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Economy : facts and figures

Bouches-du-Rhône : General data and figures

- Area of the Bouches-du-Rhône : 5,087 km²/1,965 sq.ml. (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region : 31,400 km²/12,120 sq.ml.). 50 % classified as natural areas
- Population of the Bouches-du-Rhône :
 - Bouches-du-Rhône, a department with a population of 1.9 million (ranked 3rd nationally) in a dynamic region of 4.7 million inhabitants.
 - A young department: in the Aix-Marseille metropolitan area, 51.4 % of the population is under 40.
 - Aix-Marseille : 3rd urban concentration in France.
- Economy of the Bouches-du-Rhône :
 - 50 % of businesses and jobs in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (ranked 1st department in the region)
 - GDP per capita: 27,095 € (France outside Paris: 25,325 €)
 - GDP per employed person: 71,133 € (France outside Paris: 65,544 €)
 - 75 % of bank transactions in Provence Alpes Côte-d'Azur
 - 75 % of exogenous businesses in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur
- Businesses in the Bouches-du-Rhône :
 - 153 523 companies
 - 747 558 jobs

Provence in the international sphere

• Over 700 companies with foreign capital located in the Bouches-du-Rhône

Provence is one of the top French destinations for direct foreign investment and a host to a number of major companies such as STMicroelectronics, Katoen Natie, SAP, IKEA, Coca-Cola, Exxonmobil, Lyondell Basell, Monster, Merck, Krupp, Kingfisher Group, NYK Line, Pirelli, BMW...

• A consular city and international organizations in Provence

Marseille, with 72 diplomatic representations and 6 foreign or franco-foreign Chambers of Commerce, is the second consular city in France.

Moreover, the strategic position of Provence at the heart of the Mediterranean Arc is a pull factor for international agencies who chose Marseille to move their action forward.

These agencies include:

- The World Water Council,
- The World Bank Institute,
- A branch of the European Parliament and a representative of the European Commission
- UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization),
- ACUNS (European Center of the Academic Council of the United Nations System)



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• **Large-scale projects in the Bouches-du-Rhône**

Over the past ten years, large-scale projects have been developing in the Bouches-du-Rhône, including:

- ITER, an R & D international project with a € 10 billion budget in the field of nuclear fusion.
- Euroméditerranée in Marseille, an urban renewal and economic development operation on a European scale.
- The Port of Marseilles-Fos, with the Fos 2XL or 3XL plans for expansion of the container terminal.

• **Provence : A Land of Welcome for foreigners**

In addition to schools offering international education such as the Lycée Georges Duby High School in Luynes (Aix-en-Provence) and the International School of Manosque, near the ITER site, several foreign cultural associations and institutes are located in Provence, among which the British American Institute, the Maison de Tübingen, Noria (Franco-Spanish Cultural Association), Dante Alighieri etc.



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A gateway

Provence : an international territory

You wish to set up a company in a dynamic international region where export business developing is made easy??

Located at the heart of the Mediterranean Arc and close to developing markets, the Bouches-du-Rhône is an ideal location to expand your international business.

From Marseille-Provence airport, you have nearly 700 million consumers “within reach” and less than 4 hours away by plane.

By locating in the heart of Provence, you will have the opportunity to explore new markets: prime markets (such as Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain ...) but also developing markets in North Africa.





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Provence: A multimodal territory

Conveniently located at an east-west, north-south crossroads, Provence is strategically positioned at the heart of the Mediterranean Arc. The Bouches-du-Rhône are a gateway to the world, with:

- **An international airport**

- 2nd French airport for cargo traffic, with 54,011 metric tons of cargo in 2008;
- 3rd French airport (excluding Paris) for passenger traffic with 6.9 million passengers in 2008;
- direct routes to 74 cities in 28 countries;
- MP2: 1st terminal in Europe dedicated to low-cost flights; Ryanair first permanent hub in France.

