific objective include:

- All the populations and communities of the cooperation area
- Enterprises of the countries and territories of the Guiana Shield
- Research organisations and Universities of the Guiana Shield
- The formal institutional and public actors of the cooperation area

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

No financial instrument is foreseen for this priority

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	074. Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land compliant with efficiency criteria	718 163.86
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	171. Enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State	718 163.86
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	064. Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	718 163.87
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	079. Nature and biodiversity protection, natural heritage and resources, green and blue infrastructure	718 163.86
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	167. Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism other than Natura 2000 sites	718 163.86



Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
2	RSO2.7	ERDF	01. Subsidy	3 590 819.31

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1. Priority: 3 - Develop cooperation to support mobility for education & vocational training, strengthen health care systems and improve social inclusion across the Guiana Shield

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.2. Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training, and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Educational/training activities; Forums, colloquia or research seminars for the dissemination and promotion of knowledge on shared educational issues; Research projects in the humanities and social sciences (cultures, languages, arts, etc.); Joint teaching of university course modules; co-edited publications

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Given the importance of the education and training challenges facing the Guiana Shield, but also the demographic, economic, and social characteristics of the populations living across the region, cooperation to enhance human capital is central to underpinning the cooperation area's economic development more generally.

As part of initial education, the acquisition of basic skills and the development of a better knowledge of the cooperation area help can underpin cohesion at the territorial level. Furthermore, the diversity of education and vocational training systems, which may represent an obstacle to cooperation, can be more usefully be seen in the light of their complementarities, which should be reinforced and better coordinated. Overall, the development of partnerships and cooperation programmes in the fields of initial and continuing education & training could make it possible to set up regional educational pathways which would underpin all forms of exchanges and cooperation more generally.

#### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

In line with the strategic goals of the cooperation area's countries and territories, this specific objective will therefore foster the emergence of cooperation which enables the acquisition of knowledge and skills, both in terms of initial education, higher education, and continuing education and vocational training.

The intervention of this specific objective focuses on cooperation in the field of initial and continuing education & training and does not cover actions related to RDI, which are covered by priority 1 of the programme.

#### **Types of actions**

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions:

- **Support for the development of regional strategies and specific mechanisms to facilitate exchange between universities and other organisations involved in initial and continuing/vocational education & training across the Guiana Shield**

For example: Schemes in relation to multilingual schools on a cross-border scale; projects on the acquisition of language skills relevant to the cooperation area, etc.

- **Support for schemes facilitating the welcoming of foreign students in French Guiana**

For example: Actions to develop financial support schemes for Guiana Shield students wishing to follow a programme offered in French Guiana, cooperation projects to create opportunities for the joint PhD supervision, access to a supervisor from a partner university in the region.

• **Support for bi-national training schemes in certain fields of joint interest**

For example: translation and interpreting, civil security, river navigation and European standards in terms of safety of vessels used by the public, projects to develop joint qualifications and educational/training pathways, etc.

• **Support for the development of distance or blended education/training**

For example: Cooperation projects to develop distance learning training modules. Guyana, for example, is in the process of upgrading its e-learning activities, particularly following the coronavirus epidemic.

• **Actions to generate knowledge, ideally jointly undertaken to limit costs**

For example: communication campaigns and/or the development of promotional tools for Guiana Shield territories to improve their attractiveness in regard to training & education; carrying out diagnostics; actor/stakeholder mapping; feasibility and/or opportunity studies; comparison and analysis of complementarities between the cooperation area's countries and territories, etc.

• **Actions to share experience, exchange good practice and strengthen capacities in the field of education/training in the cooperation area**

For example: networking projects for education and training professionals, exchange of good practice, etc.

• **Cooperative actions to expand or improve the knowledge and skills of pupils, apprentices, students, teachers, and professionals within the cooperation area**

For example: Exchange programmes to facilitate the acquisition of professional, linguistic, cultural, and technical knowledge, cooperation programmes to promote mutual knowledge or a joint degree course as a foundation for the development of longer-term cooperation across the cooperation area, etc.

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [1].

**Complementarities with other strategies and measures that can be mobilised at European, national and/or local level**

Coordination will be ensured with interventions supported under the Erasmus+ Programme to strengthen synergies between the programmes.

In line with the Atlantic Maritime Strategy, this specific objective could contribute to the following goals:

- Reducing greenhouse gases and developing renewable energies
- Reducing marine pollution

- Creating jobs by plugging skills gaps in blue economy sectors and by supporting cooperation between EU education/training centres and enterprises
- Adapting to climate change by improving coastal protection

**Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	O (2029)
3	RSO4.2	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	participation	20	60

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	RSO4.2	RCR85	Participations in joint actions across borders after project completion	participation	0.00	2021	200.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	



### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups for this specific objective include:

- Young people and students in the cooperation area
- Enterprises in the countries and territories of the Guiana Shield
- Research organisations and Universities in the Guiana Shield
- The formal institutional and public actors of the cooperation area

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

#### 2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

N/A

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	141. Support for labour mobility	200 329.92
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	151. Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure)	200 329.92
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	171. Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	200 329.92
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	134. Measures to improve access to employment	200 329.92
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	150. Support for tertiary education (excluding infrastructure)	200 329.92

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.2	ERDF	01. Subsidy	1 001 649.60

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.3. Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households, and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Joint implementation of projects in cooperation areas on the exchange of know-how and good practice; Enhancing knowledge of organisations in the sector; Joint awareness and prevention actions on the main social risks; Creation of an actor network; forums, colloquia or joint research seminars, etc.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

The cooperation area suffers from the marginalisation of some of its communities, who are affected by the isolation/remoteness of their territories, a lack of employment opportunities, and poverty. This situation is reflected in a series of social difficulties that must be addressed to foster the social inclusion of the populations. In this context, promoting the social inclusion of the marginalised populations/communities of the cooperation area is a key priority for the programme.

