


Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Evolution & Impact of the OECS Free Movement of Persons Regime



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Agenda

- ❖ An Overview of the OECS Economic Union (ECEU)
- ❖ OECS Free Movement of people Regime and Contingent Rights Policy
- ❖ Current projects on advancing free movement of persons in the Eastern Caribbean
- ❖ How free movement of persons contribute to socio-economic development and new opportunities in the region.



The Eastern Caribbean Economic Union

The Economic Union shall operate over the territorial jurisdictions of the Protocol Member States; which jurisdictions are collectively referred to as
"the Economic Union Area" Source: The Revised Treaty of Basseterre

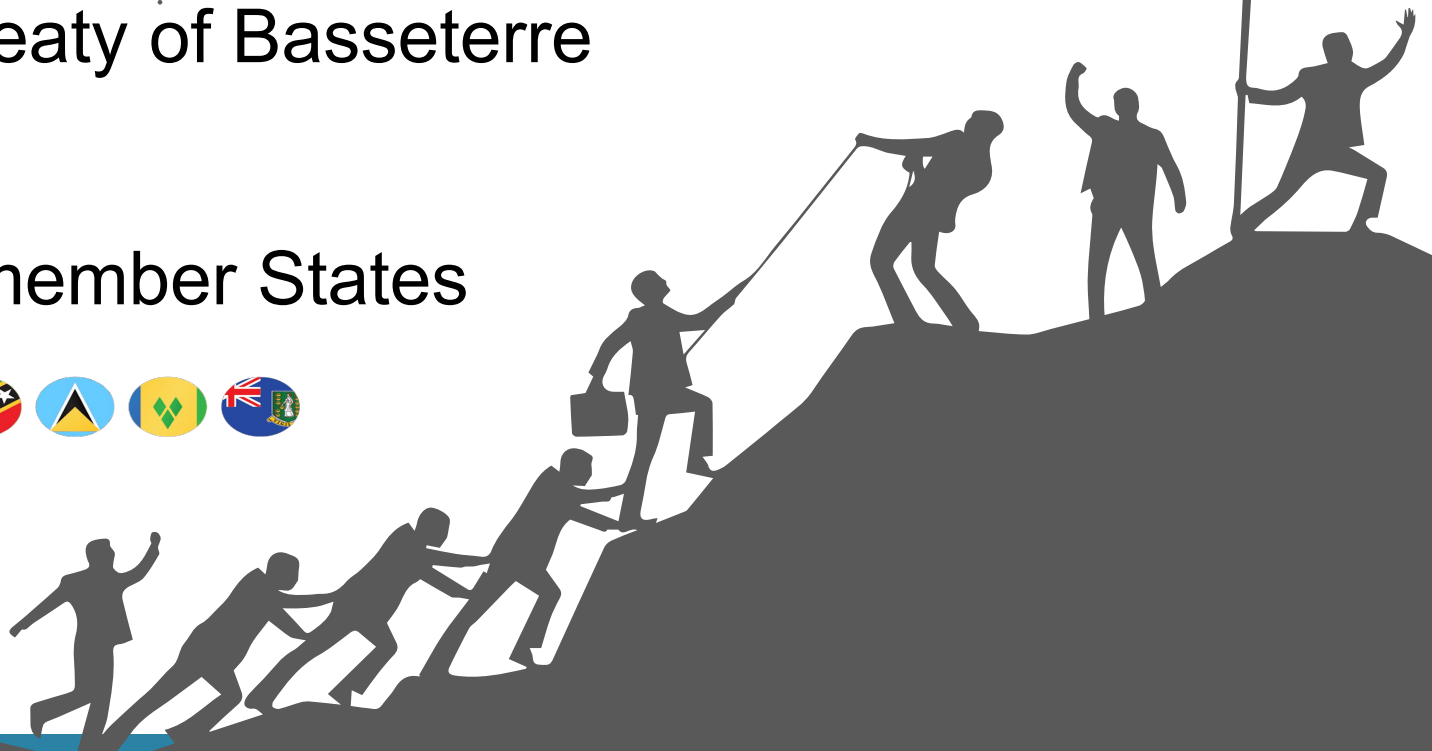


01

Revised Treaty of Basseterre
- 2010

02

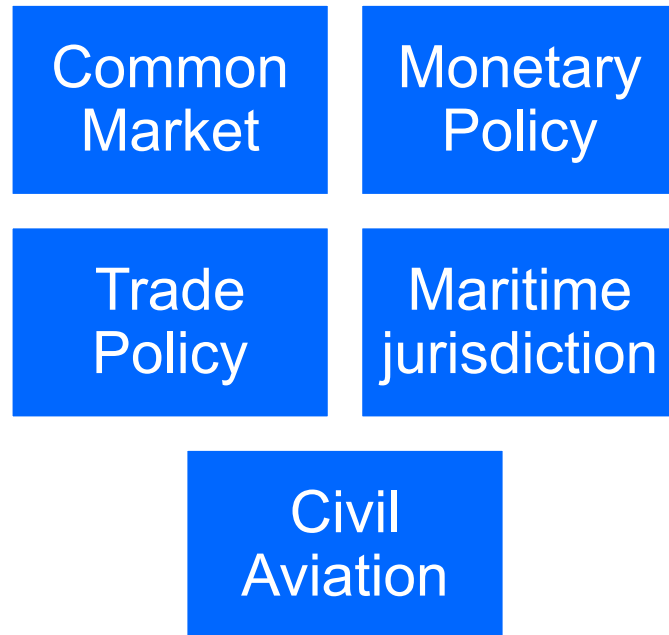
7 Protocol member States



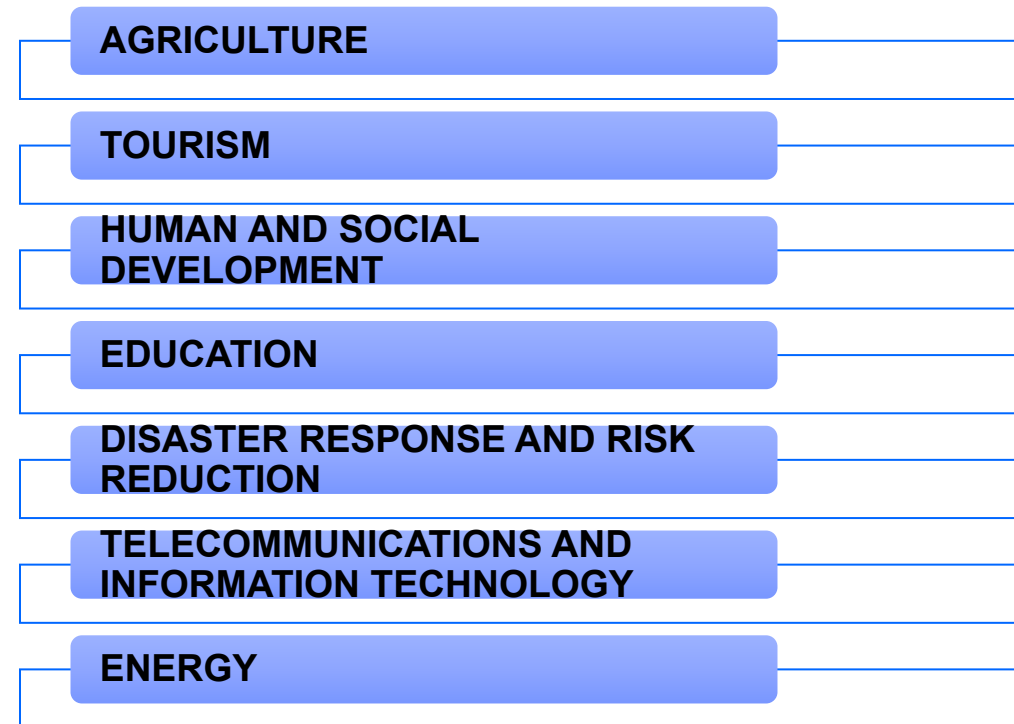


The Eastern Caribbean Economic Union

5 Binding Areas



Areas for joint Action



Primary goals

- ❖ Full and free movement of Labour
- ❖ Free Circulation of Goods
- ❖ Freedom to establish a business and Trade in Services





One Economic Space

Seamless movement of people for
travel work, leisure, living,
business and professionals.



OECS Strategic Plan (2021- 2027)





Overview



Travel Facilitation

- Indefinite Stay Provisions
- Digital ID use
- Contingent Rights Policy



Right of establishment

