



EUCANET

EU-Caribbean Network
for Internationalisation of
Higher Education

Project Coordinator

University of Alicante, Spain



Partners

The Autonomous University of Santo
Domingo, Dominican Republic

Universidad APEC, Dominican Republic

Haiti State University, Haiti

Haiti Superior School of Infotronics, Haiti

Université Pierre Mendès, France

Boosting the international dimension of Caribbean universities

The universities of the Caribbean region increasingly recognise the direct link between boosting their international dimension and consequent socio-economic development. Cooperative university actions such as international scientific consortia, exchange programmes and joint academic degrees can boost the role of universities as social actors, offering opportunities and delivering resources that meet the needs of their labour markets and societies. However, Caribbean universities are faced with a lack of capacities in administrative support for international activities, poor visibility at international level and insufficient intra-regional cooperation. The EUCANET project aims to establish the first university network of the Caribbean region that will serve to raise the region's academic and scientific profile internationally.

Specifically, the "EU-Caribbean Network for Internationalisation of Higher Education" (EUCANET) will modernise International Relations Offices (IROs) by proposing management improvement measures and facilitating the mobility of students, teachers and researchers.

Learning from European experience

EUCANET will be carried out through extensive exchange of know-how between the Caribbean partners (Autonomous University of Santo Domingo and APEC University in the Dominican Republic, Haiti State University and Haiti Superior School of Infotronics) and the EU partners (University of Alicante in Spain and the Pierre Mendès France University in France).

EUCANET partners will organise an initial set of workshops in Europe with a view to enhancing management and administrative skills of top level management and IRO staff of the Caribbean partner universities. They will have the opportunity to study the background and functioning of different services of the European IROs. These workshops will also be aimed at detecting further training needs of the Caribbean universities' staff and at enabling individual participants to receive further training in their home institutions.

Workshops on key internationalisation topics

An additional series of workshops will be hosted by the Caribbean universities and carried out with the support of the European partners. During these workshops top management level staff and IRO staff will be able to acquire specific skills in thematic areas that are vital in promoting the international dimension of their universities. Key discussion topics will include international strategic planning, international networking and university cooperation, fundraising and international project management.

Furthermore, the partners will jointly design internationalisation plans for the Caribbean partners, produce a "Guide for Management of International Relations Offices in the Caribbean", set up IRO web pages and IT equipment for the Caribbean universities and organise two international education fairs.



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Setting up a Caribbean-EU Internationalisation Network

Finally, the EUCANET partners will develop an internationalisation network in the Caribbean region. The goal is to set up a sustainable structure in the form of an IROs network as a platform for future exchange of experiences in international relations management practices, with the ultimate goal of accelerating the internationalisation process among local higher education institutions.

The network will also serve as a platform for continuous and future cooperation between European and Caribbean Universities. The partners will draw up a networking sustainability strategy, and hold internationalisation conferences and round tables on national policies and activities for internationalisation of higher education involving universities, ministries of higher education, as well as other relevant actors.

A stronger international role for the Caribbean higher education

EUCANET will make a major contribution to strengthening Caribbean universities' staff capacities in carrying out internationalisation policies. These institutions' International Relations Offices will be modernised by enhancing their management performance and quality and improving understanding of their role with regard to the potential benefits of international cooperation.

As a result, ties with other universities in the region will be consolidated and the mobility of students and researchers will be facilitated through the organisation of international education fairs and conferences. The exchange of know-how with European universities related to management of international relations offices will enhance the Caribbean universities' capacity to develop curricula that are international in perspective and to apply for international project funds and scholarships.

Ultimately, increased cooperation between higher education institutions and national authorities in the field of internationalisation and the creation of the first university network in the Caribbean region will act as a boosting mechanism to raise the region's academic and scientific profile internationally.

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