



Empower Innovation Challenge

Inspire & Design the future

Empower Innovation Challenge

La Red de Innovación e Impacto

The World Environment Center (WEC) and its partners Núcleo de Biotecnología de Curauma (NBC) and Baastel will support the expansion of the La Red de Innovación e Impacto (La RED) network through a new **Empower Innovation Challenge (EIC)** in the Latin-American and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The project will empower women-owned micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to scale up their businesses through a series of small grants focused on local solutions in green and blue economies. The grants will provide training, access to capital, networking, and partnership opportunities with local and international businesses.

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Empower Innovation Challenges

3 competitions will be launched to select innovative solutions to empower women-owned businesses (MSMEs) for inclusive economic growth.

Small grants will be provided for local civil society organizations (CSOs), educational institutions, small business development centers, cleaner production centers, and private sector firms.

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Countries

Belize / Colombia / Costa Rica
Dominican Republic / Ecuador
El Salvador / Guatemala
Honduras / Panama / Peru.

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Partnerships

Will be created with associations/representative sectors and become members of the Selection Committee representing each benefiting country.

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New Members

Will be selected as local awardees and will actively join the extended La RED Network



LA RED
DE INNOVACIÓN E IMPACTO



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Project
Duration

4
years

EIC Launching
on

1st
March, 2023

Funded and implemented by:
The Bureau of Western Hemisphere
Affairs Policy Planning Coordination Office
(WHA/PPC), US Department of State.

Selection Criteria

EIC is open to profit and non profit organizations, who are supporting and increasing capacities of women owned MSMEs across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Must demonstrate innovative and local solutions related to **green and blue economies**.

Target Sectors: agriculture, fisheries, eco-tourism, creative services technologies, light and small manufacturing, and textiles sectors

Specific Objectives

- Select innovative projects to support sustainable solutions in green and blue economies.
- Promote trainings and capital funding opportunities to women owned CSOs and MSMEs, including those from African decent, women with disabilities, LGBTQI+ and indigenous women from both urban and rural areas to strengthen capacities.
- Empower women-owned MSMEs to scale up their businesses in the LAC region.

For additional information,
please contact

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 www.EICLaRED.com

 www.laredinnovacionimpacto.com

 @La Red de Innovación e Impacto

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About La Red de Innovación e Impacto (La RED)

La RED is an initiative that brings together non-profit and for-profit organizations to support micro, small and medium-sized institutions (MSMEs) in order to promote sustainable economic growth and prosperity in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). La RED was born in 2014 through a selection process of organizations that have been accelerating the development of sustainable business and promoting economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of State (DoS) and implemented by the World Environment Center (WEC) and its partners Le Groupe-conseil Bbaastel Itée (Baastel) and RíoSlum Studio until June 2021. As of July 2021, La RED is supported through the leadership of its own member organizations and coordinated by the Nucleo Biotecnología Curauma (NBC) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Chile.

<https://www.laredinnovacionimpacto.com>



About World Environment Center (WEC)

WEC is an independent, global non-profit, non-advocacy organization that advances sustainable development through the business practices and operations of its member companies and in partnership with governments, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities and other stakeholders. WEC's mission is to promote business and societal value by advancing solutions to sustainable development-related problems.

<https://www.wec.org>



About Núcleo de Biotecnología de Curauma (NBC)

NBC of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, is an R+D+i Center integrated by academics and professionals of excellence, with more than 10 years of experience in technological development, innovation and technological transfer in the area of science and technology. The NBC seeks to make companies more productive, sustainable and competitive, visualizing itself in three years as a reference center to support Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) so they can increase their competitiveness. NBC develops innovative trends to face the new economic, social and environmental challenges so that tomorrow we will live in a more sustainable world tomorrow.

<http://nbcpucv.cl>



About Le Groupe-conseil baastel Itée (Baastel)

Baastel is recognized for its quality services in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Results-based Management (RBM), strategic planning, project and program management, and building individual and institutional capacity in these areas. Baastel's outstanding reputation in the field is built on a record of international and national successes, and expertise that is backed by attention to detail, quality, transparency and neutrality.

<https://baastel.com>



www.EICLaRED.com



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