

The Caribbean Innovation Challenge Fact Sheet

What is the CIC?

The Caribbean Innovation Challenge (CIC) is an international entrepreneur competition and business start-up accelerator for young people in the CARICOM Member and Associate states.

It was originally launched as a component of the Youth-IN Programme of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Barbados and the OECS and implemented by the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), following the ten-year hemispheric model of the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas – TIC Americas (www.ticamericas.net).

The CIC differentiates itself from other existing business model competitions by incorporating “before and after” stages, focusing on training and mentoring as preparation for the competition, and providing follow up services that include access to finance, networking activities, internships and promotion opportunities, among others. More information about the Competition, including testimonial from First Edition Winners, videos, pictures and a complete list of partner organizations, can be found at the Programme’s website: www.youthin-cic.net

For the Second Edition of the CIC, YABT will maintain the same award categories: Economic, Social and Environmental, to identify, support and award the most innovative projects from youth ages 18 to 34, with special emphasis on the Tourism Sector.

Winners of the Second Edition of the CIC, will later be linked to the Hemispheric and Global Innovation Competitions for Young Entrepreneurs that YABT and its partners organize.

This Fact Sheet present data of the results and achievements reached to date with the CIC and the plans for 2014 – 2015 in an effort to continue supporting and recognizing the talent, creativity, passion and solutions from young entrepreneurs in the Caribbean.

Youth participation at the Caribbean Innovation Challenge 2013

493 Teams from 17 Countries took the Challenge and are currently competing in the CIC 2013.

| Country | Registrants |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Anguila | 2 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 10 |
| Barbados | 32 |
| Belize | 55 |
| Cayman Islands | 1 |
| Dominica | 17 |
| Grenada | 25 |
| Guyana | 20 |
| Haiti | 38 |

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|----------------------------------|------------|
| Jamaica | 98 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 10 |
| Saint Lucia | 19 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 31 |
| Suriname | 27 |
| The Bahamas | 39 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 68 |
| Turks & Caicos Island | 1 |
| TOTAL | 493 |

The 2014 -2015 Caribbean Innovation Challenge

The 2014 -2015 CIC will run parallel to the Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas aligning timelines and priorities to maximize the competitions efforts.

Timeline:

