DEMOCRATIZING INNOVATION IN THE AMERICAS

:DIA
LABS
in the Caribbean

TRUST
THE TRUST FOR THE AMERICAS

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para más gente

The DIA Labs (Democratizing Innovation in the Americas) create a unique environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship while providing development opportunities to young people in the region. Through access to technology, collaborative spaces, training, and competitive seed funds, Caribbean youth learn tools to develop their business ideas or promote social projects that tackle local challenges.

DIA promotes the development of low-cost and high-impact solutions to improve the social environment and increase livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities.

The DIA Labs currently run in:

🇧🇿 **Belice**

🇯🇲 **Jamaica**

🇹🇹 **Trinidad y Tobago**

🇩🇴 **República Dominicana**

The DIA Labs offer:

1. Courses and training on topics such as ICTs, innovation, creativity, financial literacy, digital skills, entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, use of data, Canvas business model, and more.

2. Courses available in the Virtual Classroom of The Trust for the Americas, which were developed in collaboration with local and international organizations. **See courses.**

3. Software y equipamiento tecnológico avanzado como impresoras 3D, cortadores láser, arduinos, realidad virtual y otros, para el desarrollo de prototipos.

4. Access to seed funds through Pitch Tank, Ideathons, and Hackathon competitions.

5. Facilitators and support staff during and after the participant's interaction with the DIA Lab.

Impact

Since **2017, DIA Labs** have impacted **3,662** people in the Caribbean through awareness and training processes. It has also established a collaboration network with leading organizations in innovation and technology in the region.

With the support of the DIA Labs:

- **237 young people** have undertaken initiatives, developed apps and/or businesses that benefit their communities.
- **144 participants** have received funding to start and strengthen their projects or ventures.

Miguel Francis, 27, is an innovative entrepreneur in the carpentry business. He completed the training at the **DIA Lab Jamaica** and his venture "**I want to make JA**"received two rounds of funding, initially through the **2018** Pitch Tank competition and later in the reinvestment edition of **2020**. **Miguel** is now devoted to his business idea full-time and continuously seeks to stand out in the market by integrating the latest technology, like arduinos and laser cutters, into his production processes.

Citi Foundation · Microsoft · NCB Foundation · IDB Lab · U.S. Embassy Belize · CARIRI Caribbean Industrial Research Institute · The Mico University College · The University of the West Indies Open Campus · ILE Institute of Law & Economics

"For me, the DIA Lab is a space where I can be creative freely and explore all the ideas that are in my mind, with a great community that supports me."

– Miguel Francis