



“FRANCE RELANCE” RECOVERY PLAN OVERSEAS: THE STATE MUST GO FURTHER TO BETTER RESPOND TO LOCAL REALITIES

ESEC FOLLOW-UP OPINION - FEBRUARY 2022

In its opinion on the *Recovery Plan and its territorial application in the French overseas territories* of January 2021, the ESEC called for a real territorialisation via recovery plans, each with dedicated budgets and serving as release mechanisms for profound economic, social and environmental transformations. One year on, the ESEC notes that **the first stage of the plan has been successful**, with a budgetary promise kept, but with **responses that are too fragmented** to meet people’s needs. Territorialisation can be improved both in terms of its methods and its aims, and it will be difficult to achieve the objectives of ecological transition and social cohesion in particular.

1.89

BILLION EUROS

dedicated by the State, for territorialisation, 853 million euros of which have already been committed.

How can we go further in territorialisation, co-construction and experimentation?

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THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE AND

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDS AMOUNTS TO

4 BILLION EUROS, BROKEN DOWN AS

FOLLOWS:

- **1.4 billion** (Reunion), **886 million** (Martinique), **761 million** (Guadeloupe), **602 million** (Mayotte), **260 million** (Guyana)
- **54 million** (Wallis and Futuna), **29 million** (French Polynesia), **26 million** (New Caledonia)
- **43 million** (Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin)
- **13.7 million** (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon)



The ESEC presents **18 recommendations** to readjust the roll-out of the plan in the overseas territories in conjunction with local stakeholders and to provide urgent responses to the essential economic and social needs of each territory.



THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING DIALOGUE AND CO-CONSTRUCTION WITH THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

1 STRENGTHENING THE TERRITORIALISATION OF THE RECOVERY PLAN

- **INVOLVING THE TERRITORIES MORE IN DECISIONS AND EVALUATIONS TO IMPROVE THE RESPONSE TO THEIR NEEDS:**

Encouraging the State and local authorities to support experimentation by local actors, particularly those in the social and solidarity economy, to provide immediate, concrete responses to the essential needs of the most vulnerable populations.

- **CREATING SECTORS OF EXCELLENCE AND DEVELOPING TRAINING:**

The State and local authorities must define and implement a policy of **sectors of excellence specific to each territory**, through research, training, and support for innovative or transition industries.

Supporting the exit from the **state-backed loan (PGE)** and building a forward-looking management of jobs and skills.



- **URGENTLY ESTABLISHING TABLES OF EQUIVALENCE OF STANDARDS TO OVERSEAS TERRITORY SPECIFICS:**

Designating a coordinator to facilitate the preparation of applications and reduce structural difficulties and lack of engineering. Quickly help (by prefectural derogation/ESSOC Act) the territorial authorities to create, based on other countries close to the realities of the Overseas Territories, a **table of equivalence of applicable standards** (construction, processes, materials).

2 PROVIDING MORE SUPPORT FOR OVERSEAS BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT

- **IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC COMMITTEE FOR TOURISM IN ALL TERRITORIES:**

Create a **Strategic Tourism Committee** in the territories (the real spearhead of the



overseas territory economy) so that the stakeholders and governance bodies share a common vision and co-construct a **sustainable tourism** project of their own in a collective dynamic.



3 RESPONDING TO AN EXPLOSIVE SOCIAL SITUATION

- **FIGHTING POVERTY:**

Verifying the implementation of the “Strategy for preventing and combating poverty” in the 11 overseas collectivities.

Supporting the increase in social actions (municipalities and associations) by making the supplementary budgets approved accessible to all the overseas territories.



with priority given to education, health, security, and justice (by creating public service centres, strengthening territorial engineering, etc.). In order to **combat inequalities and guarantee everyone has access to their rights and public services**, this plan must be undertaken directly by the State for its sovereign missions and by the territorial authorities (by providing them with infrastructures and resources in line with their demographic evolution) for the transferred competences.



- **FACILITATING ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES:**

Urgently launching a plan to **make public services more accessible**,