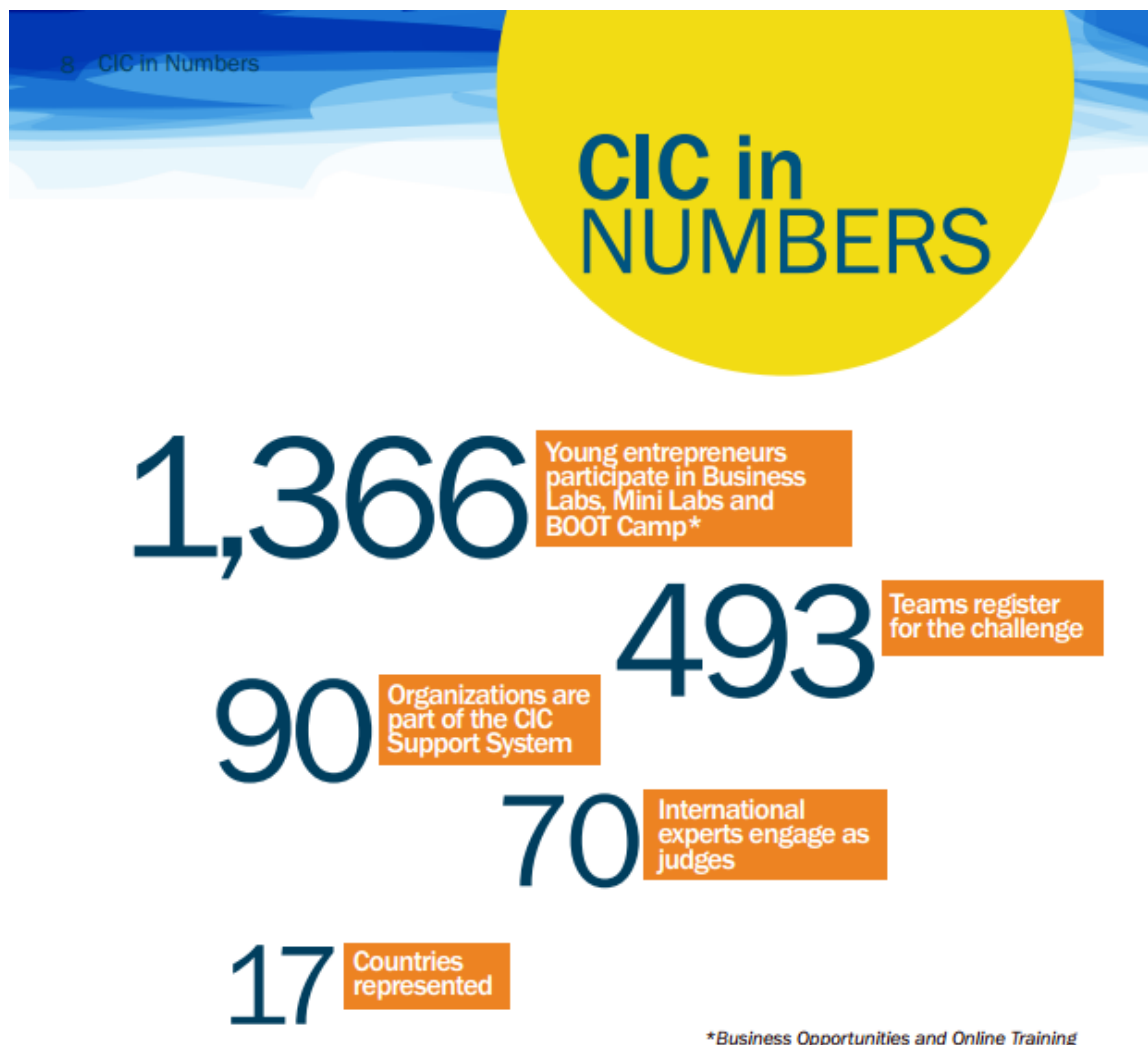
- Regional Launch: September 3 and 4, 2014 in Bridgetown, Barbados (tbc)
- Outreach and Promotion: September 2014
- Registration Open: September 2014 – February 2015
- Business Canvas Plan and Project Development – Mini Labs and BOOT Camp Sessions: September 2014 – February 2015
- Evaluation and Feedback to teams process: Judges and professionals committing their volunteer time and expertise to evaluate projects and provide feedback: February, 2015
- Selection and Regional Announcement of Winners: March, 2015
- The X Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas – Finals, Expo and Awards Ceremony: April, 2015

CIC Award Categories

- Best Social Entrepreneur
Presented to the team that develop an innovative project that results in a positive social impact on others.
- Best Economic Entrepreneur
Presented to the team that creates a sustainable business opportunity for themselves or other people.
- Best Environmental Entrepreneur
Presented to the team that develop an innovative project or idea that contributes to solving environmental challenges



CIC 2013



Outreach and promotion Campaign

1037 Members in the Facebook Group as of Friday January 17, 2014
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youthinentrepreneurship/>

4 CIC onsite presentations were held during Global Entrepreneurship Week reaching over **1200 people**.

The CIC Support System

The program relies on a collaborative, regional support network of national partner institutions and stakeholders that have been supporting the CIC efforts from its beginning. This network is conformed by over **150 collaborators that include Governments, National Ministries, NGO's, private and public sector institutions**, universities and young people in the countries

participating. These local stakeholders have provided support in training, mentoring, judging, follow up services and promotion of the various components of the program throughout 2012.

CIC Integral Training Program

In preparation for the competition, an integral training program in business development was developed. A total of **1,755** benefited from the program. The CIC Trainings were implemented from **June 2012 to October 2013**, include onsite Business Labs (five-day hands-on workshop on business creation and tools for start-ups), the Minis Labs: From Idea to Action, a one day session to generate innovative business ideas. Through the BOOT Camp (Business Opportunities Online Training), business experts from around the world provided seminars and conferences on different topics of business development. Videos for these trainings are available at: <http://youthin-cic.net/activities.php>

Photo Gallery



Caribbean Innovation Challenge



Youth-IN
Entrepreneurship



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