

Caribbean Telecommunications Union
14th General Conference of Ministers
6th December, 2011

The Caribbean ICT Policy Rapid Response Initiative Update

Renique Murray
Research Coordinator



**Caribbean
Telecommunications
Union**



Overview

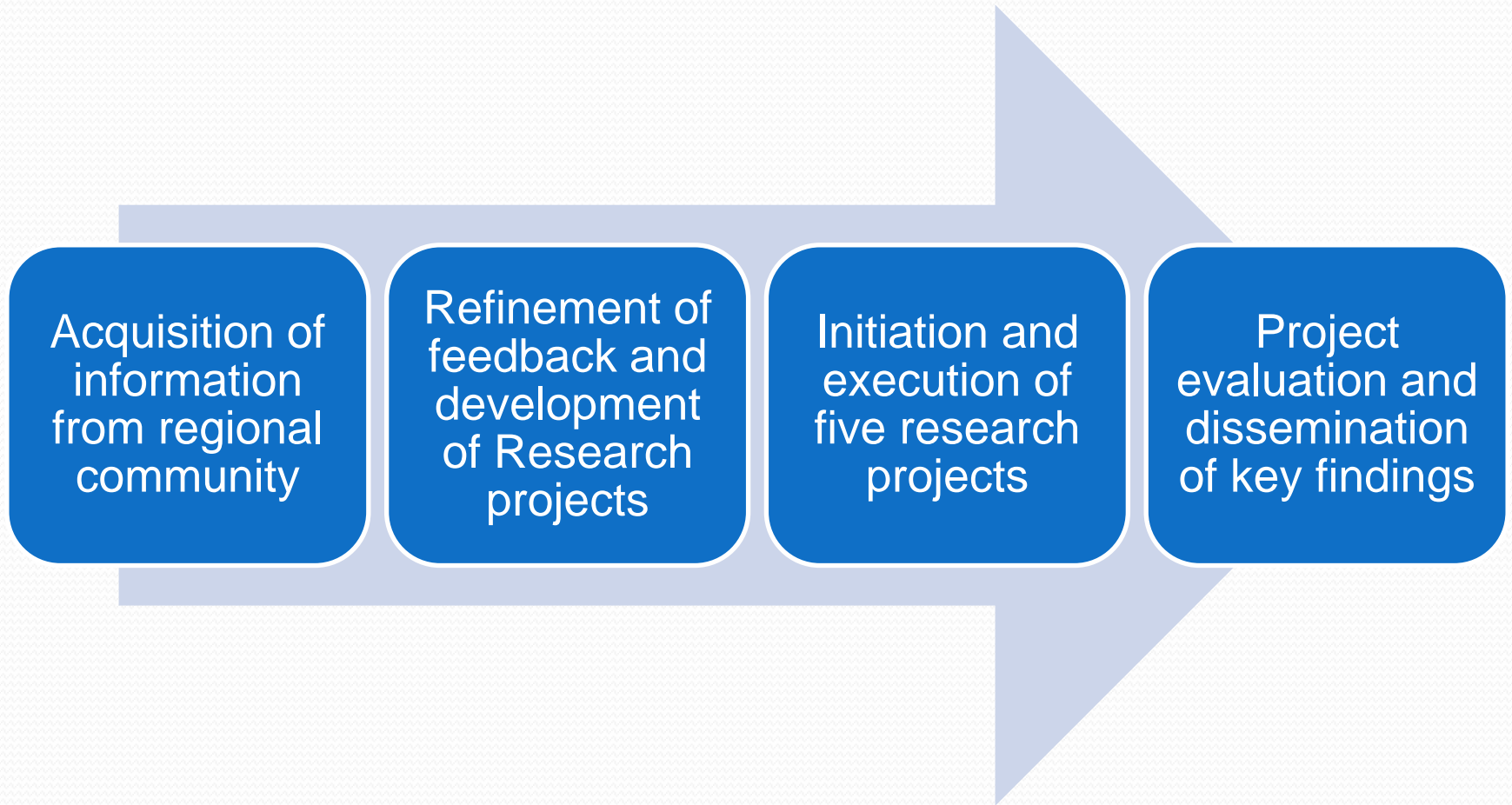
Overview

- The Caribbean ICT Policy Rapid Response Initiative is a joint venture of the **Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).**
- It is a component of the IDRC's wider Caribbean ICT Research Programme.

