



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



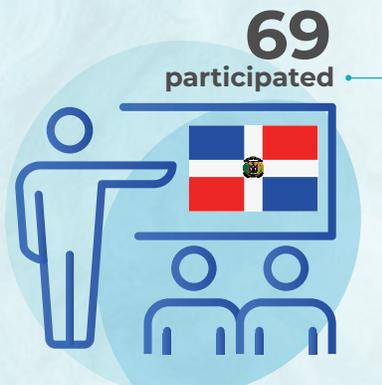
11TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RPSDP) IMPACT REPORT 2017-2022

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BENEFITS 2017-2022

460 stakeholders



benefitted from at least **54 different in-person interventions and 33 webinars**



in **3 training and certification programmes** held in country



participated in the **Absolutely Caribbean Trade Show**



4 participants attended **angel investing activities**



1 participant benefitted from the **WE-Xport programme**

Total Grant Funding for Dominican Republic was **USD521,302.09** awarded to

24 FIRMS



attended **trade missions, expos, forums and conferences**



presented at the **CAIPA activities**

CARIBBEAN EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CARIBBEAN EXPORT)

THE ONLY REGIONAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT PROMOTIONS ORGANISATION OF THE FORUM OF CARIBBEAN STATES (CARIFORUM).

Caribbean Export works closely with the CARIFORUM Directorate, relevant government ministries across the Caribbean, as well as with other public-private sector agencies that have responsibilities to develop and promote business, trade, and investment.

Caribbean Export is in its fifth year of implementing the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP), which began in 2017 and will end in 2022. With funding of USD29,011,075 under 11th EDF RPSDP, together with contributions from CARIFORUM beneficiary states, the Agency has been able to support over 12,402 stakeholders in 2017-2022 from the 15 countries across the region, impacting the growth of the region's private sector.

The Dominican Republic has seen 460 stakeholders (entrepreneurs, firms, BSOs, and government ministries) benefit from at least **54** different in-person interventions in 2017-2022 and **33** webinars during the 2017-2022 period of Caribbean Export's implementation of the 11th EDF RPSDP.

One of the most direct ways in which Caribbean Export has achieved private sector development is through its flagship funding programme, the Direct Assistance Grant Scheme (DAGS). The Agency has awarded USD3,976,003.06 in direct assistance grants to 108 CARIFORUM firms over the period 2017-2019. There were two Calls for Proposals made in 2018 and 2019. In the Dominican Republic, Caribbean Export awarded a total of USD301,076.42 (USD143,111.48 in 2018 and USD157,964.94 in 2019) via the DAGS to **8** firms, representing the manufacturing, distribution, cosmetics and agro-processing, sectors.



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency with funding from the EU developed the Direct Support Grant

Scheme (DSGP) a non-reimbursable grant valued between USD5,000 – USD16,000, provided for CARIFORUM firms to implement approved projects. Since January 2020, **149** beneficiaries were awarded grants totaling USD3,416,140.00. From the Dominican Republic **6** firms were awarded grants totaling USD121,824.12.

The Agency also collaborated with the Caribbean Development Bank to launch the Technical Assistance Programme (TAP) on May 31, 2021. The TAP will provide 100% coverage of eligible costs or a maximum of USD15,000.00 per grant..

Caribbean Export launched the Dominican Republic Grant Support Program (DRGS) in October 2021, which provides direct support to small businesses to counteract the challenges faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic on a non-reimbursable basis and is funded by the European Union via the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). The DRGS complemented the existing Direct Support to Grant Programme (DSGP) providing an additional **US\$100,000.00** to Dominican firms. Under the DRGS, 10 firms received grants totaling **US\$98,401.56**.

Caribbean Export's collaboration with the World Bank's Entrepreneurship Program for Innovation in the Caribbean (EPIC) saw the launch of the Caribbean Investment Facilitation Project (CIFP)/LINK-Caribbean. This programme supports the on-going development of a structured business angel investing ecosystem in the Caribbean (Caribbean Business Angel Network - CBAN) and the distribution of investment facilitation grants (Co-Investment Grant and Investment Readiness Grant). During the period, the Agency awarded a total of USD650,000.00 in Co-Investment Grants to 10 firms and USD350,000.00 in Investment Readiness Grants to 14 firms. USD20,000.00 was also provided through the 5-5-5 Pitch Competitions.

