

CARIFORUM and UWI Launch Training Programme for Capacity Building in Competition

[28/03/2024] Georgetown, Guyana – The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus has partnered with a CARIFORUM¹ project to introduce two new Postgraduate programmes in Competition Law and Policy. The UWI postgraduate programmes offer specialised training in Competition to eight selected CARIFORUM nationals.

The postgraduate programmes are being offered under the project entitled ‘Consultancy for Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation’. The specific objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of the CARIFORUM States to effectively implement the provisions of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. This Capacity Building Project is one of the components under the 11th EDF funded “Support to CARIFORUM Member States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement commitments and in meaningfully reaping the benefits of the Agreement”.

In January 2024 the eight candidates began their respective programmes on a full-time basis, and are expected to complete their studies in December 2024. They hail from diverse backgrounds, and represent the following organisations: The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, *ProCompetencia* (Dominican Republic), the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce of Guyana, the Fair Trading Commission of Jamaica, the Trinidad and Tobago Fair Trading Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belize.

The new postgraduate programmes are designed to empower professionals and leaders in the CARIFORUM region with advanced knowledge and skills in vital areas of competition law and policy. The UWI is offering both a Masters in Law and a Postgraduate Diploma, so that professionals can choose the length of time they can commit, and the level of certification.

The curriculum of each programme is tailored to be relevant to the specific conditions in CARIFORUM countries, and offers a dynamic and comprehensive learning experience. Students will learn substantive provisions in competition laws at the domestic level in this region, the United States, the European Union (EU) and other countries, as well as international dimensions of competition law. They will be trained in methodologies used in investigation, and enforcement standards and procedures. Competition law is an economic law, and so students will be trained in the economics of competition, and the use of economic evidence in court. They will also be encouraged to evaluate the relevance for their countries of knowledge imported from mature jurisdictions, given the vast differences in economic conditions.

All candidates were awarded full scholarships by CARIFORUM to facilitate their enrolment in the postgraduate programmes. The scholarships are generously funded by the EU, and cover all application and tuition expenses, along

¹ CARIFORUM means the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. The CARIFORUM countries that are beneficiaries of the project are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

with the necessary course materials. This financial commitment underscores the critical role of the EU as an important development partner of the CARIFORUM States in fostering excellence and expertise in competition law and policy within the CARIFORUM region.

Upon graduation the scholars are expected to play a pivotal role in the development of the competition regimes in CARIFORUM, and enhancement of regional expertise in the design and enforcement of competition law. Their success will further facilitate national and inter-regional knowledge transfer, fostering collaborative growth and progress.

For further inquiries about the UWI postgraduate programmes in Competition Law and Policy or to apply for future intakes, please contact: lawadmissions@cavehill.uwi.edu

To learn more about the project please visit: <https://www.cfeucapacitybuilding.com/>