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#### Région Sud

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# PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR MOVING TO THE Luck REGION

Dear readers, welcome to the Sud region!

To facilitate your move to our territory, the Region Sud has considered everything you might need and prepared a welcome guide composed of two complementary volumes: Welcome to the Sud Region & the Practical Guide for Moving to the Sud Region (which you have in front of you). These booklets contain all the essential information you will need to prepare for your arrival.

Let yourself be amazed by what awaits you and discover the diverse facets of the Sud region: the economic opportunities, the dynamic research & development ecosystem, the international appeal, the cultural vitality, the quality of life, and much much more.

The Sud region is an authentic territory with a global perspective that is sure to delight you, whether you are coming alone or with family and whether you love the outdoors, culture, or an entrepreneurial atmosphere.

Take one more step towards your new life!

# LET US GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR MOVE TO THE SUD REGION



# Moving to a new city or a new country is a thrilling event!

There will be new experiences, new encounters, new landscapes, and sometimes even a new language to learn.

However, changing your living environment is not always easy, especially if you aren't familiar with the new territory. Would you prefer to live in a city or in a typical Provençal village?

Do you dream of a house by the sea or a mountain retreat? If you have children, you are surely wondering where to send them to school. What about healthcare? And what sports or leisure activities are available?

Prepare yourself for your new life adventure by finding easy answers to all your questions. The South is waiting for you!

I. ENJOY AN EASY SET-UP THANKS TO YOUR DEDICATED SUPPORT SYSTEM	2
Welcome to the Sud region!	2
Enjoy an easy set-up thanks to your dedicated support system	4
Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (04)	6
Alpes-Maritimes (Côte d'Azur) (06)	8
Bouches-du-Rhône (13)	10
Hautes-Alpes (05)	12
The Var (83)	14
The Vaucluse (84)	16
II. JOIN THE SUD REGION IN FOUR MAIN STEPS	18
O1 Carry out your administrative procedures	20
02 Working in the Sud region	24
03 Finding a home	34
04 Diverse and comprehensive educational opportunities	36
APPENDIX - SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR TALENT ACROSS THE REGION	46
Facilitate your move to the Sud region	48



# ENJOY AN EASY SET-UP THANKS TO YOUR DEDICATED SUPPORT SYSTEM

# It feels like the South

The Sud region is composed of six departments:
Alpes-de-Haute-Provence (department code 04), Alpes-Maritimes, home to the Côte d'Azur (department code 06), Bouches-du-Rhône (department code 13), Hautes-Alpes (department code 05), the Var (department code 83), and the Vaucluse (department code 84). These territories each have unique identities with their own economic, cultural, tourism, and sporting advantages.

Together they form a diverse and harmonious region that is fertile ground for new professional and life projects.

region in appeal for professionals and executives

region in appeal for students

region for starting new businesses

#### YOUR GUIDE TO THE SUD REGION

risingSUD, the Region Sud's economic development agency, implements the regional government's economic policies and coordinates the various stakeholders in the ecosystem. Its role is to accelerate companies and enrich communities.

risingSUD is a hub that will allow you to orient yourself in the region and will direct you to the right contacts and networks. In addition, the agency assists companies in their implantation projects and has a dedicated support service for HR. risingSUD also works with incoming talents before they arrive in the region to make sure they connect to the right people and the right communities.





1

producer of renewable energy in France

#1

producer of aromatic plants in France and home to 17 certified agricultural quality labels

**#5** 

department for organic agricultural production

With its Provençal and Alpine influences, the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence offers a privileged climate for welcoming visitors, new talents, and companies!

Leading companies in the department are specialized in sectors such as food processing, cosmetics, chemistry, energy, tourism, and spas and wellness.

The Alpes-de-Haute-Provence area is less than an hour from the Mediterranean Sea and close to the Côte d'Azur, Nice, Marseille, Toulon, and Avignon, while the department also borders Italy... This ideal location places the territory in the heart of the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

The Gorges du Verdon is the largest canyon in Europe and has breathtaking landscapes that offer both adventure and tranquility.

#### YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

The Alpes-de-Haute-Provence economic development agency (AD 04) is the main interface for welcoming companies that are coming from outside the territory. In addition to contributing to the economic development strategy of Alpes-de-Haute-Provence and carrying out its missions of promotion and prospecting, the AD 04 is particularly concerned with welcoming and supporting project leaders throughout the process of setting up in the territory. The agency's goal is to facilitate and simplify life for entrepreneurs by offering a wide range of services. By working with diverse experts and a network of economic partners, the agency offers a reactive and personalized service.



# CONTACT US!

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#2

destination for conventions in France after Paris

#2

international air hub
in France (Nice Côte d'Azur
Airport) after the Paris
Charles de Gaulle Airport

Sophia Antipolis is the

#1

technology park in Europe and the Nice Côte d'Azur metro area is in the Top 15 of the world's smart cities A leading territory for research and innovation, the Côte d'Azur offers companies exceptional growth potential thanks to a continually expanding pool of expertise, superb research laboratories, and professional networks that foster cross-fertilization between companies and universities, SMEs and global corporations, and public research facilities and private R&D centers.

The Côte d'Azur is enjoying a significant increase in foreign direct investment with incoming investments oriented towards services, R&D, and new technologies.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

This territory is home to a magnificent blend of spectacular landscapes with mountains, sea, and forests balancing each other out in perfect harmony. The Mercantour summit rises to more than 3000 meters and offers courageous hikers an exceptional panorama of the surrounding cliffs and the Mediterranean Sea.

## YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

Team Côte d'Azur has been serving both the metro area and the broader territory for more than 30 years, and its objective is to promote and enhance the economic attractiveness of the Côte d'Azur area. The agency promotes the territory's sectors of excellence in world markets and facilitates the arrival of incoming companies, both French and international. Investors are provided with a full range of services to help them discover the innovative and global aspects of the Côte d'Azur and to ensure the best possible success for their implantation and the installation of their teams. As a great place to study, to research, to cooperate, and to create, the Côte d'Azur fosters both development and economic growth.