This objective will pursue the dual objective of, on the one hand, promoting inclusion and reducing the impact of social problems on the population, and, on the other, supporting the development of projects in the areas of prevention and health care provision through social mediation.

In line with the strategies of the countries and territories of the cooperation area, this specific objective will therefore contribute to the emergence of cooperation projects which reduce the exclusion and precariousness of the marginalised populations/communities of the area and which facilitate social mediation to prevent the problems incurred by certain vulnerable categories of the population.

This specific objective will therefore support the following types of action:

·**Social mediation in support of health awareness, prevention, and care provision/response initiatives**

·**Actions addressing the issue of childhood and parenthood**

For example, cooperative projects to support efforts to protect and manage children from Suriname and Guyana in the *Ouest du Maroni* (west of the Maroni) area.

·**Awareness raising actions and intervention on the issue of gender equality and violence against women**

For example: Projects following up on the Oyapock Cooperation Health project aimed at providing care to women who are victims of violence. Guyana, for example, has begun to develop a programme to combat domestic violence against women through a multi-sectoral approach and with support from the UNDP.

·**Projects in the fields of culture, tourism, and sports with a social inclusion objective**

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [1].

**Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)



2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
3	RSO4.3	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	0	2
3	RSO4.3	RCO82	Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities, and social inclusion	participation	0	1550

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	RSO4.3	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisation	0.00	2021	2.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups for this specific objective are:

- All populations/communities affected by precarity, poverty or social exclusion
- The actors involved in designing and delivering social inclusion policies

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

N/A

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.3	ERDF	171. Enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State	314 984.15
3	RSO4.3	ERDF	138. Support for social economy and social enterprises	314 984.15
3	RSO4.3	ERDF	163. Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children	314 984.15

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.3	ERDF	01. Subsidy	944 952.45



Tableau 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO4.5. Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Joint health prevention actions; Family assistance; Access to and care for vulnerable populations; Development of collaborative projects; Care provision to groups, communities etc.; Research on infectious diseases and natural hazards; Early warning protocol; Telemedicine; Training and exchange of practice and staff exchanges.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

Given the existence of diseases common to the cooperation area, both communicable (HIV/AIDS, malaria, dengue fever, etc.) and chronic (diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, etc.), and shared deficiencies in the supply of accessible health care for the population, the challenges for cooperation in the health sector are significant. The recent health crisis (COVID 19) and recurrent epidemics (Zika, chikungunya, etc.) have shown a need to strengthen both the resilience of health systems and cooperation between health care practitioners in this sector to both prevent and respond more effectively to such crises. In addition, mercury contamination in certain populations, particularly those in the Upper Maroni, is an important public health issue for the cooperation area [1].

The structure of this programme is based on a strategy of building on results, and, from a continuity point of view, it seeks to harness the still significant potential for improvement under this objective. In particular, the successes in the topics listed below were taken into account:

- Promising progress in the fight against the vector-borne diseases that are present in the cooperation area, with projects that have eliminated pockets of malaria and reduced the transmission of vector-borne diseases
- The establishment of integrated medical care for patients living with HIV in the Oyapock basin, which was previously lacking.

### **Expected contributions to meeting the objectives**

Under this new PCIA, it will be necessary to pursue and strengthen the initiatives launched during the last programme (establishing collaborative actions at the local level; prevention campaigns; responses tailored to cross-border areas; strengthening knowledge and exchange on these diseases) to improve the quality of life of the populations throughout the cooperation area. This will involve strengthening the effectiveness and resilience of health systems on both sides of the borders.

To support this, the programme's intervention will seek to improve the conditions that impact the health of the cooperation area's populations by: strengthening health-related knowledge and improving prevention, improving access to care for the communicable and chronic diseases, strengthening the resilience of health care systems, not forgetting the impact of factors such as the quality of drinking water and ambient environmental conditions on health.

### **Types of actions**

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions in the field of health care:

**·Joint actions on awareness, prevention, and intervention to tackle vector-borne diseases common to the cooperation area (HIV/AIDS, malaria, dengue, etc.)**

For example:

- Projects to consolidate the progress achieved in the fight against the transmission of vector-borne diseases, through training, awareness-raising and care provision activities for local communities
- Establishing care and treatment for patients affected by these pathologies and adapted to local contexts, such as binational 'medical pirogues' on the Oyapok and Maroni rivers for example
- Projects to improve and facilitate cross-border care pathways: information sharing, consolidation of patient contact lists, etc.
- Projects to expand the use of telemedicine to widen access to care
- Strengthening HIV projects on the Guyana-Suriname border and linking them to actions on the French Guiana-Brazil border
- The inclusion of Guyana in existing malaria control programmes between French Guiana and Suriname (especially on the upper Maroni between the villages of Maripasoula and Langa Tabiki)

**Projects on awareness, prevention, and intervention to tackle chronic diseases affecting the cooperation area (diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, allergies etc.)**

For example :

- Cross-border awareness and prevention campaigns on chronic diseases that affect the cooperation area
- Provide care and treatment for patients affected by these diseases tailored to local circumstances
- Projects to expand the use of telemedicine to increase access to care
- Exchange of best practice between health professionals on both sides of the border on topics such as chronic diseases, etc.

**Actions aimed at strengthening and exchanging knowledge on shared health challenges in the cooperation area**

For example :

- Projects to strengthen the exchange of good practice between health professionals in the cooperation area
- Action to establish links between health centers/health organisations and border cities
- Exchanging good practice and experience on water management and its implications for health
- Actions to improve the prevention and management of mercury contamination in certain populations in the cooperation area (Haut Maroni in particular) [2]
- Exchanges of medical personnel and joint training.
- Etc.

