



“Espas Sèvis pou Prepare Wout Antreprenarya”

ESPWA



Home of the entrepreneurs

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PROPOSAL FOR A CO-WORKING SPACE IN CAP-HAITIAN

General information

CEDEL HAITI – Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Haiti – is a social venture created in 2012 and dedicated entirely to working with the SMEs in Haiti. CEDEL HAITI is the oldest firm of this type in the Haitian Entrepreneurship ecosystem. CEDEL HAITI’s main services include the following: Entrepreneurship Training, Consulting services, Market research, Entrepreneurship events, Advisory services to help SMEs raise funds

CEDEL HAITI’s operations officially began on May 10, 2012, with its First Annual Entrepreneurship Forum. Over time, the organization has evolved into a viable and sustainable social business model. Within its 12 years of operation, CEDEL HAITI has successfully positioned itself as a relevant model of sustainability in the space of entrepreneurship support services in Haiti.

Context

During the last years, Haitians witness a surge in insecurity caused above all by the proliferation of gangs across the country. Disadvantaged youth are exposed to a worrying situation where the gang movement tends to establish itself as an option for vulnerable young people to escape their difficult economic situation. Given the rate at which gangs are multiplying on the national territory, it is urgent to offer young people alternatives to save these resources and allow them to use their full potential in the service of the Haitian economy. With this context in mind, CEDEL HAITI came up with the ESPWA project, an acronym for "Espas Sèvis pou Prepare Wout Antreprenarya" (Space to prepare the Entrepreneurship Road). This three-year project encompasses a set of actions aimed at providing young Haitians with opportunities to take on the road to entrepreneurship and envision their future with much more confidence.

Goals

The main objectives pursued through the ESPWA project are as follows:

- a) Provide the youth with an appropriate space to recreate, network, boost their creativity, connect with resources and work on their business projects;
- b) Provide the youth with Entrepreneurship training to help them develop an entrepreneurial mindset and encourage them to develop an interest for entrepreneurship;
- c) Provide consulting services to high-potential businesses to help them move to the next stage;
- d) Create an Entrepreneurship club and network with other existing entrepreneurship clubs;
- e) Provide technical support services to operating companies on legal, administrative, and accounting levels;
- f) Prepare young entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities offered around the world in the “digital jobs” sector.

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of ESPWA are young entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs under 35 years old, with a business idea or already managing a business located in the Nord or Nord Est departments. More specifically, the beneficiaries can be broken down as following:

- 1200 youth for overall use the co-working space¹
- 300 entrepreneurs will receive entrepreneurship training;
- 300 entrepreneurs will receive technical services;
- 30 entrepreneurs will receive funding.

Components

The ESPWA project will include the following key components:

- a) Establishment of a co-working space in Cap-Haitian;
- b) Entrepreneurship training;
- c) Consulting services for entrepreneurs;
- d) Formalization and legal support;
- e) Pitch competition;
- f) Creation of an entrepreneurship club in Cap-Haitian;
- g) Training on Digital jobs;
- h) Support for the integration of the youth into the world of “digital jobs”.

a) Co-working space in Cap-Haitian

This co-working space in Cap-Haitian will be the home of dreamers and doers. It will be a welcoming place for young women and men who seek to materialize their ideas. This space will provide high-speed internet service and will have appropriate equipment such as laptops and tablets that young people can use to facilitate their integration into the world of digital jobs.

b) Entrepreneurship training

Entrepreneurship training aims to help beneficiaries better develop their entrepreneurial mindset and to better approach their daily lives in this crisis context. For those who already have a business, the training will emphasize on appropriate strategies for setting up and running a profitable and sustainable business. The Entrepreneurship training component aims to reach 300 entrepreneurs.

c) Technical support: consulting services, mentoring and coaching

Some 300 young entrepreneurs (about 100 per year) will benefit from personalized technical assistance, for better management of their business. This technical assistance will cover several aspects including:

- The entrepreneurship aspect;
- The accounting aspect;
- Administrative management.

d) Formalization and legal support

CEDEL HAITI will help businesses become formal through legal support for formalization and other needs. Startups tend to stay in the shadows when it comes to tax issues, because of the lengthy, difficult and costly inquiries involved. CEDEL HAITI will be able to alleviate this problem by giving entrepreneurs all the support they need. This type of support will make them more competitive in the marketplace.

¹ They will use computers, laptops, internet and a convenient place to do their work.

e) Pitch competition

A pitch competition will be organized each year for beneficiaries of the co-working space. From this competition, 30 winners will be selected over three (3) years to receive a seed funding of \$2,000 for their business.

f) Entrepreneurship Club

An entrepreneurship club will be created with entrepreneurs who are members of the co-working space. This club will be the backbone of the co-working space. It will be a structure where entrepreneurs will practice their leadership skills and take on initiatives that will benefit the community of entrepreneurs. This club will be linked to a network of four (4) entrepreneurship clubs already created by CEDEL HAITI and operating in the Plateau Central region.

g) Digital jobs training

The youth will receive special assistance to be prepared to take advantage of opportunities provided around the world in the “Digital jobs” sector. Some models that have proven to be successful overseas will be explored. Training will be provided on key areas where the youth need to develop critical skills to take advantage of job opportunities in the Digital era.

h) Digital jobs creation

Beside the training, CEDEL HAITI will assist the youth and help them establish connection either with companies or clients so they could find their way in the Digital jobs’ world.

Scope

The ESPWA project will be carried out over three (3) years. It will primarily focus on two (2) departments:

- The North
- The North-East

Although located in Cap-Haïtien, the co-working space will be able to accommodate young entrepreneurs not only from the North department but also from the North-East department as well, given the proximity of these two departments.

Expected results over the three years.

The main results expected after three (3) years are as follows:

- a) The co-working space is fully functioning in Cap-Haitian and provides anticipated services to the community.
- b) Some 300 young entrepreneurs receive proper entrepreneurship training.
- c) Technical support is provided to 300 young entrepreneurs.
- d) 30 entrepreneurs receive a \$2000 seed funding for their business.