

CarISnet PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: CARISNET- Strengthening the Caribbean ICT stakeholders Virtual Community - CIVIC- as a regional mechanism to promote and support the use of ICT for development in the Caribbean"

The project is intended to contribute to the development and impact of ICTs for Development (ICT4D) in the Caribbean through the strengthening of the Caribbean ICT stakeholders Virtual Community CIVIC, which was initiated following the first Caribbean ICT Roundtable, held in Barbados in October 2002.

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Project Goal:

To help establish the CIVIC forum as a mechanism able to build a common vision/perspective on ICTs in the region, promote a Caribbean strategy and foster regional Caribbean-wide actions that address critical development issues.

Project Implementers:

Jamaica Sustainable Development Network Ltd, Fundación Taigüey, Dominican Republic), Foundation Networks & Development (FUNREDES), DevNet (Guyana)

Project objectives:

1. To revitalize and sustain the online existing communication forum with improved communication across the language barriers.
2. To promote membership in CIVIC among French and Spanish speaking countries.
3. To create a multilingual regional ICT clearinghouse to include resources and documents on ICT related policies, initiatives, skills, resources and funds
4. To establish project priority areas and develop collaborative project proposals.
5. To promote dialogue between donors and the CIVIC community to identify priority areas for project support and articulate a call for proposals

Key Activities

- The creation of a Caribbean **regional ICT clearinghouse** in form of an online database,
- The **promotion** of CIVIC membership **in the French and Spanish speaking** areas as well as **provision for the virtual dialogue across languages**, so to balance its geographical presence.
- The **animation of CIVIC discussions** to focus on collaboration and sharing of experiences and give momentum to the CIVIC forum.

- The promotion of dialog with interested donors to identify their support strategies and priority areas, and to contribute to articulation and collaboration for a call for proposals.

Activities/Outputs table

Objectives	Activities	Outputs
<p>1. Revitalize the online communication forum and bring basic level of help for communication across the languages</p> <p>2. Promote multi-stakeholder membership in CIVIC among French and Spanish speaking countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Define Methodology and procedures then validate and establish agenda with the participation of CIVC members • 1.2 Conduct discussions and create eventual sub groups with specific agendas • 1.3 Technically Integrate the process of automated translation into the moderation process¹ • 1.4 Systematize discussion outputs and promote its results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Identify key partners • 2.2 Raise awareness of the forum in French and Spanish speaking countries particularly through Telecentros and MISTICA • 2.3 Encourage their membership in the forum • 2.4 Monitor membership and participation (country, language sector sex) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1A Enhanced exchanges and integration of key actors through a strengthened virtual community • R1B About 3 to 5 position documents that reflects positions and recommendations on ICT+Caribbean related issues to be identified by members. to be published in a specific section of the clearinghouse that will seek impact on national agendas, regional and global processes, (WSIS 2005, Caricom, etc)One of the document discussion outputs will be answering the question “what is CIVIC and how to organize it” • R1.C Documentation of the CARISNET initiative highlighting the experiences, challenges of establishing a multicultural, multilingual Caribbean consortium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R2A First level of Increase of membership and participation of French and Spanish speaking countries • R2B Analysis of membership and participation by country, language sector, sex

¹ For module 1, this will be a simple addition without human intervention for output revision.

Objectives	Activities	Outputs
3. Create a regional ICT clearinghouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 Identify existing databases, their formats and interconnection standards (XML, etc.) Collaborate with ICA on existing database format, Build on existing framework (design, methodology) criteria. • 3.2 Develop a documented procedure for selection, and validation of inputs • 3.3 Set the technical aspects (portal, data base, web interface, interconnection) and provide online interactivity • 3.4 Identify partners to provide the national data, collect data, and validate the entries • 3.5 Prepare and conduct a call for success stories and lessons learned to be published in a specific section of the clearinghouse • 3.6 Integrate systematized information on the donors to be published in a specific section of the clearinghouse • 3.7 Provide permanent maintenance of the online clearinghouse (updating, approving suggested resources, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R3 Interactive online clearinghouse of information on the ICT in the Caribbean,, permanently updated, in a standardised regional database format, with relevant information projects, research papers, institutions, donors activities, lessons and stories etc/
4. Promote the coordination and strategic collaboration among donors and with the CIVIC community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Identify donors and agencies potential new participants and extend existing membership • 4.2 Systematize the information on donors activities in the ICT/Caribbean field • 4.3 Propose and explore collaborative funding for regional initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R4A Strengthened collaboration and articulation of the donors support in the region, • R4B Document mapping: Map of all major ICT donors and agencies in the Caribbean including funding mechanisms and key persons contact information
5 Promote the development of collaborative project proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.1 Based on the stakeholders discussions identify priorities for action (documented) • 5.2 Prepare a regional thematic projects call for proposals in coordination with interested donors • 5.3 preparation of a follow up proposal for a 3 year programme for CIVIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R5A Brokerage / matching of CIVIC members projects proposals with selected donors/agencies • R5B Launch of regional call for project proposals • R5C project proposal for CIVIC prepared and submitted

Indicative Project Timeline/Schedule:

The activities within the project should be organized according to the specific objectives. Relate the timeline with the list of key outputs and milestones. The table below present intended programming of the activities.

Activities	MONTHS											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Package • MOU's signed by all partners • Prepare methodology and road map for CIVIC facilitation, • Determine main parameters for clearing house, and pre-identify data sources • Set up automatic translation • PR planning • Obtain extra funding (UNESCO, UL) 												
Objective 1 Revitalize the online communication forum and bring basic level of help for communication across the languages												
1.1 Define Methodology and procedures then validate and establish agenda with the participation of CIVC members												
1.2 Conduct discussions and create eventual sub groups with specific agendas												
1.3 Technically Integrate the process of automated translation into the moderation process ²												
1.4 Systematize discussion outputs and promote its results												
Objective 2. Promote multi-stakeholder membership in CIVIC among French and Spanish speaking countries.												
2.1 Identify key partners												
2.2 Raise awareness of the forum in French and Spanish speaking countries particularly through Telecentros and MISTICA												
2.3 Encourage multicultural membership in the forum												

² For module 1, this will be a simple addition without human intervention for output revision.

Project Cost

Total cost:	Ja 6,510,000	US\$105,000
ICA contribution:	Ja 3,720,000	US\$ 60,000
Other donors:	Ja 992,000	US\$ 16,000
In kind counterpart	Ja 1,798,000	US\$ 29,000

(Ja = Jamaican Dollars)

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the project will include Caribbean ICT stakeholders (civil society and academic, donors, private sector, government).

Short term impact will be in the increased and structured knowledge about ICT4D in the region, as well as the broader inclusion of French and Spanish speaking stakeholders.

Long term impact will be in the increase of effective collaborative activities between stakeholders, the efficient use of resources, the sharing of lessons learned and eventually a unified voice on ICT interest, issues and strategies for the region.