**Establishment of coordinated health crisis response mechanisms (e.g.: Covid-19)**

For example:

- Projects to structure and strengthen information sharing both in times of crisis and in the long term between health sector actors across borders
- Establishing emergency response mechanisms to crises, such as those carried out by the French Red Cross, for example
- Action to share experience, exchange best practices and strengthen capacities on the issue of response to health crises in the cooperation area
- Supporting the Government of Guyana in data collection, management, and processing
- Implementing projects to support the Government of Guyana in the education and training for nurses

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the

project selection process [3].

**Incorporating the ‘do no significant harm’ principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] Addition of reference to mercury contamination as a health issue (recommendation SEA v1)

[2] Addition of two examples of projects dealing with water management and the health issue of mercury contamination (SEA v1 recommendations)

[3] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
3	RSO4.5	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	4	11
3	RSO4.5	RCO116	Jointly developed solutions	solutions	4	14

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
3	RSO4.5	RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	organisations	0.00	2021	7.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	
3	RSO4.5	RCR79	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	joint strategy/action plan	0.00	2021	5.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups for this specific objective are:

- The entire population of the cooperation area
- The actors involved in the delivery of public health policies



2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area is covered by the intervention of this specific objective. However, isolated areas, in view of their specific characteristics, are considered as priorities [1].

[1] Priority Zones (SEA v1 Recommendation)

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

N/A

### 2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	161. Measures to improve access to long-term care (excluding infrastructure)	661 466.72
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	159. Measures to enhancing the delivery of family and community-based care services	661 466.72
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	160. Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness, and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)	661 466.72
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	131. Digitalisation in health care	661 466.72
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	158. Measures to enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services	661 466.72
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	171. Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	661 466.69
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	130. Health mobile assets	661 466.72

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
3	RSO4.5	ERDF	01. Subsidy	4 630 267.01

Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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2.1. Priority: ISO1 - Strengthen the administrative capacities of the formal institutional actors involved in regional cooperation and facilitate the mobilisation of complementary funding with a view to improving Programme governance

Reference: point (d) of Article 17(3)

2.1.1. Specific objective: ISO6.1. Enhance the institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders (all strands)

Reference: point (e) of Article 17(3)

Organisation of events and communication actions throughout the cooperation area; Setting up a system for the exchange of good practices and experienced staff acting as advisors/expert contacts and briefing & information sessions; Organising/running activities and aiding programme partners; Staff immersion opportunities.

2.1.1.1 Related types of action, and their expected contribution to those specific objectives and to macro-regional strategies and sea-basis strategies, where appropriate.

Reference: point (e)(i) of Article 17(3), point (c)(ii) of Article 17(9)

After reviewing previous programmes and to pursue the efforts undertaken to promote balance in the implementation of the PCIA – both in terms of projects to be supported and in terms of the involvement of all the programme partners – the programme’s formal institutional actors identified the persistence of structural barriers to the improvement of Interreg governance in the specific case of the PCIA. Indeed, the PCIA’s geography means there is significant diversity, both in linguistic and cultural terms, but also in terms of the different political and legal systems of the countries and territories involved.

In addition, and in order to facilitate access to additional funding to better support cooperation in the cooperation area, the partners would like to be in a position to undertake specific actions under the new PCIA, in particular to ensure that it benefits from the regulatory changes designed to enable the joint use of the ERDF and the new NDICI.

Under this new PCIA, it will be necessary to respond to various challenges, including the need to strengthen the capacity of formal institutional actors to participate in an active effort to improve Programme governance, to continue the efforts initiated in the 2014-2020 programme to bring in additional funding for projects and beneficiaries, and to implement a specific strategy to enhance the visibility of cooperation opportunities.

This specific objective will therefore support the following actions:

**·Strengthen and improve coordination between the new ERDF PCIA programme and the new Instrument for Neighborhood, Development, and International Cooperation (NDICI)**

For example:

- Projects to strengthen the understanding of how to use/combine the PCIA and IVDCI mechanisms for the benefit of all stakeholders (PCIA Managing Authority, programme partners, EU Delegations, especially in Georgetown, intermediary organisations with an indirect NDICI management function, etc.)
- Projects to reinforce the links between the management bodies of the two systems (such as the EDF-ERDF platform)

**·Cooperation actions to improve the mutual knowledge of governance actors and to reinforce the capacities of actors with a role in cooperation**

For example:

- Actions to improve mutual knowledge and develop a shared working culture
- Actions to improve partners’ understanding of each other’s administrative and political systems and

concerns about the implications of these differences for cooperation dynamics

- Training for civil servants, particularly in Guyana, to strengthen project management and monitoring capacities and modernize the country's public services
- Immersive exchange programmes for managers involved in regional cooperation to promote the practice of foreign languages and improve knowledge of partner institutions and of how they function
- Actions to improve understanding of the cooperation area's different economic contexts and legal systems.

**·Actions to strengthen the capacities of regional organisations and third-party partners in relation to addressing concerns about operational challenges and delivering the PCIA**

For example: programmes of shared work seminars on programme eligibility criteria, on issues related to the monitoring of outputs and results, on the specific aspects of expenditure reporting, on supporting potential project leaders, on addressing environmental issues in projects and cooperation programmes [1], carrying out relevant actor and stakeholder network mapping, a specific programme for Guyana to help it better understand the conditions for accessing PCIA funds, etc.

**·Actions to identify funding that can be deployed on the scale of the cooperation area to encourage the joint use of different funding mechanisms to scale up the Programme's intervention**

For example: Mapping the funding sources available to the whole cooperation area for regional cooperation projects, Establishing funding task groups such as an 'EDF-ERDF platform' but not limited to work on links with the NDICI, Technical cooperation and exchange of best practices with other Interreg Cooperation Programmes facing similar challenges (Caribbean, MAC, Reunion, MED, etc.).