- **Marseille-Fos : largest port complex in France and the Mediterranean**

- 3rd oil port in the world
- 40,000 jobs total; 50,000 expected by 2012
- 540,000 cruise passengers in 2008; an increase of 100,000 over 2007
- Geographically diversified services: 400 ports-of-call in nearly 140 countries
- 66 shipping companies represented

- **2 TGV (High speed train) stations in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille : a 3-hour ride to Paris**

- 22 million passengers per year,
- 2 train stations: Aix-en-Provence TGV and Marseille TGV Saint Charles,
- 17 daily round trips to the center of Paris and Paris-Charles de Gaulle,
- Marseille-Paris: 3 hours
- Marseille-Brussels: 5 hours.

- **A river port : Arles, largest river port on the Rhône River**

- Accommodates vessels up to 3,000 metric tons,
- Over thirty tramp connections to Eastern Europe, North Africa, Northern and Southern Europe, and the Near East
- Multimodal platform (road / rail / sea / river)
- 11 hectares (27 acres) and 40,000 m² (over 430,000 sq. ft.) of warehouses on a fenced-in secured site,
- 40 hectares (100 acres) for the installation of transport and logistics companies

- **A highly-developed road and motorway system**

- 250 km (150 miles) of motorways
- 600 km (375 miles) of national roads.





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Provence: A digital territory

Traditionally a land of exchange of material flows, Provence has now become a land of exchange of immaterial flows - to keep pace with our information society.

A capital city, Marseille confirms its position as a regional, national and international platform for communication networks, particularly to Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with the installation of the Sea-Me-We 4 and Med Cable telecommunications submarine networks.

The Sea-Me-We 4 telecommunications submarine network nearly spans 20,000 km (12,400 miles), linking Marseilles to 14 countries all the way to Singapore. It has 32 times the initial capacity of the previous Sea-Me-We 3 system. With a maximum capacity of 1.28 Terabit per second, it handles up to one million simultaneous telephone conversations over 20,000 km (12,400 miles)!

The Med Cable network connects Marseilles to Algiers and Annaba spanning 1,300 km (800 miles). The system is designed to enable future extensions towards the west and east of the Mediterranean basin.

Investing in Provence is investing in a digital area and a gateway and maximizing the exchange of material and immaterial flows.



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An innovative territory

Competitive clusters

Competitive clusters

Competitive clusters are part of a nationwide policy launched to bring together, in a given geographical area, private businesses, universities and research laboratories to work in partnerships on innovative projects eligible for special support.

They generate synergies that enable businesses involved in the network to have a better national and international visibility and improve their competitiveness.

The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur hosts 9 competitive clusters, including a global cluster (SCS - Secure Communications Solutions) and a globally-oriented cluster (the Mer PACA maritime cluster).

With such concentration of expertise, the PACA region is among the leading French regions dedicated to defining innovative projects.

Today there are 71 competitive clusters in France.

For more information: login to the website for the promotion of competitive clusters in France:
www.competitivite.gouv.fr

9 are located in Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, including a global cluster (SCS - Secure Communications Solutions) and a globally-oriented cluster (the Mer PACA maritime cluster).

- **Secure Communications Sector Solutions (SCS)**, labeled "global cluster"

Active in 6 markets: location systems, mobility, security, identity systems, connectivity and traceability.
<http://www.pole-scs.org>

- **Mer PACA**, labeled "global-oriented cluster"

Active in 5 markets: maritime safety and security, naval engineering, maintenance and services, offshore oil and renewable energy, exploitation & development of marine biology resources, environment & coastal engineering. <http://polemerpaca.fr>

- **Optitec - An Optics and Photonics Cluster**

A cluster active in many market applications: space, environment, instrumentation & Earth observation, subsea imaging, nuclear fusion, microelectronics, medical imaging, bio-photonics, laser processes. <http://www.popsud.org>

