



Summary of OECS Annual Work Programme

July 2012 – June 2013

For Public Information

**OECS Secretariat
Castries, Saint Lucia**

1. Introduction

Every year, the OECS develops a Work Programme that sets out its objectives and planned activities for the fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30. The Work Programme, once approved by the OECS Authority, guides the implementation of Organisation's activities and the expenditure of its resources. The Secretariat also routinely monitors the implementation of its annual Work Programme and prepares quarterly reports on progress. At the end of the fiscal year, the Secretariat assesses the success of the Work Programme and prepares an annual report on the objectives accomplished and results achieved.

The 2012-2013 Work Programme is unique in that it is the first to be developed under a Results-Based Management (RBM) approach recently adopted by the Organisation. The RBM approach ensures that the Work Programme is based on the strategic objectives and directives of the OECS Authority. The strategic objectives of the OECS are based on the requirements of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre and in response to the regional priority imperatives faced by OECS Member States. The RBM approach is intended to increase accountability, transparency and predictability of the work of the Organisation, while maintaining some degree of flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances. The focus on results helps ensure that the initiatives undertaken bring most needed benefits to OECS citizens.

The 2012-2013 Work Programme also reflects the important transition that the Secretariat is undergoing as it continues the process of operationalising the OECS Economic Union, creating the OECS Commission and modifying governance arrangements in line with the Revised Treaty of Basseterre. Also, this is the first year in which the OECS Work Programme has been provided on-line for the information of the public which is keeping with the Secretariat's strategic intent of adopting international best practices.

2. Context

The Eastern Caribbean region is challenged by one of the worst global economic crises of recent decades. This further heightens the vulnerability and weakens the resilience of Small Island Developing States such as the OECS Member States. The manifestations and depth of this crisis are evident in the economic, financial and social impacts that have affected economies, businesses, communities and families across the OECS and the wider Caribbean.

At the same time, OECS Member States have shown a strong commitment to facing these challenges by deepening their integration through the establishment of an OECS Economic

Union. For this reason, the strategic initiatives pursued by the OECS during 2012-2013 focus on charting a path for stabilization, growth and development of OECS economies; optimizing the benefits of a single economic and financial space; and institutionalizing new OECS governance systems.

3. Strategic Objectives

The OECS Strategic Objectives are the priority goals that the Organisation hopes to achieve within the next three years. These objectives are reviewed every year and adjusted to continuously provide a “rolling” short and medium term planning framework that guides the Organisation towards the long-term vision set out in the Revised Treaty of Basseterre.

The current Strategic Objectives emphasize the interdependence of OECS Member States within a single economic and financial space. The objectives can be achieved by the Organisation and its Member States working together to implement initiatives that bring about economic stability, resiliency and sustainable growth. The collective efforts of the Organisation and its Member States to achieve the Strategic Objectives will result in economic and social benefits to the people of the Region.

Strategic Objective #1: To promote and protect OECS citizens’ rights and active engagement in the Economic Union

The ability to explore and access opportunities across borders within a single OECS space is a central feature of the OECS Economic Union. In 2012-2013, the OECS will press ahead with the removal of unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles to free circulation of factors of production among OECS Member States. Modernization of public services and the use of new technology through regionally integrated e-governance systems and tools will encourage cross border activities (particularly e-commerce) and help provide the required safeguards for citizens’ rights and safety.

To inform citizens about the Economic Union, especially to boost their confidence in the new systems and to help them derive benefits from the Economic Union, the OECS will provide greater access to information on the regional integration process. The work of the Organisation will be communicated in a way that is transparent, builds trust and gives evidence of a fair and robust Economic Union system. As part of the efforts to protect citizens’ rights, the OECS will support the development of relevant legal instruments.

Strategic Objective #2: To establish and facilitate the operations of the Principal Organs of the OECS

During 2012-2013, the OECS will continue with modernising its operations and enhancing the services of the Organisation as a “Centre of Excellence”. These efforts go hand-in-hand with the thrust of the OECS Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) which is geared towards building the capacity of the Organisation to fulfill its functions in support of the development agenda of the region. The Organisation will support the operationalisation of the OECS Assembly and the Economic Affairs Council while also giving support to the OECS Member States in the implementation of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre. Specific support will be provided to the Non-Independent Member states (NIMS) to assist them in the process of accession to the RTB.

The OECS Workforce Plan will be implemented during this fiscal year. This plan makes the best use of the Organisation’s limited human resources while adhering to the principles of sound financial management. A Results-Based Management (RBM) approach to work programme planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting has been adopted and will be introduced throughout the Secretariat to improve effectiveness in achieving and measuring results.

The Secretariat will continue to work with Member States to strengthen the legislative agenda and ensure its harmonisation, thereby facilitating the realisation of the objectives of the Economic Union.