Since its creation, Team Côte d'Azur has supported more than 1000 companies and helped create 20 000 jobs.









# CONTACT US!

Team Côte d'Azur.

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13

# Bouches-du-Rhône



#2 metro area in France

economic hub in the South of France

50% natural green spaces

Ranked among the OECD's Top 5 for European growth, Provence is a dynamic territory with a concentration of innovative expertise in various fields, including energy, aeronautics and space, optics and photonics, health and life sciences, green technologies for industry, agri-food, and ICT.

The Aix-Marseille-Provence metro area groups together 92 municipalities and is home to 1.8 million residents. Connected to a world-class network of infrastructure and logistics platforms, it is a major Euro-Mediterranean hub for decision-making and trade. Marseille is a landing point for 14 submarine telecommunications cables that connect Asia, Europe, and Africa. The Bouches-du-Rhône department is developing quickly thanks to the Euroméditerranée international district in Marseille, which is the city's high value-added global services hub. This contributes to a diversified economy that also features a solid industrial base and centers of excellence in higher education and research.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

Our picturesque Provençal villages with their labyrinths of alleys are a source of endless amazement.

# YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

Provence Promotion, the economic attractiveness agency for the Aix-Marseille-Provence metro area has been assisting companies from outside the territory for more than 20 years. Its mission is to identify investors and to deploy all the necessary resources so they can successfully establish their operations in the area and enjoy quick growth. The agency has expertise in more than ten key sectors.

# Main objectives:

- Attract talent and entrepreneurs from around the world to create sustainable jobs in the area
- Make Provence a benchmark for innovation and business by bringing new entrepreneurs to help fuel the dynamic economy
- Align the thriving economy with the renowned Mediterranean quality of life so that everybody benefits





## **CONTACT US!**

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**57 900** 

hectares of protected area in the Ecrins national park and 65 000 of protected area in the Queyras natural park

department in France for organic agriculture

European airfield for aerial sports in Gap-Tallard The Hautes-Alpes is a rural mountain territory with more than 142 000 inhabitants. Its economy is based on sectors of excellence such as tourism, agriculture/agri-food, aeronautics, and construction.

The department offers undeniable advantages such as a resplendent natural environment with exceptional fauna and flora and nearly constant sunshine for a truly outstanding quality of life. The Hautes-Alpes specializes in outdoor activities with 27 winter and summer sports resorts, including Serre-Chevalier, Montgenèvre, Les Orres, Orcières, the Serre-Ponçon lake, and three stunning nature parks. It is also home to four airfields for those who enjoy taking to the sky. This exceptional natural setting also attracts large numbers of tourists every year. It is the perfect place for entrepreneurs seeking a harmonious work-life balance.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

From the lavender fields of the Buëch to the glaciers of the Meije to the waters of the Serre-Ponçon lake, the sunny valleys of the Hautes-Alpes are always ready to welcome you.

## YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

The economic development agency for the Hautes-Alpes works to promote the territory's national and international standing and shine a spotlight on the area's companies and expertise.

The agency aims to attract and welcome visitors, entrepreneurs, and investments, while also helping to connect, structure, and develop strategic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, food processing, aeronautics, digital technology, and renewable energies. There are special programs in place to support and encourage innovation projects.



# **CONTACT US!**

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## YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT

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More than

million residents

220

existing **business parks** and 80 planned business parks

432 km

of Mediterranean coastline

A true land of energy and opportunities, the Var offers major assets and advantages to bring the most ambitious projects to fruition. The Var is a diverse territory located between the sea and the mountains and it is home to the influences of Provence, the Alps, and the Côte d'Azur. It is also ideally situated between the three major metro areas in the Sud region. Together, this allows the Var to offer an exceptional environment that combines the art of living and the art of entrepreneurship.

The Var's economy is structured around seven areas of excellence: i) the maritime economy; ii) defense & security; iii) tourism, sports & culture; iv) food, health & well-being; v) the environment & new energies; vi) motorsports, smart mobility & vehicles of the future; and vii) the digital economy.

At the heart of it all is the thriving Toulon Provence Méditerranée metro area and its brilliant position on the coastline.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

**Distinctive Provençal villages,** the splendid bay of Toulon and its cable car, the mythical Saint-Tropez, the Verdon canyon, vineyards, olive groves, mimosa trees, and umbrella pines.

#### YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

1. Var Business Attractivité (an integrated service of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Var) is in charge of attracting investment and promoting the Var, both in France and internationally. The agency provides support for setting up companies or investment projects throughout the territory by offering a free customized service that includes analysis and advice, site search, legal and administrative support, help in finding financing, networking, recruitment assistance, and help in integrating into the community.

2. The Toulon Provence Méditerranée metro area is a land of opportunities and its main launching pad is the TVT Innovation economic development agency. It acts as an integrated hub for partnership and innovation that serves the territory and its start-ups and SMEs. TVT Innovation offers a range of technical and financial tools dedicated to supporting innovative projects. This includes high-performance business implantation support, a range of services dedicated to open innovation, access to national and international networks, and the French Tech Toulon community.







# **CONTACT US!**

Var Business Attractivité - Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Var 236 boulevard Maréchal Leclerc - 83000 Toulon http://www.var.cci.fr/content/simplanter-dans-le-var

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Avignon the

#1

major metro area in France for quality of life (Arthur Loyd study, 2020)

181
activity zones

2h30

travel time from **Avignon to Paris**by TGV high-speed train

Halfway between Spain and Italy and in the heart of Provence and the Rhone Valley, the Vaucluse enjoys exceptional accessibility thanks to its highly developed infrastructure while offering a genuinely outstanding work-life balance.

With a rich cultural calendar, including the renowned Avignon theatre festival, and magnificent landscapes conducive to sports and outdoor activities, the Vaucluse nurtures the well-being of the whole family. The territory also offers great professional opportunities thanks to a dynamic economic fabric, particularly in sectors such as agri-food, cultural and creative industries, logistics, industry, digital, and tourism.



# IT'S WORTH A LOOK!

The Festival d'Avignon and not-to-be-missed sites and activities such as the Pont d'Avignon, the Mont-Ventoux, the Luberon, the Provençal markets, outdoor sports (especially cycling), the lavender fields, and the peaceful hum of cicadas in summer.

# YOUR ON-SITE GUIDE TO SERVICES

Vaucluse Provence Attractivité's main objective is to promote the area in all of its dimensions and to strengthen its attractiveness for tourists, talents, and investors, both French and international. Our team offers tailor-made support for installing or creating companies and helps with the mobility of personnel and their families. These services include the search for facilities and offices, aid in setting up French subsidiaries, and contacts with specialized agencies for the settlement of families – including housing, job searches for spouses and partners, finance consulting, and networking with local ecosystems.



#### **CONTACT US!**

Vaucluse Provence Attractivité

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Your decision is made, you are going to bring your project to the Sud region. There are just a few more logistical details to settle and formalities to complete and you will be able to start your new life.

In order to enjoy a smooth and successful implantation in the region, you need to think of everything: administrative procedures, employment, housing, children's schooling, studies for older children, etc...

Don't panic, we are here to guide you!

In this section, you will find details on the important steps to fulfill your project: information, advice, welcome service, and on-site support systems implemented by specialized local organizations and top experts.



Certain administrative procedures are essential upon your arrival in France.



# GET YOUR WORK VISA/ RESIDENCY PAPERS \_\_

If you are a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, you do not need a visa, a residence permit, or a work permit to settle in France. Simply remember to register with the local government in your community within three months of your arrival. If you are a citizen of a country that is outside of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, you need a visa to enter French territory and a residence permit to live in the country, except in cases where there are specific diplomatic accords between your country and France. If multiple visa programs exist, you can apply for the one best suited to your situation. Find the list of exemptions from visa requirements at the following site: <a href="https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/lmmigration/Les-visas/Les-dispenses-de-visa">https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/lmmigration/Les-visas/Les-dispenses-de-visa</a> [site in French]



# Helpful Hint

The Passeport Talent and the Salarié Détaché ICT programs are two types of multi-year residence permits that will facilitate your set-up in France. The Passeport Talent is granted in several situations, including if you are a highly-qualified worker, if you are recruited by an innovative company, if you want to create your company in France, or if you want to invest in an existing company. The Salarié Détaché ICT program allows you to carry out an assignment of more than one year in France for the company that employs you or one of its subsidiaries.



# Helpful Hi

Do you want to launch a tech start-up, invest in a French start-up, or you have been hired by such a company? Find out more about the **French Tech Visa**, which will speed up the process! Learn more at:

https://lafrenchtech.com/en/how-france-helps-startups/french-tech-visa/



# Information

For more information concerning your immigration process, contact OFII, the French office for immigration and integration. <a href="http://www.ofii.fr">http://www.ofii.fr</a> [site in French]



# GET YOUR DRIVING

If you have a permit issued by the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, it can be used for as long as it is valid.

**If your permit is non-European,** it is valid for a maximum of one year. Beyond that, you will have to exchange it for a French driving license.



# Information

To exchange your driving license, the issuing country must have signed an exchange agreement with France. If this is not the case, you will have to take the French driving license exam to obtain your license.



# OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT \_

Opening a bank account will make your daily life easier and will allow you to make purchases, collect your salary, pay your expenses (bills, rent...), and deposit your money safely.

Documents will be requested (ID, proof of address, etc.) and you will be able to close your bank account at any time.





# REGISTER WITH SOCIAL SECURITY \_\_

The French social security system is based on a principle of national solidarity. All people residing in France are protected against social risks (illness, job loss) and take part in a public pension plan. Residents also contribute to the system's financing and the contributions depend on each person's income.



# Information

- Health is one of the priorities of the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and it is committed to high-quality and locally provided medicine and healthcare. The regional government supports the creation of multi-service healthcare centers, the installation of general practitioners in rural areas, and the modernization of local hospitals.
- The Gérontopôle Sud cluster was created in 2018 and acts as an innovative regional resource center that works to keep pace with the aging population. It is estimated that there will be more than one million people aged 75 and older in the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region in 2050.



# **Helpful Hint**

Subscribing to a supplementary insurance plan ensures better reimbursement for your healthcare. If you are an employee, you can benefit from your company's health insurance plan.



# YOUR TAX DECLARATION

In France, there are different types of direct and indirect taxes that you will have to pay, whether on the products you purchase, your income, or your assets. These tax revenues will be used to finance many public services (police, hospitals, schools, courts, etc.) as well as social benefits and assistance programs (retirement, health insurance, income assistance for working families, disabled adult allowance, etc.).

Each year, you must declare your income to the tax authorities. You can do so online at:

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/international\_en

The amount you will have to pay depends on your situation; you can benefit from exemptions below a certain annual revenue ceiling.



#### Information

Since January 2019, income tax has been deducted at the source, which means it is taken directly from your paycheck before you receive your income.



If you own a company, you will have to declare your business revenues and expenses, and depending on the results you will either be asked to pay a corporate tax or not. You will also have to pay the territorial economic contribution tax.

All tax filings and payments must now be conducted online using the tax agency's platform. Learn more at their website:

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/ internationalenbusiness/using-online-procedures-withoutpermanent-establishment-france

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 22 THE SUD REGION YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 23 THE SUD REGION





# Registering as a job seeker with Pôle Emploi

Pôle Emploi, the French public employment agency, assists you in your job search. Registration is done directly on the website (www.pole-emploi.fr, in French) or in person at a local agency (more than 120 agencies in the Sud region). In both cases, you will have to provide documents specific to your situation.

