



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



Project on Innovation, Digital Government Transformation and Changing Mindsets in the Caribbean SIDS

Updates and Next Steps



August 2025

Overview

The project on Developing Capacities for Innovation, Digital Government Transformation and Changing Mindsets in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (DA2427J) aims to strengthen public sector national capacities for innovation, digital government transformation and changing mindsets by strengthening public servants' skills, knowledge, and understanding of the importance of public sector transformation. The beneficiary countries include The Bahamas, Barbados, and Saint Lucia. Lessons learned and experiences are being shared among countries in the Caribbean region through the project.

The Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG/UN DESA) is the lead entity of the project, which is working in collaboration with CARICAD, ECLAC, and the RCO's of beneficiary countries. The project is being implemented being implemented between January 2024 to December 2027. [See the Project Page](#)

Activities

I.Webinar Series on “Innovation, Digital Government and Changing Mindsets for Public Sector Transformation”

Online | 21 & 28 February 2024 – 20 & 27 March 2024

- The webinar series brought together innovative practices and thought leadership.
- The mindsets necessary to accelerate the implementation of digital government to improve the delivery of public services to citizens were discussed.
- The framework of the project was introduced. [Read More](#)

II.Capacity Development Workshop on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Digital Transformation

Castries, Saint Lucia | 6 August 2024 – 7 August 2024

- The first exploratory visit and capacity development workshop in the framework of this project was held, which allowed for open conversations on the gaps, challenges, and opportunities to advance an environment supportive of innovation and digital transformation in the Saint Lucian public service.
- 52 participants strategized and updated Saint Lucia's Digital Transformation Strategy, and enhanced capacity to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Read More](#)

III.Capacity Development Workshop on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

Nassau, The Bahamas | 24-26 March 2025

- On 24 March 2025, 10 Permanent Secretaries of the Government of The Bahamas learned about the

importance of changing mindsets, the public sector transformation schema, and harnessing the potential of AI to create public value.

- Between 25-26 March 2025, 40 General Directors and senior government officials participated in a hands-on workshop, gaining knowledge and discussing The Quintet of Change and Key Mindsets and Competencies Needed for Governance Transformation, public sector schema, and adopting AI to advance digital government transformation. Participants developed action plans for changing mindsets and competencies and discussed strategies for implementation.
- 10 students from the International School of Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology (ISBET) represented the youth and joined the Workshop on 25 March. [Read More](#)



Nassau, The Bahamas, March 2025

IV.Webinar on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

Online | 4 April 2025

- 30 Permanent Secretaries and senior public officers attended a webinar to increase awareness and foster a shift in mindsets essential for innovation and digital transformation of public services.
- Participants learned about the mindset changes needed at the individual, organizational, and institutional levels. [Read More](#)



Castries, Saint Lucia, April 2025

V.Capacity Development Workshop on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

Castries, Saint Lucia | 23-24 April 2025

- The workshop explored practices and approaches to support changing mindsets for innovation and digital transformation of public services. Key competencies for governance transformation, including systems thinking and strategic foresight, data and digital governance, and innovation were presented.
- The CARICAD public sector schema for innovation and its implications for public sector transformation was presented. Harnessing the potential of AI to create public value in the Caribbean, including through 'Smart Cities' was shared by ECLAC, along with a digital skills assessment.
- 40 Saint Lucian senior government officials conducted action planning exercises to promote new mindsets and competencies, as well as discussed strategies for implementation. [Read More](#)

VI.Capacity Development Workshop on The Future of Governance: Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation

Bridgetown, Barbados | 25-27 May 2025

- Over 60 Permanent Secretaries, General Directors, Senior Public Officers, CEOs and Heads of Agencies in charge of public policy implementation across the Caribbean, including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago participated in the workshop.



