OECS

- On **18 June 1981**, seven Caribbean countries signed the **Treaty of Basseterre**
- **7 Member states and 2 Associate members:**
  - Anguilla
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - British Virgin Islands
  - Dominica
  - Grenada
  - Montserrat
  - St Kitts & Nevis
  - St Lucia
  - St Vincent and the Grenadines
- **In 1991 the Eastern Caribbean Common Market was formed (ECCM)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>CAPITAL</th>
<th>AREA SQ. KM</th>
<th>POPULATION 1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>St. Johns</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>64362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Roseau</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>74270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>St. Georges</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>98600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montserrat</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>10608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kitts / Nevis</td>
<td>Basseterre</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>43530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td>Castries</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>145213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</td>
<td>Kingstown</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>111214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROBLEMS OF SMALL STATES

1. Small states compete with large countries that can produce more and sell more cheaply.

2. Small states have limited resources so they depend on larger countries to supply their needs. They are at the mercy of these countries where goods are often highly priced.

3. Small states have limited skills and expertise to develop and utilize their resources.
WHAT THE OECS MEMBER STATES HAVE IN COMMON

• Common Eastern Caribbean Currency
• All belong to the Lesser Antilles
• All are small, independent states
• Share common strategies for development
• Common Central Bank
• Common High Court
• Joint Stock Exchange
OECS OBJECTIVES

1. To promote cooperation, unity and solidarity among member states and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence

2. To promote economic integration through the East Caribbean Common Market

3. To harmonize foreign policy and adopt positions on international issues

4. To promote development by the formation of a common market among member states
As set out in the Treaty of Basseterre:

- To promote co-operation among the Member States at the regional and international level;
- To promote unity and solidarity among the Member States and to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence;
- To assist the Member States in the realization of their obligations and responsibilities to the international community with due regard to the role of international law as a standard of conduct in their relationships;
- To seek to achieve the fullest possible level of harmonization of foreign policy among the Member States; to seek to adopt common positions on international issues and to establish and maintain arrangements for joint overseas representation;
- To promote economic integration among the Member States
OECS SERVICES:

1. Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA)
2. East Caribbean Common Market (ECCM)
3. West Indies Associated States Supreme Court
4. East Caribbean Tourism Association
FUNCTIONS OF THE OECS

1. **Heads of Government (PMs):** operations, treaties and other international agreements

2. **Foreign Affairs Committee:** Coordinates foreign policy for all member states

3. **Defence and Security Committee:** Ensures concerted and cooperative action among member states in defending their sovereignty, political independence and the democratic system of government

4. **Economic Affairs Committee:** Promotes free trade among member states

5. **Legal Affairs Committee:** Resolves legal disputes and oversees operation of the Common Supreme Court
COOPERATION: ADVANTAGES OF POOLING HUMAN RESOURCES

• Fosters regional self-sufficiency by pooling technical persons eg the Commonwealth Technical Assistance Programme allows for professionals such as agriculturalists and veterinarians to be sent to the smaller territories on request

• Common institutions serve the needs of the region: UWI, CARDI etc
FACTORS WEAKENING REGIONAL COOPERATION

1. Tension between regional and territorial loyalties
2. Differences in resource allocation
3. Competition for location of industries
4. Differences in strategies for development
5. Divisive influence of TNCs
6. Fluctuations in prices of major products (oil, bauxite, sugar) resulting in reduced foreign exchange and foreign currency adjustment (revaluations)
7. Recession
8. Protectionism