



EPA Implementation Bulletin

Official E-Newsletter of the EPA Implementation Unit within the CARIFORUM Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat

A Bulletin of Authoritative News, Rigorous and Original Analysis and Expert Views on the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and its Implementation



Volume 4
N° 1
January-March 2014

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10th EDF CRIP support to CARIFORUM States in the Implementation of the commitments undertaken under the CARIFORUM-EU EPA: A Review



CARIFORUM



Supporting Economic Performance in the Caribbean by Strengthening Capacity



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture
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The 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP), valued at €165 million, provides support to the Region to aid in the implementation of the CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Under the CRIP, a €46,500,000 contribution amount has been provided to support interventions in over a half dozen technical areas under the EPA. An additional €28,300,000 has been made available for purposes of the Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP), which, in part, will contribute to support for EPA implementation.

10th EDF EPA Capacity Building Programme

Primary EDF commitment: €46,500,000

Duration of Programme: 84 months (60 months implementation/24 months closure)

Overall Objective

To support the beneficial integration of the Caribbean Forum of the ACP States (CARIFORUM) into the world economy.

Programme Components

- Component 1: Fiscal Reform and Adjustment

Sub-component 1: CARTAC is implementing a Fiscal Reform and Adjustment Programme for CARICOM States;

Sub-component 2: UNDP will be implementing a Fiscal Reform and Adjustment Programme for the Dominican Republic.

- Component 2: Statistics in the Dominican Republic
- Component 3: Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Programme
- Component 4: Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)
- Component 5: Services Sector
- Component 6: Rum Sector
- Component 7: Institutional and Implementation Capacity

Overview of Programme Components

A Financing Agreement was signed between CARIFORUM and the EU in March 2012, in relation to the EPA Capacity Building Programme valued at €46.5 million. The Programme is intended to assist in developing capacity in CARIFORUM to take full advantage of the provisions of the Agreement and to honour commitments undertaken under the EPA. In that regard, the Programme provides support in the areas of:

- (1) Fiscal Reform and Adjustment through the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) for CARICOM States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in the case of the Dominican Republic (CARTAC is one of eight International Monetary Fund (IMF) Regional Technical Assistance Centres (RTACs) located around the world);
- (2) Statistics in the Dominican Republic, also through UNDP;
- (3) Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Measures, through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);
- (4) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), through the National Institute of Metrology of Germany (Phsikalisch Technische Bundesanstalt - PTB), with the involvement of the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad (INDOCAL) of the Dominican Republic;
- (5) Services, through the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) with involvement of the CARICOM Secretariat and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Dominican Republic (DICOEX);

(6) The Regional Rum Industry, through the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA); and

(7) Institutional and Implementation Capacity, which comprises the following four sub-components: (i) Support for the operation of the CARIFORUM Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat; (ii) Support to facilitate the participation of CARIFORUM stakeholders in Joint Institutions established under the EPA; (iii) Support for National EPA Focal Points/EPA Standby Facility, for which the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is serving as the fund administrator; and (iv) Project to Facilitate Capacity Building through Training Programmes in the areas of Competition, Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation.

The aforementioned partner institutions are implementing 10th EDF CRIP Programmes in support of EPA implementation, on behalf of CARIFORUM. Ownership of the programmes is, therefore, vested in CARIFORUM and not in any one Partner Institution.

The details of the various components of the 10th EDF EPA Capacity Building Programme are provided below.

Component 1: Fiscal Reform and Adjustment

Sub-Component 1 (Fiscal Reform and Adjustment in CARICOM States)

Primary EDF Commitment: €3,500,000

Implementing Agency: CARTAC

Date of Commencement of Implementation:
13 December 2012

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Specific Objective(s): To enhance revenue mobilization and strengthen public finance management in CARICOM States.

Expected Results: Progress towards improved tax collection and strengthened public finance management in CARICOM States.

<http://www.cartac.org>

Sub-Component 2 (Fiscal Reform and Adjustment in the Dominican Republic)

Primary EDF Commitment: €500,000

Implementing Agency: UNDP

Date of Commencement of Implementation:
Implementation is expected to commence in Q2 2014.

Implementation Status: Implementation is expected to commence in Q2 2014.

Specific Objective(s): To enhance revenue mobilization and strengthen public finance management in Dominican Republic.

Expected Results: Progress towards improved tax collection and strengthened public finance management in the Dominican Republic.

<http://www.undp.org>

Component 2: Statistics in the Dominican Republic

Primary EDF Commitment: €500,000

Implementing Agency: UNDP

Date of Commencement of Implementation: Implementation is expected to commence in Q2 2014.

