

# Vini Kozé

We're listening

THE OECS PUBLIC EDUCATION  
FORUM SERIES

# The OECS Public Education Forum Series

Funded by the OECS 10th European Development Fund (EDF)

Economic Integration & Trade of the OECS Region Project



OECS





Dear Media Partner,

The fourth installment of Vini Kozé, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' Regional Integration Forum Series will be held in Martinique on 24th February, 2017 at Villa Chanteclerc à Fort-De-France at 11 a.m. This Public Education Forum Series (PEFS) seeks to incite regional discussion and awareness on a number of key topics such as Youth Empowerment, Climate Change and Economic Growth in the various OECS Member States.

In an effort to effectively reflect the reality of the forum topics, each event will feature a live panel of local, regional and international voices from across the social strata. Panelists will also address questions posed from the audience in a 'town hall' setting.

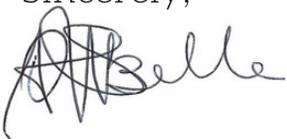
The OECS Commission wishes to apprise you of the Martinique forum series' event which will be guided by the theme: " OECS regional integration: Theory vs. Reality".

The goal of the OECS PEFS is to position the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States as a listening entity; more attuned to the needs of its Member States and their citizens.

The OECS Communications Unit is driving the mandate for the PEFS and the series is being produced and executed by ElShaFord Productions on behalf of the OECS. The project is funded by the OECS 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Integration and Trade of the OECS Region Project.

We thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



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ElShaford Productions

Lead Producer, Vini Kozé





## WHAT IS VINI KOZÉ?

Vini Kozé or 'Come Chat' in creole, is the OECS Commission's Public Education Forum Series on OECS Regional Integration.

The series acts as a conduit for a collective citizens' voice to help shape local, regional and national policy as it relates to the various facets of Regional Integration. The Forum topics include Education, Economic Development, Youth and Gender, Regional Integration, Agriculture and Climate Change.

The Forum also provides an opportunity for key decision makers, grass roots observers and experts within respective fields to discuss and debate issues raised by the live audience on the achievements, development opportunities and challenges facing the region.

Vini Kozé will be televised across OECS member states, the wider Caribbean and in global diasporic hubs. The series is funded by the 10th European Development Fund and is produced and executed by Elshaford Productions on behalf of the OECS Commission.



THE OECS PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM SERIES  
WWW.OECS.ORG



Education: Creating Tomorrow's  
Leaders Today

British Virgin Islands  
January 13, 2017



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Youth Empowerment and Development:  
How are we tracking as a region?

Anguilla  
January 27, 2017



Climate Change:  
Future Proofing the OECS  
The Commonwealth of Dominica  
February 10, 2017



OECS Regional Integration:  
Theory vs. Reality

Martinique  
February 24, 2017



Agriculture: Investing in the  
Caribbean's Food Bowl

St. Vincent and The Grenadines  
March 10, 2017



Economic Growth in the OECS:  
Is equity being achieved?

Grenada  
March 17, 2017



# Media Release:

## OECS Public Education Forum comes to Martinique

The OECS continues to engage citizens of Member States on issues impacting their lives through its Public Education Forum Series, dubbed Vini Koze – Kweyol for ‘Come Chat.’ The series of dialogues is aimed at educating and informing the people of the OECS on the social, economic and political benefits of Integration. It seeks to ensure citizen engagement and active participation in the regional integration process. The fourth Forum, to be held in Martinique on Friday February 24, 2017 will focus on OECS Regional Integration.

Martinique became an Associate Member State of the OECS on February 4th 2015. The Agreement for Associate Membership makes provision for closer cooperation between Martinique and OECS Member States in Education, Sports, Health, Air and Sea Transportation, Leisure and Boating Tourism, Arts and Culture.

OECS Director General, Dr. Didacus Jules, hopes the Public Education Series will provide a forum for intelligent and open dialogue and debate on issues of deep concern to the average citizen of the OECS. Dr. Jules says the relationship with Martinique is a very special one since Martinique is a gateway to Europe with tremendous opportunities for trade, especially in services, as well as closer collaboration in tourism-related initiatives, arts and culture. Though Martinique is an Associate Member of the OECS, Dr. Jules believes “we must look beyond the technical elements and give due consideration to the broad vision, and what we are seeking to achieve as a region.”

The Forum Series Kicked-off in the BVI in mid-January. The BVI Forum evoked discussion on successes in Education in the OECS, and created greater awareness of deficiencies. It also generated a range of fresh ideas, strategies and possible solutions that can be applied in creating a better education system across Member States. The second Forum on Youth Empowerment and Development was held in Anguilla in late January. The Anguilla Forum discussed youth unemployment, youth crime and violence, the juvenile justice system, as well as development opportunities for young persons, especially in the areas of education, sports, and the arts. Like Martinique, the BVI and Anguilla are also Associate Member States of the OECS.

The third Forum was held in Dominica on Friday February 10, 2017. It focused on Climate Change, its impact on Small Island Developing States, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures being implemented by OECS Member States to cope with the effects of Climate Change.

