

Support for Saint Lucia to Implement the Gender-Responsive National Strategy for the Development of the Four Priority Services Sub-Sectors



  BUILDING ACP TRADE CAPACITY
RENFORCER LES CAPACITÉS COMMERCIALES DES ACP

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Market Pointer – Exporting “ICT” Services to CARICOM

Demand

The bulk of world ICT imports in 2019 were into the United States (\$43.7Bn.) followed by Germany (\$41.7Bn.); China (\$26.8Bn.); France (\$22.8Bn.); Japan (\$19.9Bn.); and the Netherlands (\$18.8Bn.). In terms of regional economic groupings, the EU28 accounted for \$183.5Bn.; and CARICOM accounted for \$235Mn.

The ITC data for CARICOM is available until 2018 for ICT (2019 data is not complete as many member states have not reported). CARICOM’s imports of ICT services were \$235Mn. In 2018 reflecting a decrease of 4.1% relative to the 2017 level of \$245Mn. Saint Lucia imported only \$9.0Mn. in 2018 and \$8.7Mn. in 2017. Hence the CARICOM market represents a significant opportunity for Saint Lucia’s ICT services providers well in excess of \$200Mn. annually. Overall, there is a consistent demand trend for ICT services in CARICOM states that portends significant opportunity for Saint Lucian ICT services providers.

Market entry requirements

Visa requirements have been eliminated for all Caribbean Community nationals travelling to other Member States. Non-Community spouses and dependents of Community nationals, as well as nationals of Haiti, would require visas where applicable.¹

Persons who qualify to exercise their right to “free movement” under the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas are permitted entry into Trinidad and Tobago. Such persons are not required to have a Work Permit but must be able to present a valid travel document, a Police Certificate of Good Character and meet other entry requirements, as detailed below, at the port of entry.²

The Revised Treaty establishes the right of university graduates, media workers, sports persons, artistes, and musicians to carry on economic activities in any part of the CSME. It also provides for the movement of these individuals into, and within, jurisdictions without restrictions or the imposition of impediments.³

Skilled CARICOM nationals holding Skills Certificates issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad & Tobago, are permitted entry for an indefinite duration. Persons in possession of Certificates issued by any other CARICOM State are allowed entry for a period of six (6) months, during which time they should apply for a Certificate issued in Trinidad and Tobago. Pursuant to the Revised Treaty, persons in possession of Skilled Certificates are not required to obtain Work Permits. In addition to the Skills Certificate, skilled CARICOM nationals are also required to present completed medical forms to the Immigration Officer.⁴

Like all skilled nationals, university graduates, media workers, sports persons, artistes, and musicians, must obtain a Certificate of Recognition from the appropriate administering authority of the receiving Member State. Upon initial entry to that Member State, they are to be granted a reasonable period in which to apply for certification, typically six (6) months.⁵

¹ Trinidad & Tobago Immigration Manual Volume 1: Guidelines on policies and procedures for Immigration Officers, Ministry of National Security, Immigration Division (2008) p.96

² Ibid. p.96

³ Ibid. p.97

⁴ Ibid. p.97

⁵ Ibid. p.97