Overview: Project Objectives

To provide timely, relevant and accurate advice to policy makers, regulators and other relevant stakeholders in response to selected crucial policy issues related to the development of the Information Society in the Caribbean.

Overview: Project Progression



Overview: Project Status

- Research on the five projects have been completed.
- Project findings have been reviewed by Review and Evaluation Committee.
- Project findings are currently being disseminated.

Summarized Project Results

Project 1

- Title: Implications of Technology and Service Convergence on the Operational and Organisational Aspects of Regulation
- Researcher: Mr. Kwesi Prescod

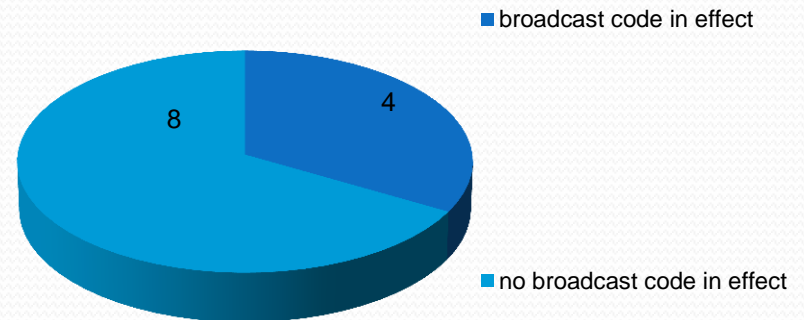
Project 1

- General objectives:
 - Analyze the existing regulatory arrangements clearly outlining the advantages and limitations of these arrangements in regulating converging technologies and converging services to include:
 - Identification of human resource constraints
 - Identification of cases where regulatory arbitrage opportunities exist

Project 1

The research findings indicate the following:

- A prolonged regulatory posture of focus on liberalisation.
- A broadcasting subsector in need of deeper management.
 - Graph: No. of regional countries with broadcast content oversight



Project 1:

- A need for greater inclusion of analytics and market assessments by regulatory bodies.
- Several aspects of regulatory imbalance can be addressed under the current frameworks.
- A consolidated regulatory approach is a more suitable approach for the regional territories.

Project 2

- Title: Globally Comparable Caribbean ICT Survey Instruments and Baseline Status of National ICT Data Acquisition
- Researcher: Mr. Lancelot Busby

Project 2

- General Objectives:
 - To document the status of ICT indicators collection in CARICOM countries.
 - To develop the resources for Caribbean policy makers and regulators to guide in the adoption of standard Caribbean survey instruments.

Project 2

The research findings indicate:

- Most countries collect very little data on ICT indicators.
- There is a need for more frequent and more detailed collection of ICT indicator data beyond that obtained from a national population census.

Project 2

- There is a need for a general upgrade of National Statistical Offices.
- There are regional efforts focused on indicator development (TATT, CARICOM Regional ICT Steering Committee).

Project 3

- Title: Analysis of the Policies Designed to Encourage Development of Businesses in the ICT-Services Sector
- Researcher: Mr. Wayne Butcher

Project 3

- General objectives:
 - To document the status of policies around the region that have encouraged small, medium and large enterprise business development in the ICT-Services sector;
 - To analyse and extract significant policies that have shaped successful implementation for small, medium and large organisations in the region.

Project 3

The research findings indicate:

- Liberalisation of telecommunications subsector and removal of computer duties have impacted the ICT services subsector.
- In general there has been minimal impact of policies on the subsector.

