

Latin America and the Caribbean



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Strengthening of the Regional Quality Infrastructure in the Caribbean in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies

Objective	Expanding the available quality infrastructure services in the Caribbean for the use of energy-efficient electrical devices and renewable energies		
Approach	<p>This project is geared towards the expansion and enhancement of quality infrastructure services, particularly in the areas of standardisation, metrology and testing. Its goal is the support and provision of a solid technical base for the use of energy-efficient devices, and the application of technologies to make use of renewable energy sources. The project is regionally active in 14 member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and in the Dominican Republic. The lead executing agencies of the project are the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad (INDOCAL) from the Dominican Republic. The target group consists of both consumers and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) which buy and use electrical devices and technologies for the use of renewable energies. Key partners for the implementation of activities are the National Standards Bureaus (NSBs) in the beneficiary countries. In addition, an important stakeholder role is assigned to decision-makers in relevant ministries and authorities, in particular regulating authorities.</p> <p>Strengthening the regional organisation CROSQ in the coordination and technical support of the NSBs of the member states, as well as in the cooperation between the two implementation partners, CROSQ and INDOCAL, form pivotal elements of this approach. Three components are envisaged for the implementation. The first component addresses the support of regional standardisation activities and their use for the creation of binding directives and technical provisions. These activities refer to selected electrical appliances (lighting, refrigerators and air conditioners), e.g. in the form of Minimum Energy Performance Standards as well as labelling standards. Furthermore, renewable energy technologies will be fostered. The establishment of technical expertise for regionally available testing and metrological services in individual countries form pivotal elements of the second component. Lastly, the third component focuses on awareness-raising, informational and public relations activities, as well as the dialogue with persons in decision-making and multiplier positions.</p> <p>The main modes of delivery of this project are: subject-related consultancy by short-term experts; basic and advanced training; awareness-raising and dialogue measures; exchanges on good practices; a limited supply of material and equipment for selected measuring and testing laboratories.</p>		
Impact	<p>The promotion of quality infrastructure for energy efficiency and renewable energies through this regional project will contribute to the harmonisation or equivalence of standards and testing procedures in the countries of the Caribbean Community and with the Dominican Republic. The Caribbean consumers will have better and more reliable information about energy efficient products and, in the medium term, they will be able to save energy and costs. Similarly, businesses can improve their competitiveness through energy cost savings. The use of renewable energy technologies such as solar PV or solar water heating based on standards will be more reliable and efficient. Thus, a contribution will be made to reduce the nearly complete dependence of the region on fossil fuel energy imports. These medium- to long-term impacts will allow positive incentives for the development of the region's economies.</p>		
Cooperation	The project works in close cooperation with the CARICOM Secretariat Energy Unit and other relevant national, regional and international agencies, in particular the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Assistance (REETA) project implemented by the German international cooperation agency GIZ.		
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