

## Answers to your questions to the Brussels' Office

### You want to prepare a European project and to optimize the chances of success?

The Brussels Office of the Picardie Region can support and guide you every step of the way.

Indeed, the EU has launched a range of thematic programmes for the period 2007-2013, focussing on various themes (environment, economy, education, culture, research, training...). The funding of these projects shapes the financial instruments in the application of these European policies. They are the subject of calls for proposals which follow specific eligibility rules and criteria.

The Brussels Office identifies for you these various funding opportunities, and provides you with technical support, including the identification of suitable European partners, as well as expert advice, such as with the completion of application forms for example.

In addition to these European grants, the Picardie regional Council also provides substantial financial support.



**100 billion Euros dedicated to thematic funding programmes**

For more information:  
**[www.picardie.fr](http://www.picardie.fr)**

(Sections : « Vivre et se déplacer - international - Coopération européenne - Programmes européens »)

### How to find us?

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Further information about Europe in Picardie on:  
**[www.picardie-europe.fr](http://www.picardie-europe.fr)**



European parliament

### A team at your service

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PICARDIE

Innovating for our future



The Picardie Brussels' Office to the European Union  
**A bridge between the Region and Europe**

## EDITO

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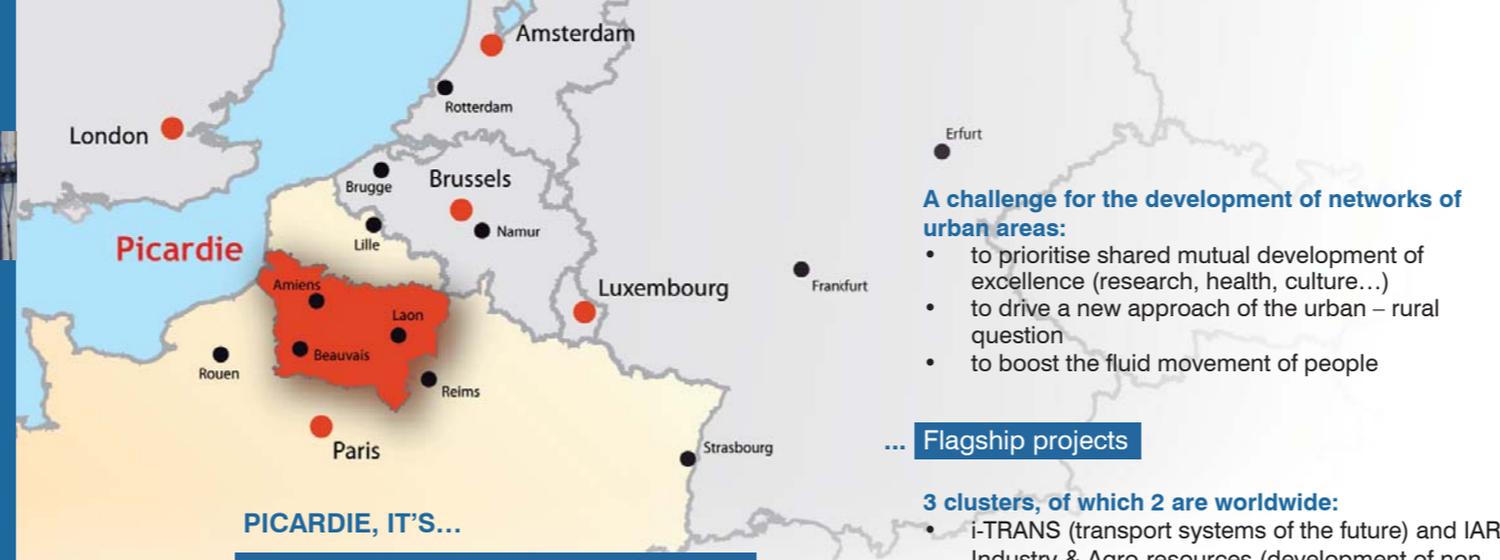
A major part of the future of Picardie and its territories is at stake today in Brussels and Picardie's active involvement in European institutions is more legitimate than ever.