- **Capenergies – A Cluster of Energy generation with no greenhouse gases**

Activities cover 7 types of energy: fission and fusion nuclear energy, biofuels, hydrogen and associated cogeneration, water-power, wind-power, energy consumption control in building, housing, solar, geothermal. <http://www.capenergies.fr>

- **« Innovation fruits et légumes » European Cluster**

A cluster active in 5 markets: food security, improving the nutritional value of fresh produce,



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rediscovering the pleasure of taste, new opportunities of consumption through innovation, sustainable development and environmental protection approach. <http://www.peifl.org>

- « **Gestion des risques et vulnérabilités des territoires** » Cluster

A cluster for risk and homeland vulnerability management working on: fire prevention, hydrology, soil structure & movement, pollution control, waste recycling, information & telecommunication, help in decision making, structure management, sensors. <http://www.pole-risques.com>

- « **Parfums, Arômes, Senteurs et Saveurs** » (PASS) Cluster

Perfumes, Aromas, Scents and Flavors. A cluster specializing in five areas: Characterization of natural products, in vitro models for toxicology tests, definition of international regulations and standards, activity & effects of natural products, cosmetics production technologies. <http://www.pole-pass.fr>

- Eurobiomed- **Emerging pathologies and orphan diseases**

A cluster dedicated to 4 lines of research: infectious and tropical diseases, medical technologies and bio-engineering, rare or aggressive cancers, care and accompaniment of the elderly, neurological pathologies and the handicapped. <http://www.eurobiomed.org>

- Pegase – **A cluster developing innovative aerospace and aeronautics solutions for human safety and homeland security**

A cluster with 4 fields of action: homeland surveillance (industrial and military sites, forests, weather analysis, land-surveying...), assistance (rescue, military or police operations...), passenger or freight transport, information relay and coverage of events (sports, social ...). <http://www.pole-pegase.com>



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Regional Clusters

PRIDES (Regional Clusters for Innovation and mutually Supportive Economic Development)

“PRIDES” is a label given to a regional network of businesses (SMEs and SMIs), research laboratories and training centers with common goals and shared activities. The label reflects a concept of the economy based on innovation and technology combined with other performance levers, such as:

- Social and environmental responsibility,
- Employee training,
- Export and marketing
- The use of ICT.

The PRIDES receive financial support from the Regional Council.

The PACA region has labeled 26 PRIDES so far. A number of PRIDES extend beyond the borders of the region, with the help of competitiveness clusters. www.regionpaca.fr/index.php?id=3115

A number of competitive clusters have also been awarded the PRIDES label, in order to achieve better synergy : The Capenergies cluster, The Innovation fruits & légumes European cluster, The Mer PACA cluster, The Parfums, Arômes, Senteurs, Saveurs – PASS cluster, The Pegase cluster, The Optics and Photonics cluster, The Gestion des risques et vulnérabilités des territoires cluster, The SCS cluster.

Meanwhile, other players have joined together to get the support of the PACA Region and the PRIDE label, among them:

- **Eco Entreprises** – Sustainable development and Environment
Initiator : Association EA Image <http://www.ea-image.fr>

- **Grande Plaisance**
Sector: Professional Yachting
Initiator: Riviera Yachting Network <http://www.rynetwork.com>

- **ICI Mode** (Fashion)

- **Image PACA**
Sector: Audiovisual, movies, 3D, video games and digital content
Initiator : Association Cinéma au Soleil <http://www.polesudimage.com>

- **Books and records, culture industry**
Initiator : Association industries et commerce culturels : Livres et Disques – PACA (Arles)
<http://www.prides-paca.fr>

- **Logistics**
Initiator: Association Cluster Logistique <http://www.provence-logistics.com>

- **Novachim, chemicals, platurgy, materials**
Initiator: CRITT Chimie-Plastiques-matériaux <http://www.critt-chim-plast-paca.com>

- **Science and biotechnologies**
Initiator: Eurobiomed <http://www.eurobiomed.org>

- **Industrial Solutions and Systems**
Sector : mechanics and maintenance in various sectors such as aeronautics, steel, aerospace, petrochemicals, naval, microelectronics industries.
Initiator: Association Solutions et Systèmes Industriels <http://www.ssi-paca.com>



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A Territory with a Vision

The Arbois-Méditerranée environment Technopolis

The Arbois-Méditerranée environment Technopolis was created at the initiative of the Conseil Général (County Council) of Bouches-du-Rhône in 1991, for the purpose of hosting businesses, research units and academic departments specializing in environmental issues.

