

# COMPETE CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS PILLAR II

# ENHANCING THE BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CLIMATE

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The major concern of most, if not all, Caribbean leaders is stimulating private sector led growth to address the pressing issues of debt sustainability and employment, particularly for women and the youth. The Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility (CCPF) was designed to support the implementation of evidenced-based projects that contribute to private sector led growth.

The Compete Caribbean Program (CCP) was formally concluded at the end of February 2017 and, according to an independent end-of-program evaluation, was instrumental in improving the business climate, and competitiveness and productivity in key sectors and participating firms. CCP supported 101 technical assistance projects that involved national regulatory or policy reforms, institutional strengthening, direct support to the private sector, and knowledge production, generating over 12,000 jobs in the region (see [www.competecaribbean.org](http://www.competecaribbean.org) for details on CCP and its achievements).

This year marks the start of the CCPF, which will be implemented over the period 2017-2020. The objectives of CCPF are to (i) to support firms to grow, innovate and enter new sectors and markets; and (ii) to promote an environment that enables innovation and growth by focusing on two strategic pillars: Promoting Productivity and Innovation in Firms (Pillar I); and Enhancing the Business and Innovation Climate (Pillar II). CCPF will build on the successes of CCP but will place greater emphasis on building national capacity to sustain the results achieved; increasing access to program benefits among women and the youth; and climate change.

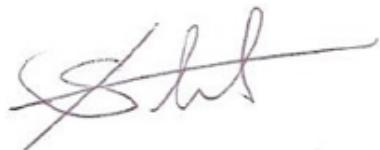
#### **Initiatives to be financed under Pillar II include:**

- (a) Studies aimed at identifying constraints to competitiveness, productivity, innovation and job creation at the national or sector level.
- (b) Reforms aimed at improving the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index ranking including support for the drafting of policies, legislation and regulations; and establishing and strengthening institutional frameworks.
- (c) Sector level reforms (e.g., sector level policy, legislation, and regulations; formation or strengthening of sector/industry association; operating standards; workforce development; etc.)
- (d) Capacity assessment of the institutional framework for promoting private sector development, competitiveness, productivity and innovation.
- (e) Establishing and/or strengthening national institutions that promote private sector development, competitiveness, productivity and innovation.

We are pleased to invite each eligible country to submit a maximum of three proposals to Pillar 2 of the CCPF, and are attaching to this letter guidelines for submission. The deadline for submission is **September 30, 2017**. Submissions will be prioritized/screened by the Compete Caribbean Coordinating Unit, and the results of the screening and next steps will be communicated by **October 31, 2017**. The guidelines for submission and screening criteria are detailed at Attachment I.

We look forward to furthering and deepening the collaboration, which contributed to the success of the CCP.

Sincerely,



**Sylvia Dohnert Ph.D.**

Private Sector Development Lead Specialist and Executive Director of the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility