



OCTA
Overseas Countries
and Territories Association
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Summary of the new OCTA Strategy

Summary – OCTA strategy 2021-2027

An Extraordinary Ministerial Conference held remotely on 1st December 2021, and Chaired by the President of the Association and President of New Caledonia, Mr. Louis Mapou, approved the new OCTA Strategy for the years 2021-2027.

The strategy 2021-2027 will guide OCTA's activities as a group and with its key partners and stakeholders, and the EU institutions, including at EU Council level the three Member States to which the OCTs are linked, Denmark, France and the Netherlands.

OCTA' strategy for 2015-2020, was extended until 2021 in the context of the health crisis, which began in 2020, and to align it with the new Multiannual Financial Framework. Considering its expiry date and OCTA's own internal developments in its membership, there was a clear need to review and adapt OCTA's strategic plan.

The backdrop against which this Strategy has been developed and aligned further includes a new, more geopolitical European Commission with policy priorities such as a "Stronger Europe in the World", the "Green Deal", Digitalisation etc. as well as the new Multi-annual Financing Framework 2021-2027.

In addition, OCTs' economies have been hit hard as a result of the Covid pandemic, which demonstrated the necessity to reinforce collective actions and cooperation, and to focus and tailor our activities on a few priorities to ensure a bigger impact, in order to mitigate the consequences of the crisis in all our territories. The ambition of the renewed strategy shall be to maximize the efforts to reinforce their overall resilience.

The strategy will aim to build on the successes and lessons learnt of the previous strategy with, as the entry point, the very **specificities, niche areas and challenges particular to OCTs**.

The strategy commits to driving work forward under **three strategic priorities**:

1. Political and policy Dialogue continues to be at the very core of OCTA's nature and remains a priority pillar under this strategy and will be coupled with the priority of sound and inclusive **Governance** of the Association.

2. Communication and Learning is a new priority for the present strategy, as part of the main pillars, aiming to raise awareness and capacities of OCTs and European stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the EU-OCT partnership.

3. The Cooperation in Strategic Areas pillar will focus specifically on OCTs' niche areas, needs and priorities, aligning them with one of the European Commission's current geopolitical priorities, the Green Deal. This focused concurrence of interests is expected to lead to greater local impact and partnerships, both thematic and regional.

PILLAR I: DIALOGUE AND GOVERNANCE

Objectives

The **Dialogue and Governance** pillar aims:

1. To **strengthen empowerment, cooperation, integration and partnerships across OCTA members** via **inclusive multi-stakeholder and social dialogue** with the European Union and through digital and innovative platforms, when relevant, with its partners.
2. To **support the participation of OCTs in EU-OCT dialogue instances** through information preparation and sharing, capacity building, technical assistance, dialogue strengthening with the Member States to which the OCTs are linked, and the promotion of **consensus building**, common positions and understanding amongst OCTA members.
3. To strengthen OCTA's internal structure as an institution through a **sound, transparent and evidence-based institutional governance** founded on strong processes, established procedures and a solid knowledge-base.

Outcomes/results

R.1 OCTA and its members' interests are well voiced and understood by all external parties including through continued and regular instances of dialogue, improved evidence-based governance of the Association, making use of digital platforms and tools where relevant.

R.2 Increased leverage & coordination across OCTs through advocacy activities.

R.3 Assist in raising awareness about, and contribution to the preservation of the cultural diversity and identity of OCTs. Efficient partnerships agreements are implemented with relevant OCTA partners, building on their experiences.

PILLAR II: COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

Objectives

1. Promote internal and external communication, dedicated to both a specialized and wider audience, to unlock the value of OCTs through a better awareness on OCTs and the EU-OCT partnership.

2. Support the capacity building and skills development of OCTs to participate in the EU global, regional and/or sub-regional cooperation initiatives (including EU Programmes) that are open to OCTs participation and promote EU values and standards in the OCTs, and vice versa.

3. Promote education, vocational training and the development of human resources and skills in OCTs as a lever for sustainable development on issues of common interest and support the exchanges of information and best practices amongst OCTs and the European Union.

Outcomes/results

R.4 OCTA's activities are widely shared on social networks and website and through well-functioning networks in the OCTs, with a reinforced use of digital tools when relevant.

R.5 Capacities of OCTs to participate in EU funding opportunities and programmes are stronger and training and skills development opportunities are provided to OCTs.

R.6 Stronger EU visibility in OCTs and stronger knowledge and visibility of OCTs and their assets in the EU and at regional level.

PILLAR III: COOPERATION IN STRATEGIC AREAS

A. The Green Deal and Blue Growth

Objectives

- Contribute to the implementation of SDGs 7, 13, 14, 15, 17 in the OCTs.
- Help raise the level of ambition amongst OCTA's members to contribute to the Union's commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements, depending on the involvement of OCTs in each agreement.
- Promote partnerships and integration amongst OCTs, ensure enhanced role and participation of OCTs in relevant multilateral events (CBD, UNFCCC,...) and the well-informed participation of OCTs and OCTA in relevant committees linked to EU programmes and projects implemented in the OCTs

- Support the implementation of EU-funded activities in this area in the OCTs, when appropriate.

Outcomes/results

R.7

- **Contribution to the implementation of SDGs 7,13,14,15,17 in the OCTs;**
- **Partnerships and networks established at local, regional, trans-regional and global level around the Green and Blue Economy, helping in the mobilization of knowledge and funding opportunities.**

B) Regional Cooperation and Integration

Objectives

- Raise the awareness and knowledge of the OCTs including through the exchange of information and best practices and capacity building opportunities to relevant regional organisations and institutions of which OCTs are members, and towards supporting their efforts to take part in relevant cooperation and integration initiatives, and through the participation in relevant platforms and networks.
- Support OCTs' involvement and activities within their respective regions and the EU regional strategies and regional protocols of EU agreements with relevant partners when applicable.
- Support regional or sub-regional initiatives such as the implementation of sectoral reform policies relating to the areas of cooperation.
- Promote OCTs' participation in the development of regional markets.

Outcomes/results

R.8

- **Regional integration and/or cooperation enhanced**
- **Awareness raised on the opportunities for regional cooperation and integration**

- **More intra-regional cooperation projects initiated**

C. Youth, Education and Culture

Objectives

- Promotion of cooperation opportunities for the Youth based on the following pillars: i) **Engage**, ii) **Connect** and iii) **Empower**.
- Promote cooperation in the cultural and creative sectors (including Youth), such as audio-visual, performing arts, protection of heritage and historic monuments etc. towards the development of the OCTs rooted in each peoples' culture and heritage and support to the policies and measures in OCTs to enhance creative capacities and promote their cultural identities and the stimulation of cultural exchanges between the EU and OCTs and the promotion of cultural identities across both regions.

Outcomes/results

R.9

- **Outreach on OCTs' youth participation and engagement in OCTA and within the EU-OCT partnership.**
- **Strengthened OCTs' youth participation in cooperation opportunities such as Erasmus+ exchanges etc.**
- **Cultural and creative works including audio-visual works, performing arts and their operators have been promoted and circulated between OCTs.**
- **Policy cooperation in order to foster policy development, innovation, audience building and new cultural business models.**

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy will be implemented through yearly work programmes which will be developed by OCTA. These yearly work plans will be developed by ExCo and the Secretariat with a corresponding budget repartition.