Set at the heart of the Arbois plateau's 11,000 hectares (27,000 acres), the Technopolis covers an area of 4,500 hectares (11,000 acres) and is a real "green lung" in the metropolitan area. Easily accessible by road and motorway, it is a few minutes away from the Marseille-Provence international airport and high speed train (TGV) station in Aix-en-Provence.

The Technopolis offers several types of structures to accommodate businesses:

- Domaine du Petit Arbois extends over 75 hectares (185 acres), with office space for rent in a structure dedicated to high technology activities;
- Domaine du Tourillon a 90 hectare- (220-acre) ZAC (planned development area) offering land for sale and office space for rent;
- Domaine de la Gare, an area of 40 hectares (100 acres) adjacent to the train station and dedicated to technopolitan activities and services associated with the train station.

Key figures for the Technopolis:

- 8 research laboratories,
- 25 start-up companies,
- 46 companies and various organizations,
- Nearly 600 people.

Several renowned organizations and institutes have located in the Technopolis, including:

- The Institut Fédératif de Recherche (Federative Research Institute), a group of public laboratories working together on the impact of waste on water and natural environments;
- CEREGE (European Center for Research and Education in Environmental Geoscience) ;
- The Centre de compétences sur la valorisation des déchets (Center of expertise on recycling waste), which combines INERIS, CEREGE and the Syndicat Mixte de l'Arbois;
- The Centre de compétences en formulation chimique (Center of expertise in chemical formulation) which combines the Laboratoire de Chimie Analytique de l'Environnement (Analytical Chemistry of the Environment Laboratory) and CRITT Chimie (regional center for innovation and technology transfer- chemistry) ;
- Éa-IMaGE, an association of SMEs and SMI's in the field of environment and sustainable development, labeled Regional Cluster for Innovation and mutually Supportive Economic Development (PRIDES) Eco-businesses and Sustainable Development ;
- Environnement Innovation Méditerranée, with businesses, communities and research centers in the field of new technologies applied to renewable energy.
- The Collège de France Department of Environmental Science.

For more information : www.arbois-med.com



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Euroméditerranée

Created in 1995 at the initiative of State and local governments, Euroméditerranée is a national interest program in urban rehabilitation and economic development in downtown Marseille.

The project extends over 480 hectares (1,185 acres) in the heart of Marseille and has developed into a major international business center including:

- La Joliette business district: a 22-hectare (55-acre) surface area, with 300,000 m² (over 3 million square feet) of floor space dedicated to offices and two hotels;
- Rue de la République: 5,000 residential units and 60,000 m² (650,000 square feet) of renovated floor space on the tramway line;
- Belle de Mai: 120,000 m² (1.3 million square feet) dedicated to culture and heritage, the second largest national center for production and distribution of audiovisual, music and interactive programs;
- St. Charles and Porte d'Aix: multimodal exchange center with a surface of 16 hectares (40 acres) under renovation around the TGV train station;
- Cité de la Méditerranée : 110 hectares (270 acres) of coastline will house, by 2012, the national Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations (MuCEM), the Regional Center for the Mediterranean, the Terrasses du Port (leisure and shopping complex), Euromed Center (convention center, 4-star hotel and multiplex cinema designed by Luc Besson) and a 2200-seat auditorium.

Between 1995 and 2006, 18,500 jobs have been created and 725 businesses have opened offices, including Compass Group, Expedia Corporate Travel, DHL Express or Monster.

