

Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education (TTASPE)

In Trinidad and Tobago, development work using the ICES project methodologies and tools is being undertaken under the auspices of International Inspiration. This is being done through the sport for development organisation, Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education (TTASPE).

TTASPE is a NGO, comprised of professionals involved in sport and physical education and development programs whose mission, is to provide leadership and support to those who work with youth, children and persons with disabilities in sport and physical education programs through alliances with other agencies and stakeholders involved in sport and physical education.

Currently, TTASPE is engaged in conducting the mapping process internally, as well as with the Trinidad and Tobago Volleyball Federation (TTVF) and the Trinidad and Tobago Paralympic Committee (TTPC). The outcome of this is the production of agency development plans for these organisations that directly affect children in communities across the country through better coaching practices. As an immediate intervention, TTASPE has drafted a document that outlines a framework for child and vulnerable person protection that will be modified and adopted by each agency. This framework for child and vulnerable person protection aids in creating a proactive approach to protection for intuitions, coaches and children where formal systems regulated by government, do not exist.

The policy and framework are currently under review by Unicef, Trinidad and Tobago and other related stakeholders. TTASPE has already begun implementing child protection modules and agreements in all of its youth related programs/projects across the Caribbean since September 2010.

In order to meet the ICES coaching standards, the Trinidad and Tobago Volleyball Federation (TTVF) has formally accepted to implement a yearly licensing process to all community coaches starting January 2011. In sync with this is the strengthening of curriculum areas and coaching resource material used in volleyball coaching education through new partnerships with Volleyball England.

The TTVF are currently under operational and constitutional transformation in order to ensure that the ICES framework can be effectively adopted and managed in its strategic development. Adding to the advocacy for the adoption of a standards based approach is the interest shown by the regional governing body for volleyball, the North, Central American and Caribbean Confederation's (NORCECA) to use the ICES framework as the community coaching education standard across all member states in the confederation as a world pilot for volleyball development by 2015.

Karate Coach Trained by TTASPE Sign Child & Vulnerable Protection Agreement with Debra McKell of TTPC signing as a witness

The Trinidad and Tobago Paralympic Committee (TTPC) has only been formally recognised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in 2009. The TTPC has already implemented using the ICES framework for all National Sporting Organisations (NSO's) that work with persons with disabilities.

The first organisation under which this has been implemented is the Trinidad and Tobago Karate Federation (TTKF), through the TTPC and TTASPE community Multisport Outreach Program. Karate coaches that work with persons with disabilities in this program were trained, monitored, evaluated and certified by TTASPE using the ICES framework.

For the future of the ICES project in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, the Caribbean Coaching Certification Program (CCCP) has committed to reviewing its coaching modules and systems of implementation by adopting the ICES framework. This would provide the Caribbean people to access coaching education within a system of strong professional development, thereby, better being able to move from a point of a novice practice to a master coach, within and across each sport.

At the foresight of Ms. Pippa Goodhead (UK Sport), an inter-agency learning exchange has been agreed to between TTASPE and Wesport. Wesport and TTASPE are similar organisations in terms of mission and nice markets, however each agency goes about achieving their missions in different ways.

An information exchange via organisation analysis using the ICES assessment tools by both organisations is under way and was shared in early November 2010. The primary areas that will be explored in the exchange are coaching education and organisational development. This is expected to enhance the overall development of both organisations. A case study with data collected through Action Based Research from both organisations will be published by UK Sport, Wesport and TTASPE.