Picardie is located in the very heart of Western Europe, in close proximity to the key economic centres of London and Paris, and also to Brussels, the political centre of the European Union. Picardie must make its voice heard and keep its inhabitants informed about current and future European perspectives. Thanks to dynamism of its citizens and the richness of the various territories that make up the region, Picardie is in the forefront of many economic and scientific fields and actively involved in the very heart of European policy making.

**Picardie must play an active and leading role in the construction of Europe.**

Thanks to the central role played by the Regional Council, the numerous contributors to Picardie's economic and cultural life can directly benefit from European structural funds and the numerous thematic funding programmes. It is difficult to be exhaustive in this area, but the Interreg programme, for example, has allowed an unprecedented development of cross-border cooperation with Belgium and the United-Kingdom. More and more secondary school pupils and higher education students from Picardie benefit from financial grants for exchanges, periods of study or work experience abroad.

The Picardie EU Office in Brussels, revived in 2007, plays a key role in a European community undergoing radical transformation, and constantly enlarging the range of opportunities. Its role as a centre of information, in anticipating and reacting to European policies, in providing support, advice and active involvement in the full range of European programmes and in maintaining a dialogue with community authorities, is, and will remain, of vital importance.



### PICARDIE, IT'S...

... A preserved region in the heart of a densely populated Europe

- an attractive location between two highly urbanised regions
- strong industrial and agricultural industries
- a network of small and medium cities

... With strong challenges

#### An opening challenge:

- to play an active role in networks and to develop exchanges
- to reinforce the role as an interface at the crossroads of East-West / North-South cross European movements
- to support emerging steps towards interregionality and to strengthen the visibility of Picardie

### A challenge for the development of networks of urban areas:

- to prioritise shared mutual development of excellence (research, health, culture...)
- to drive a new approach of the urban – rural question
- to boost the fluid movement of people

... Flagship projects

#### 3 clusters, of which 2 are worldwide:

- i-TRANS (transport systems of the future) and IAR Industry & Agro-resources (development of non alimentary vegetal)
- UP-TEX (advanced textile materials).

... And an ability to work in partnership through various networks

- Arc Manche Regions Assembly
- Conference of the « Bassin parisien » Regions (Paris Basin area)
- Cooperation with the Free State of Thuringia (Germany) and the Region of Trenčín (Slovakia)
- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- Assembly of European Regions (AER)
- French Association of the Council for European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE)

Whether it concerns transport, research, innovation, education and training, common agricultural policy or even culture, Picardie's future is also at stake today in Brussels.

That is why, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007, the Picardie Region has established a European office ideally located at the heart of the European district of Brussels.

### MISSION STATEMENT

- to monitor the major European policies and to inform and increase awareness about their evolution, allowing the Region to better anticipate the impact of their mutations on the Regional economy and life,
- to provide support before, during and after the submission of a grant request to the European Commission services,
- to play an intermediary role between the Regional and the European institutions, thereby serving the elected Regional representatives, the Regional administration and its' representatives,
- to ensure the promotion of the specific interests of the Picardie Region, thanks to bilateral contacts with the European institutions, through networks gathering together all those with common interests and also via working together with partner regions in existing partnerships.

### DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES

- ongoing dialogue with the Picardie Regional administration and with colleagues from other Regional institutions concerning current regional projects and the diffusion of information about current or future European policies,
- providing assistance to project leaders from Picardie in their European undertakings,
- participation in information days concerning Calls For Proposals for the various European programmes,
- participation in working groups in cooperation with the Brussels' Offices of other French or European regions on ongoing and / or current major themes,
- participation in European institution working commissions,
- setting-up meetings between elected representatives, project leaders from Picardie and representatives from the appropriate European institutions.

« Flax plant, subject to value-enhancing within the Agro-Resources cluster »