- Integrated Financial Markets (ECCB)
- Harmonized Services trade environment



Integrated Labour Market

- Harmonized Border Management
- Social Security Short-term Benefits Portability
- 3 Harmonized Laws and Policies (Competition and consumer protection)



Single Border Regime

- Framework for Single BMS
- Common Border Procedures
- Common VISA Regime



The Free Movement of People Regime



Ease of Travel and Indefinite stay



Implementing the Contingent Rights Policy



Portability of Social Security Short term benefits .



Harmonized Border Management Environment



Capacity Building for Border Management in Crisis



Ease of Travel and Indefinite stay

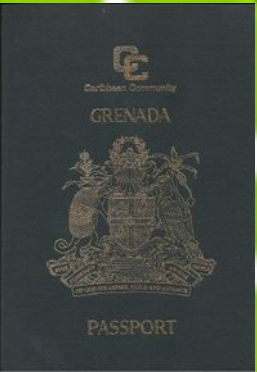
Travel on basis of any Valid ID

Indefinite stay “Stamped” at the border

Waiver of work permit requirements

Equal access to social services

Unrestricted access to land acquisition and investment



Implementing the OECS Contingent Rights Policy



RIGHTS ACCORDED

In keeping with a number of objectives articulated in the OECS Economic Union Protocol and policy documents

a) OECS Citizens

who exercises the right to freedom of movement within the Economic Union area shall enjoy equal rights and privileges as a citizen of the host Member State

b) Spouses and Dependents of OECS Citizens

shall have the right to move and reside freely within the OECS Economic Union Area and to enjoy rights and privileges as citizens, irrespective of nationality.



