

Proposal title: Engendering greater youth participation in CIVIC Thematic areas: Youth, ICTs, Integration to increase youth participation and action in and through CIVIC

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1. Issues:

Youth / young adults are underrepresented in multistakeholder group CIVIC
Dutch Caribbean are underrepresented in multistakeholder group CIVIC

2. Goals:

- 1) To promote Caribbean integration by including more participants from the dutch speaking Caribbean in internet discussion groups like CIVIC
- 2) To promote CIVIC as a Caribbean multistakeholder group for ICT4D among Youth of the Caribbean (in this case Suriname) and to get more Youth issues and youth input on the ICT4D agenda for the Caribbean .

3. Objectives:

Increase active membership of Surinamese Youth / young adults on CIVIC

4. Background information on CIVIC

CIVIC

The Caribbean ICT Virtual Community (CIVIC) is a permanent virtual forum of Caribbean ICT stakeholders established in 2002 in Barbados . It is a venue for sharing information, holding discussions, networking and linking ideas, actors, projects or initiatives on ICTs and development in the Caribbean . It also aims to contribute in the building of a common vision/perspective on ICTs, and to promote a Caribbean strategy and/or regional Caribbean-wide actions. The CIVIC is based upon an asynchronic, electronic conferencing platform, the ICARibbean mailing list and its related web tools (currently hosted on the Dgroup virtual platform). It is a Caribbean managed and Caribbean owned virtual community. In 2009 the platform will be renewed to CIVIC 2.0. with a different interface and most of the discussions taking place in channels fr example the youth channel.

The CarlSnet Consortium

The CarlSnet Consortium consists of four organizations from the Caribbean dedicated to spreading the strategic use of ICTs for sustainable human development of the Caribbean . These are DevNet(Guyana), Fundación Taigüey (Dominican Republic), Jamaica Sustainable Development Network – JSDN (Jamaica), Association Haïtienne pour le Développement des TICs (Haiti)

The original consortium was formed in 2005 to propose a project to strengthen the multi stakeholder Caribbean ICT stakeholders community CIVIC – the CarlSNet-1 project receiving support from the International Development Research Centre and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas .

In 2007 the consortium formulated a follow up project – named CarlSNet-2 and subtitled Integrating and Empowering the Caribbean ICT4D stakeholders; Unleashing the transformation potential for the region - aiming to contribute to the social and economic development of the Caribbean region by strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders

for regional collaborative action on critical ICT4D issues/initiatives in the Caribbean that has among its main objectives.

The main specific objective of this new phase is to facilitate the participative development of a Two year Strategic Work Plan aimed at consolidating CIVIC as a regional catalyst for ICT4D networking in the region. For this the CIVIC 2.0 event was organized in Juan Dolio, Santo Domingo inviting about 100 stakeholders. Additionally several capacity building activities were organized during this meeting.

STATS

Yacine Kheladi facilitator of CIVIC brought some CIVIC 2008 statistics forward in the Juan Dolio meeting with relevant main findings:

- Since its creation, CIVIC has had over 370 subscriptions. It has grown steadily from 60 members when created in October 2002, with an average of 2 additions per month, and has currently 296 registered members. There is a very low un-subscription rate.
- There is an even distribution of sectors represented - government, non-government, academia, business, and the donor/development community.
- Unsurprisingly, persons from the NGO and consultancy sectors are the most active participants, while government people, UN agencies, donors and regional organizations tend to be more cautious (but they remain there and listen).
- The main language is English. Many of the Spanish and French speakers are fluent in English as well. There is obvious misbalance relatively to the population/language stats of the Caribbean. Relatively higher rate of desertion among Spanish speakers.
- Participation per language of country of residence also shows more English, but followed not so far by French and Spanish.
- In general participation level is higher than in average mailing list (some 25% of members participate occasionally or frequently, while worldwide average is of 10%)
- Civic members reside in about 40 countries. The country with most members is Barbados, followed by Jamaica and Trinidad. Individually members residing in Trinidad are relatively more active participants.

The statistics also show that membership from the Dutch speaking Caribbean, Suriname has consistently been 3 (!). Over the last couple of years CIVIC has organized promotional meetings in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This event would be the third promotional event in the region.