Ultimately, 500,000 m² (over 5 million square feet) of office floor space, 12,000 residential units and 200,000 m² (over 2 million square feet) of facilities will be built or rehabilitated and 20,000 jobs will be created.

Following the example of Bilbao, that gained international exposure with the construction of the prestigious Guggenheim Museum, Marseille has called on internationally famous architects for its flagship projects.

Among those projects, the new tower for the headquarters of CMA CGM (3rd largest shipping company in the world) is currently under construction and designed by Zaha Hadid, winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004.

Other projects to come include the SAS Sweden program, designed by four architects (Jean Nouvel, Yves Lion, Jean-Baptiste Piétri and Roland Carta), the MuCEM, designed by Rudy Ricciotti and Roland Carta, the Regional Center for the Mediterranean, created by Stefano Boeri and Euromed Center, designed by Massimiliano Fuksas.

For more information: www.euromediterranee.fr



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Fos 2 XL

FOS 2XL will triple the handling and processing capacity of container terminals in the Port of Marseilles-Fos western docks.

Two new container terminals are in the process of being built to international standards (and expected to be completed by 2011).

The new terminals will include new docks over 1,200 m (4,000 ft) long. The 200 m (650 ft.) long existing docks will be reinforced.

The FOS 2XL building project also includes a median strip of approximately 100 hectares (250 acres) and a road and rail infrastructure.

As private operators of the future terminal, MSC and Port Synergy (a subsidiary of CMA-CGM), respectively the world's 2nd and 3rd biggest container terminal operators, will be responsible for financing the facilities necessary for the operation of terminals, up to 220 million €.

Due to its strategic location and new terminals the Port of Marseille-Fos, will be at the heart of a true European transport chain.

For more information: www.marseille-port.fr

Iter

ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is a prototype nuclear fusion reactor in the process of being built in Cadarache, that aims to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion power as a new source of energy. ITER should be completed within 10 years at a cost of 4.7 billion Euros.

The partners in the ITER project are the European Union, the USA, Russia, China, Japan, South Korea and India. The operational phase will last 20 years, with an estimated budget of 4.8 billion Euros. About 3,250 indirect jobs in France, including 2,400 in the PACA region will complement the existing 1,000 direct jobs projected. The estimated budget for decommissioning the facilities at the end of the operation phase is 500 million Euros.

The reactor will not produce electricity but will be used to test the technologies needed to develop the DEMO experimental reactor (1,500 MW).

ITER will be the world's largest research center for fusion experiment. As such, the project represents industrial and economic opportunities for France and the PACA region in the construction and operation phase.

An employment-training program was set up for the ITER project by Mission ITER, the Regional Employment Public Service (SPER) and its partners.

The program's objectives are:

- to anticipate the project's impact on employment,
- to assist companies in their recruitment,
- to coordinate activities between various partners.



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In parallel, an international school will open in September 2010 in Manosque.

With a capacity of one thousand students, it will provide a cross-cultural environment to children 3 to 18.

A “Master in Nuclear Fusion Science” was created through joint training programs.

The objective of the diploma is to prepare scientists and engineers from France and foreign countries, to work in the development and operation of French fusion machinery.

For more information:

- Job openings in the international organization : login to the website www.iter.org
- For details on the Master in Nuclear Fusion Science, login to the website www.sciences-fusion.fr



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A good choice of location

Global and Dedicated offers

The Bouches-du-Rhône is ideally located in the south of France, on the Mediterranean, and its opportunities. The territory offers a pleasant climate, superb landscapes and a living culture, and is, moreover an area of great activity.

Its geographical location is at the crossroads of east-west and north-south trade routes, favoring the development of industrial and commercial activity. Few territories in the world offer such a combination of talent and hospitality. Join The Provence Partnership, its 300 business and high-tech industrial parks, its 23,000 companies and 220,000 active workforce.

The map below shows the most important sites within the territory.