- Upgrade of Equipment for online Company registration System



- Promotion of Legislative Reforms in priority Services Sectors.

A Harmonized Services Trade Environment

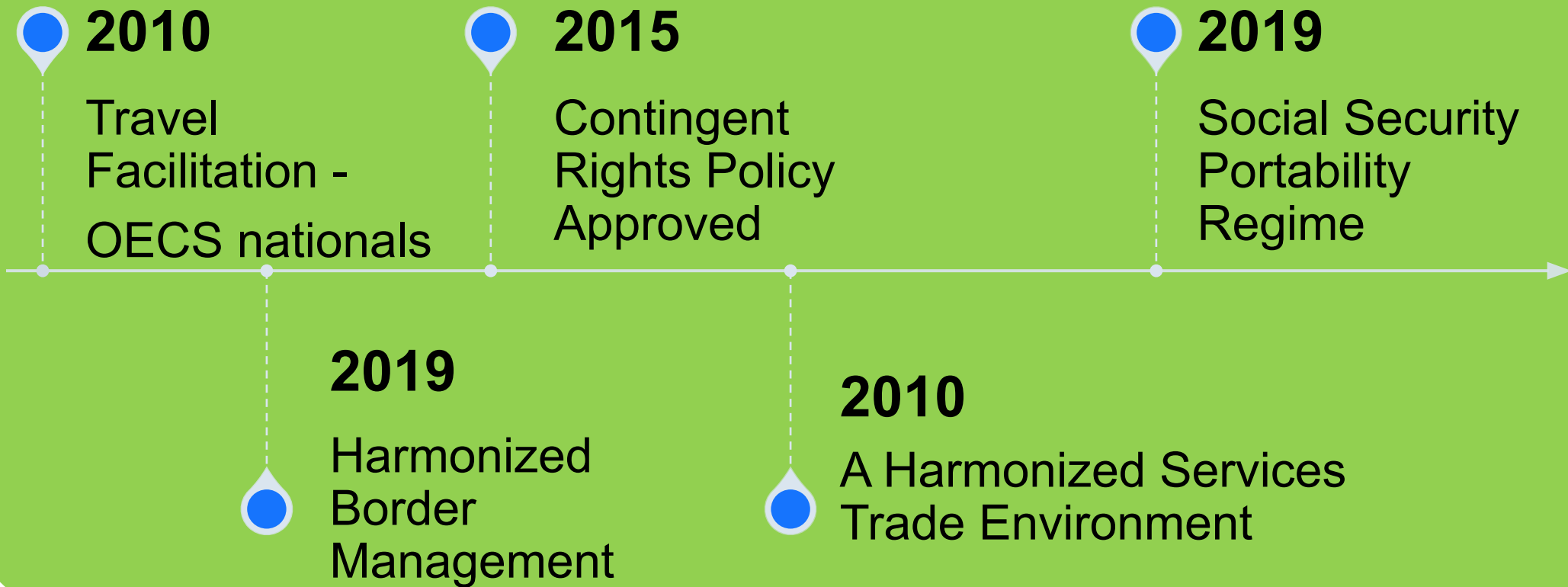
Implementing the OECS Services Development Plan

- Promoting common policies and national and regional support interventions for services growth

- Design and Development of a Services Trade Information Portal



Timeline { Integration Takes time!





Socio economic benefits

- ❖ Reduce human hardship in Disaster scenarios
- ❖ Provides the assurance attraction/sharing of Skills and services for recovery and rebuilding
- ❖ Positive Employment effect through greater mobility of Skills
- ❖ More efficient allocation of scarce resources in regional programmes that benefit all Member states
- ❖ Increase opportunities for Business growth and Networking
- ❖ Increased resilience in the face of geopolitical threats and pandemics





Areas of focus

Improved Development Planning

Provides for a system for cross-border movement that is people centered and it fosters an approach to labour market integration

Operational Efficiencies

The regime is also based on administrative simplicity, hence, it provides a highly effective administrative approach to harmonizing systems to facilitate movement of persons





Summary

Giving the achievement to date, the OECS Free Movement Regime can be viewed as a good example among small developing states in small regions to address two contemporary challenges

- ◆ **The threat of increasing Climate Change**
- ◆ **Global economic and health threats**





Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Thank you

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OECS Commission

