



1 December, 2017

Soft Launch of the Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment

Dear Network Member,

The Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE) is a new initiative spearheaded by the United Nations system and co-convened by the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Employers' Confederation, the ILO and UNESCO. Its primary goal is to help countries and stakeholders specify and understand which public policy interventions effectively support youth employment. It aspires to put youth employment at the center of the national policy discourse through the promotion of well-informed and evidence-based practices. The network activities will be rolled out in three phases:

- 1) Starting in 2017, a solid and extended knowledge base on youth employment interventions will be built and made available to the public;
- 2) During the first half of 2018, and in the following months, one or more monitoring and evaluation clinics will be held to support country-led programmes and interventions in designing their own monitoring and evaluation systems;
- 3) During the second half of 2018, and following months, youth employment programmes based on state of the art evidence will be designed and implemented.

Instrumental to the first phase will be the launching of a new information sharing tool to be hosted by the web-based UNESCO SDG 4 -8 TEAMSNET platform. This instrument will contain policy and programme documents as well as the latest research. The Platform will be activated on 15 December, 2017 however we invite you to register from 4 December, 2017 by following this [weblink](#).

On 15 December, 2017 at 10:00am (Eastern Caribbean Time), the first VPNYEE webinar will be held. The theme is ***"Designing effective programmes to promote youth entrepreneurship"***. In the spirit of the VPNYE, emphasis will be placed on key design and implementation features, discussing experiences and lessons learned from relevant stakeholders. The presentations will be followed by questions and answers from the audience. For further details, the event flyer is attached.

We look forward to welcoming you to the knowledge-sharing platform and the first webinar which marks the beginning of a journey aimed at improving youth employment performance throughout the Caribbean.



Caribbean Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE)

First Webinar. Youth entrepreneurship. How to design effective programmes? Lessons learned from development partners.

Date and time

15 December 2017, 10:00 am Eastern Caribbean Time. Connection will be available from 9:00 am. In order to attend the webinar please register on the VPNYEE knowledge sharing platform following this [weblink](#) . Once registered, a Skype for business link to the entrepreneurship webinar will be sent out **at least 24 hours before the start of the webinar**. You are encouraged to register on the platform as soon as possible after 5 December. The Skype for business link to the entrepreneurship webinar will be sent out **only** to registered platform users.

Background

The Virtual Policy Network on Youth Education and Employment (VPNYEE) was developed within the context of the Caribbean Countries implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and more specifically within the UN United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean. Convened by ILO, UNESCO along with The CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) the network aims at ensuring youth employment is at the centre the national policy discourse, through intensified learning and promotion of well-informed and evidence-based practices.

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The idea of the webinar is to present key lessons learned in the implementation of different type of entrepreneurship support programmes stemming from international and Caribbean experiences and evaluations. Four quick presentations will be followed by an expanded Q&A session to facilitate questions from the web-based audience.

Agenda

10:00am - 10:15am: *Welcome remarks.* Ms. Claudia Coenjaerts, Director, ILO Office for the Caribbean, Ms. Katherine Grigsby, Director and Representative, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, Dr. Hilary Brown, CARICOM Secretariat and Mr. Wayne Chen, President, Caribbean Employers' Confederation.

10:15am - 10:30am: *"What works in supporting young entrepreneurs? The Youth Business International Experience".* **Ms. Christina Kappaz, Director for Latin America and Caribbean, Youth Business International.**

10:30am - 10:45am: *"Youth entrepreneurship and vocational training" What are the key elements to consider? A review of practices worldwide based on the recent UNESCO review.* **Dr. Borhene Chakroun, Section Chief for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO.**

10:45am - 11:00am: *"Entrepreneurship training - how to deliver the best results? The ILO experience".* **Ms. Nadia Nutz, ILO ENTERPRISE Department.**

11:00am - 11:15am: *"Youth entrepreneurship programmes in the Caribbean". Lessons learned on training, mentoring and financing.* **Dr. Marcia R. Brandon /Managing Director/ Chief Entrepreneurship Expert/ Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods.**

11:15am - 11:45am: Web chat based Q & A session with presenters.

11:45am - 11:50am: Concluding remarks and next phases of the Virtual Policy Network. **VPNYEE Conveners.**



Presenters

- ✚ **Ms. Christina Kappaz** is the Youth Business International (YBI) Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and manages YBI's regional Youth Entrepreneurship Program co-financed by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank. Christina has over 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors working on economic and community development, with a focus on labour market policies, entrepreneurship, job training, and enhancing investment in small businesses through seed and venture capital.
- ✚ **Dr. Borhene Chakroun** is Head of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at UNESCO leading the implementation of the UNESCO TVET strategy. Before joining UNESCO, he worked in the area of TVET and skills development with various organizations. His most recent work focuses on global trends in reforming TVET systems and global agenda for skills development in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- ✚ **Ms. Nadja Nutz** is the Global Coordinator for the ILO's "Start and Improve your Business (SIYB)" entrepreneurship training programme since June 2016. She has joined the ILO in September 2014 as Associate Expert working on Value Chain Development (VCD). Prior to joining the ILO, Nadja worked as technical advisor for the German Development Agency GIZ in a programme to promote SMEs in Algeria.
- ✚ **Dr. Marcia Brandon** is the Managing Director and Chief Entrepreneurship Expert at the Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods (COESL) a regional resource, working with national approved preferred partners, utilizing their indigenous, and regional sustainable development model of complementary capitalism. She has been lauded as a pioneer in the Caribbean region with regard to techniques and know-how in helping young males and females to start and grow businesses. Her expertise includes entrepreneurship and people development strategies, specializing in youth and female entrepreneurship development and school-to-work transition programmes.