5. How CIVIC would benefit youth in Suriname

Since Suriname is heavily underrepresented in CIVIC, opportunities in ICT4D are missed in:

- Having the Surinamese reality and issues as part of the CIVIC agenda
- Presentation of solutions applied in Suriname for problems that might be regional
- Availability of Information
- Opportunities to network
- Opportunities to participate in projects

Specifically for the youth and young adults and leadership representing them there are opportunities missed in:

- Education (example: scholarship opportunities for youth looking for to make a career in ICTs)
- Funding of and participation in projects

- Strengthening the process of integration in CARIFORUM and the wider Caribbean ,
- Career opportunities for young professionals
- Capacity building (workshops, participation in research)
- CIVIC as an influential voice for civil society in the Caribbean

6. Stakeholders:

CIVIC

Youth / young adults **age 15 - 30.**

Youth, Media and ICT's Organizations

7. Activities

1) Attend the ICT convention/fair in Paramaribo, Suriname in May 2009 to (re)present CIVIC to the Surinamese community and youth specifically

2) Visit organizations (Youth, Media and ICT's) to promote CIVIC:

- Spangmakandra
- The Backlot (youth debate program: Krutu)
- Digicel Suriname , Telesur, Uniqa, Parbonet (?)
- Adek University of Suriname
- NATIN (Technical College)
- Youth Parliament
- Youth Ambassadors
- Ministry of Tourism, Communication and Transport
- ICT steering committee

8. Project Impact/outcomes:

Short term

Membership of Surinamese youth age 15 to 30 increased and growing

More members of the Dutch Caribbean

Active participation of Surinamese youth increased

Long term

Follow up projects with increased youth participation from Suriname

Suriname more visible in Caribbean Information Society (Culture, Issues, Solutions, Projects, Professionals, Businesses etc.)

9. Success indicators

Increase of membership by **50**

Visitors to CIVIC booth

Number of people reached with information /presentation of CIVIC

Number of organizations reached with information /presentation of CIVIC

10. Participants

5 or 6 CIVIC members

11. Resources needed

- Booth Chamber of Commerce KKF Suriname ICT fair/convention
- CIVIC information and promotional material
- Decor
- Internet connectivity
- 5 to 6 CIVIC participants that will appeal to youth present during the ICT week
- Coverage of lodging, organizational, logistics and communication expenses

12. Budget Estimate

ICT CONVENTION/FAIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (KKF) IN SURINAME

Rent space KKF		\$ 1,500.00
Decor		\$ 250.00
Rent beamer		\$ 250.00
CIVIC info en promotion material		\$ 500.00
Estimated Travel expenseparticipants (5)		\$ 3,150.00
Jamaica (1)	\$ 1000.00	
TT (2)	\$ 800.00	
BB (1)	\$ 750.00	
Cur (1)	\$ 600.00	
Lodging participants	6 days @ \$100 per night	\$ 3,000.00
Food, drinks	6 days @ \$50 p.p.p.d	\$ 1500.00
per diem	6 days @ \$50 p.p.p.d	\$ 1500.00
Communication & Organisation expenses		\$ 1,250.00
Local transport		\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous 10%		\$ 1,340.00
TOTAL		\$ 14,740.00

13. Sponsors:

ICANN US\$2000 + coverage of 1 ICANN participant

Other Possible sponsors:

- Suriname businesses in ICTs and Telecom: Digicel Suriname N.V., ERICSSON AB BRANCH SURINAME , UNIQA, TELESUR,...??
- Members of CIVIC: Development Agencies, OAS,??

14. Action plan:

- Get project proposal approved by CIVIC
- Get Finance
- Schedule KKF booth
- Develop CIVIC informational material
- Finalize agenda time schedule for the week: organizations to visit, presentations to make etc.
- Organize logistics for participants international and local
- Decorate booth
- Execute plan: present CIVIC at KKF fair and to local organizations
- Finalize activities
- Give follow up by contacting (potential) members and getting their involvement for active participation in the youth and other channels of interest
- Make project and financial reports on Suriname event

