Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt
Braunschweig und Berlin
National Metrology Institute

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean | Regional Project

Promoting the Circular Economy via Quality Infrastructure II

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Objective

This project seeks to increase cooperation between Latin American and Caribbean quality infrastructure organizations, and especially to increase their awareness of and technical capacities for the circular economy. Competencies of the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM), the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), and their respective national members will be strengthened.

Approach

In recent decades, many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress in their economic and social development. However, this has often come at the expense of natural resources due to high energy consumption and the overexploitation of ecosystems. The region continues to rely on linear production and consumption models, leading to high waste generation and resource inefficiency. At the same time, there is growing awareness of the need for sustainable resource use and climate resilience, as well as a transition towards a circular economy.

A circular economy seeks to decouple economic growth from resource consumption by keeping materials in use through strategies like reuse, repair, recycling, and sustainable design. It minimizes waste and reduces environmental impacts using a systemic approach to maintain a circular flow of resources.

Quality infrastructure is essential for this transition, ensuring reliable measurements, product quality, and standardized processes, enabling efficient resource recovery, recycling, and innovation, among other things.

The project builds on the success of its predecessor, with stakeholders in the region collaborating across borders to strengthen the system of metrology, accreditation, standardization, and conformity assessment for a circular economy.

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the lead political partner of PTB, while implementation will take place via the regional organizations SIM, IAAC, and COPANT.

Impact

The project encourages the strengthening of quality infrastructure services in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to foster the development towards a circular economy within the region. To this end, collaboration and networking of stakeholders in both quality infrastructure and circular economy will be promoted.

By closely cooperating with the project implementation partners and carrying out activities such as the development of policy documents and strategies, interinstitutional training sessions, and technical consulting services and events, the project will continue to raise awareness among the private and public sectors as well as political decision-makers on the relevance of quality infrastructure for the sustainable transition towards a circular economy. Additionally, the project will contribute to the promotion of gender equality within the sector.

Building on these foundations, the project will further enhance the capacity of quality infrastructure institutions to implement and scale specific services such as standards, testing protocols, and certification schemes, thereby reinforcing their role as enablers of a regional circular economy.

Cooperation

For more than 60 years, PTB has been committed to sharing its core competencies in quality infrastructure development through international development cooperation projects. The project's activities are closely coordinated with other donors in the region who are active in similar working areas.

Financing

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Term

2025–2028

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OAS
More rights for more people

SIM
SISTEMA INTERAMERICANO DE METROLOGIA

IAAC
Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation

COPANT

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