



SURINAME EXPERIENCE

TITLE OF THE EXPERIENCE:

Preparation and start-up of project 'Framework for Private Sector Development'

Country: Suriname

Institution: Competitiveness Enhancement Technical Unit CETU (competitiveness council)

Type of Institution: Public

Date: February 2012 – February 2014

Other institutions involved: Ministry of Trade and Industry

Related Principle: 2 - Foster the establishment of effective institutions responsible for promoting competitiveness with private sector involvement and other relevant actors

Context

The experience is a result of earlier efforts of the Public Private Dialogue in the Suriname Business Forum to improve the business climate and to prepare a National Strategy for Development of the local private sector, combined with the need to integrate the development policy formulation and implementation of government institutions.

The investment climate must facilitate entrepreneurship, investment, innovation and business growth but does not rank very well in international measurements, like the World Bank Ease of Doing Business and the WEF Global Competitiveness index. These reports indicate that there are some institutional and capacity weaknesses that have prevented the private sector from capitalizing on opportunities that exist for trade in the global economic space.

Furthermore the country has a weak institutional arrangement in place to manage programs targeted at improving competitiveness. Several different government ministries have portfolio overview for different elements of private sector development and there is very little coordination between ministries to ensure efficiency and targeted approaches to enhancing competitiveness.

As such there was need to develop a comprehensive program that is implemented by a single unit within government to further streamline regulations, reduce red tape, increase transparency of policy making and strengthen the legal framework to allow the settling of disputes in order to make it less burdensome for businesses to operate in the country.

The government of Suriname and Compete Caribbean agreed to establish the unit and run a program to develop a roadmap for private sector development in Suriname, where by one pilot reform will be implemented.

After evaluation a complete comprehensive reform program will be formulated and implemented.

Objectives

The ultimate goal is to foster sustainable economic growth and enhance competitiveness in Suriname. The general objective is to improve the enabling environment for business development, trade and integration. The specific objective is to establish a framework to coordinate the implementation of business climate reform projects and upgrade the human resource on issues related to private sector development in Suriname.

Relevance

The activity will bring forward a single unit to monitor competitiveness enhancement activities.

Implementation

1. Preparation of a competitiveness strategy for Suriname; Technical assistance
2. Study tour to Panama to learn from experiences on innovation and productivity; studies and training

Achievements and results

Activity is in progress.

Unexpected achievements

Red tape to establish a integrated structure between ministries to formulate and implement policies on private sector development and competitiveness enhancement.

Experience and Sustainable Results

The results are and will be sustainable because the comply with the long term development goals of the country

Modalities to replicate the exchange

Information sharing; Expert visits; Technical tours; Exchange programs

Experiences and subjects to learn from other RIAC members

Organizing enhancement of innovation and R&D centers
business – university cooperation
Technical assistance on value added development
International marketing and distribution
Management of Industrial zones

Key persons involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation

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