To learn about the areas, to refine your search or obtain complementary information, visit <http://www.poles-activites13.com/index.php?cont=main>

The Bouches-du-Rhône department has many general purpose business and industrial parks but offers a number of specialized sites focused on transportation, maritime activities, life sciences and environmental services.

The Provence Partnership guarantees that you will find within mere kilometers of your preferred site the resources and partners necessary to make your business a success... besides; there is also the sea, the sun and well, beautiful nature !



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A territory of expertise

Human Resources in Provence

A favorable population dynamics

With 4.8 million inhabitants, the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur (PACA) region ranks third in France and has a young population of whom 50% are under the age of 40.

Approximately 48,000 active people move into the region each year. The area is particularly attractive to company executives.

The city of Aix-Marseille, which is the fastest growing in the Bouches-du-Rhône, is the 3rd metropolitan area in France.

Qualified labor

The level of skill of the workforce is continuously increasing. Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is one of the French regions with the most graduates.

The Academie (Education Authority) of Aix-Marseille includes universities and 12 high schools offering a full range of academic programs.

Shorter vocational programs – including over 60 BTS (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur) and over 25 DUT (Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie) programs are offered to students in various disciplines.

PACA Mode d'Emploi : An original and unique HR service provider

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur is the only region in France with a team of HR specialists - PACA Mode d'Emploi - ready to assist you in your business projects.

The entire region's expertise in public service human resources is gathered under the structure.

The team helps companies locate in the region and can also help businesses grow by working on anticipating human resource needs, for each sector of activity.

Contact :

PACA Mode d'Emploi
<http://www.paca-mode-demploi.com/>



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Education in the Bouches-du-Rhône

There are over 100,000 students in the Aix-Marseille Académie (Education Authority Region). The universities and higher education schools of Provence offer a full range of academic programs.

Some of the Bouches-du-Rhône education programs are:

- **Baccalauréat + 2** (2-year post baccalaureate program) BTS [Brevet de Technicien Supérieur - superior technician certificate], or DUT [Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie - university technology diploma],

For the list of high schools offering B.T.S programs, please contact the local office of the Aix Marseille Académie at www.ac-aix-marseille.fr

To find out more about D.U.T programs, contact the following I.U.T (University Technology Institutes)

I.U.T. in Arles : www.up.univ-mrs.fr/iutarles

I.U.T. in Aix-en-Provence : www.iut.univ-aix.fr

I.U.T. in La Ciotat : www.iut.univmed.fr/hse

I.U.T. in Marseille-Luminy : www.iut-gtr.univ-mrs.fr

I.U.T. in Marseille-St-Jérôme : <http://iutmrs.u-3mrs.fr>

- **Schools of engineering and management:**

- Centre microélectronique de Provence Georges Charpak (Georges Charpak Microelectronics Center of Provence - in Gardanne ;
- Ecole Centrale in Marseille ;
- Ecole de l'Air (Air Force Training School) in Salon-de-Provence ;
- ESIL Biotechnology, Biomedical, Computer Science and Material engineering (School of Engineering in Marseille-Luminy);
- ENSAM (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Métiers) in Aix-en-Provence ;
- EPUM (Ecole Polytechnique Universitaire de Marseille);
- Euromed Management.

To find out more:

www.emse.fr/cmpgc/index.html

www.ec-marseille.fr

www.cge.asso.fr/ecoles/ECOLE11.phtml

www.esil.univ-mrs.fr

www.aix.ensam.fr

www.polytech-marseille.com

www.euromed-management.com

- **Three universities:**

- Aix-Marseille I - Université de Provence :

Art and Literature and Human Sciences are taught in Aix-en-Provence,
Sciences are taught in Marseille (Saint-Charles, Saint-Jérôme, Château-Gombert and Luminy sites)
and in Aubagne.