Priority will be given to projects for which the various environmental considerations have been taken into account (with, where appropriate, the implementation of measures to reduce negative impacts) and to projects for which the environmental impact has been estimated in advance in accordance with the regulations in force or which have produced an impact report (e.g., infrastructure, spatial planning/development, renewable energy). In addition, eco-conditionality criteria may be applied in the project selection process [2].

**Incorporating the 'do no significant harm' principle**

The types of actions implemented by the programme have been assessed as compatible with the DNSH principle as they are unlikely to have a significant negative environmental impact due to their nature.

[1] Addition of example of action to address environmental issues (recommendation SEA v1)

[2] This point specifies the prioritisation criterion regarding action towards environmental issues required of projects (recommendation SEA v1)

2.1.1.1b. Definition of a single beneficiary or a limited list of beneficiaries and the granting procedure

Reference: point (c)(i) of Article 17(9)

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### 2.1.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e)(ii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iii) of Article 17(9)

Table 2: Output Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Final target (2029)
ISO1	ISO6.1	RCO81	Participations in joint actions across borders	participation	10	20
ISO1	ISO6.1	RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	organisations	5	10

Table 3: Result Indicators

Priority	Specific objective	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Source of data	Comments
ISO1	ISO6.1	SRI02	Organisations with increased institutional capacity due to their participation in cooperation activities across borders (cross-border, transnational or interregional)	Number	0.00	2021	10.00	French Guiana Europe Unit (PAE) & beneficiaries and PCIA partners	

### 2.1.1.3. Main target groups

Reference: point (e)(iii) of Article 17(3), point (c)(iv) of Article 17(9)

The main target groups for this specific objective include:

- The formal institutional actors of regional cooperation
- All potential beneficiaries of the programme

2.1.1.4. Indication of the specific territories targeted, including the planned use of ITI, CLLD or other territorial tools

Reference: Article point (e)(iv) of 17(3)

The whole cooperation area

2.1.1.5. Planned use of financial instruments

Reference: point (e)(v) of Article 17(3)

N/A

2.1.1.6. Indicative breakdown of the EU programme resources by type of intervention

Reference: point (e)(vi) of Article 17(3), point (c)(v) of Article 17(9)

Table 4: Dimension 1 — intervention field

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
ISO1	ISO6.1	ERDF	170. Improve the capacity of programme authorities and bodies linked to the implementation of the Funds	642 567.67
ISO1	ISO6.1	ERDF	173. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	642 567.67
ISO1	ISO6.1	ERDF	171. Enhance cooperation with partners both within and outside a given Member State	642 567.66

Table 5: Dimension 2 — form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
ISO1	ISO6.1	ERDF	01. Subsidy	1 927 703.00



Table 6: Dimension 3 — territorial delivery mechanism and territorial focus

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Code	Amount (in EUR)
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### 3. Financing Plan

Reference: point (f) of Article 17(3)

#### 3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 7

Reference: point (g)(i) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Fund	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
ERDF	0.00	3 228 528.00	3 280 388.00	3 333 285.00	3 387 240.00	2 806 737.00	2 862 871.00	18 899 049.00
Total	0.00	3 228 528.00	3 280 388.00	3 333 285.00	3 387 240.00	2 806 737.00	2 862 871.00	18 899 049.00

### 3.2 Total financial appropriations by fund and national co-financing

Reference: point (f)(ii) of Article 17(3), points (a) to (d) of Article 17(4)

Table 8

Policy objective No	Priority	Fund	Basis for calculation EU support (total eligible cost or public contribution)	EU contribution (a)=(a1)+(a2)	Indicative breakdown of the EU contribution		National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)	Contributions from the third countries
					Without TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a1)	For TA pursuant to Article 27(1) (a2)		National public (c)	National private (d)			
1	1	ERDF	Total	3 758 927.00	3 401 829.00	357 098.00	663 340.00	497 505.00	165 835.00	4 422 267.00	85.0000011306%	0.00
2	2	ERDF	Total	5 575 741.00	5 046 046.00	529 695.00	983 954.00	688 768.00	295 186.00	6 559 695.00	85.0000038112%	0.00
4	3	ERDF	Total	7 371 673.00	6 671 364.00	700 309.00	1 300 884.00	650 442.00	650 442.00	8 672 557.00	84.9999948112%	0.00
6	ISO1	ERDF	Total	2 192 708.00	1 984 401.00	208 307.00	386 949.00	348 254.00	38 695.00	2 579 657.00	84.9999825558%	0.00
	Total	ERDF		18 899 049.00	17 103 640.00	1 795 409.00	3 335 127.00	2 184 969.00	1 150 158.00	22 234 176.00	84.9999973015%	0.00
	Overall Total			18 899 049.00	17 103 640.00	1 795 409.00	3 335 127.00	2 184 969.00	1 150 158.00	22 234 176.00	84.9999973015%	0.00

4. Action taken to involve the relevant programme partners in the preparation of the Interreg programme and the role of those programme partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Reference: point (g) of Article 17(3)

It is important to note that since the previous programming period 2014-2020, the participation of all categories of public or private partner organisations has always been encouraged.

Moreover, all information and communication actions related to the programme's objectives and results are addressed and accessible to the widest possible audience.

### ***Involvement of partners in the preparation of the Programme***

The preparation process for this programme for the Amazonia cooperation area was conducted on the basis of wide consultation of partner countries and territories.

