

QUALITY
From the Caribbean
to the World

REDUCING TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE PROJECT

10TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



CARIFORUM

PTB Physikalisch
Technische
Bundesanstalt
Beuthenzweig und Berlin



In 2008, the CARIFORUM countries signed the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union that offers new market opportunities for the Caribbean and foster regional trade. However, the Caribbean has not been able to take advantage of these opportunities due to their inability to meet the technical standards of the European market. In addition, many exporters in the Caribbean have limited access to internationally recognised accredited testing and certification services in the region and often source these services from outside the region at high costs.

BACKGROUND

To overcome these Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Quality Infrastructure that meets international requirements at the regional and national levels is necessary to support the private sector. Quality Infrastructure refers to all aspects of metrology (accuracy in measurement of goods traded), use of recognised standards, verification of quality of goods and services, certification and accreditation to international benchmarks. These are all essential for removing Technical Barriers to Trade and therefore holds the key to greater integration of countries into the international trade system.

The overall objective of the EPA-TBT project is to facilitate intra and inter regional trade, international competitiveness and sustainable production of goods and services within the CARIFORUM States. The specific objective of this project is to increase the use of services of internationally recognised Regional Quality Infrastructure Institutions in the CARIFORUM States. The project seeks to develop regional Quality Infrastructure (QI) frameworks, prepare national QI institutions for international recognition and improve the user orientation and awareness of QI services.

OBJECTIVES & BENEFITS

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Improved consumer protection
- Increased awareness of Quality Infrastructure services
- Improved infrastructure at national laboratories
- Greater alignment of regional Quality Infrastructure with international benchmarks
- More accurate measurements of goods traded
- Greater harmonization of regional standards
- Regional schemes for accreditation, certification and conformity assessment
- Institutional strengthening of the CROSQ Network and INDOCAL

Beneficiary Countries

Antigua and Barbuda • The Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • The Commonwealth of Dominica • The Dominican Republic • Grenada • Guyana • Haiti • Jamaica
Montserrat • Saint Lucia • St. Kitts and Nevis • St. Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Physikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) is partnering with the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad (INDOCAL) in the implementation of project activities.

PTB is the National Metrology Institute of Germany providing scientific and technical services for over 125 years. PTB measures with the highest accuracy and reliability – metrology being their core competence. PTB is providing technical assistance in Quality Infrastructure to CARIFORUM states.

INDOCAL is the National Standards Body of the Dominican Republic, providing services of standardisation, metrology, certification and training in accordance with international practices.

CROSQ is the regional Centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, through the process of standardisation and the verification of quality.



Allocated Budget

7.8 Million EUR

Project Duration

June 2012 until March 2017

Funding Agency

European Union under the
10th European Development Fund
Economic Partnership Agreement
Technical Barriers to Trade Component

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