All the steps and documents necessary for your registration are available at their website: candidat.pole-emploi.fr/inscription/ preambule [in French]

Once you are registered, you will have access to a list of job offers that is updated every day. You will also benefit from a personalized selection of services to help you in your job search and to make it as efficient as possible (defining your professional project, identifying your assets, developing your CV and application). You will be appointed a dedicated advisor and will be given the possibility of taking training so that you can maximize the chances of finding a job that suits you! To find a job or a training program, to change professions, or to explore the possibility of creating or taking over a business, visit the website: messervices.pole-emploi.fr/catalogue-services [in French]



In France the legal working time is 35 hours per week and the legal minimum hourly wage (SMIC) is €10.25 as of January 1, 2021 (gross wages).

# Prepare your candidacy

To apply for the job opportunities that interest you, you will need a resume (CV) and a cover letter. These two elements are essential in France and they should present your career path and your motivation to a potential employer.



# Helpful Hint

Advice and best practices for writing your CV and cover letter and understanding employer expectations are available online:

www.pole-emploi.fr/candidat/vos-services-en-ligne/ emploi-store/preparer-sa-candidature.html [in French]

# Where to apply?

Many employment agencies are available to help you in your iob search:

- APEC (the Association pour l'Emploi des Cadres) assists companies in the recruitment of their executives and professional workers (mobility, professional development, training). APEC also provides support services for young professionals (definition of professional project, preparation for interviews, etc.).
- The Cités des Métiers and the Maisons de l'Emploi are job centers dedicated to local employment. They guide all types of people (students, job seekers, employees seeking a career change) in their professional choices.
- The Missions Locales are local agencies that work for the professional and social integration of young people between the ages of 16 and 25 and help them by providing possible solutions to any professional difficulties they may encounter. Non-exhaustive list

**Employment sites** that offer searchable databases of iobs (non-exhaustive list):

- The Banque Régionale de l'Emploi et de l'Apprentissage (regional job bank and apprenticeship program) makes it easier for employers, job seekers, and apprentices to connect: https://brea.maregionsud.fr/ [site in French]
- Job site with a focus on jobs in the tech sector in the Sud region: www.edrh.fr [site in French]

- Site dedicated to jobs in the Sud region: www.provence-emploi.com [site in French]
- Directory of the best French job search sites on the internet: www.emploi.org [site in French]
- Employment site for civil servants and public-sector healthcare professionals: www.emploipublic.fr [site in French]
- General employment site: https://www.indeed.com/worldwide; www.keljob.com [site in French]; www.pacajob.com [site in French]

Make sure to create or update your profile on professional social networks to help make connections in the Sud region ecosystem:

- **LinkedIn**: leader in professional social networks.
- Viadeo: leading professional social network.
- Xing: leading professional network for German-speaking Europe.

See Appendix – Support systems for talent across the region

# What about my spouse or partner?

The professional and social integration of your spouse or partner is an essential part of adapting to your new home. Support structures such as the Conseil en Évolution Professionnel (a professional development consultancy) can assist you when it comes to ensuring a successful professional transition for your entire family: mon-cep.org [site in French] See support organizations on page 28



# CREATE YOUR BUSINESS

#### How to do it?

"Rome wasn't built in a day", and it's the same for your company!

To help you create your business in the Sud region, here are a few key steps. Do not hesitate to contact one of our specialized consultants for further information.

**Develop a realistic business idea** that matches your skills and ambitions, and then safeguard that idea.



# Helpful Hint

If you have an original or innovative concept, take precautions to protect it by using a special "Soleau" envelope (€15 each) to send it to the Institut National de la Propriété Industrielle (the intellectual property institute) to have proof the idea is yours: www.inpi.fr/fr/proteger-vos-creations/lenveloppesoleau/enveloppe-soleau [site in French]

- 2. Draw up your business plan: this is a key document that will describe your project and its expected growth.
- 3. Conduct a market study and interview your potential customers to see what they think of your project. You will then be able to analyze the results and adjust your project goals if necessary.
- Determine the best legal status for your company, the associated tax regime, and your official role.

- Prepare your financing plan. There are many funding options available (crowdfunding, bank loans, private equity, etc.).
- You are already well on your way, but there are still a few essential steps needed to launch your business. Find all the details on: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/ creer-entreprise [site in French]



If you are interested in entrepreneurship but don't want to start vour own business, consider taking over an existing company with an established operating structure and economic model. Find out more on the Bpifrance website: https://www.bpifrance.com/

The various chambers of commerce across the region can direct you to opportunities for company takeovers, and have provided a dedicated site to help you identify projects: www.transentreprise.com [site in French]



# Helpful Hint

Let the IRCE institute for regional business leaders help you with your business project: https://www.irce-paca.com [site in



# Helpful Hint

The Region Sud has created an internet platform to simplify all your procedures: https://entreprises.maregionsud.fr [site in

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 26 THE SUD REGION YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 27 THE SUD REGION



# IDENTIFY, RECRUIT, AND TRAIN TALENT IN THE SUD REGION $oldsymbol{\bot}$

# Subsidies and support that can help you with your project

Various financial aid programs can be accessed to help you recruit new employees or to maintain existing employees in their positions. The Chambers of commerce and industry website lists all the aid available for companies: https://les-aides.fr [site in French]

The employees and partners of the Chambers of commerce and industry can provide customized advice and information to entrepreneurs according to their projects.



# **Helpful Hint**

The Region Sud leads the way for economic development and provides support to identify, recruit, or train talent for your projects: https://entreprises.maregionsud.fr/nos-rubriques-habituelles/recruter-seformer-trouver-descompetences [site in French]

See Appendix - Support systems for talent across the region

# Stakeholders working to facilitate connections between companies, talent, and the territory

 Discover the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region's employment platform

**eDRH Sud** (edrh.fr [site in French]): This is an innovative recruitment platform for workers in the tech and industrial sectors. It is used for recruitment by companies in the Alpes-

Maritimes, Bouches-du-Rhône, the Var, and the Vaucluse. The site matches skills and jobs and allows for direct contact between recruiters and candidates.