Bridgetown, Barbados, May 2025

- Participants conducted strategic foresight exercises, including horizon scanning, scenario development, visioning, and desired future. A collective vision statement for a "People-Powered & Inclusive Caribbean" was proposed. [Read More](#)



Bridgetown, Barbados, May 2025

Vision Statement: People-Powered & Inclusive Caribbean

During the May 2025 Workshop in Barbados on "The Future of Governance: Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Public Sector Transformation," and through a strategic foresight exercise, participants proposed a collect vision statement for the Caribbean:

"Our vision is for a confident and strong Caribbean, defined by a democracy that evolves in lockstep with its people. We will build a deeply collaborative and participatory system of governance where empowered citizens and dedicated public officers work as intentional partners. The government's primary role will be to foster this partnership, creating a flexible and inclusive environment that safeguards the safety, well-being, and prosperity of all, ensuring our governance structures are fit for the future.

This people-powered democracy will be built on a foundation of unshakeable core values: transparency, accountability, equity, and social solidarity. We commit to a system that is not only responsive but also proactive, fostering progressive engagements that empower minorities and cultivate shared understanding. Through active collaboration and diplomacy, we will build a society where trust is paramount and every voice matters, creating a thriving future where empathy and collective intelligence guide our path.

The ultimate outcome of this citizen-driven approach is a resilient and unified Caribbean. By placing citizens at the heart of governance—powered by innovation and rooted in ethical leadership—we ensure that development is both sustainable and just. This vision fosters a shared responsibility for our collective future, building resilience not just in our institutions, but in every community and for every generation, creating a legacy of strength and unity."

Next Steps



Training of Trainers

The project will organize a series of hybrid Training of Trainers in The Bahamas, Barbados, and Saint Lucia to equip the government training institutes' trainers on the use of the Curriculum on Governance for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) toolkits ([Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs | Public Institutions](#)) to help them train their public servants with innovative mindsets and behaviors to better address current and future challenges related to SDG implementation.



Caribbean Governance Innovation Community of Practice (CoP)

CoP brings together public servants and other stakeholders from across the region to learn from one another and turbocharge innovation for the SDGs in their respective countries. The CoP is open to government officials, practitioners, union leaders, civil society organizations, academics, and private sector representatives working with the public sector.



E-learning Course on Changing Mindsets for Innovation and Digital Transformation in Caribbean SIDS

This e-learning course developed by ECLAC is designed for mid-level and senior public administrators in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who aim to drive innovation and digital transformation in public service delivery. Participants will learn to identify and overcome limiting mindsets, apply design thinking principles to reimagine services, and develop strategic approaches tailored to regional challenges. The course emphasizes collaborative frameworks to engage diverse stakeholders, change management strategies for fostering new mindsets, and evaluation techniques aligned with the SDGs.



Policy Brief on Governance Futures in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States: Key Insights and Policy Implications

This Policy Brief, to be published by DPIDG/UN DESA, explores possible governance futures in the Caribbean, drawing on insights from a regional workshop held in Barbados in May 2025 attended by 16 SIDS. Through the lens of strategic foresight, it identifies and analyzes key drivers of change—political, economic, social, technological, and environmental—and considers how these forces may reshape governance by 2040. The Brief presents a range of transformational scenarios, their interconnections, and a shared vision for resilient, inclusive, and future-ready governance in Caribbean SIDS.



Caribbean Regional Forum on Governance Innovation: The Future of Governance, New Mindsets, and Innovative Digital Transformation for Inclusive and People-Centered Public Services | 2-5 December 2025 | Bridgetown, Barbados

The Forum serves as a platform for peer-to-peer learning, including presentations on regional and global innovative practices promoting public sector transformation. Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Director Generals, and senior public officials in charge of public policy implementation across the Caribbean region will be invited.



Contact Information

Adriana Alberti

Chief, PMCDU
DPIDG, UN DESA
alberti@un.org

Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta

Inter-regional Advisor
DPIDG, UN DESA
cristina.rodriguezacosta@un.org

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
United Nations Headquarters
dpidg@un.org

Dale Alexander

Caribbean Knowledge Management Centre
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
dale.alexander@eclac.org

Devon Rowe

Executive Director
Caribbean Centre for Administrative Development (CARICAD)
dlrowe@caricad.net

Trudy Waterman

Programme Implementation Officer
Caribbean Centre for Administrative Development (CARICAD)
twaterman@caricad.net