Implementation Status: Implementation is expected to commence in Q2 2014.

Specific Objective(s): To improve timelines, quality and coverage of published statistical data in the Dominican Republic.

Expected Results:

(1) Training for statisticians in the Dominican Republic provided; and

(2) Support provided for the production and updating of economic statistics (including trade statistics) in the Dominican Republic.

<http://www.undp.org>

Component 3: Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Programme

Primary EDF Commitment: €11,700,000

Implementing Agency: IICA

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 1 October 2013

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Specific Objective(s): To increase production and trade in agriculture and fisheries which meet the international standards while protecting plant, animal and human health and life and the environment.

Expected Results:

(1) Strengthened legislation, protocols, standards, measures and guidelines in the area of Agriculture Health and Food Safety (AHFS) and fisheries;

(2) Enhanced national and regional coordination mechanisms in the support of the SPS regime developed and established in the CARIFORUM States; and

(3) Strengthened national and regional regulatory and industry capacity to meet the SPS requirements of international trade.

<http://www.iica.int>

Component 4: Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

Primary EDF Commitment: €7,800,000

Implementing Agency: PTB, with the involvement of CROSQ and INDOCAL.

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 28 June 2012

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Specific Objective(s): To increase the use of services of internationally recognised Regional Quality Infrastructure Institutions in the CARIFORUM States.

Expected Results: Progress towards a modern Quality Infrastructure (QI) according to internationally recognised principles for international trade as defined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement and the TBT Chapter of the EPA.

The expected result can be broken down into the following three expected specific results:

(1) Regional frameworks in the areas of standardization, metrology and accreditation are operationalised and regional frameworks in the area of certification and market surveillance are developed;

(2) National and regional QI institutions are prepared for international recognition in the areas of metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment (calibration, testing, inspection and certification); and

(3) User orientation and awareness of QI services are improved and promoted and a regional Knowledge-Management System is developed and implemented.

http://www.ptb.de/index_en.html

<http://www.crosq.org>

<http://www.indocal.gob.do/>

Component 5: Services Sector

Primary EDF Commitment: €3,200,000

Implementing Agency: Caribbean Export, with involvement of the CARICOM Secretariat and DICOEX.

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 1 December 2013

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Specific Objective(s):

(1) Develop policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks to support the CARIFORUM services sector;

(2) Assistance given to Coalitions of Service Industries/providers; and

(3) Improve the collection and dissemination of data/statistics for planning and marketing analyses for CARIFORUM services sector.

Expected Results:

(1) Enhanced competitiveness of CARIFORUM service supplies and creation of

an optimum business environment for services. National and regional policies, plans and strategies for the services sector prepared and approved/or upgraded for the following services sectors: professional, financial, education, health and wellness, tourism, cultural entertainment and sporting, ICT, telecommunications, maritime transportation, postal and courier, and hazardous waste;

(2) Legislative and regulatory frameworks developed for the sectors listed at (1);

(3) Regional/national support organisations (especially Coalitions of Services Industries) strengthened to effectively assist services suppliers and consumers in order to take full advantage of the opportunities available under the CARIFORUM-EU EPA;

(4) Collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of data and statistics on the services sector;

(5) A monitoring and evaluation framework developed and implemented; and

(6) The capacity of stakeholders to implement monitoring and evaluation activities enhanced.

<http://www.carib-export.com>

<http://www.caricom.org>

<http://www.seic.gov.do>

Component 6: Rum Sector

Primary EDF Commitment: €7,700,000

Implementing Agency: WIRSPA

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 7 August 2012

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Overall objective: Build the long-term viability of the CARIFORUM rum sector in international markets as a significant source of employment, tax revenues and foreign exchange.

Specific Objective(s): To facilitate improvement in all areas of the ACP Caribbean rum industry such that it can achieve long term competitiveness within the world alcoholic beverage market.

Expected Results:

- (1) Increased awareness of the ACR Marque as a sustainable symbol of quality, authenticity, and provenance for the ACP Caribbean rum category and brands;
- (2) Producers provided with the knowledge required to access distributors and trade customers in individual markets in order to build long-term sustainable business;
- (3) ACR Marque credibility strengthened and scale of operation increased in order to generate a future income stream and underwrite long term sustainability; and
- (4) Increased collaboration between producers in order to expose new production and waste management techniques and technologies; to improve skills levels within producers and to promote improved environmental practices.

<http://www.wirspa.com>

Component 7: Institutional and Implementation Capacity [€10,800,000]

Expected results

Support programme for the Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM) – European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and Development Cooperation successfully implemented.