**For French Guiana**, the work carried out to produce the inter-fund Strategic Territorial Diagnosis involved all the stakeholders in the country, including certain beneficiaries and actors 'on the ground', through extensive consultations. This work was carried out as follows:

· About twenty interviews were conducted to identify the economic, social, and environmental trends in the country, as well as the vectors and opportunities for its development. As part of this outreach, a group composed of various actors in charge of cooperation on the Guiana Shield and dedicated to the production of the socio-demographic analysis met on September 26, 2019. Other organisations were contacted later.

· The organisation of 14 thematic workshops involving representatives of the French state's departments, the Territorial Collectivity (local government authority) of French Guiana, as well as specialist actors and experts in each of the themes explored, including a workshop on regional cooperation which enabled the consultation to go further and address the challenges and the potential of cooperation at the scale of the whole Guiana Shield.

· Local (territorial) public meetings, notably in Saint Laurent and Saint Georges (*border towns*), allowed the consultation to be expanded by integrating elected officials and various local and territorial development actors in French Guiana.

On the basis of this initial inter-fund work, the specific work dedicated to the Interreg Cooperation Programme (updating the PCIA cooperation area's strategic territorial diagnostics and identifying intervention priorities) was launched in the midst of the Covid19 international crisis. In this context, the work was carried out as follows:

· Thematic workshops were organised by videoconference with French Guiana actors to determine the strategic goals where regional cooperation could add specific value (July 2020). Five workshops brought together many representatives of the departments of the programme's main partners. These helped to jointly define the programme's first strategic goals, to set out its intervention logic and gather information on possible projects to be supported by the new PCIA.

· A first version of the programme was then produced during the summer of 2020 and discussed within the French partnership of the programme. A second version was presented in October 2020.

· **Regarding the programme's non-EU partners**, particular care was taken to build a shared vision, on the scale of the cooperation area, of the major issues facing the territory, including its weaknesses, strengths, opportunities, and threats. In addition, the PCIA's cooperation strategy was similarly developed. The stakeholders in French Guiana representing the non-EU partners (consulates) took part in the thematic workshops of July 2020 alongside partners from French Guiana. The non-EU partners were then consulted in writing on the second version of the draft programme in October 2020.

The December 2020 monitoring committees of the 2014-2020 programme were the occasion for an initial exchange between partners on the programme's priorities. Workshops conducted in February 2021 by videoconference with Guyana (*Presence of the Director of the International Cooperation Department and his team; officials from the Ministry of Public Works and Health*) and Suriname (*Mainly members of the International Cooperation Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Suriname Consulate in Cayenne*) made it possible to enrich the draft programme (due to the health situation, the workshop with Brazil could not be held; Amapa sent its contribution by mail).

This programme therefore reflects the priorities shared by all the programme's partners. The Managing Authority undertakes to seek synergies with the regional programme for the Amazon basin, in particular due to the participation of Brazil and Suriname.

### ***Involvement of partners in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Programme***

All the programme's partners, both French and non-EU, participate in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the programme.

In accordance with regulatory requirements, the Monitoring Committee (MC) is the Programme's strategic steering body. The Monitoring Committee is chaired by the President of the Territorial Collectivity of French Guiana (local government authority) and its composition guarantees a balanced representation of the partnership in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, Article 22-1).

It is made up of members with a deliberative voice (the Prefect of French Guiana, the Director of the CNES, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana, the Governor of the State of Amapa, the Governor of Amazonas, the Governor of Parà, the Ambassador for Regional Cooperation between the Antilles and French Guiana, and the Secretary General of CARIFORUM) and others with a consultative voice (The list will be reviewed at the 1st Monitoring Committee to launch the new programme).

To facilitate interactions between partners, the comitology has been strengthened for the 2021-2027 programming, including:

- The organisation of specific bi- or tripartite meetings when a need in terms of assessment or monitoring the implementation of specific operations (projects) is identified by the Joint Secretariat
- The regular organisation of technical meetings by videoconference, involving the INTERREG partners' dedicated staff/contact persons and relevant government departments where necessary
- The holding of technical meetings in preparation for the Monitoring Committee meetings.

In addition, and regarding the desire to strengthen the linkage between the PCIA and NDICI programmes, the partnership will ensure the involvement of relevant bodies, and in particular the European Union Delegation in Georgetown, in order to promote the joint programming of cooperation operations (projects) falling within the strategic scope of the two programmes.

Lastly, and in line with the results/outputs being targeted / to be carried out under priority 4 of the Programme, the partners will ensure that the knowledge and skills of the staff they respectively mobilise to support the implementation of the Programme are strengthened.

Facilitation and advisory functions for the benefit of project leaders will involve the INTERREG dedicated staff in all the cooperation area's countries and territories with a view to facilitating the emergence of operations/projects that structure target sectors on the scale of the cooperation area through cooperation at that scale.

Assessment, which falls within the remit of the Joint Secretariat, may be supported by contributions from the relevant departments of all the members of the Monitoring Committee. Therefore, the process of selecting operations will be based on the involvement of the relevant departments at the partnership level and will provide the Monitoring Committee with the information necessary to carry out its tasks.

The monitoring of operations (projects) and the implementation of the Programme Evaluation Plan will also involve the entire programme partnership to ensure regular reporting on the progress of the Programme and qualitative monitoring of its outputs and results for the cooperation area.

Evaluations of the programme will be approved by the Monitoring Committee.

5. Approach to communication and visibility for the Interreg programme (objectives, target audiences, communication channels, including social media outreach, where appropriate, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluation)

Reference: point (h) of Article 17(3)

The Programme aims to strengthen cooperative relations between French Guiana and Suriname, Guyana, and Brazil (*Amapa, Para, Amazonas*) taking into account the changing political climate, the linguistic diversity, and the specific characteristics of the different administrations and institutions.

The communication strategy should raise awareness of the Programme and give the cooperation area an attractive image to encourage new cooperation projects. Finding the right channels and messages will help to make European funds more accessible and create bonds between the cooperation area's actors.