The Agency also convened the inaugural Caribbean Angel Investors Forum (CAIF) which provides the opportunity for existing and prospective investors to hear first-hand about angel investing in the Caribbean. Caribbean Export facilitated **3** stakeholders from the Dominican Republic

to the two angel investment forums held in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. **1** stakeholder from the Dominican Republic was also facilitated at the National Angel Capital Organization (NACO) 2018 World Angel Investment Summit in Canada.

Supporting SMEs through capacity building is a key component of the Agency's work. The delivery of training and certification, and increased access to market intelligence including improving SMEs knowledge of relevant trade agreements, contributes towards this component. **69** participants from the Dominican Republic attended **3** such initiatives held in country.

Caribbean Export also provides export promotion support to SMEs through market penetration initiatives including trade missions, expos, and conferences. For the period 2017- 2022, Caribbean Export supported and assisted approximately 364 participants from firms within various CARIFORUM States, to attend approximately 29 trade mission and expos. A total of **32** stakeholders from the Dominican Republic benefitted from this support.

Caribbean Export also sponsored 93 firms to attend the 4th CARIFORUM-EU Business Forum in Frankfurt, Germany, the flagship event for the Agency in 2019. The Forum provided the platform for firms and BSOs to exhibit their products and services to 68 European buyers and engage with potential investors. **6** firms from Dominican Republic (**Chicharon, SRL., Caribbean Labs & Traders, J&J Spirits, SRL, Procesadora Vizcaya, Ron Barcelo SRL, and Vinicola del Norte**) benefitted as participants at the event.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Agency hosted the Absolutely Caribbean Virtual Tradeshow (ACVT) on



J&J Spirits Products

“Being a member state and a beneficiary of CEDA has allow us to become more legitimate and have more credibility around the world.”

J&J Spirits

November 5, 2020. The event benefitted forty-seven (47) CARIFORUM firms from alcoholic beverages (8 firms), natural cosmetics (10 firms), natural products (18 firms) and sauces and condiments (11 firms) sector. **5** firm from the Dominican Republic (**Ron Veleiro, Chicharum, SRL, J&J Spirits SRL, Caribbean Lab Traders and Crazy About Organics SRL**) benefitted from this intervention.

During the virtual tradeshow, exhibitors engaged in



two hundred (200) B2B meetings.

Seven themed webinars



based on the **sectors of interest** were hosted with industry experts during the tradeshow.

The ACVT attracted



seventy (70) qualified buyers, four hundred and fifty (450) registrants and two hundred and forty-three (243) attendees.

Investment promotion is another important area of focus for Caribbean Export. As the Secretariat for the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), Caribbean Export's work in investment promotion is focused on capacity building, brand development and promotion, research and information, advocacy, and supporting the sustainability of the CAIPA. **5** stakeholders from the Dominican Republic were present at the four CAIPA activities executed by Caribbean Export.

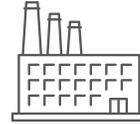
Caribbean Export continually renews its emphasis on fostering environments to increase employment creation, inclusiveness; particularly for youth, women, and indigenous groups in CARIFORUM States, through targeted interventions that provide new and innovative frameworks for growth and development.

The WE-Xport programme was designed in 2018 to support Caribbean women in business to start exporting or increasing the exports of their products and services. The programme provided support to twenty (20) women-owned businesses within CARIFORUM, towards the improvement



of their export development and competitiveness. The WE-Xport programme cohort included the haircare manufacturing firm **KAPRIL Industrial Labotario** from Dominican Republic.

The sectors that benefitted from the Agency's interventions included:



Manufacturing **(64%)**



Cultural and Creative Industries **(8%)**



Information & Communications Technology **(8%)**



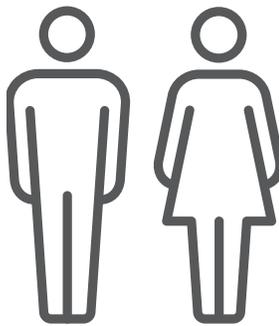
Services (Professional, Financial & Other Services) **(16%)**



Media **(4%)**

The gender distribution of Dominican stakeholders that participated at Caribbean Export's interventions over

2017-2022 was



16% Male

84% Female

11th EDF RPSDP (2017-2022) Statistics at a Glance



USD29,011,075 in Programme Funding

12,402 beneficiary stakeholders

15 CARIFORUM countries



108 CARIFORUM Firms



149 beneficiaries



61 beneficiaries



10 Firms



14 Firms



5-5-5 Pitch Competitions

Please note that the participants total provided does not reflect the total number of beneficiary firms, as one firm is likely to have participated in multiple Agency interventions and would be counted as a participant for each. Further, a single firm may have sent multiple participants to an intervention.