



This project is funded
by the European Union



Contract n° FED/2014/352-781

**“Capacity Building within Member States of the Caribbean Forum for ACP States
(CARIFORUM) in the areas of Competition, Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation
for the implementation of the EPA”**

Final Conference

Recommendations – Way Forward

Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, June 5-6 2017



A project implemented by:



Final Conference - Recommendations

Project “Capacity Building within Member States of the Caribbean Forum for ACP States (CARIFORUM) in the areas of Competition, Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation for the implementation of the EPA”

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Equinoccio Consortium and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union

Table of Contents

1. COMPETITION	4
2. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT	5
3. CUSTOMS AND TRADE FACILITATION	6

1. COMPETITION

General

- Sustainability of the CARICOM Competition Network
- Increase online delivery for sensitization and skills training to reach a wider cross-section of a participants
- Pre-recorded instructional videos – eg. the Private Sector, Media
- Utilize existing forum such as the Competition Policy International, WTO e-learning and modify to suit CARICOM's needs
- Development of the legislative framework- ROPs, analysis and review of current legislations
- Bring together the three thematic areas to understand the linkages
- Support recommendations for inclusion of SPS, TBT and other trade remedies
- Internships and Exchanges
- Offer an accredited professional certificate course
- How can social media be used to disseminate information to reach wide-base
- Update/ revised materials for future use

Level I

- Continue workshops and include police; journalists
- Review the mode of delivery
- Finish Parliamentary sessions in other CARIFORUM States

Level II

- Deliver Technical training for private sector:
 - Business Sector & Private Sector Lawyers, BSOs
- Training of Commissioners throughout region
- Follow up training for Judiciary as new regimes formed.
- Haiti: Closer cooperation bet. EU and WB/IADB in promoting Competition in Haiti
- Add component:
 - cross-border enforcement/ shared jurisdictions
 - mergers and acquisitions

Level III

- Continue offering on-line advanced course at SRC
- Offer scholarship:
 - for advanced course (16 level 2 candidates that did not have the opportunity in the first offering)
 - LLM

2. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Recommendations for the Way Forward

Technical Assistance for institutionalization at the national level to cater to the uniqueness of CARIFORUM states

Research Centre

- To assess procurement regime for data analysis to support decision making
- Determine existing capacity at the national level for the use of the regional procurement platform

Development of an additional module to link competition and public procurement

Translation of existing and new training materials for DR, Haiti and Suriname

Technical Assistance for the Development of a qualification and accreditation framework for Procurement

- National accreditation through a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) – use TVET council to review and approve
- Continued Regional accreditation through UWI under the three project areas

Recommendations for designing the new proposal

LEVEL I – Greater inclusion of Private Sector under the Level I training

LEVEL II - Adjustment to the course content of the Level II Manual to include the Operationalization of procurement based on the recent CSME procurement bill, standard operating procedures and notice board

LEVEL III

- Design a Public Private Partnership (PPP) Module to link PPP financing options to public procurement
- Build on Train the Trainer courses at the regional level for inclusion of content and mode of delivery
- Ensure greater cohort of trainers

TRAIN THE TRAINERS - Utilize the participants from the Train the Trainers course to deliver training sessions at a national level to cater to the individual country's needs and develop their capacity to satisfy their obligations under the EPA

Technical Assistance for the Dissemination of Information - Use of Social Media and national newspapers for sensitization

Curbing the cost of running the programme

3. CUSTOMS AND TRADE FACILITATION

- Establish stronger links with Customs Administration through CCLEC, CARICOM and OECS
Be cognizant of the WCO Strategic capacity building goals: this will ensure duplication is mitigated and funds are not wasted. For countries that are not member of the WCO, CCLEC may be used as platform for capacity building.
- WCO has strategic plans for capacity building for the region, the EU programmes/funds must be parallel with the WCO to avoid duplication as well.
Developed Art.20: the administrative cooperation between customs administration. This provision should be operationalized; the Special Customs Committee under the EPA is activated and operationalized in real time to take full advantage of the benefits under this Article.
- Continue sensitization (level 1 training) to Members States who were not covered.
A lack of focus on the private sector; this anomaly must be rectified. Education of the private sector is key: customs brokers, traders, producers, manufacturers, non-governmental stakeholders, etc. We need to be more aggressive in forcing ourselves upon the private sector to ensure compliance. This could be in the form of inhouse training on site to make them comfortable in their space.

Training on the Rule of Origin as it relates to the EPA – a certification programme
Conduct train the Trainers programmes to improve pool of potential trainers
Enhance train the trainers programme beyond level 1.

There should to be a trader's extension service similar to what is obtained in the agricultural sector, particularly to build export capacity

Build on the regional customs training programme.
- Conduct training for the other regulatory agencies to bring them up to date with capacity building.
- Conduct training in rules of origin, classification, risk management, valuation and post clearance audit.
- Ensuring that all training materials are adequately translated to other languages in order to ensure that the information is disseminate to countries that are nor English speaking.
Eg. Dutch, Spanish and French
- Enhancement of Drafted Strategic Plan for implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement