

SUBLIME SDGs

REGIONAL MAPPING

Stakeholders, Challenges & Opportunities

The Coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais, France



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Glossary

ABF: ARCHITECTS OF THE BUILDINGS OF FRANCE
AMAP: ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SMALL-SCALE FARMING
ANCT: NATIONAL AGENCY FOR TERRITORIAL COHESION
ANRU: NATIONAL AGENCY FOR URBAN RENEWAL
ARS: REGIONAL HEALTH AGENCY
CA2BM: URBAN COMMUNITY OF THE TWO BAYS IN MONTREUILLOIS
CAB: COMMUNAUTÉ D'AGGLOMÉRATION DU BOULONNAIS
CAGTM: COMMUNAUTÉ D'AGGLOMÉRATION GRAND CALAIS TERRES ET MERS
CCRA: COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES DE LA RÉGION D'AUDRUICQ
CCT2C: COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES DE LA TERRE DES DEUX CAPS
CESE: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
CIDFF: INFORMATION CENTER ON WOMEN'S AND FAMILY RIGHTS
CLS: LOCAL HEALTH CONTRACT
CMUA: URBAN MEMORY CENTER OF THE DUNKIRK METROPOLITAN AREA
CNIS: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION
CUD: URBAN COMMUNITY OF DUNKIRK
ECM: EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
ESD: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EUCA: EUROPEAN UNION CUSTOMS AUTHORITY
EVARS: EDUCATION ON EMOTIONAL, RELATIONAL, AND SEXUAL LIFE
FRCPM: REGIONAL FEDERATION FOR MARITIME CULTURE AND HERITAGE
EGTC: EUROPEAN GROUPING OF TERRITORIAL COOPERATION
HDI-4: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX
INSEE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC STUDIES
LDH: LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
LTECV: LAW ON ENERGY TRANSITION FOR GREEN GROWTH
SDGs: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
OEPRE: "OPENING SCHOOLS TO PARENTS FOR CHILDREN'S SUCCESS" PROGRAM
OFB: FRENCH OFFICE FOR BIODIVERSITY
OQTF: OBLIGATION TO LEAVE FRENCH TERRITORY
PAT: TERRITORIAL FOOD PROJECT
PCAET: TERRITORIAL CLIMATE, AIR, AND ENERGY PLANS
PLU: LOCAL URBAN PLANNING PLANS
PMCO: OPAL COAST METROPOLITAN CLUSTER
PNACC: NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN
PNIEC: NATIONAL INTEGRATED ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN
PNR: REGIONAL NATURE PARK
PPE: MULTI-YEAR ENERGY PROGRAM
PPRL: COASTAL RISK PREVENTION PLAN
PPRN: NATURAL RISK PREVENTION PLAN
RWC: REFUGEE WOMEN'S CENTER
SCoT: TERRITORIAL COHERENCE SCHEMES
SDES: DATA AND STATISTICAL STUDIES SERVICE
SGPE: GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR ECOLOGICAL PLANNING
SNBC: NATIONAL LOW-CARBON STRATEGY
SRADDET: REGIONAL PLANS FOR LAND USE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND TERRITORIAL EQUALITY
TRACC: REFERENCE WARMING TRAJECTORY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
ULCO: UNIVERSITÉ LITTORALE DE LA CÔTE D'OPALE
VSS: GENDER-BASED OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE
ZEP: PRIORITY EDUCATION ZONE



PART I

Mapping the 2030 Agenda



Fiche 1: Mapping the progress of France in implementing the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development on September 25, 2015, has been gradually integrated into France's national planning¹. On February 6, 2020, France's Roadmap for the 2030 Agenda was presented to the members of the National Council for Ecological Transition. It currently constitutes France's national sustainable development strategy and succeeds the previous national strategy for ecological transition toward sustainable development (2015-2020)². Although the national roadmap aims to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into regional dynamics, this is not a requirement. Certain civil society and institutional actors are taking action by developing guides that facilitate the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by French local authorities.

In 2020, as part of the European Green Deal, France developed an Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (PNIEC), a merger of the Multi-Year Energy Program (PPE) and the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC), which sets climate and energy targets for France to be achieved by 2035 and 2050³. At the same time, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PNACC), last updated in 2024, is becoming increasingly operational, notably thanks to the establishment of the reference warming trajectory for climate change adaptation (TRACC) by the decree of January 23, 2026, which provides for adaptation measures in response to a projected temperature increase of +4°C by 2100 in metropolitan France, compared to pre-industrial levels. These various plans have implications for government strategies by sector, notably with the development of the national strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

France's territorial organization is divided into five levels of governance, each with specific responsibilities: the State, the Region, the Department, the EPCIs (intermunicipal communities), and the municipalities. Regions and EPCIs with more than 20,000 residents are required to develop an environmental strategy (through the Regional Plans for Land Use, Sustainable Development, and Territorial Equality (SRADDET) and the Territorial Climate, Air, and Energy Plans (PCAET), respectively). However, these documents do not explicitly link to the SDGs. Under the French Constitution, local authorities have the freedom "to exist" and "to act," which can sometimes complicate the alignment of public policies and actions. While ministries must ensure a balance between their policies and equitable development across territories, inequalities (particularly in economic development) are primarily addressed by national thematic agencies such as the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) for rural areas or the National Agency for Urban Renewal (ANRU) on urban renewal issues, etc.

In the SDG Index 2025 ranking, which aggregates country-level results on SDG achievement based on multiple indicators, **France scores 83.14 out of 100, placing it 5th out of 167 countries assessed**⁴. However, this strong ranking masks disparities in progress across the sustainable development goals: while real progress has been made on SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), delays persist, with a substantial number of indicators showing a decline (28.2% of all variables studied by this index are declining)⁵.

- **SDG 1 (No Poverty)** is the only SDG already achieved by France, although 9.2 million people still lived below the monetary poverty line in 2019. A report by the Observatory of Inequalities determines that social background (parents' social class) is the factor that most widens income

¹ *Agenda 2030 : Les objectifs du développement durable | La préfecture et les services de l'État en région Bourgogne-
Franche-Comté.* (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/bourgogne-franche-comte/Grands-dossiers/Agenda-2030-les-objectifs-du-developpement-durable>

² France, L. 2030 en. (2020, february 28). *Bilan de la Stratégie nationale de transition écologique vers un développement durable 2015-2020.* L'Agenda 2030 en France. <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/a-la-une/actualites-a-la-une/article/bilan-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-transition-ecologique-vers-un-developpement>

³ *Le Pacte vert en France—Représentation en France—Commission européenne.* (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at https://france.representation.ec.europa.eu/strategie-et-priorites/les-politiques-cles-pour-la-france/le-pacte-vert-en-france_fr

⁴ France profil on the website *Sustainable Development Report 2025.* (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/france/>

⁵ Ibid.



inequality, ahead of gender, place of residence during childhood and adolescence, and migrant background⁶.

- Regarding **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, it should be noted that, while France does not face issues of undernutrition, it still encounters difficulties in promoting a diet with less meat and agriculture that is less intensive in nitrogen fertilizers⁷.
- Progress is also needed to achieve **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)**, particularly regarding inequalities among socio-professional groups and regions, as well as issues related to personal fulfillment, mental health, and sexual health⁸. The number of schools committed to a sustainable development approach is increasing (24% of schools are certified as “Schools or Institutions with a Comprehensive Sustainable Development Approach”), but further efforts are needed to achieve **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and reverse the trend of declining reading and math scores among French students⁹.
- Regarding **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, all indicators are positive; significant efforts are being made at the national and local levels to establish minimum quotas for women’s representation on the governing bodies of large companies and local governments. However, a 14% gender pay gap persists, and sexual violence is on the rise, due to efforts to identify and support victims, which has led to an increase in the number of reports^{10 11}.

France’s progress toward the goals related to water (**SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation**) and energy (**SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy**) is moving in the right direction, though it remains insufficient. These SDGs address challenges related to combating rising economic insecurity and ensuring access to essential resources among the French population, particularly due to climate change (longer periods of drought, for example) and geopolitical tensions (supply disruptions and rising energy costs).

- France is well-positioned with regard to **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, but still needs to make further efforts, particularly regarding access to employment for young people (ages 15-24). In fact, in 2023, 10.5% of them were neither employed nor in school or training¹².
- Delays also persist regarding **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, with rising income and wealth inequalities and persistent regional disparities, particularly between metropolitan France and its overseas territories¹³.
- Regarding **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, while air quality has improved in recent years in French urban centers, significant efforts are still needed, particularly regarding land sealing (the rate of sealed land rose from 9.1% in 2017 to 9.5% in 2022) and waste recovery¹⁴.
- Progress toward **SDGs 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** and **13 (Climate Action)** is unsatisfactory: although results are improving and CO₂eq emissions are decreasing (-16.5% from 2018 to 2023, per capita), the overall trajectory remains insufficient to meet all the targets set in

⁶ *Revenus : L’origine sociale, facteur numéro un des inégalités*. (s. d.). Observatoire des inégalités. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.inegalites.fr/Revenus-l-origine-sociale-facteur-numero-un-des-inegalites>

⁷ Profil de la France sur le site *Sustainable Development Report 2025*. op. cit.

⁸ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD 3*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=3>

⁹ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD 4*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=4>

¹⁰ *Revenus : L’origine sociale, facteur numéro un des inégalités*. (s. d.). op. cit.

¹¹ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD3*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=5>

¹² *ODD 8—Travail décent et croissance durable*. (s. d.). Pacte mondial de l’ONU - Réseau France. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://pactemondial.org/17-objectifs-developpement-durable/odd-8-travail-decent-et-croissance-durable/>

¹³ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD 10*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=10>

¹⁴ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD 11*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=11>



the 2030 Agenda for these goals¹⁵. National commitments have been made regarding the implementation of measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change (PNACC, SNBC, PPE), as well as to combat waste and promote a circular economy (AGEC Act of 2020). The implementation of these regulations at the regional and local levels promotes, in the short and medium term, the adoption of actions in favor of sustainable lifestyles, as close as possible to the people.

- Educational efforts on environmental and climate issues, in collaboration with the media and opinion leaders, have made climate change one of the top concerns for the French people¹⁶. More generally, France must also pay particular attention to all of its imports, which are associated with significant social and environmental impacts (workplace accidents, water consumption, greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions, etc.).
- Regarding Target 14 of **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**, the coherence (and monitoring) of environmentally focused policies, as well as the mobilization of ministries and stakeholders, is ensured by the General Secretariat for Ecological Planning (SGPE), which is an interministerial government entity¹⁷. Bilateral official development assistance has been steadily increasing since 2017, demonstrating France's commitment to achieving global goals¹⁸.

France's latest Voluntary National Review was presented in July 2023, with the previous one dating back to 2016¹⁹. This is a voluntary presentation and evaluation process of progress made at the national level in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Progress has been measured across the six pillars of the national roadmap for the 2030 Agenda²⁰. Regarding the monitoring and territorialization of the goals, various national bodies produce annual sets of territorialized indicators to facilitate their implementation at the local government level. A dashboard of 98 indicators was proposed by the CNIS (National Council for Statistical Information), with data updated annually by INSEE (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies) and the SDES (Data and Statistical Studies Service)²¹. However, the Hauts-de-France Region, where the study area is located, has not produced a report on regional SDG indicators. One of the few sources on this region's progress toward the various SDGs shows only results below the national average for SDGs 1 (poverty rate), 3 (life expectancy), 5 (women senators), 9 (commuting by public transit), 11 (rate of land cover), and 13 (air pollution episodes)²².

¹⁵ 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l'Agenda 2030 – ODD 13*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=13>

¹⁶ *Ce qui préoccupe les Français—September 2025 | Ipsos*. (2025, september 30). <https://www.ipsos.com/fr-fr/ce-qui-preoccupe-les-francais>

¹⁷ *Le Secrétariat général à la planification écologique (SGPE)*. (s. d.). info.gouv.fr. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.info.gouv.fr/organisation/le-secretariat-general-a-la-planification-ecologique-sgpe>

¹⁸ Dernières données datant de 2022. 2024—*Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l'Agenda 2030 – ODD 17*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=17>

¹⁹ *Revue Nationale Volontaire 2023*. (s. d.). Pacte mondial de l'ONU - Réseau France. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://pactemondial.org/evenement/revue-nationale-volontaire-2023/>

²⁰ Commissariat général au développement durable & Délégation au développement durable (June 2023) *Revue Nationale Volontaire de la France 2017-2022* <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20France%20Report.pdf>

²¹ *Indicateurs nationaux de développement durable*. (s. d.). SDES | Statistique publique de l'énergie, des transports, du logement et de l'environnement. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/indicateurs-nationaux-de-developpement-durable>

²² Support de conférences web. *Les Objectifs de développement durable*. (2020) https://www.hauts-de-france.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/support_webconf_odd_4.nov.2020.pdf



Fiche 2: Nord and Pas-de-Calais coast profile - data and statistics

Political and Administrative Landscape

Located in the Hauts-de-France region, the coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais comprises six intermunicipal communities, spread across two departments: Nord (CUD) and Pas-de-Calais (CCRA, CAGCTM, CCT2C, CAB, CA2BM). This territory is organized around governance structures broader than the intermunicipal communities, particularly the Côte d’Opale Metropolitan Pole (PMCO), which also includes five inland intermunicipal communities (Communauté de Communes des Hauts de Flandres, Communauté d’Agglomération de Saint Omer, Communauté de Communes Pays Lumbres, Pays d’Opale Community of Communes, and Desvres-Samer Community of Communes). This body serves as a forum for dialogue and collaboration, particularly on environmental and land-use planning issues, with relatively few specific powers of its own.

Inter-municipal bodies	Governance (Genre ; Political party)	Positions (as of April 2, 2026).
Dunkirk Urban Community (CUD)	Patrice Vergriete (H ; Various centers) Bertrand Ringot (H ; “Partie socialiste”, Socialist Party)	President of the CUD and the PMCO, and Mayor of Dunkirk. Vice President of the CUD, Mayor of Gravelines, and responsible for water, maritime, and coastal issues within the PMCO.
Audruicq Region of Communes (CCRA)	Nicole Chevalier (F ; “Les Républicains”, The Republicans)	President of the CCRA, responsible for mobility and transportation within the PMCO
Grand Calais Terres et Mers Urban Community (CAGCTM)	Natacha Bouchart (F ; Various right)	President of the CAGCTM, Mayor of Calais, responsible for economic development within the PMCO, Vice President of the Hauts-de-France Regional Council
Terre des Deux Caps Community of Communes (CCT2C)	Francis Bouclet (H ; Unlabeled)	President of the CCT2C, Mayor of Saint-Inglevert, responsible for finance and fundraising within the PMCO
Boulonnais Urban Community (CAB)	Frédéric Cu villier (H ; “Partie socialiste”, Socialist Party)	President of the CAB, Mayor of Boulogne-sur-Mer, responsible for strategic studies and hospital cooperation within the PMCO
Deux Baies en Montreuillois Urban Community (CA2BM)	Daniel Fasquelle (H ; “Les Républicains”, The Republicans) Bruno Cousein (H ; “Les Républicains”, The Republicans)	Mayor of Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, Regional Councilor for Hauts-de-France, and responsible for higher education and research within the PMCO. President of the CA2BM, mayor of Berck, and responsible for tourism and demographics within the PMCO.

