Regional policies

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
The Region spends 23% of its budget on high schools and training, which are its main responsibilities, 27% on lifelong learning and 9% on apprenticeship. In 2005 and 2006, following the decentralisation of competencies, the Region took responsibility for health and social training and the management of customer service and maintenance staff in high schools. With 153,000 high school students and 17,000 apprentices, the Region is innovating to create the best possible teaching conditions and to open up access to training.

TRANSPORT
The Region supervises the regional rail network and the "TER" (Regional Express Rail Network) alongside French Railways. 24% of the regional budget is spent in this area. By buying new trains, redeveloping stations, setting specific fares and increasing by 60% the number of trains on the network, the Region is investing in the development of the regional express train in order to increase people’s mobility by means of a modern transport system which provides an alternative to car.

SPATIAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL PLANNING
The future of the Nord-Pas de Calais depends on the ambitious and harmonious development of the whole region. The new regional town and country planning and development scheme set out the guiding principles for action by 2020: promoting regional public interest, developing public services, modernising regional public action and enforcing sustainable development. The regional policy features major projects: the opening of a new branch of the Louvre museum at Lens, the roll-out of the regional express train and the completion of the railway tests for the "i-Trans" global competitiveness clusters.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The ambition of the Nord-Pas de Calais region is to become a major European economic region. The Region has set itself the following priorities: supporting the creation and development of economic activities, structuring the region around centers of economic excellence, prioritising innovation and the promotion of basic research, fostering foresight, rethinking its international economic commitments, mobilising and coordinating financial tools, making broadband Internet universally available, supporting local development and consolidating solidarity with employees affected by restructuring.
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
Since the 1990s, the Region has been working towards an interdependent information society. It is a pioneer in the area since it has created 175 cyber centers to introduce local people to new technologies. It works to provide broadband access throughout the region, supporting teaching initiatives which make use of the potential of new technologies and building network use in research and higher education, health and culture.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
The Region provides its support to two leading sectors in the Nord-Pas de Calais: agriculture and fisheries. When it comes to agriculture, action is taken in the field of farming maintenance and development programme by promoting agricultural diversity while respecting the environment, and consolidating its position in regional markets and markets throughout Northern Europe in the context of Common Agricultural Policy reform. As far as fisheries are concerned, the Region undertakes far-reaching actions such as support to the modernisation of boats and promotion of regional resources.

RESEARCH
The Region has contributed to the creation and development of laboratories in the Nord-Pas de Calais, and to the emergence of regional research centres of national standing by bringing together university, laboratory and industrial figures in the framework of structured projects in state-of-the-art sectors. The Region currently consolidates these centres of competitiveness and excellence, including the “i-Trans” cluster. It ensures that its researchers are mobile, by providing assistance and contributing to technology transfer and supporting innovation by creating new centres and platforms.

HEALTH
Health indicators are still a source of concern in the Nord-Pas de Calais, and the Region works to improve public health in the region. It takes part on three actions: the fight against cancer, health and the environment, and supply of and access to healthcare. The Region thus demonstrates its desire to innovate in order to implement an effective public health policy able to unite all involved actors.
REGIONAL BUDGET

2008

Regional Programmes
1.9 billion Euros, with

- 86 M€ Culture
- 85 M€ Apprenticeship
- 371 M€ Infrastructures - Transport
- 227 M€ Professional Training
- 282 M€ Education

Revenues

- 25% Tax levy
- 22% Loans
- 4% Other revenues
- 36% State subsidies
- 13% Motor fuel tax

2007-2013

Nord-Pas de Calais European Funding

OP competitiveness

ERDF : € 700 M
ESF : € 380 M
EAFRD : € 46 M

ENVIRONMENT

The Region is today a recognised partner in environmental matters, in fields such as the preservation and promotion of bio-diversity, environmental quality, energy management and waste recycling. The Region still bears the scars of its industrial heritage and is committed to regenerate its landscape and further to demonstrate itself as a pioneer in the quest for real and shared sustainable development.

