CARICOM and Dominican Republic

Strengthening of the Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean
**Objective**
To support the efficient use of energy in the CARICOM and the Dominican Republic through demand-oriented services of a regionally coordinated quality infrastructure.

**Approach**
This project is aimed at developing quality infrastructure services, especially in the areas of metrology, testing, inspection, certification and accreditation. Central to this project is the implementation of a regional pilot energy efficiency labeling program in order to promote the use of energy-efficient household appliances and illuminants and thus contribute to lower energy consumption. The project is implemented on a regional level by participating CARICOM members and the Dominican Republic. The lead implementing partners of the project are the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Instituto Dominicano para la Calidad (INDOCAL) from the Dominican Republic. The primary target group comprises consumers of energy in private households, in public institutions and in the private sector who benefit from a sustainable use of energy; as well as a secondary target group of retailers, importers and distributors of electrical appliances. Direct beneficiaries of the project are the National Standards Bureaus (NSBs) in particular those selected for piloting the labelling program at the national level such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, the project foresees comprehensive involvement of policy-makers in relevant ministries and in the regional and national energy-related administration.

The main components of this regional project are to operationalize the pilot labeling program in order to prove the designed concept of scheme administration, to expand competences in the field of testing and calibration, to sensitize on the importance of quality-related aspects, and to exchange experience and information via regional networks.

**Impact**
The project promotes the development and strengthening of quality infrastructure in the region for energy efficiency through the alignment of national compliance procedures and testing at the regional level in the countries of the Caribbean Community and with the Dominican Republic. Specifically, this regional approach supports the participating countries in achieving their national energy saving goals, facilitates the region in implementing the CARICOM regional energy policy and will consequently lead to more resilient and trustworthy results for the purpose of saving energy and protecting consumers. In the medium term, Caribbean consumers will spend less on energy and thus have a higher purchasing power. Companies can improve their competitiveness by reducing their energy costs. The region’s dependence on imports of fossil fuels and the associated foreign currency debt gradually decrease. These medium term effects are expected to have a positive impact on economic development and climate protection.

Overall, the activities included in this project are designed to contribute to energy savings and to protect consumers and the climate.

**Cooperation**
The project works in close cooperation with the CARICOM Energy Unit and other relevant national, regional and international agencies, in particular the Technical Assistance Program for Sustainable Energy in the Caribbean (TAPSEC) implemented by the German international cooperation agency GIZ.

**Financing**
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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