Pursuant to the law of May 21, 2025, all candidate slates submitted for municipal elections must be gender-balanced, with alternating male and female candidates. However, it is evident that leadership and executive



positions remain predominantly held by men: in the Hauts-de-France region, women account for 40% of those elected to municipal councils, 31% of first deputy mayors, and only 19% of mayors²³.

Demographic data

The six regions that make up the coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais have very different demographic characteristics.

With a total population of 519,657, there is a concentration of people in urban areas: **Dunkirk and Calais are the 5th and 6th most populous cities in Hauts-de-France**, with 87,013 and 67,585 residents, respectively²⁴. Boulogne-sur-Mer ranks 12th with 41,039 residents. Despite a very marked difference in population density between the regions (122.0 inhabitants/km² for the CCT2C versus 642.4 for the CUD), the coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais remains denser than the national average (121.1 inhabitants/km²).

Compared to other regions in Hauts-de-France, **the Nord and Pas-de-Calais coastline is experiencing an annual decline in its population associated with a negative net migration rate**, particularly in the CAGCTM (a 1.2% population loss from 2016 to 2022), with the exception of the CCRA and the CCT2C, which are recording a slightly positive change.

Furthermore, the coastal area is experiencing population aging at a rate higher than the regional average (proportion of men over 65: 15.9% on the coast, 14.3% in the region; proportion of women over 65: 21.3% on the coast, 19.3% in the region)²⁵. The Montreuil area, in particular, has 80 times more people over 65 than people under 20. Although the area is home to a relatively young population (with 18.5% of residents aged 12-25 in the CUD territory, the highest rate in France), demographic trends project a 20% decline in the number of 15- to 29-year-olds by 2050, compared to a regional average of -5%, due to the outflow of young working-age people and a decline in the birth rate over the past few decades²⁶. There are more women than men living in the urban centers along the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais, where women account for between 52% and 55% of the population²⁷.

Economic profile

Against the backdrop of post-World War II reconstruction, the 1960s saw the rise of the Dunkirk industrial and port complex, alongside the growth of industry, tourism, and coastal urbanization²⁸. Today, the Strait of Pas-de-Calais is the second-busiest strait in the world, accounting for 25% of global maritime traffic. In fact, port activities are essential to the local economy and benefit many sectors: industry, fishing, commerce, and tourism.

The coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais is an industrial region, particularly in the Dunkirk area and the CCT2C, which account for 7.7% and 8.1% of industrial jobs, respectively, compared to a national average of 6.3%. The Grand Port Maritime de Dunkerque is France's third-largest port by total traffic and the nation's leading port for rail freight.

The CUD region emits 16 million CO₂-eq and accounts for 21% of France's total industrial GHG emissions, due to high-emission industries such as steelmaking²⁹. Energy production is also a long-standing industry in the northern coastal region: the Gravelines nuclear power plant, the largest in Western Europe and one of the oldest in France (construction began in 1974, with the last reactors coming online in 1985), uses seawater for cooling. In 2019, it produced the equivalent of the annual electricity consumption of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais regions. The first onshore wind turbines were also installed in Dunkirk in the early 1990s,

²³ *Un maire sur cinq est une femme dans les Hauts-de-France : Avec 40,6 % d'élues aux conseils municipaux, la parité est encore loin.* (2026, february 26). France 3 Hauts-de-France. <https://france3-regions.franceinfo.fr/hauts-de-france/nord-0/lille/un-maire-sur-cinq-est-une-femme-dans-les-hauts-de-france-avec-40-6-d-elues-aux-conseils-municipaux-la-parite-est-encore-loin-3305466.html>

²⁴ INSEE (2024) *La population de la région Hauts-de-France demeure stable*—Insee Analyses Hauts-de-France—183. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/8312050>

²⁵ Despeyroux, Y ; Guinamard, B ; Marlier, G. (September 2020). *Le littoral des Hauts-de-France : des enjeux de complémentarités et de solidarités territoriales*. Repères Hauts-de-France. n°23. <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Rep%C3%A8res-HDF-n%C2%B023-Le-littoral-des-Hauts-de-France.pdf>

²⁶ Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque (February 2023) *Feuille de route jeunesse 2023-2026*. https://www.communaute-urbaine-dunkerque.fr/fileadmin/Cud/documents/Jeunesse/feuille_de_route_jeunesse_2023_2026.pdf

²⁷ *Ratio femmes / hommes | L'Observatoire des Territoires*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.observatoire-des-territoires.gouv.fr/ratio-femmes-hommes>

²⁸ Région académique Hauts-de-France ; Académies Amiens Lille. (october 2020) *Cahier numérique n°1 : Le littoral*. Collection Les lycées de la biodiversité. <https://www.enrx.fr/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TELECHARGER-le-cahier-LITTORAL.pdf>

²⁹ *Bassin dunkerquois : La décarbonation collective à l'étude | Energie Plus*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.energie-plus.com/bassin-dunkerquois-la-decarbonation-collective-letude>



and an offshore wind farm comprising 46 turbines is expected to be built 10 km from the shore by 2028. The Loon-Plage LNG terminal is the second largest in Europe (approximately 20% of the annual natural gas consumption for France and Belgium passes through it each year)³⁰. The gas terminal at the Port of Dunkirk also serves as an interconnection point for Europe’s gas networks, linking to platforms in the Norwegian North Sea. Furthermore, the region is committed to the research and development of innovative energy technologies such as green hydrogen, as part of the 2022-2027 regional roadmap “REV3—Transforming Hauts-de-France,” to address the challenges of energy, economic, and societal transitions³¹. It is notably within this framework that the Energy Cluster was established in Dunkirk and that the CUD was selected as a winner of the government’s “Territoire d’Innovation de Grande Ambition” program³².

The Regional Port of **Boulogne-sur-Mer is France’s and Europe’s leading fishing port in terms of its fishing fleet and is the European leader in seafood processing**³³. The share of jobs in fishing, forestry, and agriculture is higher in the CCRA and CCT2C regions than in the rest of the country (14.0%, 11.7%, and 4.9% of jobs, respectively, are in this sector). The 1960s saw the rise of industrial fishing and the seafood processing industry in the Boulogne region, notably with the development of the Aquimer Cluster. This sector has been severely impacted by Brexit, which has reduced the fishing grounds available to French fishermen, and is on the front lines of climate change impacts due to the decline in fish stocks.

The Nord-Pas-de-Calais coastline stretches 160 km and consists of various urbanized areas (38% of the Hauts-de-France coastal strip) and natural areas (35.3% of the Hauts-de-France coastal strip consists of dunes, cliffs, rocks, and estuaries)³⁴. In particular, the Aa Strait, in the Dunkirk region, is a polder—that is, an area of land below sea level—making it particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels associated with climate change. France has various environmental protection standards: terrestrial areas may have the status of Type 1 or 2 Natural Areas of Ecological, Faunistic, and Floristic Interest, and marine areas are also covered by the Birds and Habitats Directives, comprising the Natura 2000 sites of the Banc des Flandres (Dunkirk region), Cap Gris-Nez, the Ridens and hydraulic dunes of the Strait of Pas-de-Calais, and finally the Bay of Canche and the Three Estuaries Corridor.

Depending on the location and type of protected natural areas, different stakeholders are involved in their management and protection: coastal areas are notably protected by the Conservatoire du Littoral, terrestrial areas by various entities such as the Regional Nature Park (PNR) of the Caps and Marais d’Opale and the EDEN 62 joint association, and marine areas by the Picardy Estuaries and Opal Sea Marine Nature Park. In 2025, the Dunes of Flanders were awarded the “Grand Site de France” designation, which solidifies the area’s reputation for both environmental and tourism-related matters. Tourism plays a significant role in the residential landscape, particularly in the Montreuil area: 45.8% of housing units in the metropolitan area are second homes and vacation rentals³⁵. In Boulogne-sur-Mer, the Nausicaa National Marine Center, Europe’s largest aquarium, recorded a record number of visitors in 2018 with 900,000 visitors³⁶. This site generates significant tourism revenue while also serving as a tool for raising awareness of environmental issues among the local population.

When it comes to higher education and research, the main institution of higher learning on the coast is ULCO (Université Littorale de la Côte d’Opale). Its headquarters are in Dunkirk, but it operates across four campuses: Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer, and Saint-Omer, educating 10,400 students annually³⁷.

The northern coast shares a border with Belgium (specifically, the province of West Flanders, where the common language is Flemish). Connections with the United Kingdom and Ireland are also significant, via rail and road (the Channel Tunnel from Calais) and by sea (from Calais, which is France’s leading passenger port, and Dunkirk, with a ferry connection to Rosslare in Ireland). The town of Wissant is the closest to the

³⁰ Région académique Hauts-de-France ; Académies Amiens Lille. (october 2020) *op. cit.*

³¹ Nico. (2022, june 23). REV3, la feuille de route 2022-2027 pour transformer les Hauts-de-France. *Région Hauts-de-France*. <https://www.hautsdefrance.fr/communiqu-presse-rev3-feuille-de-route-2022-2027-pour-transformer-les-hauts-de-france/>

³² Communauté urbaine de Dunkerque (2018, march 20). *Avec TIGA, Dunkerque veut devenir un démonstrateur de l’industrie du 21e siècle*. <https://www.communaute-urbaine-dunkerque.fr/actualite/toutes-les-actualites/vue-detaillee/avec-tiga-dunkerque-veut-devenir-un-demonstrateur-de-lindustrie-du-21e-siecle-1>

³³ Communauté d’agglomération du Boulonnais. (s. d.). *1er Port de pêche de France*. *agglo-boulonnais.fr* : Site Internet. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agglo-boulonnais.fr/attractive-et-innovante/1er-port-de-peche-de-france>

³⁴ Région académique Hauts-de-France ; Académies Amiens Lille. (october 2020) *op. cit.*

³⁵ INSEE. (2026, 31 march). *Dossier complet – Intercommunalité-métropole de des Deux Baies en Montreuillois (200069029)* <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2011101?geo=EPCI-200069029>

³⁶ Région académique Hauts-de-France ; Académies Amiens Lille. (october 2020) *op. cit.*

³⁷ L’ULCO en chiffres—Université du Littoral Côte d’Opale. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.univ-littoral.fr/universite/lulco-en-chiffres/>



British coast, at approximately 34 km. The re-establishment of a border following Brexit and the significant and rising number of illegal migrations to the United Kingdom are additional sources of strain on the region's activities, particularly port and customs operations: their number increased at least tenfold between 2010 and 2016³⁸. The coastal region's connection to various European institutions is significant, particularly given the recent decision to establish the European Union Customs Authority (EUCA) in Lille³⁹.

The coastal population faces significant economic insecurity: in 2021, the poverty rate in the studied EPCIs was above the national average (CAGCTM: 23.2%; CAB: 20.1%; CUD: 19.4%, compared to a national average of 14.9% and a regional average of 19.0%). Poverty particularly affects urban areas. For example, **one in four residents of Calais lives below the poverty line** (i.e., below 60% of the French median income)⁴⁰. More broadly, the Human Development Index (HDI-4), which measures levels of wealth, educational attainment, and life expectancy at birth in the region, is significantly lower than the regional average in coastal urban centers such as Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer; the town of Grande-Synthe also has one of the lowest HDIs in the region.

Furthermore, **the labor force participation rate for those aged 15-64 is below average across the entire region** (ranging from 69.5% (CAGCTM) to 74.4% (CCRA), compared to a national average of 75.3%)⁴¹. In 2021, women in Nord and Pas-de-Calais have a labor force participation rate 5 to 6 percentage points lower than the rest of metropolitan France, which may be the result of an economy long focused on traditionally male-dominated industries such as manufacturing and fishing^{42 43}. As in the rest of the region, **health issues appear to be particularly significant along the coast, with premature mortality** (occurring before age 65) 45% higher than the national average in the major intermunicipal communities (CUD, CAGCTM, CAB)⁴⁴.

Climate change and rising sea levels would cause the sea to encroach inland in Calais, Boulogne, Dunkirk, and Le Touquet, reaching as far as Saint-Omer and forcing the relocation of more than 500,000 residents⁴⁵. The northern part of the region is unique in that it is a polder: the lands of the Aa Delta, reclaimed from the sea since the Middle Ages through water pumping and drainage systems, are particularly at risk of submersion and flooding (as occurred in the Saint-Omer area during the winter of 2023). The region also faces technological risks due to the large number of SEVESO-classified sites along the northern coast (25 between Calais and Dunkirk)⁴⁶, one of the highest concentrations in France.

Fiche 3: Global Citizenship & Sustainable Development Education on the Nord and Pas-de-Calais coast



The role of Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda is to provide quality education for all and to promote lifelong learning opportunities.

Target 4.7, in particular, aims to ensure that “all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including through education for sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and an appreciation of cultural

³⁸ 1998-2015 : L'évolution du nombre de migrants à Calais en un graphique. (2015, octobre 21). France 3 Hauts-de-France. <https://france3-regions.franceinfo.fr/hauts-de-france/1998-2015-l-evolution-du-nombre-de-migrants-calais-en-un-graphique-834641.html>

³⁹ <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/euca-lille>

⁴⁰ Despeyroux, Y ; Guinamard, B ; Marlier, G. (September 2020). *op. cit.*

⁴¹ INSEE (2026, 31 march). *Compareur de territoires avec la CAGCTM, la CUD, la CCRA, la CATDC, la CAB, la France entière et France métropolitaine.* <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/1405599?geo=EPCI-200090751+EPCI-245900428+EPCI-246200844+EPCI-246200380+EPCI-246200729+EPCI-200069029+FE-1+METRO-1>

⁴² Insee Hauts-de-France (september 2021). *Chiffres-Clés des départements des Hauts-de-France.* <https://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/hauts-de-france/content/download/87122/560167/file/Chiffres%20Cl%C3%A9s%20HdF%20-%20V2.pdf>

⁴³ Despeyroux, Y ; Guinamard, B ; Marlier, G. (September 2020). *op. cit.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Région académique Hauts-de-France ; Académies Amiens Lille. (october 2020) *op. cit.*

⁴⁶ DREAL Hauts-de-France (2022) *Implantation des sites SEVESO sur le littoral de l'Unité Départementale du Littoral.*



diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development.”⁴⁷ The objective of the local mapping is to assess the integration of global citizenship, environmental education, and gender equality issues into educational policies and school curricula along the Opal Coast. To this end, the implementation of national plans for education for sustainable development and global citizenship in the region was analyzed.

French school curricula are established at the national level by the Ministry of National Education. Elementary, middle, and high school students follow a “moral and civic education” curriculum⁴⁸, established by the July 8, 2013, law on guidelines and planning for the reform of the French public school system. Through specific courses, as well as introductions to democratic life (such as student elections), students are encouraged to commit to respecting the environment and others. This is also linked to sessions raising awareness of the challenges of sustainable development and the fight against discrimination⁴⁹. This curriculum was revised in 2021, with the result of placing greater emphasis on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE)^{50 51}.

