Issue 6, June 2022

News

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Shaping the Future of Innovation newsletter. Our aim is to contribute to building a culture of innovation and an innovation eco system by sharing news of the project as well as information from Partner programmes and relevant topics around innovation. We hope the content will inspire the local community to put creativity to work for a better quality of life for all.

Innovation must lead to a better quality of life for all. It must be inclusive.

The Innovation Challenge Facility Project Update

CALL 1 – Top 15 Selected for Grants

Fifteen (15) innovation projects have been selected for the Innovation Challenge Facility (ICF) financial grant awards to support full commercialisation and scale up of innovation projects. The awardees will be presented at the upcoming awards ceremony on July.19th 2022. Project types included agritech, new products in agro-processing, use of technology in music education, environmental and waste management initiatives, innovations in healthcare and digitization in business and financial services.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the awardees.

In addition to the financial grants, several applicants will be invited to be part of **Component 2: Building Academic – Industry Linkages**. Under Component 2, post graduate research associates will work with the selected businesses to advance their innovation projects to a higher level of readiness. The ICF will cover 50% of the Associates' salaries for up to **six months**.

Some common traits of the selected 15 included: i. entrepreneurs with track records and years of commitment to their businesses; ii. introductions of new products in response to needs or scale ups of innovations which were successfully introduced one

Shaping the Future of Innovation and the Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund)

Partners - Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union (EU) and IDB LAB in collaboration with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) as the executing agency.

Aim: to contribute to a diversified economic base in Trinidad and Tobago.

Actions: Component 1: The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund for business innovation); **Component 2:** Building Industry and Academic Linkages (support for further research and development towards commercialization); **Component 3**: Building the Innovation Network (towards a sustainable innovation eco system).

Funding: over Euro 8 million provided by the European Union and the IDB LAB to support this innovation project in Trinidad and Tobago.

The impact expected: job creation, new skills, increased efficiency / productivity and competitiveness, new markets, export growth, business growth / profit potential and positive environmental, social and inclusive impacts.

Visit: **Shaping the Future of Innovation website at: http://future.cariri4.com/** .

to two years ago and iii. scale ups in response to strong demand.

Changes Expected to the ICF

We are also pleased to announce the changes to be introduced to the ICF. Firstly, **a grant management platform** is being selected to support the digitization of the grant management process. This is expected to improve efficiency and speed up the process from application submission to disbursement of grants.

Another important change is that grant amounts will **be capped at maximum values** as follows: USD75,000 for SMEs; USD 250,000 for large enterprises; and USD 500,000 for inclusive projects. The aim is to award *a minimum* of 75 beneficiaries: 70 SMEs , 3 large firms and 2 inclusive projects **over the 6 Calls**.

Call 2

Call 2 will coincide with the PLATFORM implementation and readiness which we expect by early August 2022.

Stage 2 applications from Call 1 who were not among the selected top 15 can reapply or may be considered for Component 2 projects.

ICT Innovations

The Innovation Challenge Facility attracted applicants from across various sectors. However, the largest number in Call 1 came from ICT Innovators. Below we feature some of the types of applications we saw:

Cloud Based Platforms/ SaaS (Software-as-a-Service): These platforms are available on-demand, and accessed via the internet that is, they are not stored on premises and on PCs. Among the most well-known are Windows Office 365 for the office suite and Google Drive for data storage.

ICT Innovators in Trinidad and Tobago are using the cloud to develop apps to support business functions as well as specialised services such as procurement, onboarding and due diligence for financial services and other areas.

Cloud based platforms reduce the investment in software, servers and back up technology. Providers of the cloud services offer subscriptions versus the need to purchase applications outright. They also provide multi-layered backup services. Additionally, they offer scalability allowing for expansion and adding new functions more easily. Scheduled and automatic maintenance, new features as well as upgrades and data protection are among the advantages of SaaS and cloud computing.

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR): VR is technology that stimulates vision, aided by VR headsets, to end up with a 3D environment. The user

can experience being in a different place. AR is an enhanced version of the real physical world that is achieved using digital visual elements, sound, or other sensory stimuli delivered via technology. Innovators in Trinidad and Tobago are using VR and AR technology to create cultural, entertainment and gaming experiences.

Internet of Things (IoT) uses sensors and software to collect and analyse data facilitating decisions in real time. We have seen it applied in utilities and agriculture to monitor various indicators remotely. This is helping to reduce time spent in physical inspections and simultaneously, speed up response time when indicators suggest potential conditions which put assets at risk. IoT has applications across many other sectors.

Network News

Learn what is happening in Innovation from Partner Organisations.

Horizon Europe:
About Horizon Europe

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

European Research and Innovation Days 2022

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe **and beyond**.

