

Combating illegal employment of foreign workers	
Sint Maarten	
Economic reforms	
Illegal employment of foreign workers will be dealt with. As study will be carried out into illegal employment of foreign workers. Based on the results and recommendations, proposals will be developed and implemented.	
Reasons for the project	The rapid economic growth of Sint Maarten as a small island tourism economy has been highly immigration dependent since its inception. The 21st century shows a different picture. The speed of Sint Maarten tourism development has tapered off, while the push of immigration along established paths by persons looking for employment opportunities became more prevalent. This has also led to an increase in illegal employment. Several adverse social and economic consequences of illegal employment of foreign work arise, e.g. worker exploitation, unfair competition, disruption of the labor market and a lack of fiscal and social contributions being collected.
Project objectives	Short term objectives are; 1) building on earlier agreements among social partners, prepare consensus among social partners about the identification of the causes behind illegal employment of foreign work and a direction in which solutions can be found, including a move towards a culture of compliance; 2) taking inventory of existing research results; 3) identify short term measures. Mid-term objectives are; 1) reach agreement with social partners on principles of a culture of compliance; 2) perform additional desk research; 3) execute mid-term measures identified. Long term objectives; 1) Reach an outline of a package of measures to structurally overhaul foreign labor policy; 2) put in place an execution plan for structural changes, including legal and institutional changes.
Scope	This project does not focus on; 1) nationals conducting informal services such as catering, salon services, construction; 2) foreigners with employment permits conducting informal services such as hospitality services. These two categories of undeclared work will be addressed when taking up measures E.2. (formalizing the informal economy).
Chosen approach	Desk research. Many studies have been done, and conclusions and recommendations generated in the field of this project are known. An inventory of existing studies will be a first step. This will then form the basis for identifying to what extent further research is necessary. Additional desk/field research will comprise quantitative and qualitative elements. E.g. interviews with stakeholders will provide relevant insights. Comparative studies aimed at international 'best practices'.
Expected results	A situation in which a consensus among stakeholders (notably the social partners) has been established with respect to managing labor migration and working towards a culture of compliance. Short-term and mid-term measures have been taken. Concurrently, consensus building has been finished to identify the direction of structural changes in the immigration labor laws and policies, including proposals for changes in laws and regulation, as well as stakeholder commitments and business self-regulation.
Preconditions, coherence and dependencies	There are crosslinks between this measure and the other measures of chapter E (economic reforms) from the country package.
Planning	Phase 1 will consist of desk research, realizing stakeholder commitment, and identifying short-term measures. This will take place in the second half of 2021, and in the first quarter of 2022. Phase 2 comprises doing additional research and executing short-term measures. This will take place in the first half of 2022. Phase 3 entails structural reform consensus and drafting an implementation plan for structural reform. This phase will start in the third quarter of 2022.