

CREATION / RENOVATION / RECONSTRUCTION AID FOR CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED GUEST HOUSES OF SAINT-MARTIN 2018



CONTEXT

Guest Houses are accommodations of less than ten rooms intended for a passing clientele (Passage customers or guests or walk in client or occasional customers or what else ?) who makes a stay of a few days on the basis of a flat rental for the day, the week or the month and who does not elect domicile and offering at least a breakfast service each morning.

Saint-Martin had 17 Guest Houses before Irma, 12 of which were labeled following the adoption of a rating system for Guest Houses launched by the Collectivité de Saint-Martin in 2014.

Following the hurricane Irma in September 2017, the accommodation park of Saint-Martin has experienced significant material damage no longer allowing the normal reception of customers and maintenance of employment including Guest Houses.

Post Irma there were about 30 rooms available. In November 2018, there are 12 Guest Houses, 7 of which are classified and 5 are not for a total of 53 rooms.

The State, the managing authority of the European Regional Economic Development Fund (FEDER: Fonds Européens de Développement Economique Régional), launches in complementarity of the aid of 2,000 euros per room of the local Collectivité of Saint-Martin, for the renovation-rehabilitation of classified accommodation of « Guest Houses », a call for projects on the creation, renovation and reconstruction for this category of classified and unclassified accommodation.

1 – OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

This call for projects proposal aims to facilitate the creation, renovation and reconstruction of the classified and unclassified Guest Houses of the french side following hurricane IRMA and to support and encourage individual initiatives contributing to the development of an innovative offer and to improve the attractiveness of the destination Saint-Martin and attract a new clientele.

This aid is to provide direct support to these institutions through tangible and intangible investment support, helping to support the launch of new services and encouraging unclassified Guest Houses to open to a quality approach in connection with the territorial plan of development and tourist development of reconstruction 2017-2027 of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin. This aid should also allow to continue the effort to upgrade Guest Houses that are already classified.

2 – MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

2.1 – Project eligibility requirements

a) Geographic eligibility

The call for project proposals concerns the French side of Saint-Martin.

b) Temporal eligibility

Are eligible, projects for which works has not begun before the date of submission of the application for aid. By the beginning of works, it is important to understand that it is from the time of the initiation of construction related to the investment or from the first legally binding commitment imposing a firm order of equipment or any other commitment making the investment irrevocable.

Procuring approvals and carrying out feasibility studies are not considered as the initiation of works.

The project must be completed within two years following the allocation of the grant. This duration can be extended upon a motivated request by means of an amendment to the agreement of the aid.

This investment must be maintained for a period of three years from December 31st following the presentation of annual financial statements of the program from which expenses of the project are identified to the European commission. This condition shall not prevent the replacement of existing installations or equipment which has become outdated, damaged or faulty, provided the economic activity is retained within the fixed period referenced above.

c) Thematic eligibility

Projects must contribute to the creation, renovation and reconstruction of classified and unclassified Guest Houses by contributing to the renewal of the territory's tourist economy and the return and / or maintenance of employment while respecting the territorial scheme of tourism development. Projects must take into account the following points:

1. Integration of the concept of sustainable tourism
2. Balance between environmental aspects (preservation of landscapes and resources, management of waste, water and energy, etc.), economic aspects (creation of jobs and wealth, development of short circuits, ...) and socio-cultural aspects (preservation and awareness of culture, heritage and respect for the living environment)

3. Launch of innovative and modern high-end services and products that respect the environment

d) Eligibility of the project leader

May apply for this call for projects, as of tuesday, November 27, 2018, the classified and unclassified Guest Houses, within the meaning of the Code of Tourism in force in Saint-Martin, and not having benefited from a attributive decision of ERDF support for the 2014-2020 program during the last 12 months.

Remarks:

- the investment projects submitted under this call for projects can benefit from the co-financing of the aid provided by the Collectivité of Saint-Martin
- farmers and fishermen with plans to create Guest Houses or any other project that is part of a process to promote our destination through the enhancement of the territory, particularly through the enhancement of the rural world, the natural area and sustainable development (ecotourism), heritage, local products (agrotourism, ecotourism) will have to get closer to the LEADER Local Action Group, managed by the Territorial Community of Saint-Martin, to benefit from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

e) Eligibility of expenses

To be eligible, the expenses must be included in the project financing plan and be directly related to the project and necessary for its implementation. In addition, the expenses must belong to one of the categories of expenses below :

- Material investments (acquisition of equipment and materials for the modernization of the tool or the development of new products and / or services and building reconstruction works),
- Interior and exterior fittings, purchases of furniture and equipment,
- IT equipment related to the management of the establishment,
- Landscaping, purchase of plants,
- Intangible investments (installation costs, architect and expertise fees)

Are not eligible:

- overhead costs, staff costs;
- land acquisitions, real estate;
- Indirect costs of the project, ie costs that are not directly related to the project (Example: Applicant's current operating expenses)

2.2 How proposals will be evaluated

Each application that does not respect the recommended format, that is incomplete or fails to submit all documents specified in the subsidiary application form, will be declared inadmissible.

a) The selection committee

Selection of projects will be carried out by a selection committee of the call for project proposals foreseen by order n°2017-17, of May 15th 2017, on the organization of the procedure for the selection of files within the framework of calls for project proposals requesting European funds. The selection committee shall be responsible to examine completed applications with respect to the selection criteria specified in the next point. For every selection criteria, the selection committee attributes a score in accordance with the evaluation grid (see annex 1) through this call for project proposals. The score is attributed based on the sum of scores accredited to each criteria.

b) The criteria selection

Projects responding the eligible conditions mentioned in point 2.1. will be analyzed by the selection committee, who proceeds to analyze the projects based on the following selection

criteria :

- Relevance of the project to the objectives set by local government's tourism development and reconstruction policy for the 2017-2027 period
- Financial capacity of an operator to ensure that they can advance costs pending reimbursement of the ERDF ;
- Capacity of operator to implement necessary resources to ensure sound human and administrative financial management of the ERDF;
- Project quality based on the upscale nature concerning innovative architectural designs, high quality of services and respect to environmental and sustainable development issues, particularly regarding a frugal management of water, waste management and or energy consumption;
- Potential sustainability and economic impact of the project (financial sources, expected impact, number of potential jobs created and or maintained etc....);
- Innovative character of the project that is different from the existing methodology, aims and or effects, capitalizing on lessons learnt from hurricane Irma.

c) Selection method

The following method will be used to score projects and select proposals. 0, 1, or 2 points will be given to a project proposal for each selection criteria, knowing that:

- 2 points will be attributed if the project proposal responds directly to the priority or to the criteria.

- 1 point will be awarded if the project proposal responds indirectly.
- 0 point if the project does not respond at all.

Projects will be ranked by the selection committee on the basis of the overall scores obtained.

The project proposals that can be considered eligible for financial aid are those that achieves a global score of at least six (6) out of a possible total of twelve (12) points. Projects will be retained by decision of the European Regional Executive Unique Committee.

Beforehand, a meeting which is intended to analyze proposals received with regards to the priorities of potential project financiers, will be organized with all of the state's services and those of the Collectivity of Saint Martin to give a recommendation..

2. 3 – Financing modalities and the allocation of the ERDF aid

Projects could be approved by the ERDF provided they satisfy the requirements laid down in the State ERDF/ESF Operational program for Guadeloupe and Saint-Martin on the 2014-2020 programming period are met, and in particular, achievement of the goals of measure 9 « To promote innovation and competitiveness of businesses in support of economic development and employment ».

a) Overall amount available for this call for project proposals

The indicative sum of the ERDF aid mobilized for the call for project proposals amounts to one million euros.

b) Assistance rate

The maximum co-financing rate of the ERDF is set at 60% of the total cost and this not exceeding the maximum rate of public support with regards to the state's aid regime of 80%.

c) The amount of assistance

The minimum amount of support is limited to 20 000 euros per project.

The maximum amount of support is limited to 100 000 euros per project.

d) Modalities for disbursing the ERDR aid

The ERDF aid will be given in the form of an investment grant disbursed by reimbursements of\$ eligible expenditure actually incurred and paid by the beneficiary (they must have actually been paid and cleared in the accounts) during the period in which the project is executed, following the presentation of supporting evidence for costs incurred.

An advance of maximum 35% may be given on proof of initiation of works for the co-financed operation.