The present communication strategy requires the involvement of partners, the media, and relays in border towns, especially at events and information campaigns. The use of digital formats will be a priority to be able to communicate information quickly and efficiently and in an eco-responsible way. In light of experience, emphasis will also be placed on enterprises in border areas.

### 1.1 The priorities

The 2021-2027 communication strategy has three main lines of action: First: making the programme more accessible (creation of an Interreg Amazonia logo) and communicating through several social networks already in use (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Youtube), second: communication aimed at enterprises and third: raising awareness of foreign partner institutions to act as information relays. A coordinator within the MA is appointed to monitor and implement the communication strategy at regional level.

The aim will be to promote successful partnerships, explain the development opportunities offered by the programme in each territory and identify new contacts who can act as information relays.

Specific communication actions will be carried out for projects of strategic importance (CUREMA and BIO-PLATEAUX II) with, in particular, a progress report at each monitoring committee (testimonies, videos, sharing experience).

### 1.2 Communication – Visibility and Transparency

Target groups:

- Potential beneficiaries, especially border enterprises, socio-professionals: Stimulate the submission of projects
- Beneficiaries: Comply with publicity requirements and become programme 'ambassadors'
- Citizens: Make Europe a player in French Guiana's development. Carry out both institutional (public authorities) and operational (potential project leaders both public & private) communication as well as ensure it is inclusive of people with disabilities (Accessibility of the online website and social networks will comply with the '*Référentiel général d'accessibilité pour les administrations*' (RGAA 3), with magnifier, visual keyboard, audio text, display customisation, use of specialised software, specialised reception desk, etc.).
- Foreign institutions: Make the CTG (French Guiana territorial collectivity/local government authority) a doorway to Europe in South America

Interactive communication channels:

· Programme literature: Programme info and news materials (*Priorities, indicators, publicity, practical information, stats, news, and events, etc.*) in various formats including explanatory leaflets, brochures, videos, guide to procedures, 4X3 posters, digital formats, etc.

· Internal events: information sessions, meetings, and thematic webinars for potential beneficiaries to familiarise them with the programme, then to help beneficiaries to properly fulfil their obligations under the programme, and to showcase the funded projects and capitalise on their achievements.

· External events: exhibitions, regional fairs on themes that can be supported by the ERDF-ETC

· Promotional tools: communication kit including multimedia tools

· The website: General information updated and translated into 3 languages

· Information point: For the public, especially in border areas, the team will answer any questions about ERDF-ETC and Europe.

To increase the visibility of the supported projects, collaboration is planned with the Europe Direct Centre in Martinique and French Guiana, the European Commission Representation in France, Team France Export, the foreign media, the relays in the French Embassies, the *Alliances Françaises* and the offices of the French Development Agency (AFD) in non-EU territories.

The person in charge of communication, communication activities on a day-to-day basis, and support to project leaders within the MA will also be in charge of directing the PCIA's communication activities.

### 1.3 A dedicated budget

Based on the previous programme's budget, the allocated budget will be equal to 5% of the ERDF-ETC OP, i.e., approximately 128 000€ per year.

### 1.4 Evaluation of the communication strategy

The implementation of the communication plan requires an evaluation of the strategy, which can be carried out through online questionnaires and polls, surveys, or individual interviews with the identified targets.

Monitoring the effectiveness of the communication actions involves using indicators consistent with the type of action selected (*-Events: number of participants /-Posters and literature: circulation, distribution point*). A more complete evaluation is scheduled at the mid-term of or at the end of the 2021-2027 programme.



## 6. Indication of support to small-scale projects, including small projects within small project funds

Reference: point (i) of Article 17(3), Article 24

Given the characteristics of the cooperation area it serves, the Interreg Amazonia Programme (PCIA) will only very rarely support a small cooperation project. This is because the costs of cooperation in the Guiana Shield are generally too high to mobilise actors for small-scale projects.

Nonetheless, INTERREG Amazonia's partners would like to put measures in place to diversify the typology of the Programme's beneficiaries, notably by creating the conditions that will facilitate small projects.

With this goal in mind, and in order to address the reality of the barriers to cooperation in the Guiana Shield, the Programme's French partners will support cooperation using the '*Fonds de Coopération Régional*' (Regional cooperation fund), managed by the Préfecture of French Guiana, already present in the 2014-2020 Programme.

The Joint Secretariat will therefore direct project leaders seeking funding to set up cooperation projects to contact the Prefecture of French Guiana, the French Guiana local government, the EPCI (other French local government authorities) and other organisations, which can offer funding that is easier to access for small projects than funding from the PCIA.

Furthermore, the Managing Authority has ensured that in the 2021-2027 programming period beneficiaries will benefit from administrative simplification measures, in particular, through the widespread use of Simplified Cost Options. To this end, significant work has been carried out to make use of the tools provided for by the Regulations and thus reduce the administrative burden on applicants and project managers, while limiting the risk of error.

## 7. Implementing provisions

### 7.1. Programme authorities

Reference: point (a) of Article 17(6)

Table 9

Programme authorities	Name of the institution	Contact name	Post	Email
Managing authority	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane (French Guiana local government)	Gabriel SERVILLE	President of the Chamber of the Local Authority of French Guiana)	gabriel.serville@ctguyane.fr
Audit authority	Commission Interministérielle de Coordination des Contrôles (CICC) (French Interministerial Commission for Coordination of Controls	Martine MARIGEAUD	Président e	martine.marigeaud@finances.gouv.fr
Body to which the payments are to be made by the Commission	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane (French Guiana local government)	Maud MIRVAL	Directrice Steering	maud.mirval@ctguyane.fr

## 7.2. Procedure for setting the Joint Secretariat

Reference: point (b) of Article 17(6)

The PCIA's Joint Secretariat is established in continuity with the 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programmes. It is an integral part of the European Affairs Unit of the French Guiana Local Government Authority acting as Managing Authority. The Authority is keen to pool management staff and organise its European Affairs Unit based on Functional Departments.