Beyond recruitment, eDRH Sud offers multiple services to facilitate your installation in the territory:

- Residency permit
- Help in finding housing
- Recruitment assistance for spouses and partners
- Training

These HR services can be used by companies to welcome, integrate, and train their employees, and also to enhance their employer brand.

Would you like to learn about recruitment trends in your profession? Our IT and industry skills oversight committee helps you better understand the employment pool (job offers, recruiting companies, number of registered candidates...) and available opportunities.

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## In the Alpes Maritimes

**Team Côte d'Azur,** with more than 30 years of experience helping companies, entrepreneurs, and investors, makes its network of private relocation companies available to managers and decision-makers.

It is also a partner of eDRH SUD (www.edrh-cotedazur.com/en/), the reference site for recruitment in the territory's strategic industrial and digital sectors. The platform provides access to a qualified talent pool and also distributes employee and employer profiles to facilitate direct contact between recruiters and candidates.

A major player in the Côte d'Azur's entrepreneurial environment, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nice Côte d'Azur offers a tailor-made support service for business creations and takeovers.

# In the Bouches-du-Rhône

#### Programs proposed by Provence Promotion:

- Home Sweet Home is a service to support French, French-speaking, or Francophile project leaders who are currently living abroad, but seeking to create a project in the Aix-Marseille-Provence metro area. The program's objective is to facilitate the return of skills and talents to France by helping them access and take advantage of local opportunities.

Thanks to the network of experts it mobilizes (more than 100 public and private partners), Home Sweet Home allows French-

speaking entrepreneurs to be guided in the set-up of their project: advice and information (technical, economic, and legal), networking, help in the search for funding (tax credits, hiring assistance, no collateral loans, etc.), facilitation of administrative procedures (visa, opening a bank account, etc.).

Since its launch in 2002, the program has supported more than 150 companies in Provence.

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

Laetitia BICIACCI I Head of the Home Sweet Home program

□ I.biciacci@provence-promotion.fr

+33 (0)4 96 11 60 05

- Go Between in Provence aims to facilitate the establishment of new French or international companies through either the takeover of existing businesses or the founding of new partnerships between companies.

This program connects French or international business people that are seeking to invest in or buy an existing company with local companies in Provence seeking to either cede their business or create a new partnership. The program supports companies in all sectors of activity.

By facilitating a smooth transfer of companies, Go Between in Provence aims to protect and create jobs in the area.

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 28 THE SUD REGION
YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 29 THE SUD REGION

Go Between in Provence has developed a network of experts, including accountants, lawyers, M&A advisors, financial institutions, and professional federations, to provide support throughout the takeover process. There are also events held for investors and sellers that allow them to meet and exchange ideas, including workshops, steering committees, trade shows, free diagnostic sessions, experience sharing meetings, and consultations with experts.

Over the last five years (from 2015 to 2019), Go Between in Provence has supported 64 business takeover projects, safeguarding 1562 jobs and creating 781 new jobs.

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

Salima CHELABI, Head of the Go Between program

+33 (0)4 96 11 60 20

**Start in Provence** is a program dedicated to people with projects to create companies or start-ups. Provence is a fertile ground for innovative companies and provides superb growth opportunities for entrepreneurs in both the tech and services sectors.

Created in 2006, the program provides new companies with personalized support, confidential follow-up, and free services at every stage of their project:

- proofreading of business plans
- contacts with the main stakeholders in the creation of companies in Provence
- organization of financial roundtables, and mobilization for specific technological innovation devices (PRI, DAP, SATT)
- help for real estate search
- recruitment assistance (contact with specialized schools in the area and public and private employment agencies)
- networking with the local ecosystem
- assistance in the development of technological or commercial partnerships
- integration into one of the eight competitiveness clusters in the region

Start in Provence has supported more than 160 start-ups over the last five years (between 2015 and 2019), 40% of which arrived from the USA.

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

Q Laetitia BICIACCI III Head of the Start in Provence program

+33 (0)4 96 11 60 05

**B'WellCome** is a program dedicated to welcoming talents and their families to the Aix-Marseille-Provence metro area. Developed in collaboration with public authorities, consulates, private companies, and local associations (Aix-Marseille-Provence, Provence Promotion, the City of Marseille, the Club APEX business network, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Aix Marseille Provence, Euroméditerranée, the City of Aix-en-Provence, etc.), the program's objective is to support and facilitate the installation of French and international talent in the territory.

From assistance in finding housing, helping spouses and partners to find work, identifying suitable schools, handling administrative procedures, or even discovering the area, B'WellCome offers a complete package of essential services so French and international employees can adapt to their new lives. Companies already established in metropolitan France can benefit from the program to facilitate the hiring of their new talents.

The service is provided at the company's expense and is implemented by Club APEX, the business network for companies with international activities. This single point of contact mobilizes the stakeholders that are involved in responding to the needs of the talents who have chosen the Sud region.

Since its creation in 2019, more than 70 families have received support from this program.

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

A Maribel SIERRA Project Manager for Employee Mobility at Provence Promotion

+33 (0)4 96 11 60 07



YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 30 THE SUD REGION



## In the Vaucluse

Vaucluse Provence Attractivité works with the full network of employment and mobility partners to facilitate the recruitment or transfer of employees within the context of new activities being established in the territory.

Specific initiatives include:

- The eDRH Sud employment platform (edrh.fr [site in French]) is also used for the Vaucluse.
- Force Cadres is an association dedicated to the employment of executives and young graduates that promotes mutual aid and contact sharing.
- The APEC/CCI employment network of Vaucluse will help distribute your spouse or partner's CV among employers.

