

Knowledge transfer capacity building for enhanced energy access & efficiency in the Caribbean (CAP4INNO)

The intervention will aim to modernise the curricula and training offered in the three participating Caribbean HEIs serving 18 Caribbean countries, to build capacities for transfer and exploitation of innovative solutions and modern technologies for enhanced energy access and efficiency. In order to achieve this, the qualifications of HEI academic & management staff will be upgraded with a view to providing high-level skills required for capacity development in the energy sector, and the offer of academic and research programmes will be amplified, including lifelong learning courses offered to professionals. The inter-institutional co-operation among HEIs, enterprises & governments in the Caribbean will be strengthened, as will innovation and knowledge transfer through networking & policy support actions.

Contract
FED/2013/320-272

Co-ordinator
University of Alicante

Partners
Chalmers University of Technology,
University of the West Indies,
University of Technology,
Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo

Project duration
36 months

EU grant
EUR 490,813.22

ACP regions and countries involved
Jamaica
Dominican Republic
Trinidad & Tobago
Spain
Sweden

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Challenge

The energy cost in the Caribbean is amongst the highest in the World, approximately three to four times that in North America & Europe. New, more effective and efficient technologies are urgently needed to broaden the access to and affordability of energy. There is a need to create 'support mechanisms for the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries'.

For Caribbean entrepreneurs, HEIs and governments to take advantage of technology transfer opportunities they need to overcome a number of challenges, including:

- lack of know-how on state of the art technologies;
- shortage of qualified professionals capable of determining economic viable technologies;
- weak co-operation amongst relevant actors, resulting in limited knowledge transfer taking place, & low social return on investment in R&D.

Focus

CAP4INO aims to build the capacities of Caribbean HEIs to promote knowledge transfer and offer relevant training programs to staff, students and professionals of the sector. This will be achieved through the stimulation of inter-institutional networking and co-operation between the partnership HEIs and the four associated partners and other stakeholders.

A combination of academic and institutional capacity building actions, including the modernisation of curricula and training programmes utilising stakeholder networks will upgrade qualifications of academic staff of ACP HEIs' – in delivering transversal

skills to science & technology students related to innovation, technology transfer, and intellectual property management.

The project will modernise study programmes in high-level skills required by the national and regional labour markets.

For its transversal relevance, the modernization of energy curricula shall serve as pilot model for other S&T curricula, as well as other areas including economics, management, and law.

Rationale

Higher Education Institutions as principle sources of qualified professionals and research can play a key role to overcome the challenges by enhancing the qualifications of HEI Staff, students and professionals of the energy sector.

Energy engineers need skills in managing the latest technological information. This requires knowledge of the advantages and setbacks of patenting and intellectual property rights, exploiting research results and the pursuit of technology transfer and how to create business strategies.



Windmills as a source of renewable energy



Implemented by the ACP Secretariat



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Programme theme(s)

Energy access and efficiency

Sector

Education policy and administrative management
Education facilities and training
Educational research
Higher education
Advanced technical and managerial training
Energy research
Business support services and institutions

Keywords

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
research
development
innovation
entrepreneurship
policy

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Kick-off meeting - Alicante



Study visit - Chalmers University

Improved institutional frameworks through curriculum reforms based on a strategic approach are required to pursue academic programmes and excellence in ACP HEIs.

Method

I) PREPARATION PHASE: NEEDS ANALYSIS

Systematisation of experiences at regional level through a needs analysis involving HEI staff, students and energy sector enterprises (public & private) to provide a sound basis for the detailed action plan of all subsequent activities.

II) CAPACITY BUILDING & MODERNIZING TRAINING OFFER:

This central project pillar addresses human, organisational and technical capacities of the Caribbean partner HEIs. Three workshops for the training of trainers and six replication workshops will be organised to train academic staff of partner HEIs in delivering transversal skills to S&T students for knowledge transfer and IP management. Trained staff will jointly develop strategies for curriculum modernisation and conduct pilot courses for students and professionals.

III) NETWORKING and promotion of region-wide up-take:

The project aims to stimulate co-operation among stakeholders from the region and to promote multiplier effects. The main focus is to extend the project impact to other HEIs and policy makers in the region through thematic round-tables, an international conference to promote supra-regional dialogue, publications, and policy recommendations.

Results

The expected results of the project are:

1. Increased awareness of qualifications needed in the energy sector and training needs of staff and students to build capacities for a sustainable energy sector.
Report on "Teaching innovation for engineers: trends and good practice guidelines for HEIs".
2. Upgraded qualifications of partner HEI academic & management staff with a view to providing high-level skills required for capacity development in the energy sector: three capacity-building workshops for HEI staff and IP offices will enhance the qualifications of some 60 staff members; Workshops will be replicated and training materials available through an on-line platform.
3. Improved institutional frameworks, modernised offer of academic & research programmes, and lifelong learning opportunities for professionals, including distance learning: Action Plan for curriculum modernization, joint development of materials for new transversal courses, pilot course implementation, etc.
4. Reinforced inter-institutional networking and co-operation among key actors of the innovation system (HEIs, enterprises, government), via networking actions involving diverse stakeholders, and pilot projects.
5. Enhanced impact and promoted regional up-take of the pilot transversal courses in other faculties and HEIs in the Caribbean, achieved through dissemination and visibility of the project results.