For the 2024-2025 school year, 11 schools in the study area were certified as “eco-schools” (3 in the CUD; 3 in the CAGCTM; 3 in the CAB; 1 in the CA2BM)⁵². Environmental issues are primarily focused on coastal challenges: for the past 10 years, the network of marine education areas led by the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) has provided training for schoolchildren (elementary and middle school) on the preservation of natural coastal areas in the southern Hauts-de-France region (CAB, CA2BM, and Somme) (interview 7). More broadly, the non-profit organizations EDEN 62 and CPIE Flandre Maritime offer numerous activities related to the preservation of natural areas and biodiversity. The “Sea Weeks,” held every April, are a prime opportunity for these awareness-raising efforts⁵³. The Regional Superintendent, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education, will launch the Académie de la Mer in Hauts-de-France in June 2026, which will aim to bring together all school initiatives and practices related to the coast and the sea, with the goal of creating a certification program for schools committed to these themes (interview 7). In addition, the Artois-Picardie Water Agency is committed to addressing issues related to youth and international solidarity. Each year, it funds projects aimed at involving young people aged 15 to 25 in local water policy⁵⁴. In particular, it supports the Artois-Picardie Basin Youth Parliament for Water, which organizes a meeting every six months focused on a specific theme. The theme for March 2026 was international solidarity, highlighting projects carried out in various high schools across the region to promote international solidarity and access to water worldwide.

The implementation of these initiatives is hampered by the challenges faced by teachers, who often lack the resources or time specifically allocated to these projects, meaning that their success depends on the motivation of a single member of the teaching staff (who is not necessarily the teacher responsible for civics or sustainable development). A teacher (who wishes to remain anonymous) at a middle school in a priority education zone (ZEP) in the Dunkirk area also highlights the need for parental support. As part of the “Opening Schools to Parents for Children’s Success” (OEPRE) program, which aims to inform parents about the school’s role, they are often called upon to assist parents with immigrant backgrounds with

⁴⁷ France, L. 2030 en. (2024, avril 9). *ODD4—Veiller à ce que tous puissent suivre une éducation de qualité dans des conditions d’équité et promouvoir les possibilités d’apprentissage tout au long de la vie*. L’Agenda 2030 en France. <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/17-objectifs-de-developpement-durable/article/odd4-veiller-a-ce-que-tous-puissent-suivre-une-education-de-qualite-dans-des>

⁴⁸ This subject is organized into four dimensions: emotional (self and others), normative (laws and rules, principles for living with others), cognitive (judgment, thinking for oneself and with others), and practical (engagement, acting individually and collectively); Data on the moral and civic education curriculum. Datagouv website. Accessed on April 13, 2026. <https://www.data.gouv.fr/datasets/programme-denseignement-moral-et-civique>

⁴⁹ Annexes du Bulletin officiel de l’éducation nationale n°30 du 26-7-2018 [https://www.education.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/document/Programme%20d&%23039;enseignement%20moral%20et%20civique%20de%20l&%23039;%C3%A9cole%20et%20du%20coll%C3%A8ge%20\(cycles%2%A02.%203%20et%204\)-251664.pdf](https://www.education.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/document/Programme%20d&%23039;enseignement%20moral%20et%20civique%20de%20l&%23039;%C3%A9cole%20et%20du%20coll%C3%A8ge%20(cycles%2%A02.%203%20et%204)-251664.pdf)

⁵⁰ Cour des comptes. (October 2021). *Citizenship Education, Communication to the National Assembly Public Policy Evaluation and Audit Committee*. <https://www.ccomptes.fr/sites/default/files/2021-12/20211116-summary-Citizenship-education.pdf>

⁵¹ Brochure interministérielle de France Diplomatie. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/brochure_interministerielle_education_web_cle4193e8.pdf

⁵² *20 ans d’Eco-Ecole : Découvrez les labellisés 2025 !* (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.eco-ecole.org/actualite/eco-ecole-20ans-labellisation-2025>

⁵³ *Semaines de la mer—CPIE Flandre Maritime*. (2022, february 22). <https://cpieflandremaritime.fr/semaines-de-la-mer/>

⁵⁴ *Politique Jeunesse 2026-2027 « La Place des 15-25 ans dans le débat pour l’eau » (1er janvier 2026 au 15 octobre 2027) | Agence de l’Eau Artois-Picardie*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.eau-artois-picardie.fr/politique-jeunesse-2026-2027-la-place-des-15-25-ans-dans-le-debat-pour-leau-1er-janvier-2026-au-15>



administrative procedures⁵⁵. This illustrates the fact that the role of teachers extends far beyond the education of children and is influenced by the personal circumstances faced by students' families.

Issues related to combating harassment and gender-based violence, as well as education on emotional, relational, and sexual well-being, have also been gradually incorporated into school curricula, demonstrating progress toward gender equality. This aspect of education is discussed in greater detail in Fact Sheet 4.

As part of the “Proch’Orientation” Call for Proposals, the Hauts-de-France Regional Council supports projects by high schools and apprentice training centers aimed at combating stereotypes in career choices, promoting professional integration, and addressing school dropout rates⁵⁶.

With regard to higher education, ULCO offers programs focused on environmental issues, but no local institution offers a program specifically dedicated to or incorporating ECM. Beyond formal education, various events are held in the region to promote a shared coastal culture centered on environmental conservation and global citizenship. For example, the International Solidarity Festival, held annually as part of ECM Week, takes place in several coastal cities (Boulogne, Grande-Synthe)^{57 58}. There are other one-off festivals and artistic events, promoted in particular by media library networks (such as the Les Balises network in the CUD) and community organizations such as the CAB’s C.D.S.I. (interview 9).

Fiche 4: Achieving gender equality at local level



In France, numerous measures are being implemented with the aim of reducing gender inequalities—both in pay and in representation in positions of power—while combating physical and sexual violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence.

Through laws and action plans adopted by the French government (Law No. 2018-703 strengthening the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, Law No. 2018-771 on the freedom to choose one’s professional future, the Interministerial Plan for Gender Equality 2023-2027, etc.), as well as through non-governmental and local initiatives, major efforts are being made to, on the one hand, protect women who are victims of violence and ensure their physical and mental health, and on the other hand, ensure equality in professional and economic situations, particularly regarding access to work, hierarchical positions, income, visibility, etc.^{59 60}. Although the interviewees acknowledged the importance of this issue, gender discrimination did not emerge as the primary focus of their work (interviews 2, 5, 7).

There is no comprehensive local assessment of the extent of discrimination against women and girls in the social, cultural, educational, political, and economic spheres. However, national-level data show that the situation for women has improved in recent years, with a narrowing gender pay gap (from 16.7% in 2018 to 13.9% in 2022) and the presence of a comprehensive network of local support systems against violence⁶¹. Nevertheless, inequalities persist, and domestic work remains largely the responsibility of women within heterosexual households⁶².

⁵⁵ *Relations école-famille*. (s. d.). Ministère de l’Éducation nationale. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.education.gouv.fr/bo/2025/Hebdo38/MENE2525824C>

⁵⁶ *Appel à projets Proch’Orientation, pour une orientation choisie et une trajectoire réussie vers l’emploi—JIQE - Guide des aides—Région Hauts-de-France*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://guide-aides.hautsdefrance.fr/dispositif958>

⁵⁷ *Semaine de l’Global Citizenship Education—Centre Nord-Sud—Www.coe.int*. (s. d.). Centre Nord-Sud. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/north-south-centre/the-global-education-week>

⁵⁸ *Programme 2025 du Festival des solidarités*. (s. d.). *Lianes coopération*. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.lianescoperation.org/evenement/programme-2025-du-festival-des-solidarites/>

⁵⁹ *Histoire des droits des femmes chronologie de la Révolution à nos jours | Vie publique*. (2026, janvier 20). <https://www.vie-publique.fr/eclairage/19590-histoire-des-droits-des-femmes-chronologie-de-la-revolution-nos-jours>

⁶⁰ *L’Agenda 2030 en France*. (2024, february 7). *ODD5—Réaliser l’égalité des sexes et autonomiser toutes les femmes et les filles*. L’Agenda 2030 en France. <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/17-objectifs-de-developpement-durable/article/odd5-realiser-l-egalite-des-sexes-et-autonomiser-toutes-les-femmes-et-les>

⁶¹ *2024—Tendances de la France pour atteindre les Objectifs de l’Agenda 2030 – ODD 5*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.agenda-2030.fr/rosace/index2024.html?&ODD=5>

⁶² *Partage des tâches domestiques : Les progrès sont lents*. (s. d.). Observatoire des inégalités. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.inegalites.fr/inegalites-taches-domestiques-femmes-hommes>



National initiatives have led to the establishment of numerous shelters for women and girls who are victims of violence: the Center for Information on Women's and Family Rights (CIDFF), family planning clinics, the Solfa Association, Mahra le toit, and others. These organizations operate as a network across the region and actively participate in raising awareness about gender-based violence and providing sexual health education in schools (interview 11). Local authorities also contribute to making women more visible, as evidenced by the CUD's March-April 2024 community magazine on the theme of "Women of the Dunkirk Region" and the work of the Dunkirk Urban Agglomeration Center for Urban Memory (CMUA) on "matrimoine," highlighting women as key figures in the region's history⁶³ ⁶⁴. The local stakeholders we met are in favor of greater gender equality and are contributing to it to some extent: for example, ULCO has signed an agreement to streamline disciplinary and criminal proceedings against perpetrators of gender-based or sexual violence (GBV). Some stakeholders are also involved in initiatives to promote and highlight women in high-level positions and to support women's entrepreneurial ventures, such as the association "Femmes des territoires," which is a nationwide mutual-aid network for women entrepreneurs, or the "Présentes," which supports and promotes girls and women in the Opal Coast region through a podcast.

Beyond solidarity efforts (such as assisting vulnerable people and combating gender-based violence) and initiatives related to women's entrepreneurship and professional lives, efforts related to this SDG receive little media coverage and are generally limited to programs and measures that are already being promoted at the national level. A number of collectives exist, such as "Nous Toutes du Boulonnais" or the Calais Feminist Collective, but they have little media presence. During an informal conversation, a former resident of Calais linked this to the heavy police presence and the repression faced by feminist and LGBTQI+ activists, as well as all advocates for the dignity and legalization of undocumented individuals, particularly those who entered the country illegally. The lack of recognition and support from local authorities contributes to marginalizing these movements, which organize informally in places like bars and shield themselves from public exposure that could jeopardize their safety. This repression appears to be a specific case in the CAGCTM; the associations in the Dunkirk area interviewed reported links between humanitarian aid organizations for migrants and local sexual health centers, which occasionally provide consultations and treatment to women in migrant camps (interview 11).

Issues related to homophobia and LGBTI-phobia are poorly assessed at the local level, and no public data is available. At the national level, the 2025 report by the organization SOS Homophobie shows stable figures, though with an increase in the severity of violence in attacks⁶⁵.

At the national education level, the 2001 law on voluntary termination of pregnancy and contraception made it mandatory for all schools to conduct three sessions of Emotional, Relational, and Sexual Education (EVARS) from first grade through twelfth grade, a requirement that in practice is still far from being met (interview 11). In September 2025, EVARS became a fully-fledged educational subject and was integrated into the school curriculum. As a result, this awareness-raising effort has become an additional responsibility for teachers, who have only two days of training and find themselves having to confront a wave of criticism of this educational program from certain parents. This "backlash," coupled with the normalization of hate speech against LGBTI+ people in France by political figures—and particularly by the government—does not help to curb stereotypes and violence related to gender and sexual orientation from an early age.

While numerous initiatives exist at the national level to combat school bullying, and in particular cyberbullying (e.g., <https://e-enfance.org>), there is no data available at the level of either the Lille school district or the areas studied. However, those interviewed report significant progress in recent years: "We've made progress; we were very happy to learn that first aid is now part of the school curriculum, as are digital skills. We're now seeing sexual health education being introduced. Bullying among young people has become so commonplace—they're exposed to it everywhere. I never had that in school; we were never taught about bullying, respect, tolerance, and so on. Back then, having experienced it firsthand, people with 'dys' disorders were considered dunces; they were made to stand in the corner wearing a dunce cap, and their notebooks were thrown on top of the lockers. So we've definitely made some real progress since the 1970s." (Interview 3). Furthermore, it appears that there are no surveys, demonstrations, or notable initiatives regarding the fight against school bullying being carried out at the local level.

⁶³ Magazine Communautaire de la CUD. (March-Avril 2024). *Femmes du Dunkerquois*. n°19. https://www.communaute-urbaine-dunkerque.fr/fileadmin/Cud/documents/Magazines_communautaires/MAGCUD_19WEB.pdf

⁶⁴ *Le patrimoine*—CMUA. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://archives-dunkerque.fr/decouvrir/histoires-dici/le-patrimoine>

⁶⁵ *Rapport sur les LGBTIphobies | SOS homophobie*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.sos-homophobie.org/informer/rapport-annuel-lgbtiphobies>



Fiche 5: Decent work for migrant workers and fighting all forms of inequalities: mapping vulnerable groups



This report aims to understand the challenges faced by the most vulnerable individuals and communities in the region.

Through various interviews, two key issues have emerged: the situation of those far from the job market and migration-related challenges.

In particular, the issue of employment focuses on young people and those in the most precarious economic situations, with no policies specifically aimed at the integration of women, whether young or elderly. Stakeholders in the sector of integration and assistance for people of immigrant background report facing increasing difficulties, with resources that fall short of demand and situations that are becoming increasingly complex, involving multiple levels of vulnerability: financial insecurity, lack of access to or use of health services, etc.

Various professionals working in the field of social integration, particularly with young people, have expressed concern about the increasingly poor mental health of their target populations. On the one hand, progress in employment integration through conventional programs is directing people who are increasingly distant from the job market—and whose living conditions pose significant barriers to successful professional integration—toward nonprofit organizations. For example, mobility challenges (anxiety about public transportation, difficulty obtaining and maintaining a driver's license, lack of transportation in rural areas) combine with issues of drug and/or alcohol addiction, which make accessing care difficult due to the distance to public hospitals (interview 2). The decline in mental health among young people is a major concern for support workers, who report a rapid and alarming deterioration: “It’s getting harder and harder to get them out of the house, to engage them, and to find solutions when they’re not doing well. There really is a difference between just 5-6 years ago and today” (interview 3). Indeed, some people suggest that COVID-19 prevented young people from going out, particularly those from unsupportive family environments, accelerating the decline in mental health—a trend also linked to environmental issues and access to global information—and exacerbating their stress: “All of this still causes a lot of anxiety for young people, who are in the process of building their identities” (interview 3)⁶⁶. Studies are currently underway to provide additional explanations, particularly at the initiative of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council (CESE)⁶⁷.

This is also linked to disillusionment, a sense of abandonment, and, more generally, a difficulty in envisioning the future, with expectations they perceive as unattainable, which widens the gap between generations and between employers' expectations and young people's aspirations. Although integration centers are developing psychosocial skills, with support from the Regional Health Agency (ARS) on health and addiction issues, this seems insufficient. State and regional funding for group support programs, as opposed to the current individual-based approach, would help strengthen peer-to-peer interaction and foster collective initiatives. The main challenge in supporting young people appears to be ensuring their long-term follow-up, as contact is often lost once they enter a career or educational path (Interview 3).