- Aix-Marseille II – Université de la Méditerranée :



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Health, medicine, pharmacy, dentistry are taught in Marseille, at the Timone and North sites,
Sciences are taught in Marseille, at the Luminy and Château-Gombert sites,
Economics are taught in Aix-en-Provence and Marseille,
Sport Education is taught in Marseille, at the Luminy site,
School of Journalism and Communication in Marseille
IUT in Aix-en-Provence, with a branch in Marseille.

- Aix-Marseille III – Université Paul Cézanne :

Law is taught in Aix-en-Provence, Marseille and Arles,
Economics are taught in Aix-en-Provence,
Sciences are taught in Marseille at the Saint-Jérôme site with two branches in Aix-en-Provence and at the Arbois site,
IUT in Marseille, with a branch in Salon-de-Provence,
Institut de Droit des Affaires (Business Law)
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Political Science)
Institut de Sciences Pénales et de Criminologie (Criminal Science and Criminology),
Institut d'Aménagement Régional (Regional Land use planning)
Institut d'Administration des Entreprises (Business Management)

To find out more :
www.up.univ-mrs.fr
www.univmed.fr
www.univ.u-3mrs.fr

• Art Schools

- School of Architecture at Marseille-Luminy,
- National School of Photography in Arles,
- Superior School of Art in Aix-en-Provence,
- Supinfocom (Multimedia School) in Arles.

To find out more:
www.marseille.archi.fr
www.enp-arles.com
www.ecole-art-aix.fr
www.supinfocom-arles.fr



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Land of life

Land of culture

In Provence, working is also living

Those who have chosen to start a business here will tell you: Provence is a land of success because Provence is a land where one lives...well! When you set up business in Provence you become part of a vibrant cultural life and share in the beauty and bounty of nature and the pleasure of outdoor activities under the sun. Thus it is no coincidence that the most advanced new technology or research companies have moved here. Today's entrepreneurs know that the quality of life, in a rich natural and cultural environment, promotes success, motivates and inspires people and attracts talent. Today working and living go together.

Your may be busy keeping up with eight appointments a day, managing a team or organizing a seminar.. Here in Provence, you will not resist the Calanques in Cassis, the arena theater in Arles, an evening at the Festival d'Art Lyrique in Aix-en-Provence! That's what The Provence Partnership is all about!

A diversified cultural wealth

A few figures

Marseille-Provence Metropole offers :

- 61 museums
- Nearly 100 annual festivals with audiences of over 600,000, which makes Marseille Provence Métropole one of the leading centers for performing arts in France
- 38 theaters with audiences of over 500,000 (the highest theater audience after Paris)

Cultural renewal

Marseilles' cultural revival is thriving. Circus performances, street arts, poetry, dance, digital arts, music from around the world, today's music have all come to enrich the "traditional" cultural repertoire which made the region famous. Marseille has also become one of the capitals of rap music.

International festivals such as the Aix-en-Provence Festival d'Art Lyrique, the Roque d'Anthéron Piano Festival, performances by the Ballet National de Marseille or Ballet Preljocaj in Aix-en Provence, coexist with more popular events such as the Marsatac Festival, the Gypsy Pilgrimage in Saintes-Maries de la Mer, the Iberian-flavored Feria in Arles, the Dance, Music and Voice of the World Festival in Martigues or the now world-famous Fiesta des Suds, a symbol of cultural renewal and ultimate means of social integration which makes the city vibrate to the sounds of world music each fall.

Places dedicated to alternative and modern culture are emerging alongside national theaters and museums like the Château des Baux de Provence Museum, the Granet Museum or Cezanne's Studio in Aix-en-Provence, the Théâtre de la Criée in Marseille or Théâtre des Salins in Martigues. Young artists are taking over abandoned sites such as the former SNCF workshops in Arles or the Friche de la Belle de Mai in Marseille.



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Here, the exclusive so-called "educated" culture never conflicts with popular culture. Provence has always been melting pot of civilizations, mixing genres with skill and harmony. In Provence artistic passions are always in the plural form!