Sub-component i: Support for National EPA Focal Points/EPA Standby Facility

Primary EDF Commitment: €3,500,000

Implementing Agency: CDB

Date of Commencement of Implementation:
18 December 2012

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Overall objective: To contribute to EPA implementation at the national level

Specific Objective(s): Effective implementation of EPA at the national level

Expected Results:

- (1) An efficient mechanism is in place to provide funding for projects that foster capacity building measures for CARIFORUM States for the purpose of implementing the CARIFORUM-EU EPA at the national level;
- (2) Capacity building projects that target EPA implementation at the national level designed and implemented; and
- (3) The capacity of CARIFORUM States to implement EPA related activities is enhanced.

<http://www.caribank.org>

Sub-components ii & iii: Institutional Support to CARIFORUM/EU Development Cooperation and EPA Implementation (including Participation in Joint EPA institutions)

Primary EDF Commitment: €4,200,000

Implementing Agency: CARIFORUM Directorate

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 1 July 2012

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Overall objective: To provide Institutional support for CARIFORUM/EU Development Cooperation and EPA implementation and to support the beneficial integration of CARIFORUM into the world economy.

Specific Objective(s): Effective overall implementation of CARIFORUM-EU cooperation, including the EPA

Expected Results:

- (1) Institutional support provided to the CARIFORUM Directorate; and
- (2) Effective CARIFORUM participation in Joint CARIFORUM/EU EPA institutions facilitated.

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/cariforum/cariforum_main_page.jsp?menu=cob

Sub-component iv: Training Programmes

Primary EDF Commitment: €3,100,000

Implementing Agency: International Service Contract to be awarded with CARIFORUM as Contracting Authority.

Date of Commencement of Implementation: Expected to commence by Q2 2014

Implementation Status: Expected to commence by Q2 2014

Overall objective: To contribute to the effective overall implementation of the EU-CARIFORUM Cooperation, including the Economic Partnership Agreement with particular reference to obligations relating to Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation.

Specific Objective(s): To provide EPA-support training programmes in the area of Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation.

Expected Results: EPA support training programmes in the area of competition, procurement and customs and trade facilitation (in the context of EPA implementation) delivered to public and private sector stakeholders and staff of CARIFORUM Regional Institutions.

10th EDF RPSDP

Primary EDF commitment: €28,300,000

Implementing Agency: Caribbean Export

Date of Commencement of Implementation: 8 March 2011

Implementation Status: Ongoing

Overall Objective: To contribute to the gradual integration of CARIFORUM countries into the world economy enhancing regional economic growth and by extension alleviate poverty.

Specific Objective(s):

- (1) Enhancing Competitiveness and Promoting Innovation among CARIFORUM's private sector;
- (2) Promoting Trade and Export Development among CARIFORUM States;
- (3) Promoting stronger trade and investment relations between CARIFORUM, French Caribbean Outermost regions (FCORs) and EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in the Caribbean;
- (4) Promoting stronger trade and investment cooperation between CARICOM and the Dominican Republic; and
- (5) Strengthening the institutional capacity of Caribbean Export to implement trade and investment promotion programmes.

<http://www.carib-export.com>

News Highlights

CARICOM takes steps to improve Trade Performance under Bilateral Agreements

The establishment of effective trade facilitation offices, both at national and regional levels has been recommended as a key to the Region taking greater advantage of trade agreements with third countries.

Recommendations are contained in a draft report from a study commissioned “to identify and assess the underlying reasons affecting CARICOM’s weak trade performance under the existing Bilateral Trade Agreements with the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica,

Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela.” The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) mandated that the study be conducted. It was commissioned by the CARICOM Secretariat, with technical assistance provided by the Government of Spain through the CARICOM-Spain Joint Fund.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/press_releases_2014/pres22_14.jsp

CARICOM active at CELAC Summit

The Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) played an active role during the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States Summit (CELAC) on 28-29 January 2014 in Havana, Cuba, on the theme “Eradication of Hunger, Poverty and Inequality”.

Further information on this Meeting can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.caricom.org/jsp/pressreleases/press_releases_2014/pres21_14.jsp

St Kitts and Nevis Draft National EPA Implementation Plan Workshop

Basseterre, Monday, February 10, 2014/Government of St Kitts and Nevis: The EPA Unit, in collaboration with the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs is hosting a Validation Workshop for the Draft National EPA Implementation Plan, on the 10th and 11th February 2014 at the Ocean Terrace Inn. The purpose of the Workshop is for national stakeholders who have a role to play in the

implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement or who could benefit from this Agreement, to jointly examine the Draft National EPA Implementation Plan and to provide feedback.