The Joint Secretariat assists the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee in the exercise of their respective functions. It is made up of representatives from the three directorates of the European Affairs Unit (*Steering (Monitoring, Communication, Evaluation), Project, assessment, and Management (Control and accounting functions)*). The staff of the Joint Secretariat are administratively integrated into the staff of the French Guiana territorial authority.

The staff take the PCIA's partnership model into account and respect horizontal principles, transparency, and equal treatment of project leaders and their applications for funding.

In addition, the Joint Secretariat provides information to potential beneficiaries on funding opportunities under the Interreg programmes and assists beneficiaries and partners in implementing operations/projects throughout the cooperation area.

The participating partner countries are consulted by the Managing Authority regarding the establishment of the Joint Secretariat. In addition, for cooperation with Suriname and Guyana, the partnership relies on the French Guiana Territorial Authority's office in Paramaribo, which will partly ensure the interface between the project leaders of Suriname and Guyana and the programme authorities located in French Guiana.

In addition, and in accordance with the regulations in force, the non-EU States of the programme will identify the contact persons within their respective administrations to facilitate interactions, promote, and implement the PCIA including assisting with operation (project) monitoring by performing certain tasks on behalf of the Joint Secretariat as local administrations are closer to the beneficiaries and any potential partners in third countries.

7.3. Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States and where applicable, the third or partner countries and OCTs, in the event of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

Reference: point (c) of Article 17(6)

The purpose of the control system is to ensure the regulatory conformity of operations (projects) and the eligibility of expenditures as well as the management system's administrative, legal, and accounting reliability. It therefore involves two concomitant aspects:

- Internal control
- Control of operations (projects), which has two levels

First level control is the responsibility of the Managing Authority (MG) and refers to:

- The reality and conformity of the physical execution of the operation (project)
- Compliance with contractual obligations
- The eligibility and justification of expenditure

First level control is based on documents and on-the-spot checks by programme officers and results in:

- Management verification reports and confirmation of eligibility of expenditure
- On-the-spot-check reports
- Monitoring the implementation of corrections of irregularities and providing observations and recommendations to the beneficiaries

Management verifications are prerequisites to the processing of requests for payment (interim and final payment requests) submitted by a beneficiary. This procedure is necessary to determine the total amount of expenditure that is eligible which can be reimbursed and potentially included in the payment claims submitted to the European Commission (EC). They are performed in the first instance on the basis of supporting documents provided by the beneficiary. However, on-the-spot checks are carried out where there are any suspicions regarding any qualitative, quantitative, administrative, or accounting related aspects of the operation (project).

Management verifications are performed by an officer who is responsible for assessing the requests for payment and signs the verifications report. The report's completeness, accuracy and consistency is supervised and confirmed by their head of unit (N+1) by their signature. In addition, it may, where applicable, be subject to a reassessment as part of a management quality control (MQC) on a sample of operations (projects).

The beneficiary is informed of the conclusions of the management verifications, especially the eligible amount accepted for payment. Beneficiaries also receive the on-the-spot check reports. When a functional department of the local government authority and/or the CNES<sup>8</sup> or of the State/government administration are involved in the co-financing of operations (projects), they will also be informed by the officers of the conclusions of the management verifications and the eligible amount accepted for payment and will also receive the on-the-spot check reports.

Management verification officers and/or the internal control officers may decide to carry out on-the-spot verifications on an ad hoc basis at any time if any difficulties arise in the implementation of an operation (project), in the event of suspicion on its regularity, of doubts concerning the supporting documents provided, as well as in the event of complaints.

<sup>8</sup> Centre nationale d'études spatiales (French National Space Agency)

On-the-spot checks for routine sampling will also be undertaken in relation to:

- at least 20 % of the number of approved operations (projects) before their final payment is made
- all operations (projects) having been subject to a control or audit which detected weaknesses/errors and irregularities
- all operations (projects) needing to verify their durability after their completion.

The selection of 20 % of operations (projects) to be checked within their lifetime and in any case before final payment is made by applying a combination of the following criteria:

- Financial criteria (total cost of the project, amount of the EU contribution, sampling of the different EU contribution payment requests (of different subsidy brackets)
- Thematic criteria (topics of the operations (projects) by priority, specific objectives)
- Type of beneficiaries (legal status, size, number of staff, turnover)
- Geographic location (town/city where the operation (project) is implemented)
- Risks related to certain categories of beneficiaries (new beneficiaries, beneficiaries receiving multiple public funding from multiple sources, recurrent beneficiaries, etc.)
- Risks related to certain categories of operations/projects (operations/projects generating revenues, multiannual operations/projects, financial instruments, tax exemptions, etc.)
- Other risks identified by the risk mapping exercise

The choice of the sampling selection criteria will be adapted depending on the programme stage. In the beginning of the programming period, they will focus on risks related to certain categories of beneficiaries:

- New beneficiaries to ensure the dissemination of good practices related to administrative and financial management and publicity requirements, from the start of the projects
- Beneficiaries receiving multiple public funding to avoid double-financing and clarify the rationale of any potential combination of funding sources in a single operation/project or administratively independent interventions regarding a single policy target.
- Beneficiaries having committed irregularities in a previous programming period to put in place preventive measures and ensure vigilant monitoring.