The OECS Public Education Forum Series (PEFS) will run until March 2017. The forum provides an opportunity for key decision makers, grass roots observers and experts within respective fields to discuss and debate issues related to the achievements, development opportunities and challenges facing the region. Each Forum features a Panel comprising representatives of government, the private sector, an international organization, civil society, and the NGO Community. The Forum is held before a live audience who pose questions and engage panelists in discussion through a moderator.

Vini Kozé Martinique will be held at Villa Chanteclerc à Fort-De-France at 11 a.m. The Forum Series is part of the public education component of the Economic Integration and Trade Programme of the OECS region, funded by the 10th European Development Fund.

For media inquiries please contact:

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## Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States



# ABOUT THE OECS

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an International Organisation dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

The Organisation was founded on June 18, 1981, when seven Eastern Caribbean countries signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity among the Members. The Treaty became known as the Treaty of Basseterre, so named in honour of the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis where it was signed.

The 1981 Treaty was replaced in 2010 with a Revised Treaty of Basseterre, creating an economic union. This Revised Treaty was signed on June 18, 2010 in Saint Lucia during the 51st Meeting of the Authority of the OECS.

The Revised Treaty establishes a single financial and economic space within which goods, people and capital can move freely, monetary and fiscal policies are harmonised and countries continue to adopt a common approach to trade, health, education and the environment, and the development of such critical sectors such as agriculture, tourism and energy.

The Treaty paves the way for the introduction of legislative competence at the regional level, so that Member States of the Organisation act in concert to develop and enact legislation in certain areas specified in the Treaty. The OECS is now a ten member grouping. Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines are full Protocol Member States. The British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Martinique are associate members of the OECS.



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THE VINI KOZÉ  
EXECUTION TEAM



# RAMON PEACHEY

THE OECS COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Ramon Peachey is the Head of Communications for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and has over sixteen years' experience in the design, implementation and management of multi-faceted communication programs in the development arena.

Mr. Peachey has undertaken a re-design of the Communications Strategy and Programme at the OECS Commission to better communicate to the organisation's key publics. Some initiatives he has led to to date include the conceptualisation of Vini Kozé - the televised Q&A citizens forum, the new OECS website, an industry leading global media client relationship management (CRM) platform for the organisation, a new e-news platform, and an animation series on the Economic Union in conjunction with realigning internal communication roles and procedures.

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# TAHIRA CARTER

THE OECS COMMUNICATIONS UNIT



Tahira N. Carter serves as Communications Officer at the OECS and plays a key role in the execution of the organization's new communication strategy. She is central to bridging the communication gap between the OECS Commission and its citizens and is pivotal to ensuring Vini Kozé serves as a citizen's platform for all voices.

A Grenadian national, Carter is an award winning bilingual communications professional with a wide range of media and multimedia skills. Her primary areas of expertise are journalism, public relations, marketing and online media.

Carter's professional portfolio includes work experience as a news reporter and news editor, public relations manager and marketing manager for two major hotel brands and TV host for the Government of Grenada's Information Service (GIS).

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# ONEL SANFORD- BELLE

ELSHAFORD PRODUCTIONS- JOURNALIST. FILM MAKER. TELEVISION PRODUCER



The Vini Kozé Series host and moderator, Onel Sanford-Belle is a Caribbean journalist, producer and entrepreneur currently based in Saint Lucia. She is known for television documentaries, current affairs programmes and complex episodic news magazine shows. She is also an engaging interviewer and television host, with a naturally magnetic presence. Ms. Sanford-Belle has distinguished herself in the Caribbean region as a leader in the media sector with proven experience in producing and executing media projects in over one dozen countries.

As a journalist, Sanford-Belle has functioned in a wide range of roles- from field reporting, to primetime news anchoring and editorial management. In 2014, she was ranked Saint Lucia's #1 television anchor, according to Systematic Marketing and Research Services Inc. Barbados.

Sanford-Belle is the founder of ElShaford Productions and is also the producer and creative director of Vini Kozé, the OECS Public Education Forum Series.

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# GHISLAINE LEWIS, PH.D.

ELSHAFORD PRODUCTIONS- EDUCATOR. JOURNALIST. MEDIA CONSULTANT



The editorial consultant for Vini Kozé, the OECS Public Education Forum Series is Dr. Ghislaine Lewis. As a key expert with the ElShaford Productions team, Dr. Lewis will also oversee marketing and publicity for Vini Kozé. She is a West Indian educator and journalist with a keen interest in Caribbean media.

Dr. Lewis' academic path has straddled several continents and a wide range of social and academic disciplines, including journalism, health communication, gender and sexuality and media policy. Her current research interests are focused on the role of the media in fostering an active and engaged public sphere. Dr. Lewis is a lecturer in journalism at Monash University.

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Organisation of  
Eastern Caribbean States



SIX EVENTS  
TEN MEMBER STATES  
ONE OECS

*Vini  
Kozé*

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