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

Julie LITAS In Manager of Prospecting and Sectors Division

+33 (0)4 90 80 47 00

#### In the Var

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Var offers a broad range of support services for business creation, transfer, and takeover projects: diagnostics, individual interviews, information meetings, practical workshops, training, and help with administrative procedures related to your business: www.var.cci. fr/content/création-reprise-cession-dentreprise [site in French]

The guide to creating your business that has been developed by the Maison de l'Emploi Toulon Provence Méditerranée (TPM) helps you identify the different partners that can assist you in the Toulon metro area: www.monapplicrea.com [site in French]

Through the Maison de l'Emploi, new entrepreneurs can get free support from a sponsor from their network of volunteer experts. Workshops on various business development issues are also organized throughout the year:

http://www.mde-tpm.fr/La-Maison-de-l-Emploi [site in French]

#### YOUR DEDICATED CONTACT:

Nathalie MACKAIN To Head of Commercial Coordination

□ nathalie.mackain@var.cci.fr

+33 (0)6 13 54 59 08



If you want help with your search for accommodation, you can contact local real estate agencies. You can also consult the advertisements on specialized websites (non-exhaustive list):

Seloger.com, ParuVendu.fr, pap.fr, leboncoin.fr [sites in French]



# RENT A PROPERTY

To rent an apartment or house, you must compile a rental file in order to present your financial situation and to prove you have the means to afford the rent. Once your file has been accepted, you will sign a rental contract (lease) that includes information on the parties to the contract, the housing unit in question (surface area, description, etc.), the rent, and the security deposit.

An inspection will be carried out at the start and end of your stay so both parties can agree on the state of the accommodation and any furniture or appliances it might contain if it is furnished. This should help avoid any dispute between the owner and the tenant in case of damage.

Depending on your financial situation, you can benefit from housing subsidies that will allow you to reduce the amount of your rent:

- Personalized housing assistance (APL)
- Family housing allowance (ALF)
- Social housing allowance (ALS)



# Helpful Hint

Depending on your income, you can apply for rent-subsidized social housing that is called Habitation à Loyer Modéré (HLM).

There are also specific assistance programs for employees of private companies:

- Garantie VISALE: this guarantee is issued by Action Logement to the tenant and will cover the payment of the rent and rental charges of the main residence in case of default of payment by the tenant
- MOBILI-JEUNE aid: this subsidy helps reduce the rent for young people under 30 who are on an apprenticeship or professionalization contract in a private, non-agricultural sector company.
- LOCA-PASS deposit: this allows you to immediately pay the security deposit requested by the landlord and to repay it gradually, without interest, over a maximum period of 25 months.
- MOBILI-PASS program: this is a financial assistance program (grant and/or loan) to facilitate the mobility of employees by covering expenses related to professional mobility during a transfer or hiring.



# Helpful Hint

Action Logement is an organization dedicated to facilitating access to housing in order to promote employment.

Direction Régionale Action Logement PACA/Corse: +33 (0)4 65 38 18 00

Find the nearest local office at https://www.actionlogement.fr/implantations [site in French]



# **BUYING A PROPERTY**

You prefer to buy? Advantageous loans are available to help you fulfill your project:

- Zero-interest loans from the French government: these are available to finance part of the purchase or construction of the borrower's principal residence and are repayable without interest (subject to income conditions; program only applies to the acquisition of one's first principal residence).
- Action Logement loans: these are available for employees of private companies employing at least ten people in the non-agricultural sector (for construction or acquisition of new or old homes, or social housing units).



#### Information

To find out more about your legal rights and obligations, as well as adapted housing solutions, visit the ADIL website: <a href="https://www.anil.org/lanil-et-les-adil/votre-adil/">https://www.anil.org/lanil-et-les-adil/votre-adil/</a> [site in French]

See Appendix - Support systems for talent across the region

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 34 THE SUD REGION YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 35 THE SUD REGION





# THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN FRANCE

Are your children younger than three years old? Depending on your needs and your schedule, there are many possibilities:

- Public sector group care: full-day programs, drop-in daycare, nursery schools...
- Customized solutions: private home-based daycares, in-home childcare assistance, student babysitters, au pairs...

Are your children of school age?

In France, schooling is compulsory for all children between the ages of three and 16. You can choose to home school your children (after taking the necessary steps) or enroll them in public (state-run) or private school. School is a place of learning, training, and education



# Helpful hint

Visit the site for the French national education system: https://www.education.gouv.fr

You can find a guide to private education establishments here: <a href="https://www.enseignement-prive.info">https://www.enseignement-prive.info</a> [sites in French]



# Information

For more information, contact the Region Sud and talk to the employment and training department (Direction de l'Emploi, de la Formation et de l'Information aux Métiers): +33 (0)4 91 57 50 57



# THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN FRANCE FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

PRIMARY EDUCATION	Maternelle (pre-school, starting at three years old): PS (Petite Section), MS (Moyenne Section), and GS (Grande Section)
	École élémentaire (primary school): CP (Cours Préparatoire), CE1 (Cours Élémentaire 1), CE2 (Cours Élémentaire 2), CM1 (Cours Moyen 1), CM2 (Cours Moyen)
	Collège (middle school): 6 <sup>ème</sup> , 5 <sup>ème</sup> , 4 <sup>ème</sup> , 3 <sup>ème</sup>
	Brevet (national middle school certificate)
SECONDARY EDUCATION	Lycée (high school): 2 <sup>nde</sup> , 1 <sup>ère</sup> , Terminale
	BACCALAUREAT (national high school certificate) with either general, professional, or technological specialities CAP or BEP for vocational careers
POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION	Universities and elite schools: Bachelor's, Master's, Ph.D.  Technological and vocational education: BTS, professional license