CULTURE

The Nord-Pas de Calais is the top French regional investor in culture. It boasts an exceptional cultural heritage: the biggest museum network in France, soon to be strengthened by the branch of the Louvre in Lens, numerous facilities, including some of international renown, such as the Lille National Orchestra and a vibrant artistic creation process supported by the Region. The Region also hosts major cultural events. Beside Lille2004 European capital of culture programme, the Region created “Cultural Belfries” in the framework of “Around Lille2004”, and then “Regional capital of culture”, an event which has been launched in 2007 and will be held every two years.
Main European infrastructures around Nord-Pas de Calais Region
The Nord-Pas de Calais, a region of diversity

A TEXTILE REGION
- The 2nd biggest technical textile region in France, with nearly 200 companies and 9,000 jobs
- A competitiveness centre: the Up-Tex (innovative textiles) cluster, which develops high-performance textiles for the future, used in transport, the automobile industry, medicine and health, industry, sports and leisure, protection and public civil engineering.
- A breeding ground for innovative business entrepreneurs: Innotex, the company behind Maisons de mode, in-town workshop boutiques which work with young fashion stylists.
- An “embroidery and lace” network, a centre of excellence in the areas around Cambrai and Calais, with a top-of-the-range specialization.

A REGION OF ECO-INNOVATION
- The Nord-Pas de Calais, a region boasting 450 eco-businesses specialising in soil treatment.
- A creation and development centre for eco-businesses: C2DE.
- The 1st French region to establish a resource centre for sustainable development (CRDS).
- A region in which numerous local initiatives are making real progress in sustainable development: a selective household waste recycling plant in Triselec; a waste recycling, reuse and regeneration plant in Hautain; the water borne transport of household waste in Lille; a sustainable development initiative in the town of Loss-on-Delede.
- An active support given to regional actions in the area of energy management.
- The creation of a professional solar energy network.

A REGION WITH A STRONG RAILWAY NETWORK
- A region which has doubled the number of regional express trains on its network in 30 years.
- The region of Thalys, Eurostar and TGV.
- The region of Regional High-Speed Trains, placing all the big towns in the region at less than an hour from the regional capital.
- France’s leading railways industry, with 30% of national activity and 3 world-leading companies in the Valenciennes area.
- A sector structured around “i-Trans, Railways at the heart of Innovative Transport Systems”, a competitiveness centre with a global outlook.

A REGION OF HEALTH PREVENTION
- A strong policy of health promotion, in the face of areas of excess mortality.
- A programme centred on the fight against cancer, improvement of patient care, financing of heavy or high health risk analyses.
- A support network for Orphan Diseases (Eurohealth) centre based at Lille university hospital site.
- A flagship region for the Pasteur Institute in (Eurohealth) centre based at Lille university hospital site.
- A region in which numerous local initiatives are making real progress in sustainable development: a selective household waste recycling plant in Triselec; a waste recycling, reuse and regeneration plant in Halluin; the water borne transport of household waste in Lille; a sustainable development initiative in the town of Loos-en-Gohelle.
- An active support given to regional actions in the area of energy management.
- The creation of a professional solar energy network.

AN AGRO-FOOD BUSINESS REGION
- The 4th biggest region in France by number of employees: 28,000.
- 300 companies with more than 20 employees.
- The 2nd biggest French region in agro-food exports.
- Highly diverse food production: chicory, endives, etc.
- 2 centers of agro-industrial competitiveness: the fisheries competitiveness cluster in Boulogne-sur-Mer, a leader in the seafood sector; the Nutrition, Health and Longevity competitiveness cluster, which brings together world industry leaders and biological health researchers.