Major cultural projects

Major cultural projects, planned or in progress, will transform and energize the area and make it particularly attractive:

Since Le Corbusier's Radiant City, few big names in contemporary architecture had left their mark on the city. Euroméditerranée, the largest operation of urban rehabilitation in Metropolitan France, has entrusted the design and building of the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations (MuCEM) to Rudy Ricciotti.

In Arles the rehabilitation of the old SNCF Workshops, destined to become the Parc des Ateliers (a cultural city dedicated to photography) will be conducted by famous architect Frank Gehry, who designed the now legendary Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. Arles could benefit from the operation in the same way that the capital of Vizcaya gained international visibility and now enjoys new economic prosperity.

Other projects and developments are underway, including:

- The 1,300-seat Grand Théâtre de Provence, designed by architect Vittorio Gregotti and inaugurated in 2007 in Aix-en-Provence;
- The Joliette old grain silos being converted into an auditorium in Marseille;
- The creation of a Cité des arts de la rue (City of Street Arts) in Marseille
- The rehabilitation of the Marcel Pagnol's Château de Buzine in Marseille, which hosts the Maison des Cinématographies (Moviemaking House) of the Mediterranean.

Land of tourism

Omnipresent History

Everywhere in the region, you can feel the presence of our historical heritage. It shapes our cities: Arles Roman legacy, a UNESCO World Heritage site, Roman baths and 18th century private mansions in Aix-en-Provence, medieval architecture in Salon-de-Provence, Renaissance chateaux in Baux de Provence. ..

The Bouches-du-Rhone department ranks third in the region, with 626 listed or classified monuments representing 29% of the Provence Côte d'Azur historical heritage.

Some of our sites are among the 25 most visited monuments in France, among them the Château d'If in Marseille or the Roman town of Glanum near Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, with respectively 63,000 and 73,201 admissions in 2007.

Breathtaking natural sites

For nature lovers, Provence offers an infinite range of landscape nuances.

- From the Alpilles, Sainte-Baume and Sainte-Victoire mountains to the coves of the Côte Bleue (Blue Coast) to the lush green countryside of Aix-en-Provence, our land's various facets have something for everyone to explore.



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- In the Rhone delta, the vast wildland of Camargue is a most amazing natural sight. The 85,000 hectare Parc Naturel Régional de Camargue is covered with marshes, ponds and paddy fields, where bulls and horses live freely. The area is also a major bird reserve in Europe. 400 species of birds nest here including flamingos, herons, cormorants.

- The Calanques (creeks) nestled at the foot of steep cliffs along the coast between Marseille and Cassis, are a paradise for hikers and rock climbers. The cliffs stand as high as 400 m over the sea and offer impressive views. The site, unique in Europe, can be reached by boat or by foot through the 160 km marked trails.

- La Foux d'Allos, Pra Loup, Puy Saint Vincent, Serre Chevalier, Vars are some of the most popular sunny ski resorts in Provence are only a 3-hour drive away.

Provence gastronomy is undergoing renewal

It is no coincidence that Bouillabaisse, Anchoïade, and Daube Provençale are known around the world. While these traditional delights continue to be served at the best tables, Marseille has added a creative touch and modernized its gastronomy. Today's Mediterranean cuisine is based on sun kissed fresh local produce, intelligently prepared, and ready to please all taste buds. The Provence Partnership is also an invitation to savor, at the dinner table, the benefits of the "French paradox"!

In Marseille, as in all Provençal villages, the sights, flavors and smells of open-air markets will entice your senses while the Marseillais accent sings out to you.

Besides those traditional occasions, seasonal events include:

- Winter "oursinades" (sea urchin and shell fish tasting) in Carry-le-Rouet, Sausset-les-Pins and Port-de-Bouc
- The early summer garlic market in Marseille
- Grilled sardines ("Sardinades") every summer evening in Martigues and Port-de-Bouc
- The Cassis wine festival in September
- The Green Olive Festival in September and First Olive Press Festival in December in Mouriès
- The 13 dessert Christmas Market in early December in Aix-en-Provence.