DEMOCRATIZING INNOVATION IN THE AMERICAS

:DIA
LABS
in the Caribbean

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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 learns 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:

🇧🇿 **Belize**

🇯🇲 **Jamaica**

🇹🇹 **Trinidad & Tobago**

🇩🇴 **Dominican Republic**

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. Advanced software and technological equipment including 3D printers, laser cutters, arduinos, virtual reality, and others, for the development of prototypes.

4. Access to seed funds through Pitch Tanks, 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 **2,742 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:**

- **165 young people** have undertaken initiatives, developed apps and/or businesses that benefit their communities.

- **102 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**" 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.

See Miguel Francis' story here

"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