A LOGISTICS AND DISTRIBUTION REGION
- The leading European region for distance sales.
- A European concentration of leading companies.
- Nearly 40 distribution companies headquartered in the region.
- A competitiveness centre: distribution management.
- A strategic location at the heart of Europe.
A REGION OF ECONOMIC RECONVERSION AND OF BUSINESS CREATION

- 12,848 new business creations in 2007.
- The result of a unique system in France, bringing together regional, departmental and partnership initiatives: a regional programme of training support for entrepreneurs, a campaign fostering business creation and the opening of a regional information website: www.jecree.fr; management boutiques and business hives, etc.
- The leading French region for foreign business investment, with an economic promotion agency, NFX, linking up local facilities such as Dunkerque Promotion and APIM in Lille.
- The creation in the 1980s of powerful conversion tools such as the Min-Basin Investment Fund (FIBM) and Finorpa.

A REGION OF MOBILITY

- A region at 38 minutes from Brussels by TGV, 1 hour from Paris and 90 minutes from London.
- A region developing high quality short and long-stay tourism, with 38.4 million overnight stays in 2006.
- A region which has provided a practical and accessible Regional Express Train network to its residents, fully integrated with other inter-urban and urban public transport systems.
- The region home to the world's first entirely automatic metro, the VAL in Lille.
- A region which encourages its students to study abroad, through its Blériot international mobility grants.
- A region which also makes provisions for foreign researchers to work in its universities and has created 3 international chairs to welcome renowned researchers into its regional laboratories.

A REGION OF HEALTH PREVENTION

- A policy of health prevention, education and health, face to face with worrying statistics in the excess mortality, cancer and late consultation rates.
- The region working on three main plans: the fight against cancer (prevention, screening, improvement of patient care, research support and development of heavy equipment), environmental risk analyses, and health care improvement (supply and distribution).
- The region for biological health, with the UCCER (University Hospital Clinical Centre of Europe) a Centre based on Europe's largest hospital site, and more than 6000 doctors and 2000 researchers active in the sector.

A REGION OF SOLIDARITY

- A region which spends 1% of each policy budget on North/South cooperation.
- A programme of actions centred on economic development, education and health in Mali, Senegal, Morocco, central Vietnam and Madagascar.
- A region committed since 1991 to cooperation agreements with the Silesian Voivodeship in Poland, the original home of much of its Polish community.
- Support for interdependent projects based in countries around the world using the creation of a special designed financial tool, the regional aid fund for projects of cooperation and solidarity (SISA).
- The creation of a fund for local residents in the region to participate in the financings of micro-projects in their neighbourhoods, or linked projects.

A REGION OF DISTANCE SELLING

- A region for distance selling, with the highest concentration of companies and more than 200 firms, logistics headquarters of national and world leader management.
- A region for high performance logistics: main road and rail axes, Lesquin airport, Lille River port, and Calais and Dunkerque commercial ports.
- A recently built multimodal platform - Delta 3 - equipped with a combined rail/road/river transport terminal.
AN AGRICULTURAL REGION
• The biggest French regional producer of potatoes, endives, chicory, peas, chrysanthemums and dried beans.
• The 4th biggest French regional producer of wheat.
• 28,000 workers.
• 853,000 farmed hectares, and 2/3 of the region’s land area.
• A tradition of market gardening around Saint Omer.
• A region full of large, green open spaces, with little woodland (less than 8% of the land area), including 3 regional parks (Avesnois, Côte et Marais d’Opale and Scarpe Escaut).

A PARTNERSHIP REGION
• A partnership culture which has fostered the emergence of innovative and ambitious regional projects, in a tradition marked by friendly societies and cooperatives:
  - territorial contracts bringing together local authorities, the Region, the State and the Europe to work together to achieve development objectives;
  - the “Cultural Belfries” programme, encouraging cooperation between national and small local museums in order to put on major exhibitions in town halls;
  - public/private cultural partnerships: funding for “Lille2004”, European capital of culture, sponsorship for regional facilities such as Dunkerque’s Mining Museum, etc.
  - the creation of the BMU2005 association to obtain Unesco world heritage status for the Nord – Pas de Calais Coal Mining basin.

