

Distance Learning (DSL) –Projects

A critical output of the DLS strategic plan is the creation of an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) framework to drive and sustain research and education at the tertiary level. Current projects leading towards this outcome include:

- The creation of a National Knowledge and Learning Network (NKLN) to connect learners and to foster the sharing of resources and expertise for capacity building and programme development for the on-line environment. This project also involves the development of a National Knowledge and Learning Portal as a key entry point to the NKLN from the Internet.
- The Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN), a regional project which aims to provide opportunity for the free flow of high-quality learning opportunities for the people of the Caribbean Region. To achieve this vision, CKLN intends to leverage information and communications technology (ICT) and modern approaches to education to overcome constraints of remoteness and scale in tertiary education.
- The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC), a mechanism for pooling existing structures and capacities in all the small states of the Commonwealth enabled by appropriate ICT applications to facilitate collaboration in practical ways to plan programmes, develop the required content and ensure the delivery of those programmes and support services to learners.

The Distance Learning Secretariat also pioneers certain achievements in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in both the formal and non-formal tertiary education sector under the Éclair initiative. The Electronic Collaboration for Learning Access, Information and Research (E.C.L.A.I.R) initiative has been developed by the Secretariat to infuse STIs into the capacity building initiatives of local faculty by increasing:

- Familiarity and competencies with ICTs, alternative learning paths and creative dynamics with respect to core content of curricula.
- Involvement and efforts in the production and generation of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) resources for an eventual national online repository.