	FRANCE	GERMANY		GERMANY ENGLAND (UK)		SPAIN	
Petite section					Nursery	5_	
Moyenne section	Maternelle	Kindergarten	Nursery school	Reception	Educacion infantil	Ciclo 2	
Grande section					Year 1	Edu	
СР					Year 2	ø	Ciala 1
CE1	École primaire		Grundschule		Year 3	mar	Ciclo 1
CE2		Grundschule		Primary school	Year 4	Educacion primara	Ciclo 2
CM1					Year 5		
CM2			Orientiamanatufa		Year 6	on p:	Ciclo 3
6 <sup>ème</sup>		Orientierungsstufe			Year 7	ш	Cicio 3
5 <sup>ème</sup>	Collège <u>E</u>				Year 8	SO)	1° ESO
4 <sup>ème</sup>		5 1 1 1	<u>-</u>	Year 9	acior ia (E	2° ESO	
3 <sup>ème</sup>		Ē	Realschule	Secondary School	Year 10	Bachill- Educacion erato secundaria (ESO)	3° ESO
2 <sup>nd</sup>		nasiu			Year 11		4° ESO
1ère	Lycée	_	Berufliches Gymnasium		Year 12		1° Bachillerato
Terminale					Year 13		2° Bachillerato

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 38 THE SUD REGION

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 39 THE SUD REGION

## **EDUCATION EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN COUNTRIES**

	FRANCE	UNITED STATES		UNITED STATES ITALY		QUEBEC	
Petite section	Maternelle		Preschool				
Moyenne section		Kinder- garten	Pre-Kindergarten	Scuola Materna			
Grande section		Ω Ω	Kindergarten		École maternelle		
СР	École primaire	ary 	1st grade	Scuola Primara	Primaire	1 <sup>ère</sup> année	
CE1			2nd grade			2º année	
CE2		Elementary school	3rd grade			3°	
CM1		Elei	4th grade			<b>4</b> e	
CM2			5th grade			5°	
6 <sup>ème</sup>	Collège	Φ	6th grade	Prima media		6e	
5 <sup>ème</sup>		Middle	7th grade	Seconda media		7°	
4 <sup>ème</sup>			8th grade	Terza media	Secondaire	8°	
3 <sup>ème</sup>		_	9th grade	Prima superiore		9°	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lycée	High school	10th grade	Seconda superiore		10°	
1 ère			11th grade	Terza superiore		11° DES	
Terminale			I	12th grade	Quarta superiore		12°



# A RICH AND DIVERSE SELECTION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SUD REGION

- two academic authorities in the Sud region: the Académie d'Aix-Marseille (http://www.ac-aix-marseille.fr) and the Académie de Nice (http://www2.ac-nice.fr), which combined have approximately 493 000 students in primary school and 426 990 students in secondary school<sup>1</sup>
- four universities with more than 171 370 students (including specialized technical degree programs with work experience, and preparatory programs for elite schools)<sup>2</sup>
- **#3 region in France** for the number of students



# Helpful Hin

Use the national school directory to search for an educational institution (https://www.education.gouv.fr/annuaire) or search using the interactive map (https://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/donnees/colleges-et-

lycees) [sites in French]

# A full range of educational options:

All disciplines are available in the Sud region (arts-literature-humanities, eco-management, health, science and technology, law, etc.) and the region offers opportunities for lifelong learning (apprenticeship programs and continuing education).

**International programs:** 45 diplomas in partnership with international institutions and universities.

#### A complete ecosystem:

- 17 engineering schools nine of which have the EUR-ACE label (European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education) at the Master's level<sup>3</sup>
- More than **5750 students** in engineering programs<sup>4</sup>
- 15 business schools including four with Triple Crown certification (EQUIS, AMBA, and AACSB certification), which is enjoyed by less than 1% of the world's business schools. The four Triple Crown schools in the Sud region are EDHEC Business School (Nice), SKEMA Business School (Sophia Antipolis), KEDGE Business School (Marseille), and ESSCA School of Management (Aix-en-Provence)
- More than 12 000 students in business, management, and accounting schools<sup>5</sup>
- 6019 students in preparatory classes for elite universities in the fields of science, business, and literature (CPGE)<sup>6</sup>
- **120 CFA training centers** in the region<sup>7</sup>
- 17 893 students in special technical degree programs (BTS)8
- An objective of having 50 000 young people in apprenticeships in the Sud region by 20219
- two national institutes for higher education and professorships the Inspé in Aix-Marseille (Aix-en-Provence, Avignon, Digne, Marseille) and the Inspé in Nice-Toulon (Draguignan, La Garde/Toulon, La Seyne, Nice)<sup>10</sup>

Sources: see page 45.

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 40 THE SUD REGION



Structured around the region's sectors of excellence, the Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications system is a series of top training schools that bring together networks of public and private stakeholders to develop vocational, technological, and general training in secondary education, post-secondary education, and continuing education.

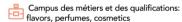
These campuses bring schools and the business world closer together.

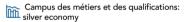
# There are nine specialized campuses in the Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region:

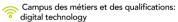
- Flavors, perfumes, cosmetics
- Silver economy
- Digital technology
- Industry of the Future
- Client and customer relations
- Agro-sciences, agri-food, and food
- International tourism and hotels
- Creative and cultural industries
- Creative and cultural industries
- Blue economy

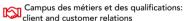


# CAMPUS DES MÉTIERS ET DES QUALIFICATIONS (TECHNICAL SCHOOLS)

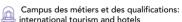


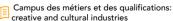












Campus des métiers et des qualifications: blue economy

Campus des métiers et des qualifications: industry of the future

Nice Academy educational district

Aix-Marseille Academy educational district



# The support available to make your project a success

Moving from student life to working life is an important step, but finding your first opportunity is not always easy! The Sud Region is committed to the future of young people by helping them enter the job market.

Do you want to combine classroom education with job experience?

Then a work-study course is made for you! The apprenticeship contract (for initial training) and the professionalization contract (for continuing education) will allow you to study at an educational institution while training with a company. This is a unique experience that will allow you to discover a profession. To find a work-study program, go to https://brea.maregionsud.fr/ [site in French]

You have at least two years of postsecondary education, you are 26 years old or younger, and you want personalized support?

