



THE ECONOMIC INITIATIVES AND MIGRATION PROGRAMME

The Economic Initiatives and Migration Programme, or *Programme Migrations et Initiatives Economiques (PMIE)* in French, aims to facilitate the implementation of economic projects by migrants both in their country of origin and in France. Set up in 2001, this programme is run by the association pS-Eau (Programme Solidarité Eau). It is funded by the French Foreign Affairs Ministry and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Cohesion, the European Commission and the CCFD (Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development).

Since 1996, the pS-Eau has co-ordinated a network, the Micro Enterprise Support Group, *Groupe d'Appui à la Micro Entreprise (GAME)*, which brings international solidarity associations, migrants associations and the representatives of public authorities together to reflect on the support that can be offered for migrants' economic projects.

The need for such a network was based on the observation that many migrants were creating companies in their country of origin, or were supporting projects there, but the financial investments they were making were not showing results, frequently due to technical, administrative and financial management difficulties.

The observations and findings of the network revealed the importance of project preparation in France, of methodological and technical support and the need for close monitoring by a specialised operator on the ground. In 1999 GAME drew up a practical guide called "Se réinstaller et entreprendre au pays" ("Going back home and setting up a business") which was updated in 2005.

Today, the network comprises 18 support organisations in 7 French regions. Each year they receive around one thousand migrants from all over Africa.

These organisations offer training and individual support and advice regarding:

- Activities implemented by people returning to their country of origin
- Activities initiated by a compatriot and supported by migrants living in France ("remote investment" project)
- Activities carried out in France

GAME develops innovative tools for supporting the project funding. In particular, it offers bursaries for feasibility studies. These make it possible to gather relevant project data in the country of origin and to check its pertinence and viability. The studies are carried out in collaboration with local enterprise creation support organisations.

The projects concern around fifteen African countries: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Cap-Verde, Comoros, Congo, Côte-d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo.

The fields of activity are varied:

- Primary sector: market garden production, poultry farming, fishing etc.
- Secondary sector: construction, arts and crafts, agro-food processing etc.
- Tertiary sector: commerce (retail, wholesale, import/export), IT (cyber-café, maintenance and sale of hardware), tourism, driving schools, printing, services etc.

For further information on this programme, you may visit our internet site: www.pseau.org/pmie or contact:

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