From a demographic perspective, the aging population raises numerous challenges. The development of the “silver economy” is one of the major challenges identified for the coast by the Hauts-de-France Region, as part of its forward-looking work on the attractiveness of the coast in 2040, and some mayors are developing housing projects adapted to people with disabilities and the elderly, so that older adults can remain in their villages (interview 2).

The rise of the far right at the national and local levels, linked to a significant increase in the number of its supporters (from 14% of the population in 2020 to 22% in 2025), is having a major impact on foreign nationals,

⁶⁶ Bronsard, G. (2024, avril 16). La santé mentale des jeunes s'est-elle réellement dégradée ? *Polytechnique Insights*. <https://www.polytechnique-insights.com/tribunes/sante-et-biotech/la-sante-mentale-des-jeunes-sest-elle-reellement-degradee/>

⁶⁷ *Quelles conséquences de la dégradation de la santé mentale des jeunes ?* | *Le Conseil économique social et environnemental*. (2025, february 18). <https://www.lecese.fr/actualites/quelles-consequences-degradation-sante-mentale-des-jeunes>



whether they are in the country legally or illegally⁶⁸. “We are witnessing a kind of collapse: people coming to us for help because they can no longer bear their situation, and suddenly find themselves in an irregular status even though they had sometimes been in a regular status for many years” (interview 6). Indeed, a large immigrant population lives in the Dunkirk area, a local presence historically linked to the region’s industrialization, though the percentage of foreign workers is not higher than the national average, with the share of immigrants and descendants of immigrants in the population ranging between 4 and 8% in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments, compared to a national average (excluding Mayotte) of 10%⁶⁹ (interview 6). “The deindustrialization of the region has had a significant impact on employment (factory closures, drastic restructuring), affecting foreign populations first and foremost. The employment crisis has plunged them into situations of extreme poverty and precariousness, with their situations gradually becoming irregular. There is undeniably a very sharp increase today in the number of OQTFs (Orders to Leave French Territory), which is particularly egregious because everyone knows that nine-tenths of those who have received an OQTF will not be able to leave—and will not leave—and are therefore subjected to undignified conditions of destitution due to numerous national repressive policies ” (interview 6). In this excerpt, the interviewee refers to the law of January 26, 2024, aimed at controlling immigration and improving integration, as well as the circular of January 23, 2025, which tightens admission to French territory and reinforces the perception of immigrants as dangerous and undesirable⁷⁰. On a positive note, the same person points out that the introduction of completely free public transportation in the CUD in 2018 seems to have helped people in precarious situations by reducing the financial burden of transportation on their budgets (interview 6).

Beyond immigrant workers, the main concern expressed by those interviewed is illegal migration (interview 6; interview 7). Due to its proximity to the British Isles, the coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais has for decades faced a steady increase in the number of people seeking asylum in the United Kingdom (very little quantitative data exists on this subject, let alone data broken down by gender; 17,000 new arrivals were recorded in 2025 on British soil, and an estimated 41,000 to 50,000 people attempted to cross the English Channel)^{71 72 73}.

To prevent the establishment of permanent, unsanitary encampments, France is implementing a policy of eviction aimed at regularly confiscating or destroying migrants’ survival supplies and dismantling any form of settlement. At the local level, rights advocacy and humanitarian aid organizations, such as Human Rights Observer, Utopia 56, Refugee Women’s Center, L’Auberge des migrants, Médecins du monde, Salam, and Roots, are facing intense repression: in 2020, food distribution was banned in certain public spaces in the city of Calais, and rights defenders are being sued for their on-the-ground work, particularly during lockdown^{74 75 76}. One interviewee described the situation as follows: “National policies are turning France

⁶⁸ Bador-Fritche, E. (2025, october 21). « Fractures françaises » : Dans une France très pessimiste, le RN domine tous les autres partis. *Public Sénat*. <https://www.publicsenat.fr/actualites/politique/fractures-francaises-dans-une-france-tres-pessimiste-le-rn-domine-tous-les-autres-partis>

⁶⁹ *Localisation des immigrés et des descendants d’immigrés – Immigrés et descendants d’immigrés | Insee*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/6793282?sommaire=6793391>

⁷⁰ Tribune d’un collectif d’associations et de syndicats au « Monde » (2026, janvier 27). *Immigration : « Nous constatons les conséquences funestes de la loi Darmanin et de la circulaire Retailleau sur la vie des personnes étrangères »*. *Le Monde*. https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2026/01/27/immigration-nous-constatons-les-consequences-funestes-de-la-loi-darmanin-et-de-la-circulaire-retailleau-sur-la-vie-des-personnes-etrangeres_6664300_3232.html

⁷¹ *Visualisez à quel point les traversées de migrants dans la Manche ont explosé cette année – franceinfo*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at https://www.franceinfo.fr/monde/europe/migrants/visualisez-a-quel-point-les-traversees-de-migrants-dans-la-manche-ont-explose-cette-annee_7326327.html

⁷² People crossing the English Channel in small boats. (s. d.). *Migration Observatory*. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/people-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/>

⁷³ *Manche : Près de 50 000 migrants ont tenté de traverser la Manche en 2025, plus de 6 000 secourus côté français*. (2026, february 2). *InfoMigrants*. <https://www.infomigrants.net/fr/post/69574/manche-pres-de-50-000-migrants-ont-tente-de-traverser-la-manche-en-2025-plus-de-6-000-secourus-cote-francais>

⁷⁴ d’État, L. C. (2022, october 18). *Interdiction des distributions de denrées alimentaires dans le centre-ville de Calais*. Tribunal administratif de Lille. <https://lille.tribunal-administratif.fr/decisions-de-justice/dernieres-decisions/interdiction-des-distributions-de-denrees-alimentaires-dans-le-centre-ville-de-calais>

⁷⁵ Human Rights Observers. (2026, february 4). *HRO : Human Rights Observers Malgré l’urgence humanitaire, la justice rejette le recours des associations*. *HRO : Human Rights Observers*. <https://humanrightsobservers.org/fr/2026/02/04/malgre-urgence-humanitaire-la-justice-rejette-lappel-des-associations/>

⁷⁶ Communiqué de presse de Human Rights Observers, Utopia 56, L’auberge des Migrants (02/06/2022) *Face à la criminalisation de la solidarité à Calais, lancement du #SolidaritéEntravée* <https://humanrightsobservers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Face-a-la-criminalisation-de-la-solidarite-a-Calais-lancement-du-SolidariteEntravee.pdf>



into the Turkey of England, but without the refugee camps. Because at least in Turkey, there are camps that comply with UN standards. On the coast, there's none of that—not even the bare minimum—which is why the UN condemns the situation unfolding on the English Channel coast, noting the appalling conditions” (interview 6). In fact, a migrant village certified by the UN was built in 2017 by Damien Carême, then mayor of Grande Synthe, but it has since been destroyed by fire⁷⁷. Brexit, the intensification of French police repression against migrants, and the agreements between France and the United Kingdom have only further eroded the dignity of migrants, without addressing the growing tensions between coastal activities (including fishing, port operations, and maritime traffic through the English Channel) and increasingly dangerous crossing attempts (increased number of people per boat, the “one-in, one-out” agreement allowing the UK to return migrants to France)⁷⁸. Within the framework of the Parliament of the Sea, these issues are well identified, but local stakeholders and authorities feel powerless in the face of these challenges, which far exceed their scope of action (interview 7).

Fiche 6: Building a sustainable community



Mapping local challenges, priorities, opportunities and resources related to SDG11/ Target 11.3, 11.4, 11.6, 11.7 at local level

Sustainable land management is particularly important in the development of sustainable urban models and communities (SDG 11). All French urban areas can produce urban planning documents, notably Territorial Coherence Schemes (SCoT) and Local Urban Planning Plans (PLU), which must incorporate the objective of the law of July 20, 2023, aimed at facilitating the implementation of goals to combat land sealing, strengthening support for local elected officials, and achieving a land sealing rate of zero by 2050.

The adoption of these plans is subject to consultation with civil society. Beyond these regulatory requirements, some cities (including, historically, Grande-Synthe) have introduced participatory budgeting in recent years, which gives residents the opportunity to propose and participate in the implementation of urban development (or renewal) projects funded by the municipality. The city of Dunkirk has particularly strengthened the participatory nature of its public action through the citizen contribution and participation platform “Changer la vie ensemble” (Changing Life Together), the “J’agis pour Dunkerque” (I Act for Dunkirk) initiative, and the Fabriques d’Initiatives Locales (Local Initiative Hubs). However, this does not prevent conflicts and conflicting strategies between the development of human activities and the preservation of natural areas: while an expansion of natural areas protected by the Conservatoire du littoral is planned⁷⁹, neither the Autonomous Port of Dunkirk nor the project to expand the Gravelines nuclear power plant are subject to the goal of zero net land take by 2050 or the requirement to provide a risk management plan, due to their status as “projects of national or European scope and of major public interest.”⁸⁰

Cultural heritage is also protected: at the national level, the Architects of Buildings of France (ABF) ensure that changes to public spaces do not alter heritage elements, whether architectural, historical, or landscape-related. Regarding maritime and cultural heritage, the Regional Federation for Maritime Culture and Heritage (FRCPM) works to preserve buildings and skills associated with the sea: ports, lighthouses, wooden boat building, etc.

The coastline is home to numerous museums related to the region’s history: the Port and Maritime Museum (Dunkirk) and the Naval Museum (Étaples) are among the iconic tourist attractions of these two cities. The most popular tourist destination in Hauts-de-France is the Nausicaa National Sea Center, the largest aquarium in Europe.

⁷⁷ *Le camp de migrants de Grande-Synthe : Planifier la ville spontanée.* (2017, June 12). AMC. <https://www.amc-archi.com/photos/le-camp-de-migrants-de-grande-synthe-planifier-la-ville-spontanee,6804/>

⁷⁸ People crossing the English Channel in small boats. (s. d.). *op. cit.*

⁷⁹ *Préserver la mer et le littoral | Biodiversité.gouv.fr.* (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://biodiversite.gouv.fr/preserver-la-mer-et-le-littoral-0>

⁸⁰ CEREMA. (s. d.). *Dashboard PENE 10 avril 2024.* Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://cartagene.cerema.fr/portal/apps/dashboards/60d056361a1647b7a268a0d8035c23c4>



World War II also plays a significant rôle in the region’s history: The Dynamo Museum aims to preserve the memory of the evacuation of British and French troops that took place in 1940 on the beach at Dunkirk. The region’s cultural scene is also well-known for the various exhibitions, festivals, and carnivals held each year. Alternative cultural events and venues, such as the independent movie theaters “Studio 43 ” (Dunkirk), “l’Alhambra” (Calais), as well as feminist street tours⁸¹, author meet-and-greets, and temporary exhibitions, all provide spaces to explore the role of women in the region’s history, children in public spaces, and the legacy of immigration over the past decades. Furthermore, the belfries of the town halls in Dunkirk, Gravelines, Calais, and Boulogne-sur-Mer are recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites⁸². Regarding the promotion of culture, heritage, and sustainable cities, the “Learning Center Ville Durable” in Dunkirk, also known as the “Halle aux sucres,” is a fine example of urban renewal: it is a former warehouse that was converted in 2014 into a space for work, archival storage, and exhibitions, with a particular focus on sustainable development issues, thereby enabling cooperation and the transmission of knowledge and memory in an innovative and educational way, much like a “21st-century media library”⁸³.

The region has a vacancy rate slightly below the national average (6.2% in the study area, compared to a national average of 8%)⁸⁴. Due to the significant tourism activity in the CAB, a policy to combat substandard housing and slum landlords has been implemented, including the introduction of rental permits and subdivision permits. “In the Dunkirk area, the housing issue is central. Not only in relation to the 20,000 jobs expected from reindustrialization, but also in connection with the significant need for public and low-income housing. This particularly affects single-parent families—and thus overwhelmingly women—but there is no willingness to build housing on a scale that meets these needs. [...] This also raises the important issue of emergency housing, particularly for women” (interview 6). Indeed, the CUD is leading a green reindustrialization project through its “20,000 Jobs Strategy,” which aims to make the Dunkirk area a European hub for training in industrial trades and the Hauts-de-France region the leading European electric battery cluster⁸⁵.

Air quality is one of the most prominent environmental health issues in the region, particularly in the Dunkirk area, due to the numerous sources of local emissions (industry, major roadways, high population density, and large agricultural areas) and emissions from neighboring areas (notably related to maritime traffic) (interview 1)⁸⁶. From 2014 to 2019, the NPDC coastline was subject to an air quality protection plan aimed at reducing air pollutant emissions through the establishment of administrative monitoring zones in the Calais, Dunkirk, and Boulogne regions. Emissions levels have been significantly reduced, leading to the plan’s non-renewal; however, further efforts are still needed because the life expectancy of residents in the region remains below the national average (men in Dunkirk live on average 2 years less than the rest of France, and women in Dunkirk on average 1 year less) (interview 2).

In terms of available green spaces, the urban centers of Dunkirk, Boulogne-sur-Mer, and Calais fall below the average for major urban centers both in terms of the coverage rate of parks and gardens (2.6% for the CUD, 2.2% for the CAB, 1.0% for the CAGCTM, and 3.2% on average across all major urban centers) and in the proportion of the population with access within 300 meters (44.3% of the population for the CUD, 35.4% for the CAB, 24.7% for the CAGCTM, and 52.4% across all major urban centers)⁸⁷. As such, significant efforts have been made to prioritize nature in the city during urban renewal projects and to restore ecological connectivity with green and blue infrastructure. In particular, the city of Boulogne-sur-Mer has joined the European “Green Place” project, which aims to combine citizen engagement with the revitalization of brownfield sites. The inclusion of children in public spaces, the adoption of a gender-responsive budget, or an integrated approach to gender equality (gender mainstreaming) remain largely absent from public

⁸¹Le Château Coquelle. (s. d.). [Enregistrement vidéo]. Accessed April 13, 2026, at

<https://www.facebook.com/Lechateaucoquelle/videos/%C3%A0-c%C3%B4t%C3%A9-de-la-plaque/8081913041924960/>

⁸²mondial, U. C. du patrimoine. (s. d.). *UNESCO Centre du patrimoine mondial—Liste du patrimoine mondial*. UNESCO Centre du patrimoine mondial. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/>

⁸³Communauté Urbaine de Dunkerque ; La halle aux sucres Learning Center. (août 2023) *La Halle au sucres*.

https://www.cnfpt.fr/sites/default/files/plaquette_halle_aux_sucres.pdf

⁸⁴INSEE (2026, 31 march). *op. cit.*

⁸⁵Traullé, F. (2023, september 25). Dunkerque face au défi de sa réindustrialisation. *Le Monde*.

https://www.lemonde.fr/economie/article/2023/09/20/dunkerque-face-au-defi-de-sa-reindustrialisation_6190184_3234.html

⁸⁶*La région des Hauts-de-France – SIGLES*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.sigles-sante-environnement.fr/cartographies/la-region-des-hauts-de-france/>

⁸⁷INSEE (s. d.). *Un accès inégal aux espaces verts dans les grands centres urbains—Insee Première—2049*. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/8558420>



policies implemented in the study area (a finding that has also been observed at the European Union level)⁸⁸. One reason is that development of policies specifically addressing gender inequality is not a regulatory obligation for local governments.

The Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments are among those with the highest per-capita collection of household and similar waste (91 kg more than the national average)⁸⁹. While households are sorting their waste more (a 31% increase in the amount of sorted waste between 2011 and 2021), there has nevertheless been a 12% increase in the volume of waste collected between 2011 and 2021 in Hauts-de-France, which falls far short of the 10% reduction target set by the 2015 Law on Energy Transition for Green Growth (LTECV)⁹⁰. Although intermunicipal authorities, which are responsible for waste management, are legally required to implement local waste prevention plans, no incentive-based pricing system has been established in the region. Regarding waste treatment, the LTECV sets a waste recovery rate of at least 55% (excluding energy recovery), a figure achieved by the Pas-de-Calais department (57% in 2021) but not by the Nord department (~42%). The strong results in Pas-de-Calais can be attributed to the presence of dedicated facilities in the region, notably a biogas plant in Calais and a reuse and recycling center in Boulogne-sur-Mer⁹¹.

Fiche 7: Environmental responsibility and local climate actions



Numerous natural hazards are associated with coastal areas. Some of the areas studied have developed natural hazard prevention plans (PPRN) for coastal flooding (the entire coastline), inland flooding (the Calais hinterland; the Boulonnais region; along the Canche River), and cliff instability (in part, CCT2C).

These risks are exacerbated by climate change, which accelerates coastal erosion, posing a particular threat to polder areas—especially in the Aa Delta (CUD)—located below sea level. Furthermore, the density of human activities in the region exacerbates the risks associated with climate change (sealed surfaces, exploitation of resources and ecosystem services) as well as increased vulnerability due to high population density. The same applies to groundwater resources, which are absent (no aquifers) in the northern part of the territory and are subject to medium-term pressures across the entire territory—except for the CA2BM—regarding the quantity of water available, whether sustainably or seasonally⁹². Vulnerable populations (children, the elderly, pregnant women) and those in precarious situations (in all forms) are at greater risk than others from the consequences of climate change and extreme weather events.

Local governments are making significant efforts to inform residents about the risks associated with pollution and climate change, in collaboration with various community organizations (such as the Maison de l'Environnement on air quality issues, La Petite Pierre on sustainable food issues, and DK Clean Up on pollution and plastic reuse, among others).

In addition, the Nord Department has set forth 10 goals regarding a just ecological transition, including a commitment to strengthen policies that promote biodiversity and carbon sinks, as well as to support the production of local, seasonal, and high-quality food⁹³. The Hauts-de-France Region's "REV3" transition policy is also based on several key areas, including decarbonization and resource conservation (circular economy and conservation) as well as cross-cutting issues (territorial approach, citizen participation, and the development of economic activity and employment in the region), for which it provides financial support⁹⁴. Stakeholders responsible for the management and preservation of natural areas, such as EDEN

⁸⁸ *Renforcer les droits des femmes dans l'UE : Le point de vue local et régional* | Comité européen des régions. (2025, October 14). <https://www.cor.europa.eu/fr/nos-travaux/les-avis/cdr-1108-2025>

⁸⁹ INSEE (s. d.). *Les déchets ménagers et assimilés : Plus de 600 kg collectés par habitant en 2021, le tri en hausse de plus de 20 % en 10 ans—Insee Première—2055*. Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/8574484>

⁹⁰ INSEE (June 2025). *En 2021, 60 % des déchets ménagers triés dans les Hauts-de-France – Insee Analyses Hauts-de-France. n° 192*. https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/fichier/8572779/np_ina_192.pdf

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Agence Hauts-de-France 2020-2040. (mai 2025). *Principaux enseignements du chantier - Quels attractivité du littoral des Hauts-de-France en 2040*. <https://2040.hautsdefrance.fr>

⁹³ Web page « Le Département est là pour un Nord durable » (s. d.) Accessed on April 13, 2026 at <https://durable.lenord.fr/>

⁹⁴ file:///C:/Users/virag/Dropbox/Family%20Room/2_Projets%20en%20cours/Lianes%20Coop%C3%A9ration%20-%20Cartographie%20dynamique%20de%20transition/Production/Doc%20partag%C3%A9s/Diagnostic%20territorial_Dunkerque_Etude-action%20Education%20populaire_0.pdf



62, as well as associations like the CPIE Flandre Maritime, work to raise public awareness of best practices in protected areas. The Caps et Marais d’Opale Regional Nature Park is particularly active on issues of responsible consumption: this organization has carried out initiatives to combat energy poverty and, in 2025, compiled a list of all organic agricultural producers and distributors in the region⁹⁵ (interview 2). The AMAP network (Associations for the Preservation of Small-Scale Farming) lists four retail locations in Berck, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Calais, and Grande-Synthe.

Combating climate change and conserving resources require new models of production and consumption. Local industries are making significant investments to decarbonize their operations, with support from the Region and the State (including grants for the circular economy and regional industrial ecology, particularly in industrial port zones). Above all, it appears that companies in the agri-food sector (the Aquimer competitiveness cluster) and the industrial sector (the Euramer technology park, shipbuilding, and fishing vessels—notably SOCARENAM, DEME Group, and the Groupement des Industries de Construction et d’Activités Navales) are sectors with low appeal, making it difficult to recruit young people. All offshore activities (maritime traffic, offshore wind projects, nature reserves), combined with Brexit, have also increased conflicts and tensions in the fishing industry, with a reduction in authorized fishing zones for French fishermen and fisherwomen.

Tourism in the area is linked to the region’s environmental and scenic qualities, particularly at the natural site of the two capes and the Regional Nature Park. This is why tourist offices (as well as organizations such as Baie de Somme Zéro Carbone) are promoting cycling tourism in particular and seeking to develop new, more sustainable and equitable models of tourism. One interviewee noted that the concept of “social and solidarity-based tourism” could be promising, but it has not yet taken shape (interview 10).

Fiche 8: Multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development



The northern coastline shares a border with Belgium, which has different policies regarding coastal management and climate change adaptation.

To address issues specific to the cross-border context, the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) West-Vlaanderen/Flandre-Dunkerque-Côte d’Opale was established in 2009 at the initiative of several local authorities in the Nord department (France) and West Flanders (Belgium).

This body, which had been inactive for several years, became more active again in the early 2020s thanks to renewed involvement by local elected officials and major floods that raised issues of cross-border governance. The Dunkirk region is highly engaged internationally, particularly through the “Cities of Remembrance” network for World War II, which contributes significantly to SDG 16. The 2021-2027 INTERREG “North Sea” project also contributes to territorial cohesion among the countries between France and Sweden, particularly regarding issues of digitalization, connections between urban and rural areas, decarbonization, and increasing the resilience of the entire North Sea region⁹⁶. The city of Boulogne-sur-Mer is also involved in several URBACT projects, demonstrating its commitment to cooperation and peer learning at the European level.

Throughout the Nord and Pas-de-Calais regions, including the study area, municipalities are engaging in twinning initiatives, particularly with Germany and Poland as part of numerous Franco-German and Franco-Polish friendship programs. In particular, Calais is the municipality in Pas-de-Calais that has established the most international ties (twinning and decentralized cooperation). Furthermore, the Pas-de-Calais

⁹⁵ Parc Naturel Régional des Caps et Marais d’Opale (2022) *Le programme européen Shine dans le parc naturel régional des caps et marais d’Opale*. https://www.parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr/sites/federationpnr/files/2022-06/feuille%20shine_0.pdf

⁹⁶ *Interreg Mer du Nord : Europe en Hauts-de-France*. (s. d.). Accessed April 13, 2026, at <https://europe-en-hautsdefrance.eu/jeminforme/les-financements-europeens/interreg-mer-du-nord>



department is deeply committed to decentralized cooperation and funds numerous exchange projects between French and foreign teams (in Europe and Morocco)⁹⁷.

One challenge in ensuring consistency among local policies is the important number of planning and implementation levels at which public actors operate: implementation and management vary from one issue to another. While municipalities manage policies related to children, urban planning and urban mobility are managed at the intermunicipal level; the management of energy, water, and waste is often handled on a broader scale through joint associations (consortia of intermunicipal bodies). The department, which is responsible for certain social policies—particularly those related to disability—operates on a different scale; the same applies to the management of natural areas such as Regional Nature Parks (PNR) and Zones of Natural Interest for Biodiversity and Ecological Function (ZNIEFF), which is carried out on their own scale, transcending administrative boundaries. One way to address this compartmentalization is to develop cross-sectoral projects. This is particularly the case with Territorial Food Projects (PAT) and Local Health Contracts (CLS), which bring together economic actors, civil society organizations, the medical sector, the social sector, and public institutions to collaborate toward achieving set objectives. For example, it is within the framework of the CLS that sexual health stakeholders engage with environmental organizations (interview 11), or within the framework of the PAT that integration organizations convey young people's perspectives on their issues to local authorities, etc. (interview 2; interview 3)

The coastline of Nord and Pas-de-Calais is a major transit point for refugees, making it a globally recognized case study. This issue has forged strong ties between French and British civil society organizations. Numerous British organizations are active along the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais to contribute to humanitarian aid for migrants. The migration situation on the coast is a significant case study, particularly in light of the policies implemented by the French government and the dismantling of the “Calais Jungle” (referring to the network of migrant and refugee camps in the Calais metropolitan area), which received worldwide media attention. Residents of the region find themselves dependent on decisions made at the national level, which in recent decades have led to the militarization of the area in an effort to limit crossings of the English Channel, without, however, alleviating the pressure on the coast in the face of the growing number of migrants in transit through the region⁹⁸.

⁹⁷ Assemblée des départements de France (2018) *Atlas des actions de coopération européenne et internationale des Départements – État des lieux de l'activité des Départements en 2018*. www.journal-des-communes.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Atlas-actions-UE-RI-des-Départements-2018TR-compressed.pdf

⁹⁸ Sékou, Couillet, B., & Spoladore, H. (2021). « Calais, c'est dur, tout le monde sait ça ! ». *Plein droit*, 129(2), 35-39. <https://doi.org/10.3917/pld.129.0037>



PART II

Let's Change! Voices from Nord and Pas-de-Calais coast

- **Report of key informants' interviews**
- **Survey Report**



Fiche 9: Report of key informants' interviews

The mapping of opportunities and challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda along the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais was developed in close collaboration with local stakeholders. In-depth qualitative interviews were conducted with individuals who, by virtue of their roles or experiences, possess detailed knowledge of local issues. The insights of these “community experts” are particularly valuable as they provide localized information on the current state of sustainable development and gender equality practices and initiatives, as well as practical recommendations for addressing the challenges encountered on the ground.

The interviews were conducted using interview guides consisting of 7 questions. The opening of the interview was the same for all types of participants, while the second part was tailored to each target group. The summary is structured around 6 questions, which were rephrased to incorporate all the feedback. A total of 13 interviews were conducted from February 25, 2026, to April 4, 2026. These included 11 individual interviews and 2 group interviews with 5 and 3 women, respectively. Six of the interviews—more than half—were conducted with women. Special attention was paid to the diversity of the interviewees' fields of activity: 3 representatives of local government, 7 representatives of civil society organizations, 1 representative of a sports club, 1 private-sector entrepreneur, and 1 union representative. An employee in the culture and heritage sector working with nonprofit organizations and a former resident of Calais also contributed to this report through informal discussions.

Question 1: “What are the sustainable development challenges facing the region? Please list and discuss three challenges in order of priority.”

Health issues are central to the majority of the respondents' comments. They are addressed in terms of access to healthcare facilities, maintaining physical and mental health, preventing risks associated with sexual activity and substance use, as well as environmental health—particularly air quality (interviews 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12). These issues are addressed in relation to populations particularly vulnerable to these challenges, such as young people, women, people in precarious situations, and migrants. Combating stereotypes is also a significant topic, even if it is not necessarily the respondent's specific area of work. The aim is to combat the prejudices (homophobia, sexism, xenophobia, etc.) held by the groups being supported, as well as the stereotypes associated with these groups (youth who have received child welfare services, migrants, etc.) (interviews 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11). Regarding these various issues, raising awareness and educating the general public is presented as essential, going hand in hand with a need for multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Mobility was occasionally cited as a priority by interviewees living in the most rural parts of the region (interviews 2, 3, and 10). The issue of housing—particularly the lack of housing for single-parent families and emergency housing for women who are victims of violence—was raised several times (interviews 2, 5, and 13). Access to decent employment is also a key issue, both for employers in certain industrial sectors facing recruitment challenges and for residents who are far from the job market due to various difficulties (health, financial, mobility, self-confidence, etc.) (interviews 2, 3, 5, 7). These same employers share the challenge of successfully hiring young people. Other significant challenges include the aging population (interviews 2, 7), limited access to childcare (interview 2), rising prices (particularly for food and energy), which only exacerbate the pressure on the most vulnerable (interview 2), as well as the migration issue, which is identified as affecting local activities and as a major focus of humanitarian action (interviews 6, 7).

Although environmental issues are not necessarily the primary concern of the interviewees, they are certainly taken into account in their activities and are a major topic of discussion, particularly with regard to adapting coastal activities to climate change (interviews 2, 5, 6, 7).

Question 2: “In the target area, who are the ‘change agents,’ what issues are they interested in, and how can we support them to make their efforts more effective?”

When it comes to education for sustainable development and global citizenship, teachers play a key role in engaging young people, while nonprofit organizations are the driving force behind educational activities and the creation of educational content. Significant links already exist between these types of actors on issues of biodiversity and sustainable development, but they should be strengthened and expanded to include social and international issues. To this end, support from local governments—such as financial support for school-based initiatives and the development of local pathways for engagement—would be desirable. Furthermore, the lack of human and financial resources faced by numerous civil society organizations underscores the crucial role of individuals active within these organizations—often on a volunteer basis—



across all areas of action (humanitarian aid, solidarity, the environment, culture, advocacy, etc.). Furthermore, the key actors identified in the fight for gender equality are sexual health care and education organizations such as family planning clinics and activist groups like feminist collectives and local chapters of Nous Toutes.

Question 3: “What forms of collaboration and dialogue exist between local government, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders involved in the region’s sustainable development?”

Collaboration and dialogue between local governments and civil society organizations vary greatly from one metropolitan area to another. The majority of responses highlight the need to strengthen ties between civil society and local authorities. Some examples of collaboration are shared: the connection between the library network in the Boulogne-sur-Mer metropolitan area and the C.D.S.I., the mobilization of young people in job training programs during public consultations for the regional food project, the organization of a career fair in partnership with the local soccer club, etc. Among the various forms of collaboration, the CUD stands out for its strong connection with residents (interview 12), which could be strengthened by granting greater authority to civil society. Other organizations have expressed a growing desire to build a more direct connection with residents, while acknowledging the challenges this may pose in terms of resources, skills, and tools for dialogue (interviews 6, 7, 12). Regarding dialogue and partnerships between civil society organizations and local authorities, both staff and volunteers from the nonprofit sector share the perception that local authorities do not take them seriously enough; these authorities can be “overly controlling” of nonprofit projects and make grants contingent on alignment with their political agenda (Interview 13). In certain metropolitan areas such as the CAB and the CAGCTM, the lack of dialogue between activist associations and local authorities contrasts with the enthusiastic responses from residents regarding the initiatives led by these same associations. The nonprofit sector is dynamic, but the lack of support and the absence of a structured network of associations limits the capacity for joint action. There is a need for an organization of local actors, particularly one built around projects that shape the region (local and solidarity-based food initiatives, local health contracts, etc.). The creation of spaces for exchange open to everyone, ensuring a degree of horizontality in relations between different organizations, could be a solution for building better relationships between citizens, collectives, and local governments.

Question 4: “What successful practices has the local community implemented in the areas of sustainable development and/or the protection of human rights and/or inclusion?”

Local initiatives contribute to the SDGs, even though project leaders may not necessarily be aware of them or highlight them. This is particularly true of the many projects aimed at raising awareness and restoring coastal natural areas. As for public policies, they do not explicitly reference the SDGs, but certain specific policies are developed in response to the challenges faced by the regions: Local Health Contracts (CLS), Territorial Food Projects (PAT), etc.

Question 5: “What are the main challenges faced by young people in the region?”

From the perspective of personal development, several respondents noted that young people struggle to envision their future and cope with the overwhelming flood of information coming from the internet and social media (interviews 3, 9, 11). On a practical level, young people in the region face difficulties accessing employment, which is paradoxical given the difficulty coastal businesses have in recruiting in certain sectors and the proximity of these businesses to universities (interview 7). The issue of education on gender inequalities and relational, emotional, and sexual life occupies a significant place in the media landscape due to its integration into educational and school curricula, which sparks debate but nonetheless illustrates significant progress in this area over the past few decades (interviews 3, 5, 9, 11).

Question 6: “In your opinion, what are the most effective communication tools today for reaching your audiences and raising their awareness of sustainable development issues at the local and global levels?”

Participants shared how they use various communication channels and platforms, which are analyzed in Fiche 12.



Fiche 10 Survey Report

In addition to the semi-structured interviews, an online questionnaire was distributed to all member organizations of the Lianes Coopération association located along the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais. The questionnaire includes 15 questions regarding personal information (Section 1) and the civil society associations/organizations represented (Section 2), as well as 17 questions designed to assess the local context (Section 3), the respondents' level of awareness (Section 4), and their level of engagement (Section 5). Fifteen responses were received: 11 women and 4 men, 87% of whom are members of an association, a civil society organization, or an informal group. The respondents are adults of all ages, with 75% having completed 3 to 5 years of higher education. The results by question are detailed below.

Question 1: "In your opinion, which three of the following issues are the most important for your city? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)"

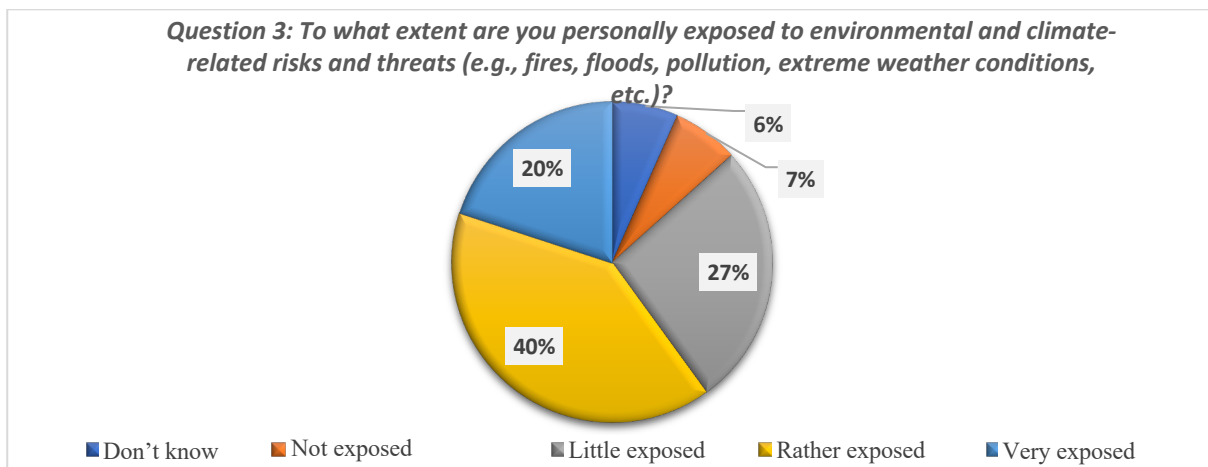
Respondents could choose from the following options: safety, air pollution, noise, public transportation, health services, social services, education and training, unemployment, housing, and road infrastructure. The 9 respondents highlighted the importance of health services, followed by housing needs (7) and education and training (6). Road infrastructure and noise were not mentioned by anyone. This corresponds to the findings in the mapping regarding precarious living conditions and the relatively low level of education among the population, as well as health problems associated with air pollution.

Question 2: "Is it easy or difficult for you to access nature and green spaces?"

87% of respondents consider access to nature and green spaces to be "very easy" or "somewhat easy."

Question 3: "To what extent are you personally exposed to environmental and climate-related risks and threats (e.g., fires, floods, pollution, extreme weather conditions, etc.)?"

Respondents feel fairly exposed to climate and environmental risks, as shown in the following graph.



Question 4: "In general, do you think sexual harassment of women is common in your city?"

Opinions on this question are somewhat divided: 7 people think that sexual harassment of women is fairly common in their city, while 8 think it is uncommon.

Question 5: "Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: 'Foreigners living in your city are well integrated.'"

The results are similar to those of the previous question, with 7 people agreeing and 8 people disagreeing. This can be explained by the ambiguity of the word chosen, "foreigner," which tends to refer to workers and residents living in the area who are not French citizens, rather than people in the country illegally.

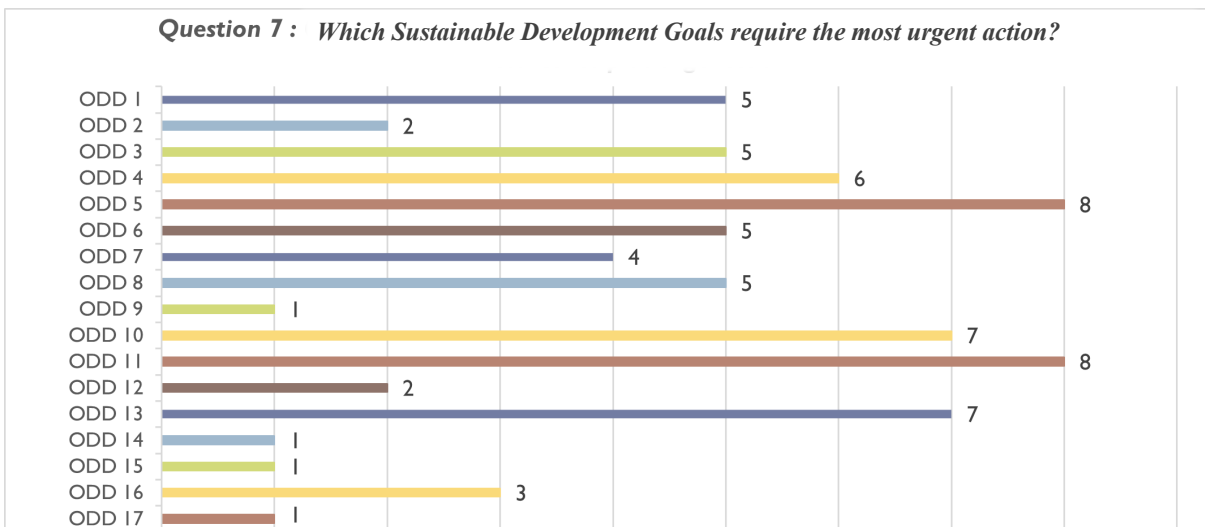


Question 6: “Are you familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or ‘global goals’ signed by 193 world leaders at the UN in 2015?”

80% of respondents are familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals. This may be due to the distribution of the questionnaire by Lianes Coopération and Virage Énergie within their respective networks, which consist primarily of people already aware of and committed to issues of sustainable development and international cooperation.

Question 7: “Which Sustainable Development Goals require the most urgent action? (MAXIMUM 5 ANSWERS)”

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the four most important are SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 13 (climate action). This reinforces the scope chosen for the SUBLIME SDGs project. The results are detailed in the chart below.



Question 8: “In your opinion, who should lead the implementation of the SDGs in your country?”

Half of the respondents (46.7%) identified local governments as the primary actors in implementing the SDGs in the country, followed by the national government (20%), civil society (20%), and businesses (13.3%). No one identified academic institutions.

Question 9: “In your opinion, to what extent is climate change a serious problem at this time?”

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means “it is not a serious problem at all” and 10 means “it is an extremely serious problem,” the average score is 9, reflecting the overall awareness of the impacts of climate change.

Question 10: “In your opinion, which of the following statements regarding the number of women currently holding decision-making positions in your local government best reflects reality?”

60% of respondents believe there should be more women in decision-making positions in local governments, while 40% of respondents believe their representation is about right.

Question 11: “When you get together with friends or family, would you say you discuss local political issues often, sometimes, or never?”

The majority of respondents say they talk about local political issues “fairly often” with friends and family (67%), while 27% talk about them “rarely” and the rest (6.6%) “almost never.”

Question 12: “Have you personally taken steps to combat climate change in the last six months?”

The overwhelming majority of responses are positive: 93% of respondents stated that they had taken action to combat climate change in the last six months, though they did not specify what that action entailed.



Question 13: “In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following: ‘Publicly defended a person who was the victim of discrimination?’”

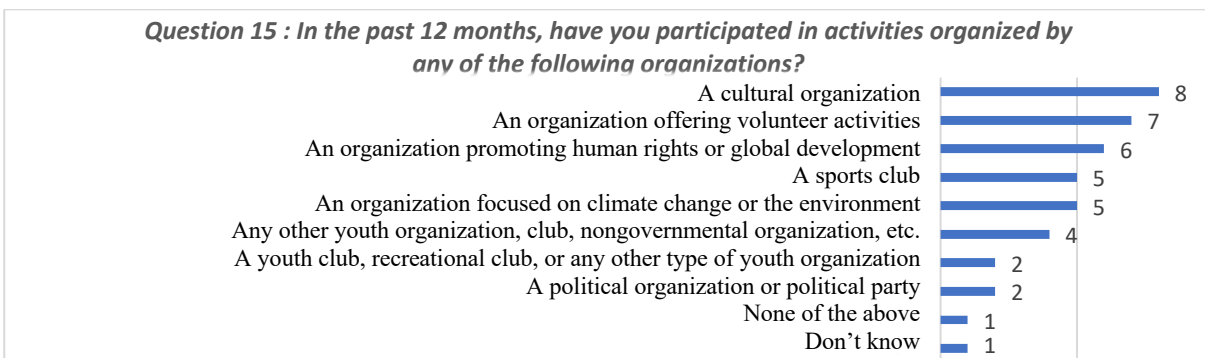
Regarding publicly defending a victim of discrimination, 60% of respondents have done so in the past 12 months, 26.7% have not, and 13.3% do not know, though they did not specify what this entails.

Question 14: “In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following: ‘You joined an organization or campaign that fights against discrimination?’”

33.3% of respondents reported having joined an organization or campaign that fights against discrimination in the past 12 months (60% reported not having done so, 6.7% did not know).

Question 15: “In the past 12 months, have you participated in activities organized by any of the following organizations?”

The vast majority of respondents have participated in activities organized by associations and clubs, as shown in the graph below.



Question 16: “Over the past year, have you taken steps to bring about social change, such as signing a petition, attending a rally, or writing a letter to a politician? ”

73% of respondents have tried to bring about social change by signing a petition, participating in a rally, or sending a letter to a political representative, while 13% say they have not done so and 13% do not know.

Question 17: “ In which areas have you tried to change society (for example, by signing a petition, participating in a rally, or sending a letter to a politician)?”

Among the 73% of respondents who have tried to change society, 7 people took action in the area of climate change and environmental protection, 7 regarding wars and conflicts, and 5 regarding human rights.



PART III

Good practices

**Communication
strategies**

**Measuring
local change**



Fiche 11: Changing Practices

The initiatives presented in this section are driven and led by citizen movements and organizations that have successfully developed multi-stakeholder projects that address the challenges faced by their target audiences in particularly innovative ways, with a focus on improving their living conditions despite their highly precarious circumstances. These inspiring practices were selected for their potential for replication, their development process, and their approach aimed at empowering their target audience(s), particularly women in precarious situations.

Both projects address the fundamental needs for subsistence and security of women in the region, taking into account their specific needs and incorporating environmental considerations.

Inspiring practice #1 : « Le Marché des Engagées »

The “Marché des Engagées” is a community market featuring local and organic bulk goods. Held twice a month, it features a variety of stalls offering fruits, vegetables, eggs, legumes, and a few minimally processed items from various local producers, with prices tailored to customers’ budgets. Upon arrival, customers choose the option that fits their budget, indicated by a colored token (red = half the regular price, green = fair price, blue = support price). The individual decision regarding the level of financial assistance they need helps limit the stigma associated with this aid and ensures discretion during the purchase, as the marble is only presented at the checkout upon leaving the market.

This project was developed by the League of Human Rights (LDH) in Dunkirk. During a survey conducted by this organization in working-class neighborhoods of Dunkirk following the Covid health crisis, the issue of purchasing power emerged as the primary concern for the people interviewed. Since free public transportation had already been implemented across the CUD, significantly improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable, the issue of access to healthy and affordable food emerged as central for the residents of these neighborhoods, particularly for the health reasons they had clearly identified.

The LDH also maintains an information and referral booth there (for people facing conflicts with landlords, issues accessing their social rights, the Family Allowance Fund, etc.). The project was developed through several rather unconventional partnerships between the LDH, community centers, the Jardins de Cocagne, and with ad hoc and potentially recurring support from social housing providers (Le Cottage Social des Flandres, Flandre Opale Habitat, etc.). A collective of residents initiated this idea and is fully involved in organizing the markets. Particular attention is paid to ensuring that residents are not merely the driving force but also address the political dimensions of the project. Thus, the entire Petite-Synthe area has been mobilized through this project.

Initially launched in the Banc Vert neighborhood, this market has expanded and is now also taking place in other parts of the city: the working-class Alliance neighborhood, the Saint-Nicolas-Pasteur neighborhood, and more broadly throughout the Petite-Synthe area. Underway for two years, this initiative is not yet fully financially self-sustaining, but funding from donors helps offset the costs (financial details were not shared during the interview). The project has also been linked to local public policies, notably the Territorial Food Project (PAT). It thus helps reaffirm the right of everyone to access healthy and environmentally sustainable food.

