

**Democratic Dialogue Strategic Training Workshop October 2-4, 2013.  
University of St. Martin, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten**

Purpose: support country–level dialogues on issues and themes related to developing a long term national development plan (NDP) that will guide the sustainable development of Sint Maarten.

**Annex – invitation letter and a guide to preparations for the course**

<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p><b>The dialogue strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background - How did the idea of a national dialogue initiative emerge? How does it relate to the national development plan? Why now? Who is behind it? Who is leading? How is this process different and distinct from other dialogue efforts in the past?</li> <li>• Definition of purpose and basic principles</li> <li>• Description of the overall dialogue process - phases and summary diagram of the process</li> <li>• Participants - who needs to be informed? Who needs to be consulted for guidance and support? Who should sit in dialogues? What is the most effective way to engage communities and actors?</li> <li>• Operating structure – teams, roles and relations</li> <li>• Timeline and schedule</li> <li>• Places - where would dialogues take place?</li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	<p><b>Competencies</b></p>	<p><b>Why dialogue?</b></p>
	<p><b>Selection criteria</b></p>		<p><b>Objectives of dialogues at a national level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness and ownership in dealing with the complexities faced by Sint Maarten</li> <li>Acquire new perspectives and insights</li> <li>Forge a common understanding for the country’s strategic direction</li> <li>Strengthen policies and procedures, country coordination and ownership of the final product</li> <li>Link country priorities and strategies with broader national and international development processes</li> </ul>
			<p><b>Capacity building for dialogue</b></p>

	<p>The management team is already essential input for the design that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive assessment</li> <li>• Gathering context knowledge (political, cultural, business, etc)</li> <li>• Substantive expertise</li> <li>• Process expertise</li> <li>• Good leadership/facilitation amongst the various stakeholder groups</li> </ul>		<p>The capacity building program for the visioning and national development planning process of Sint Maarten has two components.</p> <p>The first component was a virtual online course that was completed on September 6, 2013. 43 participants graduated from that course.</p> <p>The second component will involve on the ground face to face training that will result in the development of a dialogue strategy that is adapted to the context of Sint Maarten. Through the training, the democratic dialogue methodology will be clearly explained including the design, how it takes shape, varying roles and responsibilities and a workable structure and time table. The facilitators, conveners, champions, etc., would experience and various approaches and process tools for organizing dialogues, group facilitation, as well as an understanding of their applicability in different situations in Sint Maarten and for different objectives. Champions will be empowered as owners of the dialogue process.</p> <p>The role of the Champions:</p> <p>The facilitators would participate co-designing the dialogue strategy in a way that builds a sense of ownership among key parties.</p> <p>Eligibility competences for process facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have experience working in different political and cultural contexts and commitment to adapting processes to the current context of Sint Maarten</li> <li>• have understanding of the different kinds of roles and functions required for good process execution either at the private sector, civil society and or governmental levels</li> <li>• have political intuition—ability to grasp the political dimensions of the St. Maarten context and how that will permeate and influence the process</li> <li>• <b>be</b> culturally sensitive—ability to adjust to situations of cultural diversity</li> <li>• be able to develop a collaborative work style—a non-prescriptive approach</li> <li>• be open to various communications/advocacy styles and skills</li> <li>• have participated in the democratic dialogue virtual training process</li> <li>• if you are new to the process, have completed the 4 hour democratic</li> </ul>
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			dialogue virtual training course by CD (provided herewith)
	<b>Specific content areas to cover</b>	<b>Special activity</b>	<b>Suggested preparations, previous readings from Democratic Dialogue Course for National Development Planning of Sint Maarten, and about Sint Maarten social, economic, environmental developments.</b>