When a collectivity is a beneficiary of a European funding, it will always be the officers of the European Affairs Unit (EAU...PAE<sup>9</sup> in French) who carry out the management verifications. The functional departments (« *services métiers* ») having submitted the funding application are considered as beneficiaries and as such must report on the progress, monitoring, evaluation, qualitative, quantitative, and financial implementation of the financed operations/projects. If the functional department has delegated the implementation of the financed operation to third parties, on-the-spot checks of these third parties can be carried out jointly by an officer of the EAU/PAE and an officer of the functional department.

When the collectivity is not the beneficiary but co-finances the operation/project with its own funds, the functional department concerned can be asked to contribute to the management verification through the collection of qualitative and quantitative information on the implementation of the operation and by participating in the on-the-spot checks. However, only the officer of the EAU/PAE will be authorised to

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<sup>9</sup> Poles Affaires Européennes.

establish the management verification confirmation.

In compliance with the legislation in force, the countries participating in the programme are responsible for notifying any irregularities detected and corrective and preventive measures taken to the European Commission, except for the cases specifically mentioned in the legislation for which a notification is not necessary. As a rule, the countries participating in the programme inform the managing authority of any type of irregularity detected by controls, as well as any corresponding preventive and corrective measures. Likewise, in the case of a financial correction imposed by the European Commission, the countries participating in the programme will inform the managing authority of the measures taken to ensure compliance and obtain the reimbursement of funds.

The managing authority is responsible vis-à-vis the European Commission for the reimbursement to the budget of the Union. The lead partners established in French Guiana will commit to ensuring the reimbursement of unduly paid funds to the managing authorities in all cases, including for the expenditure declared by their partners located in the Partner States.

The Audit Authority (*see the organisation chart of the CICC and the agreement with the MA in the appendices*) is responsible for carrying out systems audits and audits of operations (projects) to provide the Commission with independent assurance as to the effective functioning of the management and control systems and the legality and regularity of expenditure recorded in the accounts submitted to the European Commission. The audit work is carried out in accordance with internationally accepted auditing standards.

Recommendations and corrective measures may result from any type of control implemented under the programme, and the Joint Secretariat will inform the organisation in charge of the accounting function, the Audit Authority, and the participating States.

If following a control, it is concluded that funds have been unduly paid, due to an irregularity, the beneficiary must, upon request from the Managing Authority, reimburse the unduly paid amount to the Certifying Authority, according to the procedure defined in the project subsidy contract signed between the programme and the beneficiary. and the recovery procedure, which will be included in the description of the management and control system to be established in accordance with Article 69 of the CPR. If the Managing Authority fails in securing the repayment by the beneficiary, the participating country on whose territory the beneficiary (project partner) concerned is located, reimburses the Managing Authority the whole amount unduly paid to the beneficiary. Once the unduly paid amounts have been reimbursed to the Managing Authority, the latter will transfer these amounts to a dedicated supplementary Programme budget.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates, and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Table 10: Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates, and financing not linked to costs

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95	Yes	No
From its adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under priority according to Article 94 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
From its adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR (if yes, fill in Appendix 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Appendix 1

## A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific Objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the priority to which the simplified cost option will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of simplified cost option (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the simplified cost option
				Code (1)	Description	Code (2)	Description			

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I CPR

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.



Appendix 1

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums, or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums, or flat rates (who produced, collected, and recorded the data; where the data are stored; cut-off dates; validation, etc.):

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2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 88(2) of CPR is relevant to the type of operation:

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission:

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4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum, or flat rate:

5. Assessment of the audit authority or authorities of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection, and storage of data:

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## Appendix 2

### A. Summary of the main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific Objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Indicator		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary or beneficiaries
				Code (1)	Description		Code (2)	Description		

(1) This refers to the code for the intervention field dimension in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

B. Details by type of operation



Two potential projects have been identified as operations (projects) of strategic importance, a summary of these is presented below:

**Bio-Plateaux Phase 2: Creation of a Biodiversity Observatory (Promoting cross-border arrangements for water and biodiversity management)**

**Project lead partner:** The International Office for Water and the French Guiana Water Office

**Partners:** Ministry of Natural Resources (Suriname) and the Secretary of State for the Environment (Amapa State/Brazil)

**Description:** The project focuses on water resources and marine biodiversity and aims to strengthen the network of actors and researchers on an international scale via the creation of an observatory, the organisation of a 2nd international conference, and the continuation of exchanges on environmental DNA and the resilience of populations to the risk of flooding in pilot areas of the Maroni. Start planned for the first quarter of 2023.

**CUREMA Phase 2 (2023-2025) ‘Towards eliminating malaria in the region: New radical treatment strategy for hard-to-reach and mobile populations on the Guiana Shield’**

**Project lead partner:** Cayenne Hospital

**Project partners:** - The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation - Association for development, prevention, support, and cooperation (Oyapock) – The National Anti-Malaria Programme – the Oyapock Municipality (Amapa) – The Amapa Health Authorities (Brazil) – the SWOS Foundation (Suriname) - Institut Pasteur, Paris, and French Guiana – Ministries of Health, Brazil, Suriname, and Guyana – the Pan-American Health Organization. Supporting: French Guiana Health Authority (ARS) and French Guiana Santé publique France (French Guiana collectivity).

**Description:** The aim of the operation/project is to evaluate an action strategy based on technological innovation to eliminate malaria on the Guiana Shield. It is a continuation of the Malakit project (PCIA 2014-2020) and aims to optimise this self-diagnosis and self-treatment strategy for malaria by combining a specific module targeting reviviscent forms of malaria, particularly for isolated malarious areas. A rapid diagnosis will be offered to detect carriers of dormant forms of malaria at risk of recurrence with the identification of contra-indications using a simple blood test by fingertip sampling.

## DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document data	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Nouvelle carte de zone de coopération	Carte de la zone couverte par le programme	23 nov. 2022			Carte de la zone de coopération		