Project 4

- Title: Collaboration Policy for Functional Cooperation through ICT, in the Area of Crime and Security
- Researcher: Mrs. Michele Thomas

Project 4

- General Objectives:
 - To examine the existing collaboration arrangements amongst the jurisdictions, in the management of crime and security across borders;
 - To examine the nature and extent of ICT use in such collaboration;
 - To develop from this analysis, a collaboration policy that informs the functional aspects of cooperation between the countries of the region.

Project 4

The research findings indicate:

- There is a well-developed organizational framework to support functional regional cooperation.
- A greater level of extra-regional than intra-regional collaboration initiatives.
- A knowledge management approach to regional cooperation would be most beneficial for the region.

Project 4

- The work also proposes a policy framework for guiding the implementation of these initiatives.

Project 5

- Title: The Examination of Prevailing Models for the Evaluation of the Impact of ICT on Development within the Caribbean
- Researcher: Mr. Pierre Bowrin

Project 5

- General objectives:
 - To understand the level of ICT investments in the Caribbean Community and the composition of the investments as deployed in the public sector;
 - To determine the “level of impact” of the ICT investment on development within the English speaking Caribbean countries;
 - To establish a framework for subsequent studies geared towards ICT metrics.

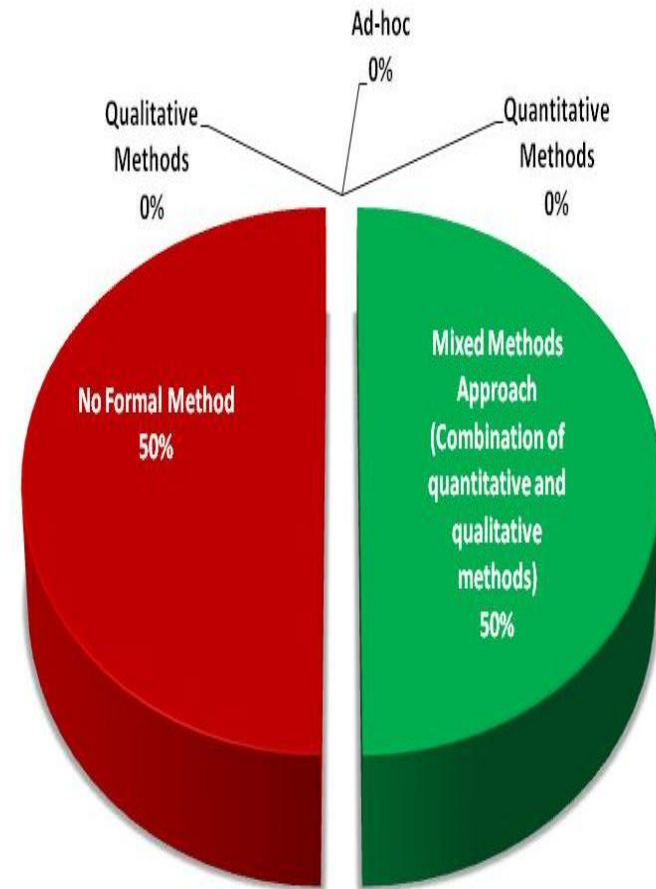
Project 5

The research findings indicate:

- An increasing expenditure on ICT regionally.
 - 33% of ICT interventions between 2001 – 2005 are valued at more than EC \$5 million.
- There is a general lack of clarity on the impact of these initiatives on the public sector.

Project 5

- Very little implementation of evaluation and assessment systems.
- The work proposes an assessment approach and methodology that is particularly suited for regional countries.



Conclusion

Key issues emerging as pivotal to long-term development:

- Development of creative human and financial resource strategies
- Proactive and current approaches to ICT
- Strategic Implementation and Evaluation Methods
- Continued Movement toward Regional Functional Collaboration

Conclusion

- There are more detailed documents available from the CTU.

Thank you

www.ctu.int