Payments: Payments up to 60% of the maximum estimated European amount of co-financing may be allocated, by justifying evidence of costs incurred up to 80% of the operation's total

eligible costs. In that case, the beneficiary shall produce a certified and itemized listing that is accurate, based on expenditure incurred for the selected project, accompanied by a declaration of expenditure and the supporting documents to that declaration. The cumulative amount of the advance and the payments may not exceed 80% of the community grant.

e) The commitments of the beneficiary in regards to ERDF assistance

The recipient of ERDF aid, agrees to respect and adhere to all specific rules associated with the co-financing of European funds and to submit to all technical, financial and administrative controls directly linked to the operation, including within its accounting, done by the services of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin, by the managing authority and by all authority commissioned by the State or by the inspection corps and national or European controls.

f) The obligations of communication on the allocated European aid

The beneficiary must mention the participation of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin and the European Union for all communication and promotional campaigns linked to the project after it has been selected. The information pertaining to this support shall use this mention « project cofinanced by the Collectivity of Saint-Martin and the European Union» and must also use the logos.

The Collectivité of Saint-Martin, competent in local government tourism policies, could also communicate on the co-financed project.

3 – THE TIME SCHEDULE THE CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

The present call for project proposals is opened from tuesday november 27th, 2018.

It will be closed for applications on friday january 5th, 2019 at 1:00 PM, deadline to submit proposals.

4 – CANDIDACY DOSSIER

The candidacy's file used for this project proposal is the EDRF grant application file of Saint-Martin, programming period 2014-2020.

The present call for project proposals and the grant application file can be downloaded from the internet site of the Préfecture: <http://www.saint-barth-saint-martin.pref.gouv.fr/> and the Collectivité of Saint-Martin: www.com-saint-martin.fr

The grant application file must be accompanied by:

- A letter of candidacy addressed to the Préfète déléguée Saint-Barthélemy et SaintMartin
- The application form duly completed and signed
- All documents requested on application form

6 – THE FILE MUST BE COMPLETED TO BE EXAMINED

Submission of grant application

The application must be submitted or sent in an envelope with two PRINTED copies and also a digital version on a USB key (containing the same documents in a PDF version), mentioning the title of the call for project in the mailing to the following address

Madame la Préfète déléguée de Saint-Barthélemy et de Saint-Martin

Candidacy for the call of project proposals :

« Creation / Renovation / Reconstruction aid for classified and unclassified Guest Houses of Saint-Martin »

Service de la coopération régionale,
des fonds européens et des politiques contractuelles

23, rue de Spring - Concordia

97150 SAINT-MARTIN

Deadline for presenting applications : January 4th, 2019 at 1:00 PM.

Postmarked or attested by a receipt at the préfecture on or before the deadline date. All incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline will be declared ineligible.

When an application for aid is received, the examining service of the prefecture of Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin addresses an acknowledgement receipt to the candidate authorizing him/her to initiate the works; this authorization does not guarantee the project's eligibility nor the financing of the project.

It is highly advisable to read the provisions formulated in the acknowledgement receipt.

For further information please contact:

Préfecture de Saint-Barthélemy et de Saint-Martin - Service de la coopération régionale, des
fonds européens et de la politique contractuelle - Tel : 05 90 52 30 87 / 05 90 52 30 50

feder-tourisme@saint-barth-saint-martin.gouv.fr

and the

Collectivité territoriale de Saint-Martin - Direction du tourisme - Stéphanie BESSIERE

Tel : 06 90 35 54 72

stephanie.Bessiere@com-saint-martin.fr

7Annex 1: Scoring Grid

Selection Criteria Point attributed Observations

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Relevance of the project to the objectives set by local government's tourism development and reconstruction policy for the 2017-2027 period

Financial capacity of an operator to ensure that they can advance costs pending reimbursement of the ERDF

Capacity of operator to implement necessary resources to ensure sound human and administrative financial management of the ERDF

Project quality based on the upscale nature concerning innovative architectural designs, high quality of services and respect to environmental and sustainable development issues, particularly regarding a frugal management of water, waste management and or energy consumption

Potential sustainability and economic impact of the project (financial sources, expected impact, number of potential jobs created and or maintained etc...)

Innovative character of the project that is different from the existing methodology, aims and or effects, capitalizing on lessons learnt from hurricane Irma

Final score