

PROJECT PLAN

Executive summary

Project title	Activation of the Council of Education and Labour Market (ROA) and Strengthening of Vocational Secondary Education (PSVE/VSBO)							
Country	Sint Maarten							
Theme	Education							
Measure	G.1							
Background	<p>The 2022 Sint Maarten Education Review identified major challenges in connecting education to the labour market and in ensuring continuity in vocational pathways. The Council of Education and Labour Market (ROA), legally established under the Landsbesluit houdende algemene maatregelen Instelling van de Raad van Onderwijs en Arbeidsmarkt (LBham), remains dormant due to the absence of an approved profile of membership. Its activation is essential for sustainable labour market alignment.</p> <p>At the same time, vocational secondary education (PSVE/VSBO) requires structural reform to strengthen student competencies, literacy and numeracy outcomes, and pathways into further education and employment across Sint Maarten, Curaçao, Aruba, and the Netherlands.</p>							
Objective	To activate the ROA as the statutory advisory body on education and labour market issues and to implement reforms to PSVE/VSBO and post-secondary vocational education, ensuring alignment with labour market demands, enhanced core skills, and improved student progression.							
End product	<p>This PoA includes the following projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A fully functioning ROA with appointed members, secretariat, and first labour market study 2. A final version draft PSVE/VSBO framework including curriculum adjustments 3. Updated SBO legislation <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Outputs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Activation of the Council of Education and Labour Market (ROA)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial Regulation approving membership profile. - National Decree appointing members. - Functional ROA Secretariat (including ROA processes and advisory framework) - First ROA Advisory Report on education-labour market alignment. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Strengthening of Vocational Secondary Education (PSVE/VSBO)</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic report on current PSVE/VSBO curriculum gaps. - Updated curriculum framework including core skills, literacy/numeracy modules, and specialized training programs. - Updated legislation and policies on Secondary Vocational Education. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Project	Outputs	1. Activation of the Council of Education and Labour Market (ROA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial Regulation approving membership profile. - National Decree appointing members. - Functional ROA Secretariat (including ROA processes and advisory framework) - First ROA Advisory Report on education-labour market alignment. 	2. Strengthening of Vocational Secondary Education (PSVE/VSBO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic report on current PSVE/VSBO curriculum gaps. - Updated curriculum framework including core skills, literacy/numeracy modules, and specialized training programs. - Updated legislation and policies on Secondary Vocational Education.
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Intended results	<p>1. ROA Activation A functioning ROA that continuously monitors labour market developments, advises on vocational education reforms, and strengthens employer participation in training and internships.</p> <p>2. Vocational Secondary Education Reform Updated Preparatory Secondary Vocational Education (PSVE)/Voorbereidend Secundair Beroeps Onderwijs (VSBO) curriculum with better labour market alignment, higher literacy/numeracy outcomes, increased employer involvement, and greater student success in continuing education or employment.</p>
Approach	<p>The reforms will be implemented through a programmatic, project-based approach. Each reform will be managed as a project, executed by a project team responsible for carrying out the various activities outlined in the strategic implementation plan and subsequent action plans. These teams will include personnel with expertise from the relevant departments and organizations, as well as the necessary external specialists. Additionally, each project team will engage with and/or closely consult key stakeholders involved in the specific reform.</p> <p>The Council of Ministers of Sint Maarten approves plan of approach and mandates the Minister of ECYS as the politically accountable minister of the plan of approach. This implies that all services and organizations involved in the implementation of the plan of approach operate under the directive of the Minister of ECYS.</p> <p>The program is led by the Head of the Department of Education. The department head will be supported by contracted project managers. The department head approves the project plans and monitors project execution.</p>
Coherence and/or interdependencies	<p>The activation of the ROA and the reform of vocational secondary education (PSVE/VSBO) are not stand-alone initiatives but connect directly to ongoing reforms and research within MECYS and the broader Country Package.</p> <p>For Vocational Secondary Education, coherence is established through the ongoing research project <i>Exploring the Feasibility and Impact of Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs) in Enhancing the English-Instructed Preparatory Secondary Vocational Education (VSBO) Education on Sint Maarten</i>. This research will inform the curriculum framework, alignment with regional qualifications, and recognition of VSBO graduates across the Caribbean. It complements the broader FBE Curriculum Review, ensuring continuity and progression from foundational to vocational education.</p> <p>For the ROA, activation institutionalizes work that is already being carried out. The Council's annual labour market research, which supports the Study Financing Priority List will be embedded into its statutory mandate, strengthening evidence-based policymaking. In addition, ROA's advisory role will support the 'Secundair Beroepsonderwijs (SBO) validation process, where government approval is required to authorize vocational programs on tertiary level. By aligning SBO program approvals with labour market data, ROA ensures that new vocational offerings meet real workforce needs. At the inter-ministerial level, ROA's effectiveness depends on collaboration with the Ministry of VSA (employment and workforce policy) and TEATT (economic development, tourism and trade). At the regional level, coordination with Curaçao, Aruba, and the Netherlands will ensure recognition of vocational qualifications and facilitate student and worker mobility.</p>

	<p>These initiatives also contribute to international and national development frameworks: SDG 4.4, SDG 4.7, SDG 4.a, SDG 4.c; and National Development Vision Goal 9: Ensuring everyone has access to good quality education.</p> <p>Together, these interdependencies ensure that the activation of ROA and the PSVE/VSBO reform are fully aligned with existing reforms, avoid duplication, and strengthen Sint Maarten’s education and labour market ecosystem in a coherent and sustainable way.</p>				
Planning	Project	Phase 1: Preparation & Team Formation	Phase 2: Research Implementation & Drafting	Phase 3: Validation, Approval & Finalization	Finalization and Handover
	ROA Activation	Q1 2026- Draft and approve Ministerial Regulation for membership profile (legal expertise already in house); establish project team and Secretariat.	Q2 2026- Appointment of members of National Decree; formation of working groups; Drafting of ROA procedures and stakeholder validation of ROA processes; election of Chair and Deputy Chair; Finalize advisory framework,	Q3 2026 – Preparation and conduct the first labour market study and report to MECYS.	Q4 2026- First annual labour market advisory report delivered.
	PSVE/ VSBO Reform	Q1 2026- Establish project team; initiate employer surveys and student diagnostics; align with ongoing CVQ feasibility study.	Q2 2026 -Q1 2027 – Draft revised curriculum framework (core skills, literacy/numeracy, specialized modules); Validate curriculum revisions with school boards, unions and regional partners.; Draft the updated legislation of secondary vocational education.	April 2027 Deliver the Final Draft of the curriculum and updated legislation	
Continuation	The reforms will be formalized through legislation, with implementation embedded and integrated into the government organization and related entities.				