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CARIFORUM

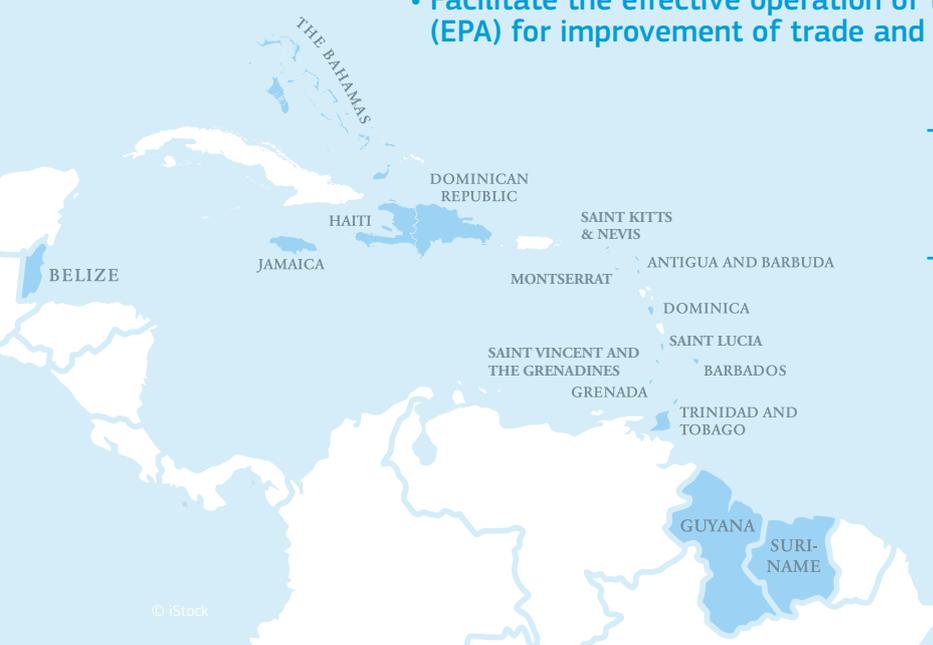
11th European Development Fund
Economic Partnership Agreement

Technical Barriers to Trade Component

*Support to CARIFORUM States in furthering the implementation
of their Economic Partnership Agreement Commitments and
in meaningfully reaping the benefits of the Agreement.*

Objectives

- Contribute to the integration of the CARIFORUM into the world economy
- Facilitate the effective operation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for improvement of trade and competitiveness



→ by reducing **Technical Barriers to Trade** through a modernized national and regional Quality Infrastructure and

→ by increasing the use of internationally recognised Regional Quality Infrastructure by the regional and national quality institutions and by the private sector.

Background



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The CARIFORUM EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was signed in 2008 building on long-standing economic relationships between the Caribbean region and the European Union.

With the goal to offer new market opportunities for CARIFORUM States and to foster regional trade, great expectations are put on the EPA. Besides the various positive results achieved until now, there is still work to be done to enable Caribbean countries to fully benefit from the EPA.

Existing Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) impede intra-regional trade and preclude the region from fully entering international markets. Many exporters from the Caribbean have limited access to internationally-recognised Quality Infrastructure services within the region resulting in high costs for sourcing these services outside the region.

Expected benefits

The project will provide benefits in three major areas:

1. Quality gaps identified in key sectors and organisations have been closed

- ✓ Quality-related issues identified and addressed in value chains and sectors
- ✓ Private sector organisations prepared for certification
- ✓ Conformity Assessment Bodies prepared for accreditation
- ✓ Calibration Laboratories prepared for accreditation
- ✓ Harmonised training courses demanded by the private sector, developed and delivered

2. A quality culture has been promoted throughout the region

- ✓ Quality Fora held
- ✓ National Quality Awards implemented
- ✓ Quality awareness campaigns implemented
- ✓ Media personnel trained

3. The Regional Quality Infrastructure has been strengthened

- ✓ Standards harmonized and adopted
- ✓ New Caribbean Reference Laboratories (CaRLs) established
- ✓ Regional quality infrastructure networks strengthened
- ✓ CROSQ Secretariat strengthened
- ✓ The feasibility of a regional product certification mark has been analysed
- ✓ The region participates in key international and regional quality fora, conferences and workshops



Partners

The project is implemented by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) together with partners, the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad (INDOCAL).

PTB, the National Metrology Institute of Germany, is a scientific and technical higher federal authority falling within the competence of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

CROSQ is headquartered in Barbados and is the regional centre for promoting efficiency and competitive production in goods and services, through the process of standardization and verification of quality, aiming to support international competitiveness for the enhancement of social and economic development in the region.

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

Beneficiary Countries: Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM): Antigua and Barbuda – The Bahamas – Barbados – Belize – Dominica – Dominican Republic – Grenada – Guyana – Haiti – Jamaica – Montserrat – Saint Lucia – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – Saint Kitts and Nevis – Suriname – Trinidad and Tobago



Key Data

Budget:	4.5 Million EUR
Project Duration:	September 2019 until February 2024
Funding Agency:	European Union
Project Management:	Dr. Sabine Greiner, PTB David Tomlinson, CROSQ Alejandra María Villoch Cambas, INDOCAL

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