

# European Commission

## Information & Communication Technologies in the Pacific



### Global Framework

Background:

- 2001: European Commission Communication on ICT and Development - recognises that ICT can play an important role for more efficient and effective aid delivery and also can have a significant impact on social and economic development.
- 22 Nov. 2005: European Consensus on Development – ICT as an element for Economic Growth -> Call for mainstreaming of ICT in development aid
- 2007: Decision of European Commission for the financing of the ACP-Information and Communication Technology Programme [@CP-ICT]

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### Global Framework: Where can the EDF intervene?

- 1- Regulatory reform and Capacity building
- 2- Broadband infrastructure
  - Technology neutral
  - Private sector led (through PPP)
  - Public intervention when market does not deliver:
    - Rural sector
    - trans-border
    - post conflict
    - networks that operates according to Open Access Principle
- 3- Non-commercial e-services
  - E-government, e-learning, telemedicine, R&D networking

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ACP-Information and Communication Technology Programme [@CP-ICT]

Envelope: €20M

Objective: accompanying ACP countries in developing their ICT sector

Purpose:

- Building of Human and Institutional capacity
- integrate international good practice in ICT policies and regulations
- create effective linkages with development strategies

Results sought:

- enhanced capacity to develop ICT policy, strategies and regulations
- sector programmes developed, with Action Plans associated
- knowledge sharing in the ICT sector over the ACP region

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ACP-Information and Communication Technology Programme [@CP-ICT]

### Activities

- €8M contribution to the project “Support for the Establishment of harmonised policies for the ICT market in the ACP Group of States”, implemented by International Telecommunication Union – ITU
- €9.5M grant scheme aiming at:
  - fostering research, knowledge sharing and learning networks on ICT
  - involving ACP national and regional decision makers in the sector
  - providing expertise for the design of complex policies or regulations

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ITU/EC project “Support for the Establishment of harmonised policies for the ICT market in the ACP Group of States”

48 months project

Objectives:

- Development and promotion of ICT market policies and guidelines nationally
- Support to regional organisations and sub-regional groups to develop and promote the use of harmonised ICT market policies and regulations
- Building of Human and Institutional capacity

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### Other initiatives

EC/ Pacific Regional Programme – Pacific Island Forum – 9th EDF  
(implemented):

- includes initiatives on institutional capacity building, although not directly toward the ICT sector
- > will be continued during the 10th EDF (under programming)
- EC funded multi-country Renewable Energy Programme:
  - includes electrification of schools and public buildings, thus allowing access to ICT such as internet
- EC funded Fiji Education Support Programme
  - Development of Distance Learning Centres through ICT in several schools