Inspiring practice #2 : « Refugee Women’s Center (RWC) »

This is an intersectional feminist collective founded in 2015 between Calais and Grande Synthe, based on the observation made by several organizations that there was a need to address the specific challenges faced by women and families—who constitute marginalized and often overlooked groups within migrant populations.

Indeed, data on the people supported by the RWC show that one in two women is isolated, 40% are single mothers with children, and 30% are women over 55 whose housing conditions are inadequate. The organization takes a holistic approach that addresses material needs (responding to emergencies and meeting basic needs for shelter, food, and psychosocial support) as well as the need to feel supported and connected to others (creative leisure activities, language exchange sessions, etc.). In practice, the project involves outreach in the camps, a day center open three days a week in facilities provided by Secours Catholique in Calais and Grande Synthe, as well as more individualized support regarding gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. To this end, both long-term and ad hoc partnerships exist with various organizations specializing in these issues: Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross, Gynecology Without Borders, Planned Parenthood, hospitals, etc.



Couples and families can remain together, but men do not have access to spaces designated as mixed-gender among cisgender women, transgender people, and non-binary individuals. A small portion of the association's clientele also consists of non-binary and transgender individuals. The association receives very little support from local authorities, who do not see the value in investing in the protection of people who, for the vast majority, wish to migrate to the United Kingdom. For this reason, it relies primarily on support from private foundations and donations from businesses and other organizations. Its team consists of one part-time staff member, a four-person board of directors, and two on-site staff members, who can accommodate up to 15 volunteers. Anyone, except cisgender men, can apply to volunteer, including those from abroad (40% of volunteers are British; local residents and groups can also participate). By 2024, the organization had supported a total of 12,000 people. It is now headquartered at the Maison des Associations in Grande-Synthe.

Fiche 12: Creating local communication strategies for sustainable development

Due to access to a globalized internet network, sources of information and ways to connect with others are multiplying, complicating the communication strategies of change agents. During the study, many organizations reported difficulties in establishing a position of influence in the region (interviews 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13). Both residents and tourists are turning to less conventional media, which must be identified in order to maintain significant visibility. While the interview findings did not allow for the identification of specific ways to structure messages or the appropriate level of language to use, they provide a better understanding of the communication strategies adopted by these actors, in a context where channels for accessing information are multiplying.

Different social media platforms do not target the same audiences. A representative from a sports club explains their use of social media as follows: Facebook is used more by people over 35-45 years old, while younger people prefer Instagram and TikTok. All age groups use YouTube, whereas LinkedIn is not used to engage with the public but rather for professional networking. The sports club used Telegram but stopped, whereas conversely, the Instagram channel works very well for reaching its members. While there are partnerships regarding ticket sales for matches with La Voix du Nord¹ and local radio stations, coverage of these initiatives depends on the willingness of journalists (interview 5).

Although social media has disrupted the news landscape, it does not replace the power of the local press and word of mouth, particularly among older people and even within major metropolitan areas. Different regions have their own local newspapers, owned by Nord Littoral, a media outlet originally based in Calais and acquired by La Voix du Nord—a highly influential newspaper throughout the Hauts-de-France region. Examples include “La semaine dans le Boulonnais,” “Le Phare Dunkerquois,” “Les échos du Touquet,” “Le Journal de Montreuil,” and “Le réveil de Berck.”

Other, more general-interest media outlets, such as the public service channel France 3 Nord Pas-de-Calais, extend beyond the coast but are extremely influential (with 133,000 and 886,000 followers on Instagram and Facebook, respectively). Naturally, the monthly publications produced by cities and intermunicipal communities, as well as their websites (news and events sections), serve as information sources for certain audiences, as do political figures' posts on Facebook or X. The region also has several local radio stations, such as Delta FM in Boulogne-sur-Mer and Gravelines, Radio 6 Calais, and NRJ Nord Littoral. These media outlets were not the subject of in-depth research because the interviewees did not report using these communication channels.

When it comes to tourism in the region, several Instagram content creators stand out, including [objectifopale](#) (11,900 followers), [jolie_cote](#) (27,000 followers), and [nablezon](#) (72,800 followers). On Facebook, the most influential accounts are [Pas-de-Calais Tourisme](#) (163,000 followers, the tourism agency's account), [Côte d'Opale Tourisme](#) (82,000 followers, a personal account), and [Côte d'Opale guide touristique](#) (16,000 followers, a personal account).

Of course, social media engagement has its own limitations when it comes to reaching people who are isolated and lack the skills, ability, or desire to use new technologies. Communication strategies must utilize a variety of media and recognize the importance of influential figures within certain groups (soccer players, teachers, event hosts, etc.). It is also important not to underestimate the power of word of mouth, including in the region's major urban areas. Indeed, while social media has changed the way people communicate,

¹ La Voix du Nord is owned by the Belgian media group Rossel, which is managed by Patrick Hurbain, who also owns a 33% stake in the company.



discussion groups serve as an extension of informal exchanges among neighbors, parents, teachers, and students, within clubs, and at local events (interview 13). To mobilize people who are already engaged, outreach can be conducted through posters in places they frequent and via local independent media. These include cooperative bars in several coastal cities, independent media outlets such as “Calais la Sociale,” and channels associated with the accounts of activist collectives in various urban areas (WhatsApp groups, Facebook, Telegram, Instagram channels, etc.). Among the local figures who could be mobilized, local elected officials stand out first and foremost. The USBCO sports club also mobilizes its professional players to engage with young people, who are particularly attentive to the words of their elders (interview 5). It is also important to consider peer-to-peer interactions, which help capture attention more effectively, particularly among young people (interview 3).

These communication methods alone are not sufficient to address the isolation faced by certain groups. This is why a significant number of those interviewed prioritize going directly to the living spaces of the people they are trying to reach. “In reality, it’s not just about communication; it’s a gesture toward the residents. The approach of ‘reaching out’ helps create dialogue, conversations, sharing, and exchanges. Facilitators are becoming more professional, evolving into mediators +++” (interview 12). This can involve information booths on the street, posters in schools and community centers, booths at festivals and local events, etc.

Fiche 13: Measuring the local change

The effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda along the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais requires, in particular, the integration of the various SDGs into local policies. Specifically, all of the region’s specific needs must be analyzed in order to track and evaluate progress toward improving living conditions for everyone, both locally and internationally. However, none of the six intermunicipal communities has established a system at its own level to monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda as a whole. Although the various sustainable development challenges were identified by the interviewees, the lack of institutional and political structure limits the replicability and scaling up of projects and initiatives.

Various planning documents exist that relate to specific sustainable development goals. The Territorial Climate-Air-Energy Plans (PCAET) of the different urban areas set energy, climate, and environmental targets but do not mention the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda, or issues of social justice. However, the diagnostic section could incorporate differentiated vulnerabilities and identify the most at-risk populations in order to develop actions in their favor. The Coastal Risk Prevention Plan (PPRL) for Dunkirk and Bray-Dunes, as well as the discussions on coastal erosion led by various groups such as the Cercle Côte d’Opale Synergie, the Friends of Wissant Bay, and the Defense of the Ambleteuse Coastline, could align with SDG 13 and SDG 14, as could the Picardy Estuaries and Opal Sea Marine Nature Park, which combines several environmental protection objectives linked to SDGs 14 and 15.

Regarding the actions taken, the CAB organizes the annual “Solid’ESS,” an event dedicated to the social and solidarity economy, which could align with SDGs 8 and 10. The CCRA has launched a food eco-hub and initiated projects for the thermal renovation of buildings and the development of carpooling areas, initiatives that relate to SDGs 7, 11, and 12. Few coastal cities have been designated “Child-Friendly Cities” by UNICEF (only Boulogne-sur-Mer and Gravelines). Mechanisms such as participatory budgeting (historically present in Grande Synthe), calls for citizen projects, or city contracts (e.g., the CAGCTM’s 2030 City Contract) remain largely disconnected from a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development or global citizenship. The Dunkirk Urban Community (CUD) is the metropolitan area that communicates most extensively about its participatory democracy program. It stands out for its more visible and structured citizen initiatives, such as the participatory project “Changing Lives Together,” which includes citizen participation mechanisms—notably the “eco-win” initiative, the Youth Forum, and the “I Act for My City” program. The CUD is also a member of the WHO French Network of Healthy Cities, which aligns with SDG 3, and provides numerous civic service opportunities.

Using the number of associations and NGOs in the region as an indicator of civil society’s presence and participation in societal changes leads to the conclusion that the study of citizen participation and civil society engagement must be further explored. Indeed, the number of associations in Hauts-de-France (between 76,000 and 80,000) is below the national average in terms of density of associations per capita, with a high concentration in the education sector (Nord), healthcare (Pas-de-Calais), and the social sector, which accounts for over 57% of association jobs in the Nord and 63% in Pas-de-Calais. This includes, in particular, social housing, medical care (Pas-de-Calais), home care, work-based assistance, and the care of



children and adolescents (Nord)^{2 3}. Finally, while numerous plans and initiatives exist (PCAET, PAT, CLS, participatory projects, coastal risk management), their links to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda remain unclear or even nonexistent. The foresight studies conducted on the coast by the Hauts-de-France Region also make no reference to them, which limits the ability of civil society organizations and local authorities to adopt this framework. In practical terms, the lack of monitoring, a common framework, and explicit references to the SDGs limits the coherence and impact of local policies at both the coastal and EPCI levels.

² https://recherches-solidarites.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Essentiel_62_2025.pdf

³ https://recherches-solidarites.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Essentiel_59_2025.pdf



SUBLIME
SDGs

PART IV

Map of potential '*Change Makers*'



Fiche 14: Map of 'Change Makers'

N	Name	Intervention sector	Intervention areas	Legal form	Short description	Contact
1	À tes cotés (ex ADUGES)	Social	CUD	Association	The hub for community life in Dunkirk since 2017; focusing on early childhood, neighborhood life, and community engagement.	03 28 59 69 00
2	ABCD (Aide Bénévole Contre la Drogue) : Aide Soins et prise en Charge	Health	CAGCTM ; CCRA ?	Association	Drug use harm reduction, addiction prevention support; drug addiction justice outreach; headquartered in Saint-Omer	csapa.calais@abcd.asso.fr
3	ADAE (Association départementale actions éducatives)	Justice - Peace - Legal	CAB	Association	Its mission is to support and assist children, families, and adults facing social challenges. It seeks and develops the means to enable these individuals, based on their potential, to achieve independence and active citizenship.	service.boulogne@adae62.fr
4	ADAE (Association départementale actions éducatives)	Justice - Peace - Legal	CAGCTM	Association	Its mission is to support and assist children, families, and adults facing social challenges. It seeks and develops the means to enable these individuals, based on their potential, to achieve independence and active citizenship.	service.calais@adae62.fr
5	ADIL (Association Départementale d'Information sur le Logement)	Housing	CUD	Association	Housing	08.25.34.12.63
6	ADIS	Health ; Help - Advising - Training	CUD ; CAGCTM ; CAB ; CA2BM	Association	Initially focused on HIV and HCV issues, now addressing general health. Inequalities in access to healthcare and rights; screening, sexual health, housing	https://www.asso-adis.com/contact



7	ADLC (Ateliers de la citoyenneté) Calais	Economical growth - Employment ; Social	CAGCTM	Association	Workplace Integration Workshops in the fields of construction, computer graphics, food service, sales, and logistics.	contact@adlccalais.com
8	AFAPEI	Disability ; Help - Advising - Training ; Health	CAGCTM	Association	Various sites: ESAT Les Ateliers du Détroit; “Les Tilleuls” shelter; “CAJ Les Mésanges,” etc.	273 RUE CARNOT 62370 AUDRUICQ
9	AFEJI	Economical growth - Employment ; Disability	HDF	Association	A very large association with over 3,000 employees throughout the Hauts-de-France region, originally from Dunkirk though now based in Lille. Has a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) manager: Pauline Lecerf plecerf@afeji.org	elittoral@afeji.org
10	AGIR Gravelines	Economical growth - Employment	CUD	Association	Employment integration	contact@agir-gravelines.fr
11	Agitateurs public	Information ; Culture	CUD	Association	Cultural mediation, community education	agitateurspublic@gmail.com
12	AGUR (Agence d'urbanisme et de développement de la Région Flandre-Dunkerque)	Land management ; Environment	CUD	Association	Economic development, urban planning	agur@agur-dunkerque.org
13	ALAJ (Association Liens et Actions des Jeunes)	Help - Advising - Training	CA2BM	Association	Counseling and support center, specialized prevention services, youth coaching and addiction services	secretariat@alaj.fr
14	APAHM (Association d'Aide aux Personnes à Handicap Moteur) - Dunkerque	Disability	CUD	Association		03.28.63.75.20



15	APEI (Association de Parents d'Enfants Inadaptés) - Les Papillons Blancs	Disability	CUD	Association	Dunkirk; there is also a consortium in Arras and Montreuil-sur-Mer	03.28.61.78.83
16	APF (Association des Paralysés de France)	Disability	CUD	Association	Nord Departmental Delegation serving people with physical disabilities	03.20.57.99.84
17	APPSH Côte d'Opale (Association Parentale pour Personnes en Situation de Handicap de la Côte d'Opale)	Social	CAB	Association	Psychosocial support. Runs projects related to citizenship	03 21 80 64 97
18	ARB (Agence régionale de la Biodiversité)	Biodiversity	HDF	Public institution (for environmental cooperation)	The ARB Hauts-de-France was established following an agreement between various public institutions and local authorities, with the aim of combating the erosion of biodiversity, organizing its restoration, and reestablishing the connection between Society, Humanity, and all living things.	arb.hdf@enrx.fr
19	ARTS (Association Régional du Travail Social) Hauts-de-France	Social	CAB	Association	The Hauts-de-France Regional Social Work Association manages the Hauts-de-France Regional Institute of Social Work (IRTS) and brings together a broad institutional partnership	cote.opale@irtshdf.fr
20	ASEJ (Association Socio-éducative & Judiciaire)	Economical growth - Employment ; Justice - Peace - Legal ; Social	PDC	Association	Social, educational, and legal initiatives in collaboration with the courts. Branch office in Boulogne-sur-Mer	asej-boulogne-sur-mer@asej.fr



21	Association Afrique Europe Avenir	International cooperation ; Social	CUD	Network of organizations?	The Afrique Europe Avenir association is an international solidarity organization that raises awareness here in the North—specifically in Dunkirk—about agricultural interactions between the North and the South. It also supports an agricultural development project by training young people in the Kribi region of southern Cameroon in Africa.	asso_aea@yahoo.fr
22	Association an ka taga, avançons ensemble	International cooperation ; Social	CUD	Association	Development aid association for villages in Burkina Faso.	burkina59in@gmail.com
23	Association créative	Social	CUD	Association	Solidarity association active in various fields: food, culture, combating isolation, etc.	https://www.facebook.com/CreativeDunkerque/
24	Association humanitaire pour l'Afrique	International cooperation ; Social	CCRA	Association	FSI partner ; An international solidarity organization that supports development projects in Benin in the fields of agroecology, the environment, and education	monique.gilliot@gmail.com
25	Association intermédiaire AGIR	Economical growth - Employment ; Social	CA2BM	Association	Social integration association, affiliated with the Departmental Solidarity Center	03 21 94 69 47
26	Au fil des saisons	Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CA2BM	Company	Local produce market in Berck	03 21 09 71 58
27	Au jardin de la Molière et ses délices	Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CA2BM	Company	At the Jardin de la Molière, offering its delicacies, and a farm selling fresh produce directly to customers	Marie-ve.gille@orange.fr
28	Biosol'62	Economical growth - Employment ; Agriculture -	CAB	Association	Organic farming and sales of organic produce. Provides reception, hiring, and job placement services for individuals through community-based initiatives. Its primary goal is to promote and facilitate social	biosol62@gmail.com



		Food sovereignty			integration through training, follow-up, and support toward sustainable employment.	
29	Calais La sociale	Information	CAGCTM	Association	Independent media outlet. There is also “Boulogne La Sociale”	collectif@calaislasociale.fr
30	CDSI Boulogne (Centre de Documentation d'Information et d'Animation pour le Développement de la Solidarité Internationale)	Global Citizenship Education	CAB	Association	An association affiliated with the city’s media libraries that offers resources related to Global Citizenship Education	cdisiboulogne@ritimo.org
31	Centre social éclaté	Social	CAB	Association	Social center, a partner of the FSI	insertionstrohove@centresocialeclate.com
32	Centre Social et Culturel Cousteau	Social ; Culture	CAGCTM	Association	The Social and Cultural Center is a neighborhood facility with a broad social mission, open to all residents living nearby, offering a welcoming environment, programs, activities, and social services.	res.jeunesse.csc@gmail.com
33	Centre social et de prévention sanitaire Espace Fort	Social ; Health	CAGCTM	Association	The Espace Fort Social and Health Prevention Center is a multi-purpose facility serving a population in need.	pausecafe@centre-social-espacefort.fr
35	Chênelet	Economical growth - Employment ; Environment ; Social	CCRA	Company	For over 40 years, Chênelet has been supporting people who are far from the job market by offering them a comprehensive program of training and professional integration.	contact@chenelet.org



36	CIDFF (Centre d'Information des Droits des Femmes)	Gender equality ; Social	CUD	Association	Women's and Family Rights Information Center	Dunkerque Grande-Synthe : 03.28.59.29.30
37	CIDFF Nord Flandres (Centre d'Information des Droits des Femmes)	Gender equality ; Social	CUD	Association	Women's and Family Rights Information Center (social worker at the gendarmerie)	07 78 68 08 08
38	Coallia (AGIR 62)	Migrations ; Economical growth - Employment ; Housing	CAB	Institution	The AGIR program aims to systematize comprehensive support for beneficiaries of international protection (BPI) in accessing employment, housing, and their rights.	agir.62@coallia.org
39	Collectif Énergies Libres	Education; Social	CAGCTM	Network of organizations	The Maison Pour Tous, an essential component of the City of Calais' social and cultural framework, offers the population—both young people and adults—the opportunity to discover their skills, develop their personalities, and prepare to become active and responsible citizens of a vibrant community.	coordinatrice@mptcalais.fr
40	Collectif féministe audomarois	Gender equality	CCRA	Non formal group	Poster campaign. In collaboration with Saint Omer, among others.	https://www.facebook.com/collagesfeministesaudomarois
41	Collectif féministe Calais	Gender equality	CAGCTM	Non formal group	Currently undergoing restructuring. Poster campaign.	https://www.facebook.com/p/Collectif-F%C3%A9ministe-Calais-100090706620295/
42	Comité Local ATTAC du Boulonnais	Justice - Peace - Legal ; Education	CAB	Association	Social and ecological tax justice, Community education	attac.boulonnais@gmail.com
44	Coud'Pouce pour l'emploi	Economical growth -	CUD	Association	Employment integration, notably the Integration Project focused on textile recycling under the FSE+	contact@coud-pouce.org



		Employment ; Social				
45	CPIE Flandre Maritime	Environment ; Education	CUD	Company	Guides in the town of Zuydcoote, a dune area	centreressource@cpieflandremaritime.fr
46	DK Clean Up	Environment ; Education	CUD	Association	An association dedicated to collecting, sorting, and recycling plastic waste. It also organizes public awareness events for all ages	07 44 42 27 47 / 06 35 22 12 23
47	Espace Santé du Littoral - Centre de sécurité sexuelle	Gender equality ; Social ; Information	CUD	Institution ?	EVARS as well as gynecological care and psychological support There is also a Health and Environment Center and the Nursing Health Center	centredeplanification@esl-asso.fr
48	Expressions	Culture	CUD	Association	Association focused on self-expression through art and culture	https://www.expressions-dunkerque.eu/
49	FACE (Fédération Agir Contre l'Exclusion) Côte d'Opale région HdF	Economical growth - Employment	CAGCTM	Company	Business club active on the Opal Coast, whose goal is to engage local businesses	03 21 34 45 73
50	FACE Flandres	Economical growth - Employment	CUD	Company association	Business club promoting inclusion	flandres@fondationface.org
51	Femmes des territoires	Gender equality ; Economical growth - Employment	CAB	Association	Digital and local support network for all female entrepreneurs and project leaders	contact@femmesdesterritoires.fr
52	Force Femmes Lille	Gender equality	CUD	Association	Feminist association in the CUD	Sophie Gorin : 06 86 30 96 66
53	France Horizon	Migrations ; Economical growth -	CUD	Institution	The AGIR program aims to systematize comprehensive support for beneficiaries of international protection (BPI) in accessing employment, housing, and their rights.	hautsdefrance@france-horizon.fr



		Employment ; Housing				
54	FRCPM (Fédération Régionale pour la Culture et le Patrimoine Maritimes) Nord Pas-de-Calais	Patrimoine : Culture	HDF	Association	Network association connecting various organizations and individuals seeking to protect and promote the region's maritime and river culture. Shipyard in Calais; Offices also in Calais (03 21 82 58 65) and Boulogne-sur-Mer	lvallat.frcpm@wanadoo.fr
55	Gérontopole HDF		HDF	Association	Association addressing issues related to an aging population, such as "Debout les Aînés" in Lille (deboutlesaines.fr)	contact@gerontopole-hdf.fr
56	Gynécologie sans frontières	Migrations ; Gender equality ; Urgence	CUD ; CAGCTM	Association	In particular, the SoliSafe project, camiFrance, consisting of solidarity initiatives for women in France; works in coordination with the Refugee Women's Center and Doctors Without Borders	gsf.camifrance@gmail.com
58	Horizon	Mobilité - Volunteering ; Social ?	CUD	Association	Offers activities, particularly in Priority Neighborhoods (QPV); provides civic service opportunities and volunteer training; has carried out projects on gender equality	horizon.startupasso@gmail.com
59	IMED (Institut Médico-éducatif de Dunkerque)	Health ; Economical growth - Employment	CUD	Company	Support for young people (up to 110, ages 12 to 20) with neurodevelopmental disorders, mental health disorders, with or without associated conditions. Training for integration into various fields (food service, carpentry, horticulture, home economics, and painting)	imed@papillonsblancs-dunkerque.fr
60	Interm'Aides Le Portel	Economical growth - Employment ; Social	CA2BM	Association	The association receives funding from the European Social Fund to provide individualized social and professional support as part of the PLIE (Local Integration and Employment Plan).	@intermaides.fr
61	Interm'Aides Côte d'Opale	Economical growth -	CAB	Association	The association receives funding from the European Social Fund to provide individualized social and	contact@intermaides.fr



		Employment ; Social			professional support as part of the PLIE (Local Integration and Employment Plan). “We offer a wide range of personal services, including the ‘Superm'aides’ program and its array of services—housekeeping, gardening, handyman services, and general maintenance.”	
62	La Capuche Mobilisée	Migrations	CAGCTM	Association	Humanitarian aid	bonjour@lacapuche.org
63	La Fabrique DEFI	Economical growth - Employment	CAGCTM	Local authority	Economic development, training, and integration	03 21 34 15 38
64	La Halle aux sucres	Information ; Culture ; Education	CUD	Local authority	CUD facilities; a hub of resources and expertise on sustainable cities	mathilde.vanderrusten@tud.fr
65	La Pause QUEERS	Gender equality	CUD	Association	Combating LGBTphobia	laposequeer59@gmail.com
66	La Petite Pierre	Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CUD	Association	Operates, in particular, the “Label Épicerie,” a community-driven and participatory neighborhood grocery store	infos@label-epicerie.org
67	Le Panier de la Mer 62	Economical growth - Employment ; Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CAB	Association	Integration project association located in Boulogne-sur-Mer, based on three core missions: the sustainable use of fishery resources, social integration, and charitable work	panierdelamer62@wanadoo.fr
68	Le Parlement de la Mer	Governance	PMCO	Non formal group	Founded in 2020 by the HdF Region	matthieu.audollent@hautsdefrance.fr
69	Les Amis de l'Algérie		CUD	Association	FSI partner	donsoss59760@gmail.com
70	Les Anges Gardins	Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CCRA	Association	Association focused on integration, lifelong learning, the development of new social practices, and activities specifically related to food.	contact@angesgardins.fr



72	Les Flamands Roses	Gender equality	Lille	Association	Gender minorities and sexual orientations; gay and lesbian expression group; Part of the Lille Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and Feminist Center “J'en suis, j'y reste” https://jensuisjyreste.org/	03.20.52.28.68
73	Les Silencieux	Disability	CAB	Association	A digital safe space dedicated to supporting neurodivergent individuals (autism, ADHD, learning disabilities, etc.) and those living with mental health conditions (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, etc.). Our mission: to provide a calm, caring, and safe environment that fosters peer support and respects each person’s pace.	19 rue Wicardenne 62200 Boulogne sur Mer
74	L'Établi	Education	CCT2C	Association	A community education association with two areas of focus on the CCT2C: participatory bodies; youth and empowerment	contact@letabli.eu
75	LICRA -Dunkerque et Littoral	Education	CUD	Association	A French non-governmental organization fighting racism and anti-Semitism	dunkerque@licra.org
76	Liens solidaires	Social ; Education; Sport	CUD	Association	The goal of the LIENS association is to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged through solidarity and integration. Since 2008, the association has participated in the ESS Forum and then in Dunkirk’s International Solidarity Week.	liens.solidaires@gmail.com
77	Ligue des Droits de l'Homme	Migrations ; Justice - Peace - Legal	HDF	Association	An association fighting for men’s and women’s rights, particularly in the context of xenophobic discrimination.	dunkerque@ldh-france.org
78	Maison de l'Initiative - Grande-Synthe	DIS	CUD	Association	A center supported by the city of Grande-Synthe, which hosts numerous initiatives promoting youth employment	03.28.24.99.00
80	Maison des enfants de la Côte d'Opale	Education	CAB	Association	Supported by the Fondation de France	lesmaisonsdesenfantsdelacotedopale@orange.fr



81	Maison des femmes de Calais	Gender equality ; Social ; Information	CAGCTM	Local authority	Open to women from Calais regardless of age or income, the Maison des Femmes welcomes and supports individuals with compassion as they navigate their life journeys. It also serves as an emergency shelter for women or mothers in dire straits	06 45 54 05 47
82	Maison du site des deux caps	Tourism	CCT2C		Tourism	+33 (0)3 21 21 62 22
83	MASSADA	International cooperation	CUD	Association	The organization aims to improve beneficiaries' living conditions and hygiene, as well as their access to education and culture. It carries out international solidarity projects that contribute to local development across all sectors, in partnership with project leaders and drawing on their expertise.	association.massada@gmail.com
84	Mission Locale Montreuil Côte d'Opale (62)	Education; Economical growth - Employment ; Social ?	CA2BM	Association	Support for young NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) or those who have left the school system without qualifications and are seeking employment	contact@missionlocale-mco.fr
85	MRAP (Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples)	Education	CUD	Association	Anti-racism organization	mrpdk@gmail.com
86	NEGAR	Gender equality ; Justice - Peace - Legal	Lille	Association	Organization providing information and advocating for the rights of Afghan women	negarafghanwomen@yahoo.fr
87	Nous Toutes du Boulonnais	Gender equality	CAB	Association	Empowerment of women and girls	noustoutesduboulonnais@proton.me
88	Opale Vélo services	Tourism : MOB	CAGCTM	Association	Organization serving cyclists: rental, repair, and sale of secondhand bicycles.	ovs@orange.fr



89	Outils sans frontière	Social ; Migrations	CAGCTM	Association	Humanitarian aid	outils.sansfrontiere@gmail.com
90	Parc naturel marin des Estuaires picards et de la mer d'Opale	Environment ; Biodiversity	CAB	Institution	Management of marine ecosystems	parcmarin.epmo@aires-marine.fr
91	Planning Familial du Littoral	Gender equality ; Social ; Information	CUD ; NORD	Association	DIS+VSS+EVARS + gynecological care and psychological support	secretariat@pfdl.fr
92	Présentes - initiatives de soutien et de promotion des filles et des femmes de la côte d'opale	Gender equality ; Economical growth - Employment	CAB	Association	Empowerment of women and girls	157 RUE DU CHEMIN VERT, 62200 BOULOGNE-SUR-MER
93	Projet IRIS	Gender equality	CUD	Association	Combating LGBTphobia	asso.projet.iris@gmail.com
94	Resto du cœur du 59	Social ; Agriculture - Food sovereignty - Alimentation	HDF	Association	National social welfare association, particularly food banks	03 28 69 69 88
95	Secours populaire Pas-de-Calais	Social	PDC	Association	National social welfare association	03 21 96 37 43
96	Solfa	Gender equality ; Social	CUD	Association	Regional association with multiple locations; Support for women experiencing gender-based and sexual violence + prostitution	aijoséphine@asso-solfa.fr
97	SOS Homophobie	Gender equality	NORD,PDC	Association	Gender minorities and sexual orientations	sos-lille@sos-homophobie.org sos-npdc@sos-homophobie.org
98	Sous-préfecture de Dunkerque ;	DIS	CUD	Institution		martine.witasse@nord.pref.gouv.fr



Correspondance "égalité des chances"						
99	Studio 43	Culture	CUD	Association	Studio 43 is an arthouse cinema where you can discover a unique and diverse program of films, as well as workshops and themed evenings.	deuchin@studio43.fr
100	Tiers-lieu Nourricier du Boulonnais	Agriculture - Food sovereignty	CAB	Association	Collection of food waste, notably via cargo bikes	contact@tlnb.fr
101	Unaide	Disability ; Help - Advising - Training	CAGCTM	Association	Unaide supports caregivers and their loved ones who are vulnerable due to age, illness, or disability.	contact@unaide.com
102	Union Sportive Boulogne Côte d'Opale	Sport ; Teaching - Training	CAB	Company	Sports club comprising a non-profit sports association and a company, including a professional team and a training center	ofco@usbco.com
103	Ville de Grande-Synthe		CUD	Local authority		j.mierzejewski@ville-grande-synthe.fr
104	Refugee Women's Center	Gender equality ; Migrations ;	CAGCTM ; CUD	Association	Association providing assistance to migrant women and families.	calais@refugeewomenscentre.com dunkerque@refugeewomenscentre.com



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