

# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## Volunteer Youth Caraïbes

# BÂTIR ENSEMBLE LA CARAÏBE

[www.interreg-caraibes.fr](http://www.interreg-caraibes.fr) -  Interreg Caraïbes



Emploi & Innovation



Risques naturels



Environnement  
naturel & culturel



Santé publique



Énergies  
renouvelables



Capital Humain



## An immersion into the very heart of Caribbean cooperation



IVY is an initiative launched in 2017 by the European Commission and managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR). It enables young Europeans aged from 18 to 30 years old, to assist INTERREG programmes' governance authorities (Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat) or INTERREG projects to carry out communication missions in order to reinforce the visibility of concrete realizations made possible by the European Union's support.

Since 2017, the INTERREG Caraïbes programme and projects host IVY volunteers. This immersion into the very the heart of European Territorial Cooperation offers the opportunity to young volunteers coming from Continental Europe or from French Caribbean Outermost Regions to discover stakeholders working on “building the Caribbean together”.

INTERREG Caraïbes is a European programme bringing a financial support to cooperation projects addressing challenges shared by the Caribbean territories and population.

**« Deployed in the Caribbean, the volunteers play an active part in the programme and the projects. ».**

# The INTERREG projects: discovering and highlighting the concrete impact of INTERREG Caraïbes for the Caribbean territories and population



*Project Trade Enhancement for Eastern Caribbean (TEECA) aims at favouring inter-regional exchanges and trade flows through a reinforcement of the Caribbean firms competitiveness. It is lead by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Martinique (CCIM) in partnership with the OECS, CEDA and the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique.*



Christina DE CAROLIS,  
volunteer within the CCIM

“The IVY experience was first of all an opportunity to get to know a part of the world that used to be unknown to me: **it was a real discovery.**

I was lucky to be part of a fantastic work environment, with **welcoming and careful colleagues**, and to meet people outside of the office as well. [...]

I will go back to Italy with my baggage full of beautiful memories.”



*The project "Caribbean Network for the valorization of cocoa" (RECAVACA) provides a support to cocoa farmers from Guadeloupe and Haiti to: increase the volume of their production, perfect their control of farming techniques and develop innovative products. It is led by AGED, in partnership with CACCOMA.*



*Adrien STAQUET,  
Volunteer within AGED  
(Association Guadeloupe  
Equitable et Durable)*

“It was a very good experience for me both from a personal and professional point of view. I had the opportunity to **meet various stakeholders** working on issues related to my mission during various meetings and general assemblies. My input to the project was mainly regarding communication (creation of the website of the project, animation of the social networks of the association, creation of supports ...). I also participated to meetings and interviews with stakeholders from the cocoa sector.

To me, the strengths of the IVY are: the gain of experience in a professional environment and **on an innovation-generating project**, all this in a different cultural setting.”

**The programme: strengthening cooperation between institutions throughout the Caribbean region, and providing support to project holders.**



*The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance in Eastern Caribbean. Being partner of the INTERREG Caraïbes programme and Local Point of Contact Point, the organisation is a relay of information on the programme and provides support to local project holders.*

“ Through the IVY experience I have been able to reinforce my project management abilities, learn more about the running of the programme but also, and this was my biggest satisfaction, **be at the heart of the creation/accomplishment of very fruitful and structuring projects for the Caribbean area.** Thus I have been able to assist the OECS team in the preparation of different projects on various fields like energy transition, health care, more effective agriculture methods, education, or MOUs which might change the way we, as FCOR's interact with OECS Member-States on some fields like health or natural risks management for instance. [...]

Within the OECS **I received unfailing trust and support,** met wonderful individuals and learned a lot about the Caribbean region and the organisation's work.”



Clarisse CITTEE  
Volunteer within the OECS



Clarisse CITTEE and the DCRM team



*The main task of the INTERREG Caraïbes Joint Secretariat (JS) is to provide facilitate on the INTERREG Caraïbes programme. The JS informs the general public and potential project holders, assists beneficiaries and ensures the visibility of the programme and of the selected projects.*

“For me, the highlight of this experience was the **immersion in an institutional organisation**. It is very stimulating for young graduates to interact with dynamic and innovative project holders and to **be enlightened on the development of our region**. Moreover, coaching and relays are excellent within the programme and the IVY team. [...]



*Célia GALVANI  
Volunteer within the Joint Secretariat*

Within the JS, my missions were essentially related to animation on the programme and support to project holders. I have had the opportunity to participate in two events, to prepare the European Cooperation Days, and to take part in developing the programme communication tools. [...]

On a personal level, this experience enabled me to meet experienced people willing to share their knowledge”



*The Delegate Directorate on Europe (DDE) of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe, Managing Authority of INTERREG Caraïbes, carries out an overall management of the programme, together with the Joint Secretariat, the program partners, the European Commission and the French State.*



*Célia GRIZELIN  
Volunteer within the DDE*

« Being given the opportunity to work on a European program in this part of the world, **the Caribbean, a rich and very promising area**, was a great pleasure. Through immersion, I have met and collaborated with extraordinary and welcoming people, with a sound sense of public service; people eager to share with us knowledge and principles that will be useful throughout our lives.

[...] As part of my mission, I helped to reinforce communication on the program, I contributed to trigger a capitalization process and to set up a network for IVY volunteers deployed in the Caribbean.

[...] The IVY program offers us **a unique, rewarding and meaningful human experience; an extraordinary professional experience**. The skills acquired during our missions can be widely mobilized in our future experiences”.

**Many thanks to each IVY INTERREG Caraïbes volunteer !**



**For more information on the IVY initiative:**

- IVY initiative website :  
<https://www.interregyouth.com/>
- Contact within the Regional Council of Guadeloupe  
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