Strategic Objective #3: To transform OECS economies through stabilization and growth initiatives

In keeping with the flagship initiative of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the 2013 – 2020 Eight (8) Point Stabilization and Growth Programme for the OECS, the Secretariat will continue to support initiatives that promote financial reform and sound socio-economic governance. In particular, the OECS Development Strategy being prepared in partnership with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and Member States, will find resonance with the 8 Point Stabilization Programme for the Region.

During 2012-2013 the Organisation will pursue complementary interventions at the regional and national levels to enhance the competitiveness of the private sector, particularly small and medium enterprises and to enhance the region’s tourism and agriculture sectors. Through the e-Government project, the Organisation will help standardize and integrate systems that support the business community. The aim is to progressively build a framework for common sectoral policies in the region that will increase efficiencies for those doing business in the OECS.

Finally, through the implementation of statistical projects the Organisation will be better equipped to support policy making and decision making at the regional and national level, as well as contribute to strengthening evidence-based research and statistical analysis.

Strategic Objective #4: To promote social and sustainable development

The 2012-2013 Work Programme includes a number of strategic, highly dynamic and interconnected sustainable social development initiatives. The Organisation will continue to play a leadership role in activities that focus on resource efficiency and management of natural resources within a long term sustainability framework. Support will be provided to programmes related to climate change, oceans governance and sustainable energy that will serve as foundations for sustainability. During this fiscal year, the Secretariat will continue to work on implementing a disaster risk reduction programme for the Region.

The Organisation will also implement activities that continue to modernize and reform the education and health sectors in the region. Specific programmes on education, training and youth will boost the OECS' education system. The Organisation will also support Member States to improve social protection systems, particularly through its juvenile justice programme, and will undertake research and other priority social development projects.

Strategic Objective #5: To advance the region's development agenda through the pursuit of joint policies, strategies and responses in trade, external partnerships and resource mobilization.

Building on previous trade strategies, the Organisation will pursue joint policies and strategies in trade negotiations with the Region's potential leading trade partners both through bilateral as well as multi-lateral initiatives. This will help to ensure that the region's trade policies assist Member States to integrate fully into the global economy. The Organisation will also bolster efforts and form strategic alliances to advocate and champion the interests of the OECS Member States, particularly as Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A new development paradigm will be articulated within which the unique circumstances of the SIDS can be better appreciated.

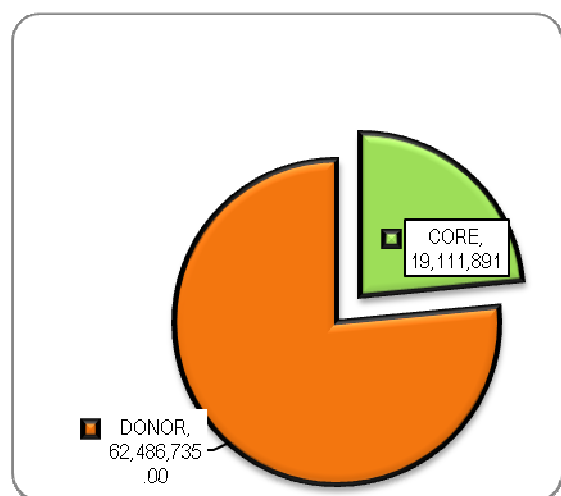
The Organisation will continue to mobilize resources from Development Partners to advance the Region's development agenda. A blueprint for coordinating and maximizing the benefits of development assistance will be adopted.

4. Work Programme Activities and Budget

Each OECS Division and Unit developed its Annual Work Programme for 2012-2013 in relation to these five Strategic Objectives. The Divisional and Unit Work Programmes set out the target results or outcomes that the Division or Unit plans to achieve during the year and demonstrates how these will contribute to the Strategic Objectives. The Division and Unit Work Programmes were consolidated to form the OECS Annual Work Programme 2012 – 2013. The programme describes the planned initiatives and ongoing services that the Organisation is committed to deliver during the fiscal year. In some instances the initiatives included in the Work Programme are continuing from previous years and in some cases will extend into the coming three years.

The Annual Work Programme will be funded from the Organisation's 2012 – 2013 Budget which comprises core and donor resources. The core resources are derived mainly from the contributions of Member States and from resources generated by the Organisation's self-financing entities such as the Pharmaceutical Procurement Services (PPS) and the Eastern Caribbean Liaison Services Office (ECLS).

It is estimated that the implementation of this year's Work Programme requires expenditures of EC\$81,598,625. Approximately EC\$19,111,891 or 23%, will come from core resources and EC\$62,486,735 or 77%, has been committed from development partners.



The table “*OECS Work Programme Results Framework 2012 – 2013*” shows how planned activities contribute to outcomes and to the Strategic Objectives of the Organisation.

OECS ILLUSTRATIVE OECS Work Programme Results Framework 2012 – 2013