The event will take place online on **28 and 29 September 2022**, allowing everyone to get involved from anywhere. To find out more or to register, visit:

European Research and Innovation Days | Research and Innovation (europa.eu)

Applying to Horizon Europe - Steps for Success – Advice from Beta Technology

Shaping the Future of **INNOVATION**

A Partnership of:
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT · European Union · IDB LAB · CARIRI

Presents
The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant funding)
managed by:
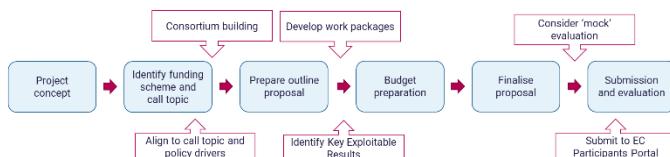CARIRI · beta · EUROCHAMTT

News

Horizon can facilitate cross border research partnerships and collaborations and in fact has been used by Universities in the Caribbean.

With Horizon Europe is now well underway, projects and consortia continue to be formed for new submissions. However, putting pen to paper to write the submission is only the 'tip of the iceberg' and many submissions fall foul of not understanding the whole submission process and underestimate the amount of time and effort to complete what appear to be relatively simple tasks.

Here is an overview of the submission process and some of the key activities that support the development of a sound project proposal.

Horizon Europe Proposal Development Process

There are obviously many more tasks associated with submitting a proposal, but hopefully this gives you an idea of the steps involved. Now is the time to start scoping out your project concept and using the work programmes to identify and align to the most relevant call topic. After being involved in developing EU funded proposals for over 30 years, here are our top three tips for success:

1. Really understand what partners need to contribute to support the submission and when, communicate this to them well in advance. This is especially important for newcomers to EU funding programmes.

Having check lists and administrative support to collate information can help.

2. Have a tight and well organised bid team to drive the submission, but make sure they communicate effectively to the rest of the consortium to get buy in and ensure deadlines are met. Having a weekly video call can keep everyone up to date and allow consortium members to share ideas or raise any concerns.

3. Finally, do not underestimate how much time it takes to develop and agree the project budget. Be transparent and do not leave it until the last minute.

If you would like to find out more about how Beta can support your project proposals, contact Jayne Evans: jayne.evans@betatechnology.co.uk .

IDB Lab

Fostering Cross Border Bridges Across Innovation Ecosystems. *Article Of June 29, 2022. Published by Jeehyon Yoh, Fermin Vivanco, and Ruth Houliston*

Innovation Eco Systems can facilitate exchanges and collaborations to speed up the search for solutions and success. Here are some examples of collaborations under IDB Lab facilities, among Latin American organisations as well as cross border with Asian and European organisations.

1. A Chilean and Korean organisation collaborate to find a joint solution for tourism for the visually impaired in Chile, using Wheel

the World's platform for accessible tourism and Dot's Internet of Things (IoT) powered Braille technology.

2. Two companies join Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality technologies for safety trainings for miners in Peru,

3. Two organisations partnered to develop an AI-based English certification platform, which drastically drops the cost of education for many students

4. Two logistics companies set out to reduce CO2 emissions across Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, and Mexico through their *route optimization technology*, while providing income and education to truck drivers.

Component 3 of the Shaping the Future of Innovation project will seek to bring together actors involved in innovation, to foster exchanges, partnerships and collaborators for innovation.

CARIRI
Sustainability Training for Secondary Schools
https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanindustrialresearchinstitute

CARIRI and Atlantic LNG have partnered to train 100 students across four secondary schools in Point Fortin, in Sustainable Energy.

The programme is based around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

◆ Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

◆ Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, and

◆ Goal 13 – Climate Action

Some of the modules that the students will be trained in are:

☑ Sustainability

☑ Energy Auditing

☑ GHG/Carbon Footprint

☑ Solar PV Systems

☑ ICT applications in Sustainable Energy and

☑ Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Energy

Reference: https://fb.watch/dZTaaz4GhS/

For more information on this Programme, please contact Ms. Alicia Williams at awilliams@cariri.com.; www.cariri.com .

This initiative is also preparing the young innovators of the future to get involved in finding solutions and supporting Trinidad and Tobago in meetings its Glasglow Pact/ Paris Agreement commitments on climate change.

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Management Firm

The Consortium led by Beta Technology Limited and EUROCHAMTT have been contracted by CARIRI to support in the management of components 1 and 2.

Working closely with CARIRI, who are leading the initiative, the ethos of the team is to build capacity for the future and deliver high quality support to businesses, academia and other stakeholders, to unlock the innovation potential in Trinidad and Tobago.

Beta Technology Limited (Beta) is a small innovation company based and registered in the UK. Beta was founded in 1984 by an entrepreneur as a spin out from the University of Sheffield. Its mission is to connect people and knowledge to promote innovation. Beta has worked for over 35 years supporting innovative SMEs across Europe on their innovation journey – from making grant applications to commercialisation and market development.

www.betatechnology.co.uk

EUROCHAMTT was established in February 2013 as a non-profit company and supports companies in three principal areas: (i). advocacy (ii). trade support and (iii). promoting and supporting its members and partners in climate action initiatives. EUROCHAMTT is part of a worldwide network of European Business Organisations (EBO Worldwide Network) and is in close contact with other European networks facilitating access to expertise, benchmarking and market.

https://eurochamtt.org/

The Management Team is available to support businesses with queries about the facilities and have set up a dedicated email address for this purpose: innovationchallengefacility@gmail.com