Get sponsored thanks to the "1 parrain, 1 emploi" plan. You will receive individual coaching from a professional who is working in the sector you are interested in. This volunteer will provide you with tailor-made advice to boost your efforts, enhance your skills, and develop your network.

• Are you a graduate student with a future in research?

Apply for the special jobs program for young doctoral students that will let you benefit from funding from the Region. You will have access to a three-year job that will allow you to complete your thesis.

**(1)** 

For more information on support programs and other help for young people:

https://www.maregionsud.fr/jeunesse-et-formation [site in French]





#### FACILITATE YOUR MOVE TO THE SUD REGION

rising SUD, the economic development agency for the Region Sud, supports and accelerates the development of your company. From identifying your needs to creating personalized solutions with local partners to following your company's progress, rising SUD mobilizes its team to offer you a tailor-made service to support the establishment and development of your business. The agency also has a Skills & Talents department to meet your HR needs.

# **Alpes-de-Haute-Provence**

# **Invest in Alpes de Haute Provence**

The agency's "Club des Supporters" is a business network in the Alpes de Haute Provence that helps companies and entrepreneurs leverage the territory's image and advantages: https://www.investinalpesdehauteprovence.com/le-club-dessupporters/

# **Alpes-Maritimes**

The Team Côte d'Azur agency is dedicated to helping incoming companies, facilitating the launch of business projects, and boosting the chances of success for projects and investments. Investors, entrepreneurs, managers, and decision-makers from all over the world rely on the agency's support. It connects incoming projects to the innovative and dynamic ecosystem in the Côte d'Azur. Team Côte d'Azur also helps to recruit talent, map out possible financing, find the ideal location and real estate offers, and promote the companies that choose to locate in the territory.

Launch your project, discover the latest news and success stories, and participate in must-attend events:

#### investincotedazur.com/en/

# Created especially for new arrivals: the Welcome Guide Côte d'Azur

This guide will assist you as you start your project in the territory. It provides up-to-date administrative, economic, tourist, cultural, and regional information. Whether you come to the Côte d'Azur to study, work, create your own business, conduct research, organize professional events, visit, or travel, the Welcome Guide Côte d'Azur provides you with all the information you need for a successful stay or installation in the area: www.welcometothecotedazur.com/en/

## STAY IN CONTACT:

- in linkedin.com/company/teamcotedazur
- twitter.com/TeamCotedAzur

#### Bouches-du-Rhône

#### **Provence Promotion**

- Join the Invest in Provence community, which brings together companies that are supported by the agency to network and share experiences. Members can participate in the yearly Invest in Provence evening that is organized in some of the territory's most emblematic spaces. With the special Invest in Provence certification, the agency makes sure companies receive the most positive publicity possible by publishing articles and social network posts, organizing events with local journalists or professional networks, and facilitating contacts through the dedicated LinkedIn discussion group: https://www.investinprovence.com/en/how-help/invest-provence-community.
- The Welcome Handbook for newcomers: https://www. investinprovence.com/en/living-working-provence/welcomehandbook
- The Living and Working in Provence guides: https:// www.investinprovence.com/en/living-working-provence/16communities
- The Locate Your Company to Provence guide for decisionmakers, business leaders, and entrepreneurs: https://www. investinprovence.com/sites/default/files/ficheimmo-fr.pdf

Information about the Euroméditerranée international business district in Marseille: https://www.euromediterranee.fr/en

The upper Vens lake, Mercantour (06) YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 49 THE SUD REGION

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 48 THE SUD REGION

# **Hautes-Alpes**

# The Agence de Développement des Hautes-Alpes

The economic development agency provides welcome services and helps you set up all types of businesses and projects. Whether you are an investor, entrepreneur, collaborator, or talent, the agency is available to provide expert customized support that will fulfill all of your needs and expectations:

https://www.hautes-alpes.net/fr/pro/evaluation/indicateurs/economique.html [site in French]

# The Var

#### Var Business Attractivité

Participate in a wide variety of economic events in the Var area such as VarUp and Speed Business Meeting, and develop your network...

Visit our website for more information about setting up a business in the Var: https://www.var.cci.fr/content/simplanter-dans-le-var [site in French]

#### The Vaucluse

#### Vaucluse Provence Attractivité

Follow our territory's news, join our network, and develop your contacts: www.linkedin.com/company/vaucluse-provence-attractivit%C3%A9/

Personalized support or simply economic, tourist, and practical information to help you with your move to the area: http://www.investinvaucluseprovence.com/enhttps://www.provencequide.co.uk

AVF Vaucluse is the association that provides services for newcomers. It welcomes you and gives helpful information in three urban areas in Vaucluse: Avignon, Carpentras, and Cavaillon.

https://avf.asso.fr/provence-alpes-cote-d-azur-corse/ [site in French]

#### FINDING A HOME

# **Alpes-Maritimes**

La Maison de l'Habitant in Nice is your one-stop source of housing information managed by the Nice Côte d'Azur metro area government: http://www.nicecotedazur.org/habitat-urbanisme/le-logement/maison-de-l-habitant [site in French]

The Guide du Logement 06 published by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nice Côte d'Azur can help you in your search for accommodation in the department: http://www.guidedulogement06.com/?lang=en

The temporary accommodation search platform is a free service provided by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nice Côte d'Azur, to connect companies and their employees with housing professionals: http://www.guidedulogement06.com/temporary-housing/short-term-housing-service/?lang=en

This service is exclusively reserved for employees of companies in the Alpes-Maritimes department looking for temporary accommodation (employees on temporary assignments, fixed-term contracts, seasonal workers, students/doctoral students, etc.).

# The Var

The housing guide for the Toulon Provence Méditerranée metro area provides practical information on renting, buying, or renovating one's home (fact sheets, useful contacts, etc.): https://metropoletpm.fr/publication/guide-logement-toulon-provence-mediterranee-ed-2016 [site in French]

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 50 THE SUD REGION
YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE 51 THE SUD REGION