A REGION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
• A region heavily marked by its industrial past and committed from an early date to the regeneration of its landscape: the first regional national park was created in 1968, the “Industrial wasteland” policy was launched in 1982, the Public land institution (EPF) was created in 1990, the wind power network was set up in 1993, the polluted sites and soils skills centre was established in 1995, and so on.
• The first French Region to be given Agenda 21 status (a sustainable development project), followed by a development and support policy for local Agenda 21 projects.
• Exemplary regional actions in the field of sustainable development: High Environmental Quality constructions, the green and blue natural corridors (a programme for organic connections between ecosystems for the preservation of regional biodiversity), support for fair Trade, etc.

A YOUNG REGION
• The youngest French region, with 1.48 million under 25-year-olds.
• 200 state secondary schools and 74 private schools, 153,000 high school students,
• 17,000 apprentices.
• 7 universities, 25 specialised “grandes écoles” and 150,000 students.
• A region which is a veritable breeding ground for high-level sports people, with football training centres Lille, Lens – Liévin and Valenciennes FE-
• Two international-level athletics venues: the Stade de la Licorne at Lens and the regional indoor stadium at Liévin.

A MARITIME REGION
• 90 miles of coastline and the busiest strait in the world.
• An exceptional natural space featuring the White Nose capes: the Parc naturel régional du Cap d’Ail.
• A major port system: Dunkerque, an industrial French commercial port; Calais, Europe’s number one cross-channel tunnel departure point and Boulogne fishing port and Europe’s leading centre for the processing and commercialisation of seafood produce there.

AN AGRICULTURAL REGION
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AN URBAN REGION

- The 3rd most populous French region, with 4 million people and a density of 322 inhabitants per km², in line with the Northern European average.
- A Nord-Pas de Calais residents out of 5 live in urban areas.
- A regional capital city of 1.4 million French inhabitants clustered around the Lille Urban Community and 8 urban areas of more than 100,000 inhabitants.
- 35 years of proven urban regeneration know-how: the creation of the new town of Villeneuve d'Ascq, and the expertise and experience combined in the renewal/regeneration of Roubaix.

A BORDER REGION

- 228 miles of shared borders with Belgium.
- A continuous cross-border Franco-Belgian metropolis of 1.7 million inhabitants (Lille-Courtrai-Tournai).
- Daily population transfers enabled by the cross-border bus and RET links.
- A forthcoming Eurodistrict aimed at reducing the border effect and encouraging cross-border transport cooperation, the green and blue corridor, water resource management, and so on.
- A major import/export region whose borders are crossed by significant North-South traffic, particularly from Rotterdam and Antwerp, and which has developed highly competitive customs procedures.

AN INDUSTRIAL REGION

- The 3rd biggest French industrial region, with more than 263,000 workers and 13,500 companies.
- 19% of the regional active population works in industry, and 66% in the tertiary sector.
- The 2nd biggest French car-producing region, with 4 manufacturers and an extremely dense network of equipment manufacturers and sub-contractors, providing a total of 55,000 jobs.
- France’s leading region for metallurgy and metal processing, with 37,500 employees.
- A world leader in household and industrial glassware, with 25% of the national workforce.

A MULTICULTURAL REGION

- A historic regional melting pot, as its architectural and military heritage bears witness to.
- A region where populations have long inter-mingled, with successive waves of immigration satisfying industrial needs from Belgium, Italy, Poland and North Africa, from 1910 to the 1970s.
- An innovative region, transforming industrial and public buildings into cultural sites: Culture Commune company in the mining basin, “La Piscine” museum in Roubaix, the Calais Channel, the FILMDF National Studio of Contemporary Arts in Tourcoing, and so on.
- A region of cultural events, such as Lille2004, European capital of culture, and Bombaysers de Lille 3000, an event with an international focus.