Further information on this Meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.gov.kn/node/1873>

Caribbean Export receives 3.2 million euro for CARIFORUM Services Sector

Bridgetown, Barbados February 17, 2014: The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in conjunction with the implementing partners CARICOM Secretariat and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Dominican Republic (DICOEX) have been awarded responsibility for the implementation of a 3.2 million Euro programme by the European Union towards the implementation of the 10th EDF Services Sector Component. Implementation of the services component will be a collaborative effort between the agency and implementing partners CARICOM Secretariat and DICOEX.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

<http://174.142.167.193/headline-Caribbean-Export-receives-3.2-million-euro-for-CARIFORUM-services-sector-19912.html>

East Africa Region Takes Stock of ACP Future

Brussels, 17 February 2014/ACP: The ACP Eminent Persons Group (EPG) will hold its fourth round of consultations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 - 26 February, to gather views from stakeholders in the region on the

outlooks for the 79-member African, Caribbean and Pacific Group.

As the largest intergovernmental grouping of developing countries in the world, the ACP is at a crossroads as it nears the end of its long-time partnership agreement with the European Community in 2020. The agreement provides the framework for ACP-EU political relations, economic cooperation and trade, as well as the disbursement of the European Development Fund (EDF), worth more than 32 billion Euro for 2014-2020.

Further information on this Meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/east-africa-talks-take-stock-ACP-future>

Statement by Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Hon. Fitz A. Jackson at the opening session of its 27th session in Strasbourg, France, 17 March 2014

The Statement can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/statement-co-president-ACP-EU-joint-parliamentary-assembly-hon-fitz-jackson-opening-session->

ACP holds Regional Private Sector Consultation in Barbados

Bridgetown, Barbados, 18 February 2014/Caribbean News Now/ACP: Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export), on behalf of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat hosted a regional private sector consultation meeting in Barbados on February 14, 2014.

The purpose of this meeting was to gather input from key stakeholders from across the region to inform the ACP Secretariat in the preparation of a private sector development strategy for the ACP group as well as Caribbean Export for the future direction of the regional private sector development programme under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).

Further information on this Meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/acp-holds-regional-private-sector-consultation-barbados>

EU Commission affirms commitment to building ACP Cultural Sectors

Brussels, 4 March 2014/ACP: Artists, trainers, creative professionals and managers representing projects funded by the ACP Cultures Plus programme were in Brussels last week to share experiences and refresh their knowledge on how to better manage their projects.

Further information on this Meeting can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/cultures-programme-builds-acp-cultural-sectors>

Angola to Host ACP Eminent Persons Consultation for Southern Africa

Brussels, 18 March 2014/ACP: The ACP Eminent Persons Group (EPG) is planning its next round of consultations in Angola, to gather views from stakeholders on how to orient the 79-member ACP organisation when its current partnership agreement with the European Union ends in 2020.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/angola-host-acp-eminent-persons-consultation-southern-africa>

ACP, ITC to Partner up in Boosting Access to Global Trade for ACP Businesses

Brussels, 20 March 2014/ITC: The International Trade Centre (ITC) is reaffirming its partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) in light of increasing demands from member countries to further engage the private sector in trade development.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/acp-itc-partner-boosting-access-global-trade-acp-businesses>

New OECS Envoy calls for “Bold Ideas, New Vision”

Brussels 27 March 2014/ACP: The new ambassador for the Eastern Caribbean States to the EU has urged the ACP Group to make ambitious and innovative moves to reshape the organisation, in order to ensure its relevance in a multi-polar world.

In her first address to the Committee of Ambassadors since her appointment, H.E Dr Len Monica Ishmael laid out the context of a “world in flux”, and offered lessons from her decade-long turn at the helm of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) on exploiting current global shifts to strengthen the institution.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/new-oecs-envoy-calls-bold-ideas-new-vision>

West African Leaders Endorse "In Principle" EPA Deal with EU

Abuja, 31 March 2014/ECOWAS PRESS RELEASE: West African leaders have endorsed "in principle" the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

negotiations with the European Union (EU) for a free trade area of the two economic blocs but urged the region's chief negotiators to take appropriate measures to resolve outstanding technical issues within two months before the signing of the agreement.

Further information on this matter can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.acp.int/content/west-african-leaders-endorse-conclusion-epa-negotiations-eu>

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http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/epa_unit/epa_unit_main_page.jsp?menu=cob

To sign up for and/or make inquiries relating to the contents of this publication, please send an email to nand.bardouille@caricom.org

Office:

Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Implementation Unit within the CARIFORUM Directorate of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
GUYANA

Tel: 592-222-0001/75

Fax: 592-222-0171

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***EPA Implementation Bulletin* is made possible through the kind support of the European Union (EU)**



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